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## **A Boat of Her Own**

Elena is a food vendor in the community of Uros-Chulluni, Peru, where the only mode of transportation is by boat. The expense of renting a boat to sell her food limited both her business growth and mobility. Although Elena dreamed of owning her own boat, she had no collateral to secure one.

Through a micro-finance program supported by Episcopal Relief & Development, the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund and the Anglican Diocese of Peru, Elena and her neighbors formed a community bank. She was then able to obtain small loan without traditional collateral, enabling her to buy her own boat.

Now Elena's business has expanded to include not only the sale of food, but also handicrafts and candy. She's thankful to Episcopal Relief & Development for showing her how to improve her income, continue her children's education and strengthen her family.