Micro-entrepreneurs: Women’s Role in the Development of Africa

*How are women micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries changing their communities?*

Carefully examine the image your teacher is projecting. The woman on the cover of this brochure lives in Tanzania. Tanzania is a developing country in the eastern part of Africa. This woman is a *micro-entrepreneur*. That means she has started her own very small business.

Talk about each question with a partner. Then, write down your ideas.

- What interesting details do you notice?

- What kind of information or pictures do you think you might see in this pamphlet?

- Women in developing countries in Africa face many challenges. What might some of them be?

- What small business—or *micro-enterprise*—might this woman have created?

- This woman’s micro-enterprise affects the lives of her and her family. What might some of those effects be?

- This woman’s micro-enterprise also affects individuals and families in her community. What might some of those effects be?
Read the Introduction and Section 1. Then, create an illustrated dictionary of the Geoterm by completing these tasks:

- Create a symbol or an illustration to represent each term.
- Write a definition of each term in your own words.
- Write a sentence that includes the term and the word *Africa* or *women*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geoterm and Symbol</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
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<tr>
<td>gender-based division of labor</td>
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<td>informal economy</td>
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<td>micro-enterprise</td>
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Read Section 1, and answer the questions for that section. Then, for Sections 2, 3, and 4, read only the section your teacher assigns to you and your partner, and complete that section of your notebook.

Section 1 - The Geographic Setting

What challenges do people in developing countries in Africa face?

What additional challenges do poor African women face as they try to get out of poverty?

Section 2 - Grinding Peanuts in Rural Mali

Describe the micro-enterprise discussed in Section 2, how women micro-entrepreneurs created it, and how it works.

How have these micro-entrepreneurs changed people’s lives and these women’s communities?
Section 3 - Selling in Uganda’s “Poor Man’s Market”

Describe the micro-enterprise discussed in Section 3, how a woman micro-entrepreneurs created it, and how it works.

How has this micro-entrepreneur changed people’s lives and this woman’s community?

Section 4 - Cooking Up Comfort Food in Botswana

Describe the micro-enterprise discussed in Section 4, how women micro-entrepreneurs created it, and how it works.

How have these micro-entrepreneurs changed people’s lives and these women’s communities?
Now that you recognize the advantages and disadvantages of micro-loans, consider what you would do if you had the opportunity to apply for one. Write a paragraph in which you weigh the costs (disadvantages) and benefits (advantages) of receiving a micro-loan. Use this analysis to help you decide whether you would ultimately apply for such a loan.