



Mr. Alex Counts
President and CEO
Grameen Foundation

Alex Counts has spent the last 25 years dedicated to poverty alleviation. He founded Grameen Foundation and became its President and CEO in 1997, after having worked in microfinance and poverty reduction for 10 years. A Cornell University graduate, Counts' commitment to poverty eradication deepened as a Fulbright scholar in Bangladesh, where he witnessed innovative poverty solutions being developed by Grameen Bank. He trained under Professor Muhammad Yunus, the founder and managing director of Grameen Bank, and co-recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize. Since its modest beginnings, sparked by a \$6,000 seed grant provided by Prof. Yunus, Grameen Foundation has grown to a leading international humanitarian organization with an annual budget of approximately \$25 million.

Counts has propelled Grameen Foundation's philosophy through his writings, including *Small Loans, Big Dreams: How Nobel Prize Winner Muhammad Yunus and Microfinance Are Changing the World*. Counts chairs the Fonkoze USA board of directors and is the immediate past chair of Project Enterprise's board. He sits on the Advisory Council of the Center for Financial Inclusion, and he co-chairs the Microenterprise Coalition. He serves on the Board of Directors of two social businesses: Grameen-Jameel Microfinance Ltd. and YouChange PuRong Information Advisory Co. Ltd., which promote microfinance and related efforts in the Arab World and China respectively.