

Building a lasting path out of poverty

Struck by disaster, they refuse to be defeated. We help the poor use [microfinance](#) to recover from the tsunami and lift themselves to a better future.

After the tsunami devastated the lives of hundreds of thousands in South Asia, including some of its poorest citizens, the world responded immediately and generously, providing food and shelter to those hit hardest. Thanks to your outpouring of support, a greater humanitarian disaster was averted. However, today daily life in places like Aceh and Sri Lanka is far from "business as usual." Women who were struggling to feed their families before the disaster have suffered a huge setback -- but they aren't giving up. Instead, they strive to set up tiny businesses that will elevate them to self-sufficiency. They have the skills, the courage and the drive. All they need are the resources.

Grameen Foundation USA is on the ground, working with local organizations with deep roots in the community to provide direct, sustainable support to these resilient people. We assembled a team to go on-site in the four countries that were most affected, and determine how we could best support the post-tsunami recovery effort. The team's findings, presented in our [Tsunami Recovery Special Report](#), suggest that tens of thousands of survivors are being held back in their recovery because they lack the funds to establish or restart small businesses. The team also found that microfinance institutions (MFIs) stand ready to meet those needs, but they, too, require additional support to meet the massive demand.

GFUSA is developing partnerships with 11 local MFIs in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, providing the organizations with the necessary capital to make loans to tsunami-affected clients. We plan to raise and apply up to \$10 million in the first year, serving an estimated 38,000 tsunami-affected families. Our ultimate goal is to bring this to a total of \$22 million over the three-year life of the project, benefiting approximately 64,000 families.

With your support, we can build microfinance services to help the region's poor build, rebuild or resume family-sustaining businesses such as fishing, farming and merchant shops. This long-term investment is vital to rebuilding families and communities. Please join us to help tsunami survivors lift themselves above the tragedy of poverty for good.

http://www.grameenfoundation.org/welcome/tsunami_recovery/