

## Grameen Impact and ChildFund launch a pioneering SDG Impact Bond for women's empowerment

**Mumbai, December 18, 2018 – The world's first domestically funded Sustainable Development Goals Bond (SDG Bond) was announced today by Grameen Impact Investments India (Grameen Impact) and ChildFund India (ChildFund). The Women Holistic Empowerment and Enhanced Livelihood (WHEEL) Impact Bond has been launched under the Grameen Outcome Accelerated Lending (G.O.A.L) Impact Bond Series.**

The WHEEL Impact Bond would work towards helping 2000 marginalized tribal women in Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh to become self-reliant and empowered by training them to become poultry farmers (micro-entrepreneurs), with a specific outcome target of an average annual net income of INR30,000 through this intervention. The social outcomes of the Bond directly align with the SDGs: Goal #1 No Poverty, Goal #5 Gender Equality, Goal #8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Goal #10 Reduced Inequalities. Grameen Impact has committed INR 7.5 Cr (as the upfront investor) to ChildFund (the implementing agency) to execute the project. Grameen Impact has additionally taken on the role of identifying outcome funders for the Bond.

Royston Braganza, CEO of Grameen Impact, while announcing the SDG Bond said "It is estimated that over \$30 trillion is needed to meet the global SDGs target. We believe this can only happen when government, corporate funding, capital markets and philanthropy join hands. The world is looking at India which is now a global leader in social innovation and impact investing. We at Grameen Impact are delighted to come up with an innovative financing instrument, focused on the SDGs, which uniquely combines impact investing, CSR and social enterprises."

"ChildFund India has always believed that strategic Public- Private Partnerships are essential to achieving the outcomes as in the SDGs. Impact Bonds are an excellent vehicle to demonstrate accountabilities, results and therefore the change that we all wish to see. ChildFund is indeed privileged and proud to launch the first domestically funded SDG Bond focused on women empowerment and livelihood. I am grateful to Grameen Impact for its partnership and resources that they bring to the table," said Neelam Makhijani, CEO & Director, ChildFund

The WHEEL Impact Bond, the first in the G.O.A.L series, aims to present a successful workable structure to private investors, corporates as well as the government, creating a mindset shift from input/output funding models to outcomes-based financing, which could be pivotal in achieving the SDGs by 2030. By launching the G.O.A.L series, Grameen Impact presents a new model for financing social outcomes in the international SDG and impact sector; the WHEEL Impact Bond has emerged as the fastest implemented SDG Impact Bond - closed within 3 months as compared to the traditional 2–3 years to close – creating a new global paradigm of innovative ways of financing the SDGs.

*About Grameen Impact Investments India Pvt. Ltd.*

*Grameen Impact India (GIII) is a RBI registered NBFC focused on lending to enterprises engaged in social sector with an emphasis on double bottom line returns – financial returns along with demonstrated social impact. GIII lends selectively to high quality social enterprises across stages from early, growth to mature entities.*

*The lending focus is on impact enterprises in financial services, affordable education and skill development, affordable healthcare, agriculture and clean energy sectors. GIII's goal is to catalyze access to debt capital critical to scaling up social enterprises and help them reach poor and excluded population.*

*GIII is promoted by Grameen Capital India (GCI) which was globally the first social investment bank set up as a Social Business following the 7 principles of Nobel Laureate Prof. Yunus. Over the last decade GCI has helped complete 25+ transactions in excess of \$160M for social businesses in India. GIII also counts marquee names from the Indian corporate world and leading global impact funds as its investors*

*About ChildFund India*

*ChildFund India is a part of ChildFund International - a child protection and development organization working in 25 countries and annually assisting around 18 million children, youth and their families globally. For over 6 decades, ChildFund India has been working with underprivileged children, youth and families from the most remote, extremely backward and hard-to-reach areas, with a vision of “an India where children lead a dignified life and achieve their full potential”. ChildFund India annually reaches nearly 3 million children, youth, and their families across 15 States through its long-term programs by investing nearly 60-70 Crores a year. ChildFund's unique programs provide comprehensive support to children from their conception until they reach 24 years of age by integrating health, nutrition, sanitation, gender equality, disability, education, skill training, livelihoods, child protection and humanitarian relief work.*

*ChildFund's unparalleled longstanding community presence and long-term partnership with grassroots NGOs enables effective implementation of its programs. The award-winning organization has been successful in establishing relations with relevant stakeholders including the communities it works with, district, state and national government bodies, academic institutions, media, funding agencies and corporates to achieve their mutual goals.*

**For queries, Contact Persons –**

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