



20th Anniversary 2005–2025

Social investments to combat extreme poverty

Wow... 20 years already!

At Netri Foundation, we've always been discreet — preferring to get things done rather than talk about them. But now that the foundation is turning 20, we think that's worth celebrating! And for those who don't yet know us, it's time to share our story.

How it all started

20 years ago, Netri Foundation was born from the conviction that capital — when channelled as loans to social enterprises in developing countries — could become a real engine of change and prosperity for vulnerable communities. What's more, that same capital could be reinvested again and again, multiplying its impact.

Two decades later, that belief has proven true. And we've been told we were pioneers — which makes us very proud. 😊

What we've achieved

We've provided €66.8 million mostly in loans and guarantees to 168 institutions and donated over €7.9 million to support the programmes of another 46 organisations.

That's nearly four times our original endowment. If we'd donated it all, the funds would be long gone. But by investing, the same capital keeps circulating — generating impact again and again.

What impact has this had?

We work with organisations that are genuinely committed to creating real, measurable impact — which means we can point to concrete results: wells built, schools strengthened, children who studied and went on to become doctors, engineers, or architects. Even lives saved. But ultimately, what we treasure most are the smiles we've witnessed along the way. That, without doubt, is our greatest reward.

Does social investment create as much impact as traditional grants?

The nature of the impact may differ, but in scale and reach, it can be even greater.

What we've learned in 20 years

Over time we've come to see that **financial discipline is not an obstacle to impact — it's an enabling factor, ensuring its sustainability.** We apply financial rigour to the analysis and monitoring of our investments to ensure that the impact endures.

Experience has shown us that **"patient, friendly" capital can unlock projects others won't finance.** By taking on the risks that markets avoid — loans in local currency, long tenors, and terms tailored to each project — we help organisations grow in transformative ways without compromising their mission. To manage the extra risk we take, we follow a highly diversified strategy across geographies, sectors, and models.

We've learned that **the greatest driver of impact isn't money — it's the talent and integrity of the people managing these projects.** That's why we seek out outstanding organisations and stand by them through both good and difficult times.

We've also discovered that sharing experiences — including failures — with other foundations and investors accelerates innovation and reduces risk. **Collaboration and knowledge-sharing multiply results.**

And after 20 years, we know we still have plenty left to learn.

The next 20 years...

We'll keep devoting more resources to what we do — because inequality is still rife in this world. And we'll continue convincing other foundations that while giving helps, investing changes the rules of the game.

Thank you to everyone who's helped make it possible!

Néstor

fundacion-netri.org

