

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty October 17

Global Themes

- Interdependence
- Social Justice

Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the specific right of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to have food, clothing, a safe place to live, and their basic needs met (CRC Article 27).

Background Information for Teachers

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntIDay/index.html>

Grades

4 – 8

Materials

Book entitled *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference* by Katie Milway

UNICEF pictures of micro-credit recipients (printable copies attached)

One Hen worksheets (printable copies attached)

Colouring supplies: felt pens, crayons, pencil crayons

Activity One

- Begin by introducing October 17th as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; a UN Day celebrated around the world. The day has special significance in Canada because poverty still affects many Canadian citizens within our local communities.
- *Before you begin the discussion, be aware of the class demographics.* Brainstorm the topic poverty. Ask the students: What does it mean to be poor? What are the characteristics of poverty? Include items that cannot be seen such as emotional well-being. Remind the students that poverty is not limited to developing nations, and is also present within Canada.
- Introduce the story, *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*, by first having the students locate Ghana and its capital (Accra) on the map. Ask what they know about Ghana.
- Read aloud from the book *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference* by Katie Milway.
- Discuss the rights of the child (CRC Article 27) in relation to the book.

- Referring to page 7 in the book, ask the students how the people in Kojo's village were able to each buy something important. Ask the students to define micro-credit/micro-loans.
- Divide the class into groups of four or five students. Explain to the students that they will receive one photo page illustrating a scene of a UNICEF micro-loan recipient.
- Have the students identify the rights of the child that are being met due to the support of the family through a micro-loan.

Activity Two

- Ask the students to trace the path of the loan in Kojo's village by completing the worksheet.
- Ask the students to consider how one small hen made such a big difference in Kojo's life, the lives of those in his family, his community, his town and his country.

Discussion

Ask the students: What is one thing that you will do that will have a positive impact on your own life and the lives of those around you?

Is micro-credit a sustainable way to support families in the developing world? Why or why not?

Extensions

Have students write a journal entry based on "A day in the life of..." Students can choose Kojo or an individual in the UNICEF micro-credit photos.

Ask the students to write a letter to Kojo. In the letter, have the students explain how they will make a big difference in the world. Letters can be emailed to letters@onehen.org.

Ask the students to compare and contrast Kojo's life, school, and home with their own. How are they similar and different?

As a class, collect non-perishable items or clothing to donate to a local food bank or shelter.

Additional Resources

Visit *One Hen* online for more activities and games: onehen.org/.

United Nations Cyberschoolbus

un.org/cyberschoolbus/poverty2000/index.asp



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Waror Block, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra, INDIA.

20 January 2011

17 year old Prathibha Vankherde (centre holding bank book) with her partners from left: Sonu Yelekar (19), Sunita Kinnake (19) and Namrata Bhoyai (16, at right) at Ukarda village in Chandrapur District, Maharashtra who have benefitted greatly from the UNICEF funded Deepshikha program. The program focuses on empowering adolescent girls in the community to become efficient leaders through Life Skills Education, HIV/AIDS awareness and financial literacy. This is achieved through micro loans to encourage girls out of farm labour and back into school as well as providing some start up capital for small ventures in business and assisting with opening bank accounts to encourage saving. After learning some money skills through the program, Prathibha used her initiative to start a small business, with three friends, buying sari fabric in bulk and selling finished sari's at retail price in her village for a small profit.



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Burkina Faso, 2008

In 2008 in Burkina Faso, a woman, her baby on her back, waters crops in the small southern town of Bansora. Her farming is part of a microfinance programme supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).





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Sierra Leone, 2010

Vice-president Fatimata Aruma (left) speaks to members of the Bandafayie mothers' club meet in the village of Bandafayie, Sierra Leone. One of the club's main objective is that all children attend school. They use profits from the sale of produce grown on a collective plot to finance school fees for those who can't afford them. Profits from sales of the produce also serve for a micro-credit program available to members of the club.



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Benin, 2007

On 10 September, women make a local staple called gari in the village of Alandohou, in the southeastern province of Oueme. The women are part of a UNICEF-sponsored micro-credit programme that helps them earn income to send their children to school by selling gari in the local markets.



One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference

Kojo's village worked together to buy something important. Fill in the blanks and draw matching pictures in the boxes below.

<p>The first thing they bought was a cart.</p>	<p>Then, the Duodu family bought a sewing machine.</p>	<p>Kojo's mother uses the money to buy _____.</p>
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<p>Kojo uses the money to buy _____.</p>	<p>Kojo sells the _____ and saves money to buy _____.</p>	<p>Kojo buys _____ so that he can go _____.</p>
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Finish the story.

<p>_____.</p>	<p>_____.</p>	<p>_____.</p>
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One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference

One small loan made a big difference to Kojo and the people in Ghana. I can make a big difference by
