

About Women's World Banking

WWB is a global network of 54 microfinance providers and banks, working in 30 countries to bring financial products and services to low-income entrepreneurs, especially women. The network serves 11 million microentrepreneurs directly, and another 10 million indirectly through its bank partners and other regional networks. WWB is supported by an international team of experts based in New York that delivers expertise in product design and distribution, access to capital markets, and customer care and insight.

About ASA, Bangladesh

ASA (meaning 'hope' in Bangla) was rated the # 1 microfinance institution in the world by Forbes and received the 2008 Financial Times and IFC Sustainable Banking Award. Since Shafiqul Haque Choudhury founded the institution in 1978, ASA has been committed to making positive change in the lives of the poor. ASA serves over seven million clients in Bangladesh, three-quarters of whom are women. Almost 89% of ASA's members have created employment opportunities for others while 85% of its clients have benefited from improved education, food quality, medical treatments, drinking water, sanitation and housing conditions. ASA's "Cost Effective and Sustainable Microfinance Model" is recognized globally as a best practice model that has resulted in a 423 million USD loan portfolio. Operational Self-Sufficiency measured 187.83% at the end of 2007 with a Financial Self-Sufficiency of 128.39% and a 99.77% rate of loan recovery.

<http://www.asa.org.bd/>