



### **Meet Jessica Basil**

After Jessica's sari-sari store was completely demolished in an earthquake in 2013, she sought access to a loan funded by WorldWide Microfinance to revive the shop. Her store sells a wider variety of products than ever before, and with a new source of income, she can afford the family's basic needs and send all five of her children to school.

### **Jessica's Story**

For 44 year old Jessica, her sari-sari store in Sagbayan is the result of two decades of hard work and a remarkable spirit of resilience. In 2013, a devastating earthquake destroyed both her home and her business, leaving her without a way to support her five children. This loss was a significant blow to the family's stability, but Jessica was determined to rebuild.

The opportunity to restart came in 2015 when she accessed her first loan. This capital allowed her to restock her inventory and reopen her doors. Today, Jessica and her husband work as a team to keep the business thriving. They travel to Tubigon every other day to source a wide variety of goods, ranging from household essentials to sweet corn purchased from local farmers. Jessica even wakes up at 5 am daily to prepare ice water for the students at the nearby school, ensuring she serves the needs of her community from the early morning hours.

The impact of the store extends far beyond its shelves. The consistent income has enabled Jessica to cover household bills and invest in the career prospects of her children. With one child already a university graduate and four more to support, she views their education as the primary path toward higher earning potential and a better life. Jessica's story shows how a well timed loan can help a family recover from a disaster and build a permanent foundation for the next generation's financial success.

