

## Grameen Gazette #30



Borrowers of the Hulo Pililia centre with GA Chair and staff. This centre demonstrates the determination of our entrepreneurial borrowers, who seek our support to grow their businesses so they can end their family's struggles for survival and employ more people in their community.



The Livestock Training Centre's progress is impressive according to Expert Advisory Team members. Breakeven is budgeted for the first half of 2017, providing the opportunity to significantly scale the project via cooperative community development.

### Foundations in place for significantly increased Social Impact

#### Can you Help us Make it Happen?

2016 has been a crucial year for Grameen Australia – our programs in the Philippines and Cambodia have been extensively tested, reviewed and analysed including independent assessment to bring them to optimal performance in preparation for substantial growth in 2017.

At the Manila Social Business Hub in the Philippines a range of additional, rigorous structures have been implemented to further strengthen loan management in preparation for expansion from nearly 3,000 loans to 6,000 by the end of 2017.

At the Siem Reap Livestock Training Centre in Cambodia a combination of new infrastructure, rigorous biosecurity, quality feed, and international standard bird management will drive expansion from 5,000 birds to 20,000 by the end of 2017, supporting the development of a community scale cooperative to increase our reach and impact.

## Social Business Hub, Manila



In preparation for expansion a formal review of the program was undertaken by an internal management team, augmented by an independent assessment by an external auditor.

Results from the review process are positive with Field Staff and Centre Leader strengthening underpinning the increased robustness of the loan management processes, thereby increasing repayment rates.

### Key Recommendations:

- **Loan Management System** – Implementation of even more ‘bank-like’ practices for loan management including improved encoding standards, and comprehensive reconciliation of data using more formalisation documentation. Loan procedures have been amended to strengthen the repayment process.
- **Advanced Field Staff Training** – Detailed adaptation of the rural-based Grameen methodology to align with the urban Manila context, with staff completing training in the enhanced Model. Ongoing monitoring will track all elements of the Model to ensure rigour is maintained as the program grows.
- **Centre Leader Capacity Building** – Underpinning the enhanced Model, is an increased emphasis on lines of communication between Field Staff and Centre Leaders. Staff are identifying specific areas of training for each Leader to build their capacity to ensure they are better able to manage their Centre’s loans.

## Livestock Training Centre, Siem Reap



The Centre has undertaken a 3-stage review process during 2016 with the program’s independent Expert Advisory Committee. The staged process has enabled each set of recommendations to be implemented and reviewed to ensure careful management of the flock’s health.

The implementation of the Review’s recommendations has resulted in a doubling of the flock, ensuring the program is on schedule to achieve breakeven in the first half of 2017.

Breakeven will secure funding to develop a cooperative community-based chicken rearing program to provide income generation for some of the hundreds of local community families.

### Key Recommendations:

- **Hatchery Management** – importation of a one-of-a-kind 5,000 egg commercial incubator, infrastructure improvements and enhanced handling procedures are being implemented to ensure egg health.
- **Flock Management Program** - application of an international standard vaccine program, infrastructure improvements to better protect the flock from weather conditions and strict handling procedures for birds at each stage of development.
- **Biosecurity** – range of activities to protect the flock from external and internal risks including strict quarantine procedures and hygiene requirements.
- **Feed** – quality feed has been sourced to increase growth rates and flock health underpinning the development of healthy birds.



“We develop sustainable social-impact businesses that empower very poor people to climb out of poverty themselves”

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**Grameen Australia’s MISSION** is to eliminate poverty in some of Asia’s most neglected communities by applying our Social Business Model to create new sources of income for poverty stricken families. Our dynamic approach combines compulsory training, ongoing mentoring, microfinance and leading technology to empower beneficiaries to change their own lives permanently. Social Business uses the tools of business – efficiency, economic viability and innovation – to drive scalable and sustainable social outcomes.

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