

KIVA U Goal Setting

As you work to take control of your personal finances, it is important to make goals for yourself. It is very likely that these will revolve around the process saving money in some way: try to spend less on eating out this month than you did the month before. Or maybe your goal will emphasize the end result: save enough money this month that you can make a new Kiva loan.



What is most important is not *what* goal you are setting, but that you are taking an active role in your finances. Here's an anagram to make sure the goals you set are ones that you are able to follow through on.

- S** – Specific (Can you answer questions like “What?” and “Why?”)
- M** – Measureable (How will you know when you’ve met your goal?)
- A** – Achievable (This doesn’t mean you won’t have to work for it!)
- R** – Relevant (Is this the right time for you to be making this goal?)
- T** – Time-Bound (A deadline makes you accountable to yourself)

All of these things share the function of helping you accomplish your goals—financial and otherwise. Another best practice some goal-setters use is to schedule checkpoints for themselves to evaluate their current goals, and make some new ones.

If you choose to make goals about your Kiva U club, your Kiva account, or something else microfinance-related, we want to know about it! Good luck pursuing your goals!