

Nobels Peace Prize 2006



Muhammad Yunus was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, along with Grameen Bank, for "their efforts to create economic and social development from below." The award marked a shift away from the conventions by awarding it to someone who worked to promote peace indirectly through economic upliftment of the masses. The announcement read:

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2006, divided into two equal parts, to Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank for their efforts to create economic and social development from below. Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty. Micro-credit is one such means. Development from below also serves to advance democracy and human rights.

The 65-year-old economist said he would use part of his share of the \$1.4 million award to create a company to make low-cost, high-nutrition food for the poor. The rest would go toward setting up an eye hospital for the poor in Bangladesh, he said. The food company, to be known as Social Business Enterprise, will sell food for a nominal price.

Childhood and family

Yunus was born in 1940 in the village of Bathua, in Hathazari, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Yunus is married to Afroji Yunus, a professor of physics at Jahangirnagar University. He is the father of two daughters: Dina Yunus and Monica Yunus.

Founding the Grameen Bank

In 1976, Yunus founded the Grameen Bank (Grameen means "of rural area", "of village") to make loans to poor Bangladeshis. The Grameen Bank has issued more than US\$ 5.1 billion to 5.3 million borrowers. To ensure repayment, the bank uses a system of "solidarity groups".

As it has grown, the Grameen Bank has also developed other systems of alternate credit that serve the poor. In addition to microcredit, it offers education loans and housing loans as well as financing for fisheries and irrigation projects, venture capital, textiles, and other activities, along with other banking services such as savings.

The success of the Grameen model has inspired similar efforts throughout the developing world and even in industrialized nations, including Norway. Norway was the first industrial country that started with Grameen Bank in 1992 and called it Nettverkskreditt (Networking credit – you are a part of a network and credit means trust) The Grameen model of micro financing has been emulated in 60 countries. In Norway there are 275 groups all over the country and they have 6,9 mill euros in loancapital. Many, but not all, networkingcredit projects also retain its emphasis on lending specifically to women. More than 96% of Grameen loans have gone to women, who suffer disproportionately from poverty and who are more likely than men to devote their earnings to their families. Also 98% of the loans are payed back (results from Norway).

In the FEM project Norway are responsibel for WP4 , networking credit. They are helping the FEM countries to develop groups and give loans to help women to create their own buisnesses.

When Yunus comes to Norway to get the Peace prize 6 ladies from the first groups in Norway(Moskenes and Flakstad in Lofoten Islands) are invited to be together with him in this big moment. Annika Saanio who are in the FEM project are one of the

ladies. The FEM project will arrange a press conference in Oslo on Friday 8 of December.

Together with all FEM countries and ladies participating FEM we are very proud that Mohammed Yunus and Grameen Bank got the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006!!

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International responsibility for WP4