



## The issue

Many of the world's poorest people lack access to financial products, services, and information that can connect them to economic opportunity and help them achieve their full potential.



## Quick Facts

### Timeline

Founded in 1997, partner with Cisco since 2006

### Region

36 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Africa, and Asia

### Cisco Investment

More than US\$2.8 million in cash and product grant support as of October 2013 plus a Cisco Leadership Fellow

### Investment Source

Cisco and the Cisco Foundation

### Technology Networks

Cloud technology, open-source platforms, data management, mobile phones and applications, Internet connectivity

### Human Networks

Grameen Foundation employees, Cisco employees, microfinance organizations, poverty-focused organizations, open-source developers

### People Impacted

24+ million via multiple Grameen Foundation initiatives

Grameen Foundation develops innovative tools that organizations serving the poor can use to enhance efficiency, increase scale, and maximize social impact. Its work aligns with Cisco's mission to support technology-based initiatives that help individuals and communities become economically self-sufficient.

Cisco "loaned" one of its senior executives to serve as Grameen Foundation's chief financial officer for 18 months and, along with the Cisco Foundation, has supported the following Initiatives with cash grants:

- **Mifos®**. This open source management information system gives MFIs the ability to manage rapid expansion in a cost-efficient manner, quickly develop and deploy new products and services, and generate reports to meet regulatory requirements—ultimately increasing the number of people they can serve. Mifos is now run by The Mifos Initiative.
- **Progress out of Poverty Index® (PPI®)**. Organizations use this simple survey methodology to assess client poverty. Grant funding from the Cisco Foundation is helping Grameen Foundation develop training and certification programs, enhance the PPI's online resource center and other tools, and develop user guides and materials.
- **TaroWorks™**. This suite of mobile technology tools is designed for use by field officers of social enterprises working in remote areas. It supports such needs as registration, monitoring, training and education, and inventory management. Cisco has provided cash grants to design, implement, and scale TaroWorks and support a business model for financial sustainability.

you + networks = impact<sup>x</sup>



## Impact of Grameen Foundation Technology helps organizations and people improve economic prospects

### TaroWorks™ Improves Business Intelligence



Honey Care Africa is a social enterprise that promotes sustainable beekeeping and economic development by providing microfinance, training, and other services to bee farmers. The organization adopted TaroWorks so it could collect and analyze field data with mobile phones and ultimately improve their business operations. TaroWorks facilitates a two-way flow of data between management and the field and provides business intelligence for decision-making. Honey Care field workers visit bee farmers each month to monitor hives in order to achieve optimal production and revenue for the bee farmer. The technology allows them to track the progress of each hive in their honey supply to meet buyer demand, to review hive inspection history, and to communicate the hive's location and current state of health to the mead office. Using TaroWorks, Honey Care has greater visibility into its expected honey supply and can better manage its field staff to ensure hive health issues are promptly resolved. This benefits not only Honey Care, but the bee farmers it works with

### Metrics



**37**  
TaroWorks customers supporting 50,000 microentrepreneurs and impacting 2 million beneficiaries



**92%**  
of the world's poor live in countries covered by the PPI (based on \$1.25/day poverty line)



**200**  
anti-poverty organizations serving 24+ million clients are using the Progress out of Poverty Index



**50**  
MFIs serving 1.1 million microfinance clients are being served via the Mifos platform

### Progress out of Poverty Index is Essential Nonprofit Tool



Friendship Bridge is a nonprofit organization that provides microcredit and education to Guatemalan women. It works primarily with indigenous populations in rural areas where the rate of poverty and malnutrition is the highest. The organization adopted the Progress out of Poverty Index® (PPI®) to better monitor and evaluate its financial and social performance and it has now become an essential tool. Friendship Bridge uses the data from the PPI to shape its strategic plans and priorities and to ensure it is delivering the right services and products to its clients. This includes expanding services with diversified credit and savings program, implementing initiatives, like health services, that improve the quality of life for clients, and transitioning loan officers to relationship managers who can support clients as they grow.

## Cisco Corporate Social Responsibility

[csr.cisco.com](http://csr.cisco.com)



We create opportunities to transform lives, communities, and the environment through the combined power of human collaboration and networked connections. We call this "impact multiplied." Together with others, we apply technology to unlock the intelligence and fuel the innovation needed to address some of the world's most pressing problems.

Our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts focus on five areas: improving the well-being of people and communities around the world; using our technology to improve environmental sustainability; conducting our business ethically; creating a workplace where our employees thrive; and maintaining our high standards for ethics, labor rights, health, safety, and the environment throughout our supply chain. Learn more at [csr.cisco.com](http://csr.cisco.com)