



Empowering people. Changing lives.
Innovating for the world's poor.



Empowering the World's Poorest People

Our Heritage

Fighting Global Poverty

Microfinance, Innovation and Technology Solutions

Grameen Foundation's global network empowers the world's poorest people, mostly women, to lift themselves out of poverty through microfinance, a proven poverty reducing strategy. Using tiny collateral-free loans (often less than \$200) and other financial services, microfinance clients build small enterprises and new futures for their families. Since 1997, the GF network of microfinance institutions (MFIs) has impacted an estimated 18 million in 25 countries across Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East*

We target and support MFIs that share our focus of reaching the poorest people through customized financing, operational and technical support and technology development. Those relationships and other creative alliances, such as Grameen-Jameel Pan-Arab Microfinance Limited, a joint venture with the Abdul Latif Jameel Group in the Arab World; and Grameen Capital India, a partnership with Citigroup and ICICI Bank (India), enable us to reach even more people with greater efficiency.

Inspired by the work of the world-renowned Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, Grameen Foundation was created in 1997 to spread the power of microfinance globally. Today, Grameen Bank reaches more than seven million families and has helped more than half of them escape poverty. We maintain an enduring relationship with 2006 Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, Grameen Bank's founder and managing director, who is a founding and current member of our board of directors. Grameen Foundation and Grameen Bank are, however, independent organizations.

Learn More About Grameen Foundation Programs and Initiatives

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Women and Children Suffer Most

The statistics are staggering. More than one billion people lack clean drinking water, more than 800 million suffer from hunger and malnutrition, and, every hour, 1,200 children die from preventable diseases. And, more than one billion people still eke out an existence on less than US\$1 a day.

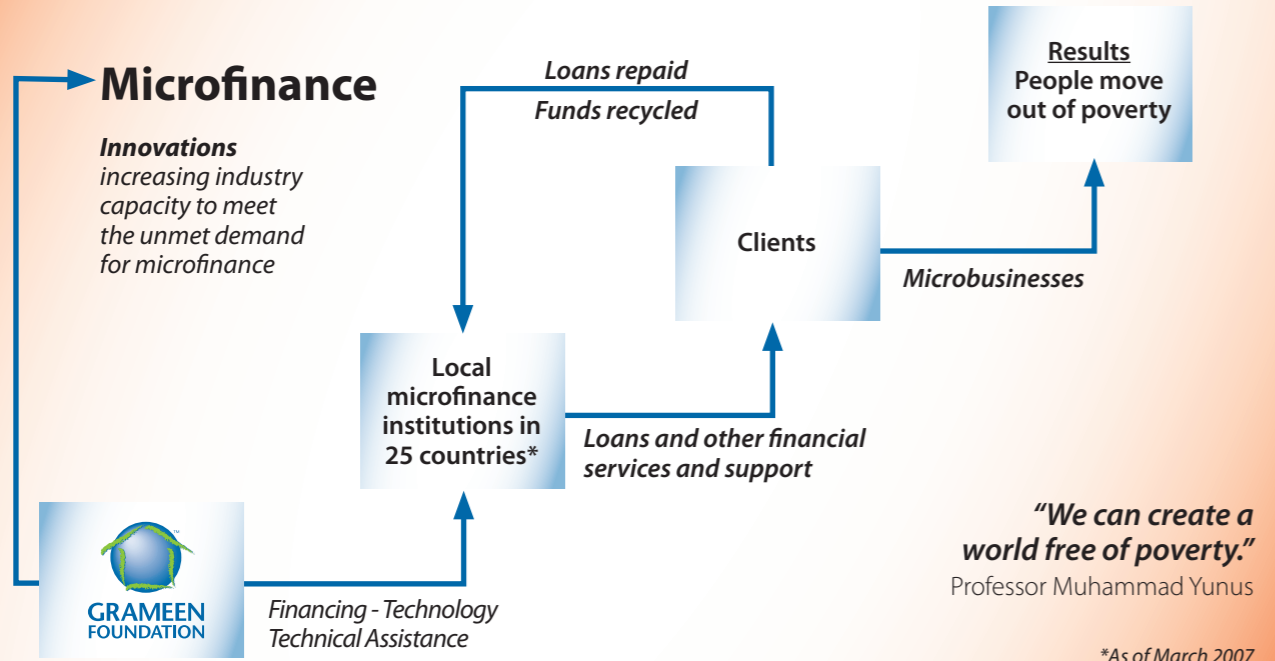
Fighting global poverty is an enormous challenge, but microfinance offers one of the best hopes for matching the sheer magnitude of this global problem. According to the Microcredit Summit Campaign, 113 million people are already receiving these essential financial services. By rapidly scaling up microfinance and other poverty-fighting initiatives, we can spare hundreds of millions from living in miserable conditions.

"The world's poorest, mostly women, have proven that they can lift themselves from poverty if given the opportunity."

– Alex Counts

President, Grameen Foundation

* March 2007



Innovating for a World Free from Poverty



Through our **Grameen Technology Center**, established in 2001, we support and drive innovation,

strategic solutions and new uses of information and communications technology that benefit the entire microfinance industry. Under the center's Village Technology program, the successful **Village Phone** initiative, modeled on Grameen Telecom's pioneering work in Bangladesh, has established thousands of cell phone microbusinesses that provide vital communications for remote African villages, and generate income for the phone operators. Another initiative, **Mifos**, is pioneering the use of open source

technology to build a new software platform for the microfinance industry. With the support of a global cadre of dedicated technology experts, this flexible information management system allows MFIs to better manage their operations, and gives them equal access to a system they can contribute to and ultimately own.

"An individual poor person is an isolated island by himself or herself. Information technology can end that isolation overnight."

– Professor Muhammad Yunus
 2006 Nobel Laureate

With more than 400 million people still unable to access formal financial services, there is a huge unmet need for microfinance. Our **Capital Management and Advisory Center** helps MFIs access much needed capital for their programs by connecting them to commercial markets

and providing a full range of financial advisory services. One signature initiative, the Growth Guarantees Program, leverages private capital in the U.S. to generate millions of dollars in local currency loans for MFIs. It was recognized as a significant commitment to reducing global poverty at the inaugural Clinton Global Initiative meeting in 2005.

We are also charting new waters with our Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI), a key element of our **Social Performance Management** initiative. The PPI provides MFIs with a simple, effective way to track poverty reduction among borrowers. This helps them to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of their products and services.

GF develops resources for the entire microfinance industry. These include: a series of white papers on critical issues; manuals on replicating the Village Phone initiative and building successful information technology systems; and hosting an annual **Knowledge Sharing Roundtable** with practitioners and other stakeholders. In addition, the Grameen-Jameel company has sponsored the translation of more than 60 microfinance publications into Arabic.

Awarded for Efficient and Effective Management

We have received three consecutive Social Capitalist Awards (2005-2007) from Fast Company magazine and Monitor Group for our innovative use of technology and our efforts to expand microfinance globally. In addition, we have received an "A" grade from the American Institute of Philanthropy, and the Tech Museum of Innovation named our Technology Center a 2004 Accenture Economic Development Award laureate.



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