

Executive Summary

Sometimes people wonder how we get out of bed each morning with the task of tackling world poverty. It's a fair question if you look at the monolithic whole of poverty. But we don't look at it that way exactly. Instead, we look for dominoes that are lined up so that if we push one, a whole bunch will get knocked over.

As thrilled as we are with IDEX's recent growth – from supporting 13 grassroots organizations to 23 in the span of three years – deep down, we are even more satisfied that our *way* of working to end poverty has proven to be so effective. We think our approach has a lot of integrity. Best of all, *it just works*.

If that seems like a lot of confidence in a world where so many people are deeply, seemingly intractably poor, it's true. We are confident. Despite funding commitments to the poor from foreign governments, the many individuals investing directly in microcredit programs, and well-meaning declarations by multi-lateral organizations, we think our way of approaching poverty is unique.

Our funding is used to bolster existing projects: great solutions by locals who have the trust of their neighbors and the knowledge of what is most needed in their own communities. Simply put, it's a smart use of funds.

For instance, locals in Nepal built a program that approaches poverty in a multitude of ways. The program helps women save local varieties of seeds as well as money. They learn about nutrition, organic farming and basic bookkeeping. They also advocate for sound forest management and have developed a depot for their vegetables. They have also raised money on their own for a school and a temple. 90 rural Nepalese women and \$15,000 from IDEX accomplished all this.

It's easy to get out of bed when you see this kind of success. It comes with knowing that IDEX support reaches some 10,000 people per year in meaningful, lasting ways. That's something. Especially when you consider that domino effect: most are mothers who will have an impact on their children's lives, and neighboring communities will emulate successful projects. And we know that our modest investments are matched with sweat equity, innovation, and courage of the people who are involved.

Join us in turning international aid on its head. Help us reach thousands of women, their children, and their communities –all of whom will never look back on their path to prosperity.

IDEX promotes sustainable solutions to poverty by providing long-term grants and access to resources to locally-run organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The Value of an Intermediary

Linking donors with lasting solutions to poverty

Identifying Mid-Sized Organizations

IDEX's niche is in funding uniquely effective and well-established grassroots organizations that are large enough to have sound management and financial systems to satisfy donor concerns—yet small enough to nurture local leadership and problem-solving.

Selection and Due Diligence

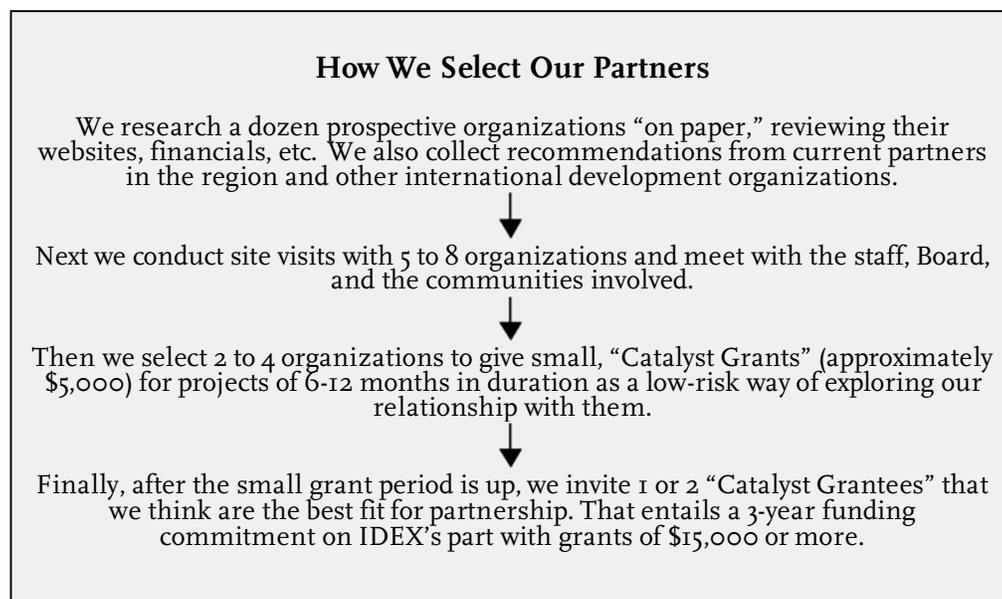
Our job is to look for: legality of the organization, transparency and effectiveness of accounting and banking systems, leadership and management strategies, sources of funding, organizational goals, objectives, and activities, community involvement, and Board of Directors oversight. *That is so that you can trust your money is used effectively.*

Providing Flexible Use of Funds

Our partners decide organizational priorities based on their community's needs and they can use funds accordingly. Our grants often support important areas of work that are either overlooked or neglected by other funders. Grant amounts are from \$5,000 to \$45,000.

Bringing Visibility to Partners, Securing Additional Resources

IDEX helps arrange for our partners to visit the U.S. to understand the U.S. funding context and meet with donors and potential new funders.



IDEX's Grantmaking

The causes of poverty are intertwined. So are the solutions.

At IDEX we value initiatives that come from people who want to create change for themselves. We provide the financial support. Local leaders and community members do the rest. Grants usually have two or more themes:

Women's Empowerment – In most cases, women stand to gain the most in any community. When they are empowered, whole families become empowered.

Long-term Economic Development – Helping families to build income in sustainable ways is fundamental to solving a host of other problems.

Sustainable Natural Resource Management – Most of the communities IDEX supports are rural, and therefore their land, water, or seeds are the lynchpins to their economic development.

Partner organizations are located in Bangladesh, India, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

Lal Maya of The Kurilo Women's Society, Nepal



Ten years ago, Lal Maya Tamang says, she could not have imagined that she would end up here, as a respected elder stateswoman of a local women's group. From her mud brick patio, she points out the view of her rainbow-colored vegetable plot where she grows leafy greens, squash, oranges, and corn.

And there on the hillside below her one-room thatched-roof cottage, she keeps her four goats. The first two were purchased with a loan she has repaid. She is fattening them for the Dashain festival, Nepal's biggest feast day.

Outside on her patio, a group of 19 women, who call themselves the Kurilo Women's Society, sit on woven mats listening to her speak about the importance of savings. A few men and children sit huddled on the wall behind the group. The sun shines brightly, but it is cold on the mountain. Lal Maya proudly hands over her monthly savings to the group's treasurer, her neighbor, who records the amount in a book: 50 Nepalese Rupees, around 75 cents. This is the average amount they save each month.

Lal Maya, 54, is an ethnic Tamang woman who lives with her husband and their 9 year-old son in Nuwakot, about an hour drive from Kathmandu. She and her husband migrated here a decade ago as day laborers. Their job was to build retaining walls rock-by-rock near the steep winding road they now live near.



One day, the contractor abandoned them owing them months of back pay. They were stranded. So they settled by the side of the road, taking other meagerly paying jobs to survive.

But life for Lal Maya is no longer about mere survival. For the last three years, Lal Maya and 19 other women in the Kurilo Women's Society—a group supported by ASHA-Nepal—have been providing each other with small loans to invest in income-generating activities.

Standard microfinance institutions usually exclude membership to women over 50, considering them not able-bodied enough. *Try telling that to Lal Maya!* Her son, who was born with severe development delays, is completely dependent on her, as is her husband who was recently blinded by cataracts. Since the loan funds in Lal Maya's group come completely from group members themselves, they set the rules; women like Lal Maya, who are the sole supporters of their families, are welcome to join.

The Kurilo Women's Society also participated in ASHA's sustainable agriculture training that includes free seeds and tree saplings to get members started. Their crop yields have been so good that they are able to eat more nutritiously and sell additional produce to a group of vendors who travel from Kathmandu. The women have also learned how to naturally preserve their own seeds, saving them costly treks to the city.

This year, the women pooled their money and purchased a plot of land. They requested—and received—a grant from the district council for a crop storage warehouse to facilitate wholesale marketing of their crops.

Lal Maya is no longer dependent on an unscrupulous employer. She's engaged in the community. She has more material wealth, better food, and is better equipped to take care of her family. And with each passing month, she becomes an ever-savvier businesswoman. As she sees it, Lal Maya's crops are thriving, and so is she.

Lal Maya's group is one of three groups in the Nuwakot region that were started with IDEX's support. This year, two more groups are set to start their work.

Organizational Priorities in FY09



Support for 23 grassroots organizations in 7 countries

Grantmaking has grown to an all-time high. In FY09 IDEX will make grants to 23 organizations, receiving \$5,000 to \$45,000 for activities that integrate women’s empowerment, long-term economic development, and sustainable natural resource management.

IDEX will expand its grantmaking in Mexico and South Africa in FY09, and in India and Guatemala in FY10.



Maintenance work on our communications infrastructure

IDEX will refine its message to reach more people who value permanent, lasting poverty alleviation driven from the grassroots. A crisp new look to our website and materials will help us better communicate our work.

Your Gift

An investment in lasting change, local innovation, and problem-solving

If you are tired of aid money reaching expensive consultants providing limited value, look no further. At IDEX we are committed to local, effective problem-solving and leadership. When matched with the vision, resolve, and ingenuity of communities all over the world, your gift is a proven formula for lasting change.

Financial Resources for Programs

IDEX’s annual operating budget is unusually modest for an organization with so many accomplishments. IDEX operates effectively and efficiently with a staff of seven, a 13-member Board, and a dozen highly skilled volunteers each year. Projected revenue for FY09 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) is from the following sources:

Individuals	\$421,500	47.8%
Foundations	\$347,750	39.5%
US government	\$0	0%
Corporations, businesses, civic groups	\$17,100	1.9%
Events	\$17,000	1.9%
Carry-over grants from FY07, FY08	\$77,406	8.9%
Total:	\$880,756	100%

Gifts of cash, securities and planned gifts, including charitable trusts and bequests, are greatly accepted. IDEX is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization with tax ID number is 77-0071852. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information about making a gift to IDEX, please contact Pete Stanga, Executive Director or Anne Mawdsley, Development Director at 415.824.8384.

Be a part of success. Invest in IDEX today.