

Impact Report 2023

www.microkredietvoormoeders.org



Our activities contribute to the United Nations' global sustainable development goals



SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



SDG 5: Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls



SDG 8: Promote sustainable economic growth and employment for all



SDG 10: Reduce inequality in people, within and among countries

Colophon

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Foreword

We are proud to present Microcredit for Mothers' (MVM, a Dutch foundation) Impact Report for the year 2023. Through our commitment to measuring impact in a structured and systematic manner, we are able to provide valuable insights into the extent of our reach and the impact on the women.

At the core of our approach lies the Theory of Change, a conceptual model that outlines the path from intervention to social change. This model comprises four key steps: inputs, activities, outputs, and effects. By intentionally completing this model, we consistently make informed decisions to ensure that the projects supported by Microcredit for Mothers, benefit countries and partners both in the short and long term. Our primary objective is to grow the self-confidence and self-reliance of the women we support and thereby stimulate their economic independence. To this end, we provide microcredit in the form of start-up and working capital, enabling the women to pursue their entrepreneurial endeavors.

In the Impact Report, you will discover how our activities contribute to the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs). Furthermore, the report sheds light on the invaluable role of training in the development of the women in Asia who have benefited from the credits provided.

We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to sharing the inspiring stories of the women whose lives have been positively impacted by Microcredit for Mothers.

Table of contents

Foreword
2023 in brief
Methodology
Sustainable Development Goals
Partners and projects
Enterprising women
Training

Our mission

We believe that entrepreneurship empowers women to manifest their potential and strength. This inspires us, together with our partners, to help disadvantaged women obtain a microcredit for the start or growth of their business. By contributing to economic independence in this way, these women not only have a higher income, but also gain more self-confidence and more say within the family/society. This results in better living conditions in their community and children can go to school. This gives the next generation better opportunities, so that the vicious circle of poverty is broken.



2023 in brief

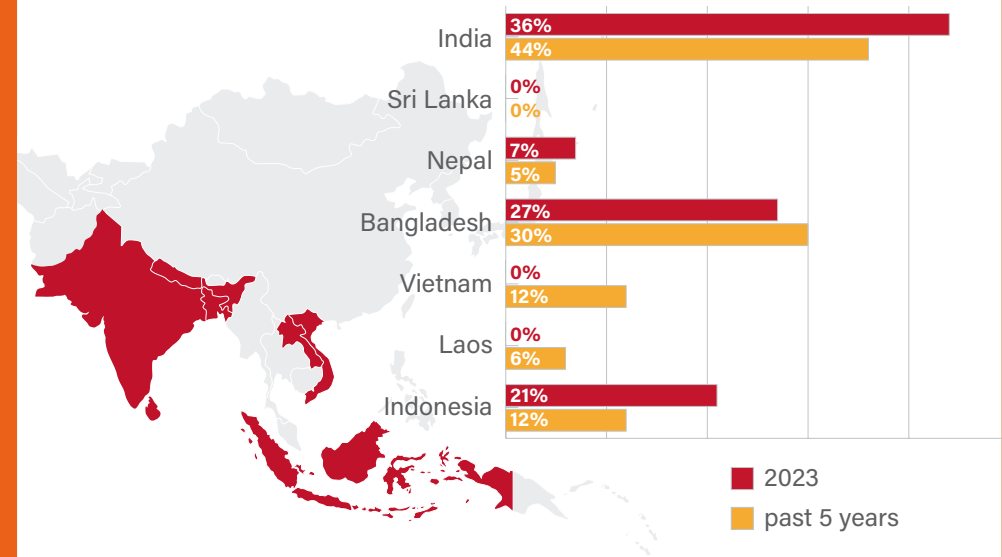
2023 was a good year for MVM. In total we have financed 11 projects with 11 different partners for more than EUR 95,000. Later in the impact report, you can read about the projects we supported.

Training is an important pillar of new projects; therefore, in addition to a grant, a maximum of 10% of the grant amount is available for training. Last year, approximately EUR 7,000 was provided to the same partners for the training of women. With the 2023 grants, we stimulated 628 new women in their entrepreneurship. In addition to the women who joined new projects, due to the revolving nature of the loans, 1,403 women received a microcredit via MVM, of whom 156 were women receiving a loan for the first time. A total of 2,031 women received a microcredit via MVM in 2023, of whom 784 were women receiving a loan for the first time.

At least every 3 years, a partner with an ongoing project is visited to ensure that the right target group has been reached and that the partner is working as agreed. Volunteers also travel to explore future collaborations with (new) partners. This year, 5 volunteers visited a total of 9 partners in India, Indonesia, Laos, and Nepal during 4 different trips.



Distribution of new microcredits 2023





The basis for financing projects lies with our wonderful donors. In addition to many periodic and one-off transfers, MVM received several large contributions in 2023 from two foundations and an inheritance. In total, MVM received more than EUR 123,000 in donations (of which EUR 9,000 is specifically intended for investment in and maintenance of the website). The part of our donations not spent in 2023 (approximately EUR 10,000) will be spent on our projects in 2024.

In 2023, another Female Leadership Journey was organized. In addition to the personal leadership training, participants are also introduced to a group of women from one of MVM's projects. In 2023, the trip went to Nepal, where participants met several women from microcredit projects through partner Dhulikhel.

Since 2022, MVM has been providing funds to partners in the form of grants. The women who receive loans from our partners continue to repay their loans to the partner, so the funds continue to revolve locally. For five years, we monitor the progress of the repayments, the funds provided for training, and the number of children benefiting from the loans through the selected mothers.

For more financial details, please refer to the annual report.

Methodology

Microcredit for Mothers is a network organisation that works closely with local partners in Asia. MVM is solely comprised of volunteers. Microcredit for Mothers also cooperates with several Dutch partners who generously provide their services for free. More information about these partners can be found on our website.

Microfinance for women's entrepreneurship encompasses three essential pillars that increase the self-reliance among Asia's poorest women: lending, saving, and training. By leveraging our own partnerships or collaborating with local partners, we realise these vital pillars.

Our primary focus is on empowering poor women who face greater challenges in accessing credit from traditional banks. Recognizing their vulnerable financial circumstances, we believe it's important to provide women with the opportunity to borrow at affordable interest rates. Moreover, our partners eliminate the requirement for collateral, ensuring loans do not become financial barriers, enabling realistic repayment and fostering economic independence. This also contributes to the revolving nature of the funds. We have agreed with our partners that after reimbursement, they will redistribute the funds to support other women.

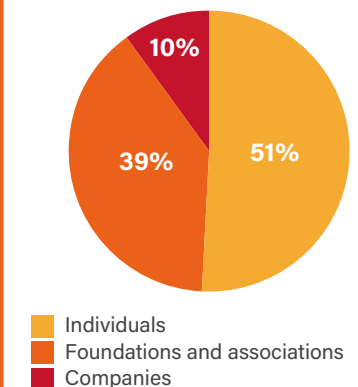
MVM in figures



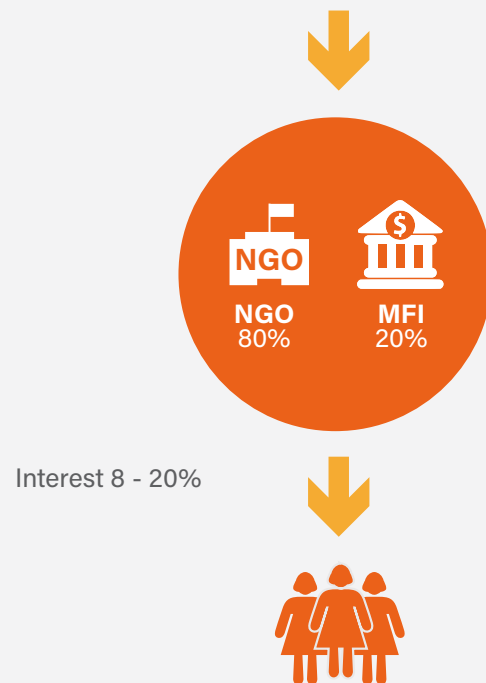
Approach

- **100% volunteers**
- **Better loan terms**
- **Locally revolving**
- **Careful selection of local partners**
- **Partner visit every 2-3 years**

Origin of donors

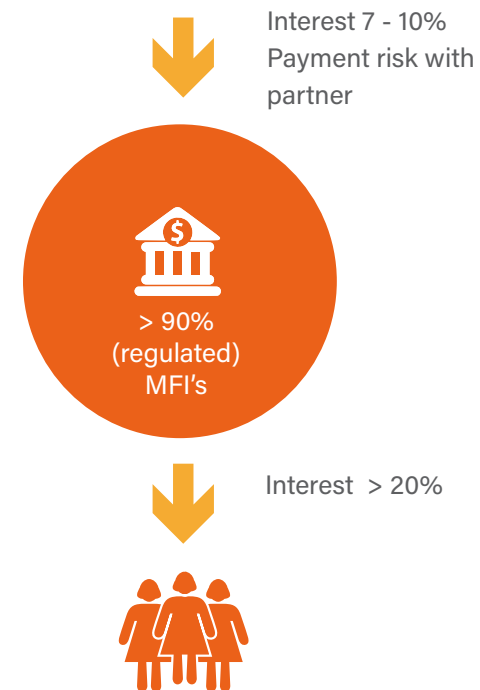


MVM



MVM provides grants to carefully selected local partners. These partners, in turn, provide microcredits to selected poor women in the region. MVM ensures that our partners offer loans at a lower interest rate or more favorable conditions than regular microfinance institutions (MFIs). As a result, the women receive a loan for which they are not eligible in the regular banking system.

Impact investors



"There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women"

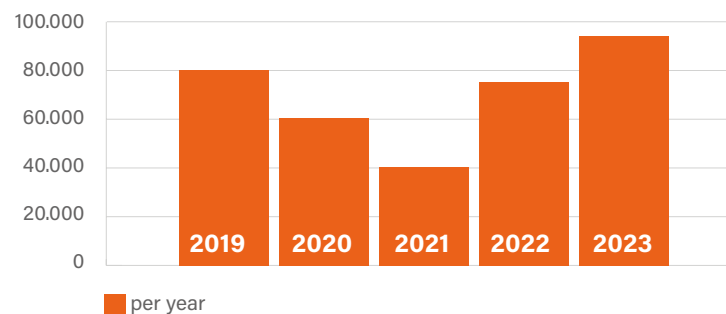
Kofi Anan

Revolving Fund

MVM and the local partners use a revolving fund setup. Based on contractual conditions, we provide grants to these partners, who convert them into loans for local women participating in the project. The women use this to start their own businesses or expand their businesses. They usually repay the loan within a year. Through repayment the borrowed money returns to the local partner, who makes it available again for new loans. In this way we make it possible for a next group of women to also have the opportunity to start a business or for the same group of women to receive a loan again (from start-up to working capital).

As a result, an increasing number of poor families benefit from our initiatives. To date, we have successfully provided loans to over 28,000 women.

Volume of funds provided



Over the past five years, MVM has provided more than EUR 350,000 to local partners, revolving locally. Funds provided to partners further back are also still revolving with the partner. However, the partners no longer have to report on this and therefore data on these grants is not included in this impact report.

Sustainable Development Goals

By analysing the projects that MVM supports through our partners and the information we have gathered, we have determined that our activities in the past year have contributed to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDG	Target	MVM contribution
	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within the projects, women save individually or in groups.• MVM focuses on poor women. Most women have an income below the poverty line of USD 1.90 per day at the start of the project.• Several projects target poor women in climate-sensitive areas.• Our partners provide loans at significantly lower interest rates or better lending conditions than other local parties.• Our partners do not ask for collateral.
	Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 784 new women received their first microcredit through MVM in 2023.• A total of 2,031 women received a microcredit from MVM.• Microcredit empowers women to start or advance their own businesses, leading to economic independence and reducing reliance on men within their communities.• Due to the improved income, more children are going to school.
	Promote sustainable economic growth and employment for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most partners provide regular training for the women participating in a project. Last year, 911 women attended training.
	Reduce inequality in people, within and among countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our partners focus on disadvantaged groups of women in society such as the Dalits, casteless and nomads.• Some of our projects focus on women living in areas that are vulnerable to climate change.

Country: **India**

Local MVM partner: **HEARDS**

Impact: In HEARDS' Self Help Group (SHG) program, the women save small amounts of money each month. They receive small loans from their Group to set up a small business. In addition to financial autonomy, the SHG also offers space to discuss social issues. It strengthens solidarity between women, increases their self-confidence and gives them space to think about solutions. HEARDS also organizes trainings for members of SHGs. The groups are happy with the self-reliance they are gradually achieving.

The performance of SHGs can be measured by six key indicators: regularity of meetings, regularity of savings, attendance, repayment of principal, repayment of interest, and secure portfolio. The SHGs supported by HEARDS-MVM outperform other SHGs. The refund rate is 100%.



Interview with Mr. Thyaga Raju, Founder and Director of RAIDS – India

The story of Thyaga Raju begins in difficult circumstances. As a child of a Dalit family in an isolated area, he experienced the harsh reality of discrimination and poverty from an early age. He remembers how he and his three teenage sisters were forced to work as laborers to support the family. They faced physical abuse and humiliation, especially his mother and sisters. Dalits were discriminated against everywhere. In their village, Dalits were not allowed to visit the same places as upper-caste people, not even temples.



The moment that changed Raju's life came when he and his family were working in the fields one day. A local landowner, angry that they were sitting under a tree, started beating and shouting at them because of their low caste. Raju was evicted after protesting the landowner. This moment was the catalyst for Raju to fight against the injustices that his family and other Dalit families faced on a daily basis.

Driven by his experiences, Raju decided to fight for social justice and became a social activist. Together with like-minded young people, he started an informal group to help, guide and support women and children in their fight against poverty and exploitation. In 1986, he founded RAIDS, a non-profit organization focused on organizing and empowering women through microcredit and promoting small businesses.



Thanks to RAIDS, the lives of many women have changed. In collaboration with a.o. Microcredit for Mothers, RAIDS has implemented numerous projects that economically empower women and transform their lives. Thyaga Raju's efforts, drawn from his own experiences of oppression and injustice, have created lasting positive change in the communities in which they operate.

Partners and projects



MVM works with 26 partners in 7 Asian countries. With these partners we have established a long-standing cooperation. They are very committed to the women they work with. They know the local situation best and know which women need our support most.

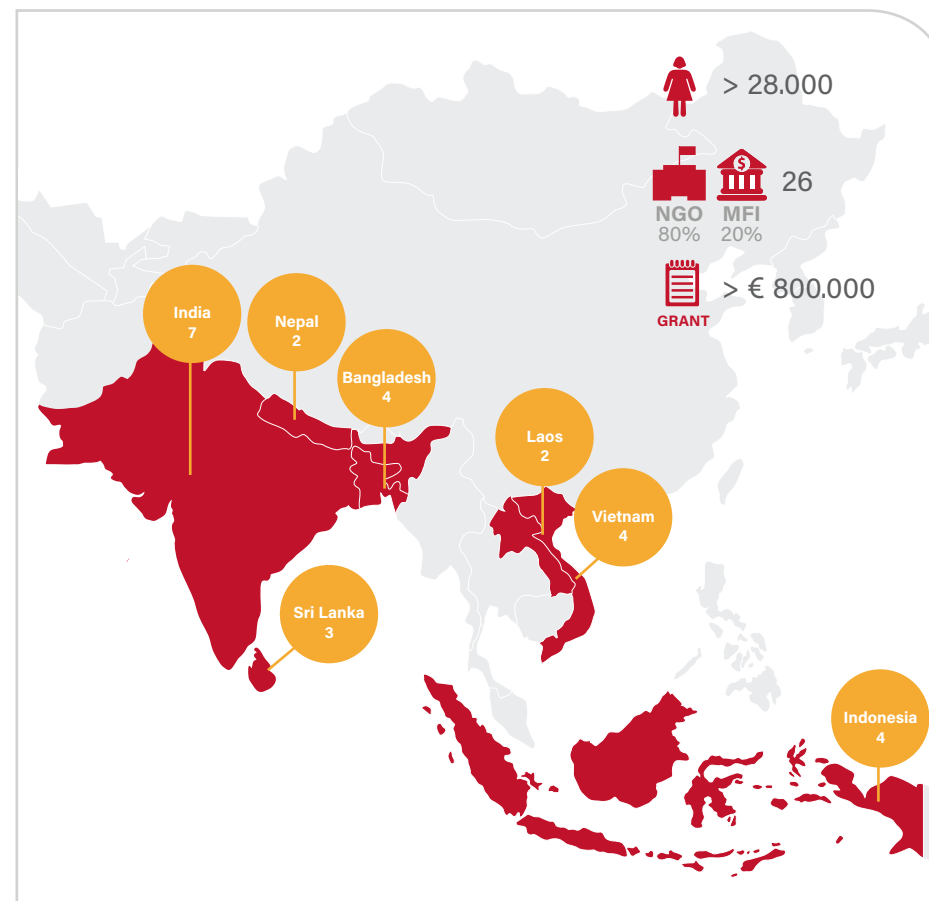
Over 80% of our partners are NGOs (non governmental organisations). They focus on helping poor women in Asia. Beyond promoting entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency, many partners actively advocate for women's and children's rights, education, healthcare, and other essential needs.

In 2023, MVM program managers visited the following partners:

- India: HEARDS, ROPES, SUCHI en WORD
- Indonesia: Kopdit Anna
- Laos: AFC (Bamboo traders) en MHP
- Nepal: CSRC en Dhulikhel

The visits gave our program managers insight into the progress in women's livelihoods thanks to the microloans we provided. The women's income is higher and the microloans have contributed to more respect and esteem in their relationship and the community. As a result, the women's self-confidence increased.

It is also checked whether the partner works as agreed (e.g. with regard to the term of the loan, the amount of the interest rate). Finally, the program managers collect valuable information with which MVM evaluates the policy (for example, the amount of the loan or the use of training) and adjusts if necessary.



Report of visit to partners in India:

In mid-April 2023, two program managers visited projects and participating women in India - Chittoor region. With the 3 different partners (HEARDS, ROPES and SUCHI) they visited various local communities to meet the women who receive microcredits through MVM. These visits make the impact that MVM makes very concrete and tangible. The loans of an average of INR 10,000 (about EUR 110) are life-changing for many women. No matter how dire their living conditions are, the women are enterprising and determined to improve their lives and those of their children.



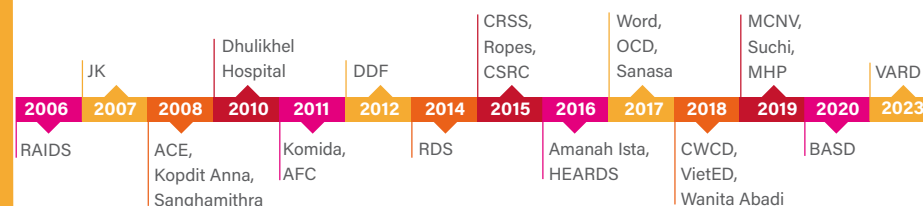
Careful partner selection

MVM firmly believes in the potential of women entrepreneurs and extends its support to poor Asian women who face limited or no access to credit for starting businesses. Careful partner selection, monitoring and building successful long-term partnerships is at the core of our work. We carefully choose partners based on their alignment with our mission and values, their proven track record, and their development programs that empower women to establish or grow their own businesses. With some partners we have been working together for more than 15 years, with others we have entered into cooperation more recently.

The partners we work with are:

- **Vietnam:** Medical Committee Netherlands Vietnam (MCNV), Center for Women Community Development (CWCD), VietED and Anh Chi Em (ACE)
- **Indonesia:** Wanita Abadi, Komida, Kopdit Anna and Amanah Ista
- **Bangladesh:** Center for Rural Service Society (CRSS), Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD) and Rural Development Society (RDS). In 2023, Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD) was added as a partner.
- **India:** Social Unit for Community Health and Improvement (SUCHI), Women's Organisation in Rural Development (WORD), Organization for Community Development (OCD), Sanghamithra Rural Financial Services, Rural Action In Development Society (RAIDS), Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES) and Health, Education, Adoption, Rehabilitation, Development Society (HEARDS)
- **Nepal:** Dhulikhel Hospital and Community Self Reliance Centre
- **Sri Lanka:** Janawaboda Kendraya (JK), Dayasarana Development Foundation (DDF) and Sanasa
- **Laos:** Maeying Houamjai Phathana (MHP) and Agro Forestry development Consultancy (AFC).

Start date current partners





In 2023, we provided over EUR 95,000 in new microloans to projects in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Nepal. In addition, the eleven projects received EUR 7,030 for training. With this we helped 628 new women on their way to a better life. Due to the local revolving nature of the loans, this number will grow over the years.

COUNTRY	PARTNER	TARGET/GROUP	NUMBER OF WOMEN	GRANT IN 2023 (in €)
Bangladesh	CRSS	The women come from very hard-to-reach areas with very poor backgrounds. They are organized in small groups. The women will use this loan to start a small business, such as a tea stall, a bakery, or a vegetable or fish shop on the side of the road. The women gradually join the project so that they can get a higher loan of 250 euros.	50	6,750
	BASD	The selected women come from 2 villages under Mongla Upazila, located in the most vulnerable area to the climate crisis. Here families suffer the most from cyclones, drought and water salinization, leading to a huge crisis of lack of safe drinking water, especially in the summer season. The women are gradually moving in so that they can get a higher loan of 200 euros.	100	11,000
	RDS	The selected women are poor rural women in Kotalipara Upazila in Gopalganj district. The women will start a small business and will be able to contribute a significant amount of money to their family income. The aim of the project is to lift households out of poverty in a sustainable way. The women receive a loan of 300 euros.	34	10,000
	VARD	The 'Bihari' women live in slums in Dhaka. They are Pakistani women who could not return to Pakistan after Bangladesh's independence. Their situation is incredibly distressing. Whole families live together in one room. The sanitary facilities and drinking water supplies are also in very poor condition. Their houses are very dilapidated. The women borrow 150 euros.	25	3,500
India	Heards	Vulnerable women in the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. Chittoor is the most economically deprived area in India and the source of income for these poor uneducated women is very small. The women have little or no access to day work and live below the poverty line. With microcredit, they can build their own lives and thus increase their economic self-sufficiency.	100	10,000

COUNTRY	PARTNER	TARGET/GROUP	NUMBER OF WOMEN	GRANT IN 2023 (in €)
India	SUCHI	Women from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other disadvantaged communities in the Andhra Pradesh region receive microcredit. They are mainly women with large families, low incomes and poor access to work, women who do not have a specific technique or skill to earn their daily wages, and women who lack knowledge and practical ways to start their own small rural business.	148	8,200
	Sanghamitra	Tribal women in the remote villages of the BR Hills Tiger Reserve in Karnataka (South India). Tribal women (and their children) in these rural and forested areas face limited access to education and healthcare, social and economic inequality, gender discrimination, lack of infrastructure, cultural marginalization, and legal issues around land rights. Many issues that are not addressed by the (local) governments. Many still live in small huts with roofs made of plastic or dried branches. The impact we can make here with a small loan is enormous.	100	24,000
	Komida	Women in Cariu branch in West Java. These are women who have food stalls or small shops at home. The training courses give the women knowledge and confidence to expand their business. They earn just that little bit more money to send their children to school and look to the future with a little more confidence.	23	7,000
Indonesia	Wanita Abadi	Women who already have businesses and have been a member of Wanita for more than three years and want an additional loan for their business. Almost all women are illiterate and also have difficulty with arithmetic. Alternative employment in the more formal economy is therefore hardly available to them. The loans are mainly used for food stalls or trade in agricultural products.	36	6,737
	Kopdit Anna	Women in Yogyakarta have received a loan to expand existing businesses, including food stalls and repairing and trading in old electrical appliances. They all also receive training in Jumputan Batik and entrepreneurship. The batik training is offered to broaden the horizon of the ladies and open them up to additional business.	22	6,700
Nepal	Dhulikhel Hospital	The women live outside Kathmandu in places that are sometimes more difficult to reach and/or where they cannot easily visit a hospital themselves. Outreach posts have been set up to get closer to the remote population. The women we support are linked to an outreach post and become part of MvM as a group. The new groups are mainly involved in livestock farming or small-scale agriculture. Together with the training they receive through the outreach post, they become more self-reliant and generate income for the family and especially their children (in the form of education).	40	6,700

Name: **Mrs. Nguyen Thi Lan**
Country: **Vietnam**
Business: **animal husbandry**
Local MVM partner: **VietED Microfinance**

Impact: With her husband's small income, it was difficult to support a family of 5. Mrs. Lan first bought one adult cow with a microloan. Later, she was able to buy a second cow and to start raising cattle. With the proceeds, she pays the costs for her children's education and daily life. Life is less difficult thanks to microfinance. In the future, she wants to build more barns to increase the number of cows. In addition to her family and cattle farming, Mrs. Lan actively participates in women's group activities, supporting the underprivileged women in her village.



Name: **Mrs. Sengthong Vilayhong**
Country: **Laos**
Business: **bamboo handicraft trainer**
Local MVM partner: **MHP**

Impact: Mrs. Sengthong Vilayhong is a bamboo handicraft trainer. She used microcredit to buy bamboo sticks and devices for bamboo handicrafts. As a result, her income increased by 50% per month. Her husband no longer has to work in other provinces and two of their children can go to secondary school



Name: **Ibu Nur Baeti**
Country: **Indonesia**
Business: **making snacks**
Local MVM partner: **Kopdit Anna**

Impact: Ibu Nur Baeti makes and sells snacks, such as spring rolls, cakes, jadah and wajik. With a microloan, she invested in ovens, refrigerators and cookware and streamlined her business. Her income has increased, she is able to pay for her child's education, and she has financial space to maintain sufficient inventory so that she can deliver catering orders quickly and reliably. In the future, she would like to open a bakery and offer fellow villagers the opportunity to find a job there. Through entrepreneurial training, she increases her knowledge and insights to be ready for this.



Name: **Mrs. Rita Rani Das**
Country: **Bangladesh**
Company: **vegetable garden business**
Local MVM partner: **Center for Rural Service Society (CRSS)**

Impact: Mrs. Das from southern Bangladesh has been able to change her life despite extreme poverty due to droughts and floods. The Center for Rural Service Society (CRSS) helped her with training and a micro-loan. She started a vegetable gardening business with her husband and son, which increased their monthly income. They now have three meals a day and Mrs. Das hopes to build a new house. Her determination and success inspire others within the community.



Enterprising women



784
new women
supported



2.031
women received
a loan



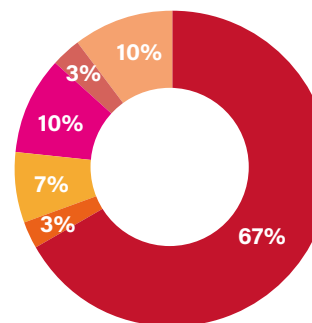
>75%
women
saving

MVM focuses on fostering self-reliance among the poorest women by investing in their entrepreneurship. By setting up their own businesses through small loans, savings opportunities, vocational training, entrepreneurial and leadership training, the women increase their economic independence and self-reliance. This improves the quality of their lives and that of their families. Our partners know the local situation well and know which women need our support most.

Facts about the loans

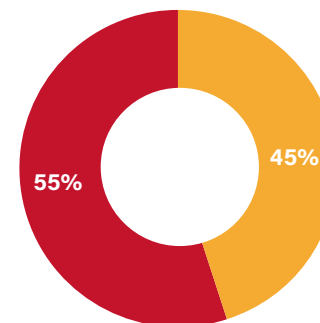
- € 151 average loan provided per woman in 2023
- 2/3 of partners provide loans with an average maturity between 8 and 12 months
- 1/3 of partners provide loans with an average term between 13 and 24 months
- Women are encouraged to save (individually or in groups)
- 80% of the partners provide group level support or group loans in addition to individual loans. This way, women encourage each other to actually repay the loan.

Type of business



■ Animal husbandry
■ Handicraft
■ Clothing
■ Food
■ Petty shop / store
■ Agriculture

Use of loan



■ Start-up capital
■ Working capital / Investment

Since MVM's inception, our partners have already provided loans to more than 28,000 Asian women using MVM funds. At the end of 2023, a total of 2,031 women received a microcredit from MVM, of which 784 were women that received a loan for the first time.

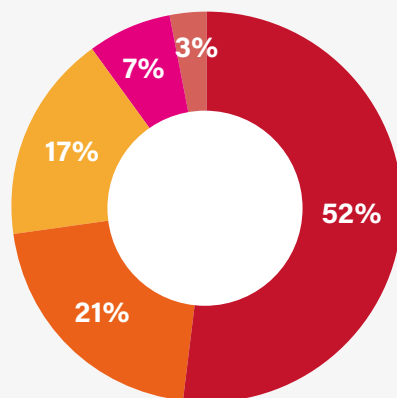
Reducing inequality

More than half of our projects focus on women from very remote areas. We are also increasingly reaching poor women in climate-sensitive regions with the loans. Of the women we help, more than 20% hail from marginalized communities, including Dalits, casteless individuals, nomads. These groups are often overlooked by the government. Additionally, our partners are extending their lending services to impoverished women in urban settings and small-scale farmers.

Children

Partners also keep track of how the women's children benefit from economic developments in the family. Not all partners keep track of exactly how many children are involved with the women who receive loans. Of the partners that keep track of this (about two-thirds of the total number of partners), we know that 2,771 children benefit from the microcredits, of which 2,396 go to school. This concerns children of women who received a microcredit at the end of 2023.

Target group



- Rural communities (very remote from city / economic activity)
- Tribal communities / nomadic communities (e.g. Dalits / casteless individuals in India)
- Urban communities
- Smallholder farmers (farmers with own land <0.5 acres)
- Medically disadvantaged groups: disabled, sick women, etc.]



Country: **India**
Enterprise: **making brooms**
Local MVM partner: **SUCHI**

Impact: Due to poor family income, women started making broomsticks. They sell the brooms in cities and towns. The women make the brooms at home and sell them on the streets or in nearby villages. The men try to sell the brooms further away and return once a week (or sooner if sales have gone well). During the COVID period, the women could not sell brooms. After COVID, SUCHI has encouraged the women's group to restart their broom-making business with training and motivation to improve their family income. And also to regain recognition within the family and the community.



Country: **Indonesia**
Local MVM partner: **Kopdit Anna**

Impact: Our partner Kopdit Anna in Yogyakarta provides training in making Jumpatan Batik, among other things. Microcredit for Mothers supports a batik project in which 22 women received a microloan. The training lasts 2 days and focuses on the production process of Jumputan Batik; knotting, dyeing and drying the batik cloths. The ladies of Kopdit Anna provided the training, stylishly dressed in a Jumputan Batik dress, blouse or T-shirt. As an example and it also shows the enthusiasm of the ladies. During the training, our program manager Wenda signed the Grant Agreement. A nice formal moment. The loans really make a difference for the women, their children and families. This gives them the opportunity to build their own business. The ladies of partner Kopdit Anna are very involved, very interested and do their work from a huge passion!



Name: **Mrs. Rani**
Country: **India**
Local MVM partner: **Organisation for Community Development (OCD)**

Impact: Mrs. Rani's husband is a heart patient and can't take any job. She is an illiterate woman and with her meager income she runs the family with three school-going children. She doesn't have the skills to do skilled work. Through our local partner OCD, she received training in making fish pickles, chutney powder and dry fish. She also participated in leadership development and income generation and marketing and entrepreneurship development programs. After this, she received a microloan. She sells her fish products at home. This has doubled her income and allows her to spend money on education and health care for her children. She saves for her children's higher education, can buy purified drinking water and invest in clothing and food for children.

Training

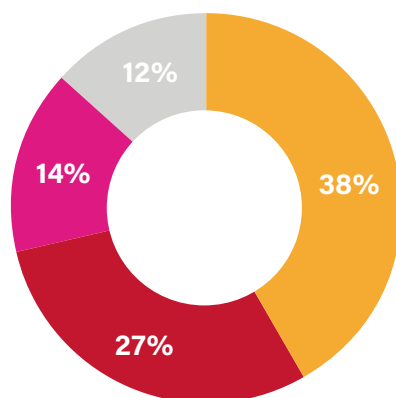


10%
of grant goes
to training

Microfinance combined with training is a powerful engine to end the poverty that excludes hundreds of millions of people on earth from livelihoods and hope. Starting your own business in combination with (financial) training leads to the structural generation of your own income. This ensures that poor women and their families have more and better food, children can go to school and they have the opportunity to improve their homes.

Because training is so important, MVM has made 10% of each new grant available for training since 2019. In 2023, EUR 7,030 has been provided for training. Entrepreneurship, financial literacy and health and hygiene are important topics during training. Partners also pay close attention to training specific to women's businesses, such as animal husbandry, keeping goats, making fish feed or growing rice. In 2023, 911 women attended training with our partners.

Training topics



■ Entrepreneurship
■ Financial literacy
■ Health/hygiene
■ Other



BASD - Bangladesh

BASD focuses on very poor women in vulnerable living environments affected by climate change (cyclones, storms, tidal waves). This causes salt to end up in the soil causing the harvest to regularly fail. In total, MVM has provided approximately 27,000 euros in recent years. In addition to a loan, BASD women also receive training in keeping livestock and growing crops on the land. BASD has an eye for the climate and promotes the use of natural pesticides. The women say that without this training, they would not have been able to start their business. There is a great need for follow-up training to overcome the challenges the women face in running their businesses.

The loans to the women do not only provide income for the family. The new role also creates self-confidence and women participate more in decision-making within the family. They gain new energy and cultivate their garden with organic fertilizers. All these tangible changes have really helped women build their dignity in the families. Children have better health and are motivated for education and training.

Since the start of the project, 239 women have already been helped with a microcredit. Participating women have been able to increase family income by 40%.



Nepal - Dhulikhel

The participants of the Female Leadership Journey 2023 visited Dhulikhel hospital in Nepal. Dr. Ram built this hospital. In addition to providing health care, Dhulikhel hospital is also a partner of Microcredit for Mothers. With small loans provided by Dhulikhel, women in remote rural areas can invest in purchasing livestock, especially goats. This allows them to generate a daily and fixed income, making them less dependent on the (seasonal) harvest. Because they provide a large part of the family income, their prestige in the community increases.

After a tour, during which the staff proudly showed that solar panels provide almost the entire hospital with power, there was a meeting with Dr. Ram. He talked about the poverty he grew up in and that he still had the opportunity to study in Austria. His mission after his return: 'quality care for the poor'. He started with nothing and now he is a 'legend' with a large hospital where everyone is welcome. One of his comments: "It's better to give 10 people 1 euro than 2 people 5 euros. That's how you make more people happy. Multiply our strength and count the impact". This is fully in line with the idea behind microfinance; we give a woman a loan and when that is repaid, it goes to another woman who needs it. This is how we multiply the impact and growth towards self-reliance.