

Millennium bcp Microcredit in voluntary program in India



Tânia Sousa, from Microcredit Department travelled to Varanasi, in India, to participate in the “Bankers without Borders” project, one volunteer program from Grameen Foundation, with more than 5,000 professionals worldwide that offer their time, experience and skills to support microfinance institutions that work with the poorest people.

Tânia Sousa, summarizes her experience: “(...) My work in Varanasi focused in the scope of “The Microsavings Initiative”, supported by “Bill & Linda Gates Foundation”. The program was launched in 2009 and intends to achieve 1,45 millions of new savers, in Asia and Africa until 2012. This program is implemented in India, Filipinas and Ethiopia.

“My work as voluntary consisted in interview women who joined this program, to know their stories and understand the impact that “The Microsavings Initiative” had in their lives. (...). I interviewed about 30 women and I heard and witnessed amazing stories of resilience. Are women of a total modesty, living in small villages near Varanasi, in conditions that we can not compare to our standards”.

“(...) The work was very hard, (...) but the idea that we cannot give up is always present in my mind (...) because the children, who don’t give up of their smile, deserve that we continue to believe that nothing is impossible. We just have to try”.

