

## Grameen Gazette #16

**Grameen Gazette**, the Newsletter from **Grameen Australia** – the organisation empowering people to change their lives through the implementation of innovative Microfinance and Social Business Projects.

Visit our website at [www.grameen.org.au](http://www.grameen.org.au) for all the news and information on our activities including Current Projects and Case Studies

 **Donate Now**

### Fundraising Appeal

It's been a year of great growth and progress at Grameen Australia. Professor Yunus' visit to Australia last September was a great inspiration to us and hundreds of others. Our social businesses in Cambodia and the Philippines, and our advisory work in Bangladesh, are training and self-employing hundreds of bright, capable people who, by accident of birth, are living in the some of the world's poorest places.



*Borrowers preparing and packing their first commercial rag order for a corporate client via a partnership developed by Grameen Australia*

**Will you help us continue our important work so our committed, hard-working and inspirational entrepreneurs can escape poverty?**

- **\$75** supports 10 women in business training and 12 weeks of mentoring
- **\$150** provides a first time loan to a new entrepreneur
- **\$350** provides a follow-on loan to a proven entrepreneur
- **\$900** funds a group of 6 new entrepreneurs
- **\$1,500** provides a social business loan

Average 6-month repayment period means that each loan helps 10 entrepreneurs in 5 years.

### 2015 Highlights

***Social Business Hub, Manila Philippines*** – education, mentoring and microfinance to up to 1,200 women over the first 3 years, with USD 2m of capital to achieve sustainability in Year 4.

- 197 borrowers from 10 centres
- 100% repayment rates
- 0% Portfolio at Risk
- 326 compulsory business training graduates

***Livestock Training Centre, Siem Reap Cambodia*** – comprehensive training in chicken rearing for poor dumpsite scavengers towards reliable income, with breakeven expected in 2016.

- 21 graduates from Stage One
- 13 continuing on as Stage Two apprentices
- 5 under review for microfinance loans for businesses

***Automechanic Training School, Dhaka Bangladesh*** – international standard auto mechanic training and hands-on experience for disadvantaged youth, with breakeven in 2017.

- First 10 students chosen from 100 applications
- First semester completed in July 2015
- 15 new students in January 2016

Meet Cathy, a great example of the hope and human spirit that we unleash through Grameen Australia.

Cathy is a 22 year-old entrepreneur and student who runs a home-based soap business. She uses every corner of her house and any available family member to manufacture her soap. Cathy has the spark that you see in the world's best businesswomen – she is bright, focused, charismatic, and determined. But Cathy faces a challenge that these businesswomen do not – she is living in extreme poverty in a slum called Payatas, the largest open dumpsite in the Philippines. She is one of several hundred thousand residents aspiring to sustain her family without having to scavenge on the dumpsite to earn money.



Cathy is a member of Grameen Australia's Social Business Hub. This ground breaking initiative combines microfinance with compulsory business education, business planning support, and ongoing business mentoring. As entrepreneurs gain in skills, and their businesses grow and succeed, we work with them to develop larger-scale social businesses that will employ even more people in the community.

After attending a two-day business-training workshop, Cathy received her first loan from us in November of last year. That loan allowed her to invest in supplies, molds, and packaging for her soap. Grameen Australia helped her secure a contract from an Australian motel for 20,000 pieces. Cathy successfully repaid her first loan, and has already applied for a second loan. Her household income has increased by 125%. As Cathy's knowledge and confidence grow, her capacity to succeed accelerates.



Like every entrepreneur, Cathy has dreams for her business. She wishes to build a business that can support her entire family. She wishes to reach consumers beyond Payatas. Grameen Australia sees great potential in Cathy's business as well. The potential to build a temperature-controlled soap making facility near Payatas. The potential to train and employ other women in her community, who can then afford to educate their children.

*Cathy's thoughtful demeanour when asked what was her dream for her business*

**Your support and partnership with Grameen Australia will empower women like Cathy to change their lives and the lives of their community.**