

Press Release: 12 Top International Microfinance Nonprofits Identified by 139 Experts

One day our grandchildren will go to museums to see what poverty was like. -Muhammad Yunus

According to the World Bank 2008 report, almost half of the world's population- over 3 billion people- live on less than \$2.50 a day. The poorest 40 percent of the world's population accounts for 5 percent of global income, while the richest 20 percent accounts for three-quarters of world income (Human Development Report 2007). Microfinance offers those who were previously considered "un-bankable" because of their lack of collateral, an opportunity to expand their businesses, increase their incomes, and transform their lives, which some consider a key requirement to increasing investment in rural development.

In 2009, in order to find out which nonprofits were making the biggest difference, or impact, on microfinance at the international level, we ran our research **surveying 131 international microfinance experts** (with an average of 10 years of work experience in the field).

Philanthropedia's experts (funders, researchers, nonprofit senior staff, government officials, etc.) **identified 12 top microfinance nonprofits (out of 107 total reviewed nonprofits)** working in at the international level. These organizations include loan providers, information research organizations, online platforms, consulting practices, and more.

The following is the list of the top-recommended high-impact nonprofits working on microfinance at the international level. "Agree" is the number of experts who agree that the nonprofit has had the most impact in the field. "Disagree" is the number of experts who disagree that the nonprofit has had the most impact in the field.

12 Top High-Impact Nonprofits	# of Experts who Agree	# of Experts who Disagree	Year Founded	Location
ACCION International	57	1	1965	Boston, MA
Grameen Foundation	58	5	1997	Washington, DC
BRAC	53	1	1972	New York, NY
MIX- Microfinance Information Exchange	33	3	2002	Washington, DC
Opportunity International	32	4	1971	Oak Brook, IL
Kiva	32	6	2005	San Francisco, CA
ASA (Foundation)	25	1	2007	New York, NY
WWB- Women's World Banking	27	5	1979	New York, NY
Pro Mujer- Pro Women Programs for Women	24	4	1990	New York, NY

CARE International	24	7	1945	Atlanta, GA
Freedom from Hunger	24	7	1946	Davis, CA
FINCA International	22	6	1984	Washington, DC

We invite you to visit the profiles of each of these top organizations on our website to read the expert reviews here: <http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/top-nonprofits/international/microfinance>. Experts commented on the impact each nonprofit has had, what the nonprofit's other organizational strengths are, and how each organization could further improve.

We also invite your feedback. Please tell us what you think and what experiences you've had with these great organizations! We can be reached at feedback@myphilanthropedia.org.

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<http://www.myphilanthropedia.org/>

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