



# IMPACT 2023 GLOBAL GOALS, LOCAL CHANGE

In 2023, Grameen Foundation continued our work to end poverty by investing in the POWER of women. We're not here to empower women, they already have their own power. Grameen exists to unleash the power they have. By enabling new systems of support, we ensure women can access their full potential and build resilience against climate change, financial insecurity, and harmful gender archetypes. A loan alone is not enough to ensure a woman and her family end generational cycles of poverty. From the individual to the household to the community, Grameen sets the foundation for women today and for future generations to gain the resilience needed to leave poverty forever.

Grameen is reframing the role of gender in the local and global economy. We're excited to share our impact over the last 12 months.

## Transforming Systems to Build Resilience

### A loan alone is not enough

**The Challenge:** Deeply entrenched and antiquated systems based on harmful gender archetypes that hold women back from accessing their full potential and result in exclusion from formal banking institutions, household financial decisions, and community support.

**Grameen's Solution:** Enable new systems that allow women to build resilience against financial insecurity, climate change, and harmful gender norms.

**Grameen in Action:** Creating change at the micro and macro levels through holistic and targeted programming built for the individuals and communities we work in.

**Step 1:**  
Addressing harmful gender archetypes

**Step 2:**  
Providing the right training and tools that utilize innovation and technology

**Step 3:**  
Partnering with financial institutions to increase access

**Did You Know?** One billion women around the world are excluded from the financial system. If women were able to start and scale new businesses at the same rate men do, economic gains would be over \$5 trillion a year.

# Step 1: Addressing Harmful Gender Archetypes

## Building Resilience within the Household and Community

### The Challenge:

Research in the last decade has shown the direct connection between gender equity and global development. The countries where women have the fewest freedoms, including economic rights, are the poorest and most conflict-torn in the world. In order to eliminate poverty globally, gender inequality must first be addressed, with a focus on economic inclusion.

### Grameen's Solution:

With over 26 years of experience, Grameen Foundation has supported women entrepreneurs with what they need – every step of the way. That support starts at home and at the community level because entrenched gender biases can stop progress before it starts.

Engaging family members, especially men, in gaining new household dialogue skills is an important piece of our work to change harmful systems.

### Grameen in Action:

We created the Household Dialogues Training and Exploring Power Dynamics Workshops to enable male champions around women and ensure equality is at the center of all household decision making. Our dialogue skills training increases their ability to access their power now that they are viewed as an equal contributor to the family's long term financial stability. By addressing harmful power dynamics that perpetuate gender inequalities, we provide specific steps and action plans for engaging men to become advocates for the women around them, customized for local cultures and norms.

### Male Engagement Spotlight

Male engagement at the household level is associated with better health and economic outcomes, and is crucial to the success of programs that address issues such as women's financial inclusion and maternal health. But it can be complex and difficult to navigate and there are a variety of socio-economic barriers that need to be addressed through our expert dialogues in order to set a foundation for equity within the home. Our household dialogue work engages individuals or small groups through workshops with locally-led and framed conversations and targeted follow up that include action plans for future use.



### IMPACT 2023: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY

- Grameen partnered with 420 women entrepreneurs in India who participated in Household Dialogues and started new businesses, delivering financial and other services to more than 52,000 of their neighbors.
- Grameen trained 200 young female entrepreneurs and their partners in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala on financial services, business growth, household resilience, and equitable decision with a particular focus on gender-based violence risks and lack of agency for women.
- In Northern Ghana, over 350 people have participated in Grameen's Household Dialogues, leading to more equitable decision-making and ultimately increasing household income by at least 50%, bringing families over the poverty line.

**Did You Know?** Currently over 20 million rural women in Sub-Saharan Africa, India, Asia, and Latin America experience not only poverty, but debilitating social and gender norms that lead to food insecurity and/or malnutrition, financial exclusion, limited access to quality healthcare, and exposure to gender-based violence.

# Step 2: Providing the Right Training and Innovation

## Building Resilience Through Tools and Technology

### The Challenge:

While women constitute a significant portion of agricultural labor force, up to 60% in regions such as Africa, they make up less than 20% of the world's landowners.

Nearly 1 in 2 women in agriculture who work as contributing family workers receive little to no pay. In comparison, less than 20% of men who work in their family's agricultural ventures don't receive remuneration.

Women farmers' lack of documented land rights prevents them from leveraging collateral towards formal financing, and excludes them from government support such as subsidies and training.

There is a gender productivity gap in agriculture, because of women's limited access to markets, education and information.

### Grameen's Solution:

Weaving in technical training, tools and systems education, and constructive dialogue skills, we meet women where they are, and ensure they are set up for success. By using proprietary technology such as Ledgerlink, Grameen Foundation is connecting the power of rural women to the world today.

### Grameen in Action:

Grameen enables new systems to increase access to financing, digital agriculture solutions, and formal markets that lead to improved crop prices and income stability. We facilitate the participation of women in higher value crops, and increase access to unique loan products that didn't exist previously. Grameen ensures our farming partners can access carbon credit opportunities, have the tools and resources needed to help diversify crops, improve land management, enhance water and energy use, and access climate-smart extension services and data.

Grameen Foundation's holistic and system transforming programming facilitates gender-equal access to finance and climate-smart agriculture extension services to realize short and long-term outcomes that improve resilience and food security of farming families.



**Did You Know?** Smallholder farmers produce close to two-thirds of all food worldwide, yet many are chronically poor and most are women. Economic, social, and geographical barriers prevent them from increasing their productivity and income.

### IMPACT 2023

#### Building Resilience Through Technology

Grameen utilized digital technology such as WhatsApp to promote rotavirus and other vaccines to the parents of 8,000 children.

#### Building Resilience Against Climate Change

Grameen provided agricultural extension apps to carabao farmers in the Philippines, and trained them on how to digitally access guidance on caring for their livestock.

In India, women farmers saw shareholder representation of farmer-producer organizations grow by 122%. Grameen Provided climate change resilience support and agricultural market connections to more than 34,000 smallholder farmers in India.

Grameen educated coconut farmers in the Philippines with innovative ways to improve their coconut production and grow their income, leading to reduced carbon emissions and resilience against climate change.

#### Building Health Resilience

Grameen promoted dietary diversity, appropriate hygiene, and folic acid supplementation for 900 pregnant and lactating mothers and their children in India.

### Spotlight On: Increasing Climate Change Resilience with Smallholder Farmers in India

Grameen Foundation partnered with local organizations to invest in the power of a group of women farmers in India. Lacking access to crucial machinery caused higher labor costs due to the many hours of manual labor required. A grant of \$4,000 USD was awarded to the group to procure a potato planter and digger. The machine was shared amongst the group and reduced labor costs and increased efficiency and productivity. The group has strengthened their financial stability and long term sustainability and resilience against climate change.

# Step 3: Building Resilience Through Access to Income Now and In the Future

Grameen is Investing in the Future We Need Now

## The Challenge:

There is a \$200 billion funding gap for smallholder financing in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South East Asia, of which only an estimated \$50 billion are being met by formal and informal financial institutions.

## Grameen's Solution:

By partnering with local organizations and Financial Service Providers, Grameen creates the opportunity for women to increase resilience against financial insecurity by enabling pipelines for lowered loan rates and often backing loans to ensure women have access to the funds needed to grow.

## Grameen in Action:

We are expanding our programming for young women and are doubling down our work in high-need countries to invest in urgent change that will create new pathways for young women. We're transforming barriers to young women's access and agency with regard to gender and social norms; financial inclusion; education, digital skill-building and workforce readiness; and reproductive health.

In 2023, Grameen announced its partnership with Technovation and The AI Forward Alliance (TAIFA). The newly formed Alliance will empower and train 25 million young women globally to become capable critical thinkers and supercharge sustainable economic development. Grameen will be focused on extending the initiative's global reach, powering the Alliance towards its long-term goal of seeing six million young women enter the technology workforce by 2030.



**Did You Know?** The financial world today isn't built for women to succeed. Hundreds of millions of adolescent girls (ages 15-24), most notably in Africa and Asia, lack access to equal opportunities for learning and self-development in economic, social, and political spheres.

## IMPACT 2023

### Building Financial Resilience

Through local Financial Service Providers partnerships, loan interest rates were reduced from 40% to 13%, drastically increasing household income and ensuring long-term success and financial stability.

### Building Financial Inclusion

Since 2019, our Refugee Finance programming in Uganda has reached over 92,149 people and improved access to finance, leading to a 48% increase in income.

## CONCLUSION

In 2023, Grameen Foundation invested in the POWER of women. Grameen is dedicated to ensuring women can access their full potential and build resilience against climate change, financial insecurity, and harmful gender archetypes. Because, a loan alone is not enough to guarantee a woman and her family can end generational cycles of poverty. But by enabling new systems of support, we unleashed the power of women and ensured two million women around the world had the tools and resources needed to leave poverty forever.

Grameen Foundation is working to reduce paper waste and send materials digitally when possible.  
Please to go [grameenfoundation.org/signup](https://grameenfoundation.org/signup) to share your email address.