

Grameen Foundation empowers the world's poorest people to escape poverty through access to financial services and practical technology. Founded in 1997 by a group of friends who were inspired by the work of Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, our innovations, programs and resources have helped more than 45 million people in Sub Saharan Africa, Asia, the Arab World, and the Americas begin their journey out of poverty.

With **microfinance and technology** as our foundation, we connect people and local institutions across the globe that share our vision of shattering the barriers for the billion people trying to live on less than a dollar a day.



Funke Ige's business in Nigeria has blossomed thanks to loans from GF's local partner, SEAP.

Building strong local institutions that reach even more people in the poorest communities is a cornerstone of our work. We help microfinance institutions (MFIs) secure financing, improve their efficiency using new technology, and develop strategies to attract and maintain a talented and dedicated workforce.

Since 2005, our **loan guarantee program** has leveraged more than \$145 million for MFIs from their local banks. This created approximately 700,000 micro-loans for poor women and men. We also provide **direct loans for smaller microfinance institutions**, especially those that reach very poor borrowers in remote areas.

Our **information and communications (ICT) technology initiatives** harness the power of cutting edge innovations to bring important access and efficiency to microfinance and international development. Working with local and global partners, we use mobile phones and other devices to create new business opportunities for the poor, improve their access to health and agriculture information and other services, and connect far-flung communities.

We **measure success** on two fronts: the number of people moving out of poverty and the efficiency and financial viability of the organizations that serve them. To measure this "double-bottom line", we developed a simple monitoring tool, the Progress out of Poverty Index, which will be available in more than 38 countries by mid-2009. It is fast becoming the global standard in microfinance.

Our effectiveness has earned us consecutive Fast Company/Monitor Social Capitalist Awards (2005-2007), and the Accenture Economic Development Award from the Tech Museum of Innovation for our technology programs. In 2007, we were also awarded the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance seal.