

## **Microcredit is Creating a New Future for Asia...**

### **In India, the under-5 mortality rate is 98.**

UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2001

In India, Working Women's Forum is both educating its clients in reproductive healthcare and child nutrition and providing health insurance packages to soften the financial blows of disease and death — giving 1.6 million poor families the power to plan for their future.

### **In China, 19% of its 1.3 billion citizens live on less than one dollar a day.**

UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2001

In China, The Association for Rural Development of Poor Areas in Sichuan reaches out to the rural poor who have been left behind in China's drive for modernization. With 50,000 clients in 20 counties, ARDPAS provides training for business and marketing strategies to this rural population in southwestern China. 37% of ARDPAS's clients have crossed the poverty line.

### **In Bangladesh, only 3 out of 1,000 people own a telephone.**

World Bank World Development Report 2000

In Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank has produced over 2,200 "telephone ladies," in as many villages, who provide telecommunications access to rural villages and now earn at least the national GNP of 300 dollars.

### **In Nepal, 78 percent of women are illiterate.**

World Bank World Development Report 2000

In Nepal, the Women's Empowerment Program is creating a chain of opportunities for poor women through self-run literacy training combined with credit, savings, and finance activities. Of the 125,000 women clients, over 90% have passed the literacy test and 61% are operating micro-enterprises.