



### Microcredit for women , a solidary alternative to banks promoted by the Ana Bella Foundation

**LOCATION:** Mairena del Aljarafe (Seville)

**VTR:** 1'25"

**SUMMARY:** The Ana Bella Foundation has promoted the establishment of a Self-financed Community (CAF) to facilitate access to micro-credit to women at risk of social exclusion with help too from the volunteers in the organization program. Three months ago, in Mairena del Alcor (Seville), seven of these women and a volunteer constituted a voluntary CAF, promoting savings and access to small loans among the women on the program. The foundation members regularly contribute with small amounts of money, these contributions then become the fund available to access these micro-credits which on average range 350 euro and aim to cover everyday expenses such as home repairs , buying appliances, payment of tuition fees... or any matters of urgency. The loans can be repaid in periods of three to six months with a 1% interest rate. At the end of the year the benefits raised by the interests are equally divided among all members of the community. The alternative for those with difficulties to access bank credit has even has echoed in French newspaper Le Monde.

**VTR:**

They are friends and they manage their own bank, a homespun bank...

**CHARI CLARO** *"Right, this is like a small savings box among friends"*  
**CAF ANABELLA TREASURER**

Friends who belong to a specific group: the Ana Bella Foundation in Seville which helps women at risk of social exclusion.

**ANTONIA AVALOS** *"As you know at the moment it is very difficult to get loans in*  
**PRESIDENT CAF ANA BELLA** *banks ... so we thought that we could help each other out"*

**CHARI CLARO TREASURER**  
**CAF ANABELLA**

*"In case of necessity we give loans, but small loans to help cover  
punctual needs, any of us could benefit from the money if  
needed"*

They meet once a month, they pay a voluntary fee and by the end of the year they equally share the profits generated by the interests earned.

**ANTONIA AVALOS** *"It is not about speculation, it is simply based on savings, we know that in times of*  
**PRESIDENT CAF ANA BELLA** *need we will be able to help each other with that money"*

**Ambience:** "Gloria, there you go, it's my pleasure, I'm pleased to do it" "Thank you for your trust".

Gloria gets 50 euros to replace her broken microwave. She will return the money within three months with a 1% interest rate for those who lent her the money.



**GLORIA SÁNCHEZ**  
**CAF PROGRAM MEMBER**

*"It is more embarrassing to ask your family for money than it is asking your colleague-friends who you spend most of the day with".*

A community formula, born in Latin-America but rapidly expanding across Spain and the rest of Europe, due to the difficult times we are living.

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