

## MICROCAPITAL BRIEFS | TOP STORIES

### ResponsAbility Securitized \$175m for 26 Lenders from Alecra, Calvert, OPIC, Others

Please see page 2 for coverage of this MicroCapital Deal of the Month.

### IFC Loans \$225m to Guatemala's BAM for Housing, SMEs

The International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, recently disbursed a loan of USD 225 million to Banco Agromercantil de Guatemala (BAM), a subsidiary of Colombia-based Grupo Bancolombia. BAM is to on-lend the funds for housing as well as small, medium-sized enterprise (SME). IFC Regional Industry Manager Marcelo Castellanos commented, "Having a dynamic housing sector with access to finance for SMEs is fundamental for Guatemala's sustainable development, and we are confident that financial institutions like BAM will play an important role in driving the growth of these sectors."

BAM provides banking services in Guatemala at 165 agencies in 22 departments in Guatemala as well as via a digital banking system called BAMnet. The bank has total assets equivalent to USD 3.5 billion and total deposits of USD 2.4 billion. July 25, 2019

### Competition Offers \$1m to Women Entrepreneurs in East Africa

A group of development finance institutions (DFIs), along with the Canada-based Mastercard Foundation, recently announced they will sponsor the 2X Invest2Impact business competition with the aim of supporting "the growth of high-potential, women-owned businesses [in East Africa] to increase their commerciality and impact." The DFIs co-sponsoring the competition include the following government-backed institutions: CDC Group, a UK-based organization formerly known as the Commonwealth Development Corporation; FinDev Canada; the US government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC); and Promotion et Participation pour la Coopération Économique (PROPARCO) of France. 2X Invest2Impact is different from many other entrepreneurial initiatives in that it focuses on more mature "growth stage" businesses that are ready to utilize larger amounts of investment capital. It will provide the selected women with "mentorships, business development services, visibility, and the opportunity for funding." Of 25 finalists, three winners will share USD 1 million in business funding plus USD 85,000 in cash prizes. July 17, 2019

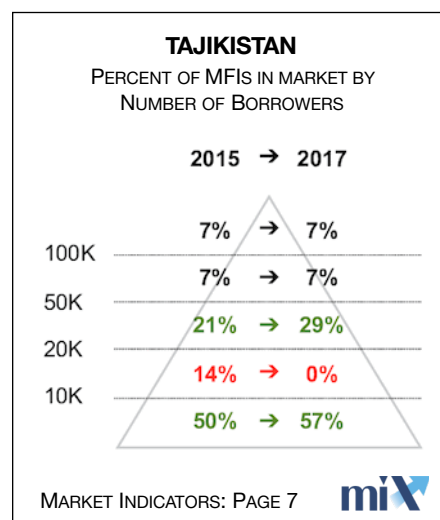
### In India, IndusInd Bank, Bharat Merge

Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited, a for-profit microfinance institution (MFI) formerly known as SKS Microfinance, recently became a subsidiary of IndusInd Bank, an India-based bank offering commercial and personal banking services. The transaction increases IndusInd's outreach to rural customers, as roughly 75 to 80 percent of Bharat's loan portfolio is deployed in rural India. The portfolio, equivalent to USD 1.1 billion, is outstanding to 7.2 million women. Bharat, which has total assets of USD 1.7 billion, was launched in 1998 and issued its initial public offering in 2010. It has since diversified into offering gold loans and microinsurance services but does not accept deposits. Its loans range in size from USD 26 to USD 722, with terms ranging up to two years. Thirty-two percent of the MFI's customers use their loans to buy livestock. As a result of the merger, IndusInd, which is owned by India's Hinduja Group, has 3,600 staffed locations and 16.8 million customers. July 10, 2019

### Jordan's Tamweelcom Nets Guarantee for Lending to Refugees

The Dutch development bank, which is known by the acronym FMO, recently committed to participate in a risk-sharing facility of up to USD 1.5 million to support Tamweelcom, a microfinance organization in Jordan, to fund entrepreneurship among refugees from Syria. Borrowers that hold identification from both the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Jordanian Ministry of the Interior will be eligible to apply for loans equivalent to USD 1,400 to USD 10,000. The facility is part of the pilot phase of FMO's Nasira program, which "supports young, female and migrant entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa and countries neighbouring Europe" by providing guarantees to local banks to mitigate the risks of lending to underserved entrepreneurs. Nasira reimburses lenders to the extent that they lose more than 10 percent on their loans to the target groups. Established in 1999, Tamweelcom operates 38 branches. The microlender reports total assets of USD 71.3 million, a gross loan portfolio of USD 62.4 million and 88,000 active borrowers. July 3, 2019

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## MICROCAPITAL BRIEFS

### Mobile-payment Firm ininal Offering Cash-out via ATMs in Turkey

A provider of digital wallets in Turkey, ininal, recently partnered with Visa, a US-based payment technology company, to offer prepaid Visa cards to its 3 million users. This will allow ininal customers to use the cards for point-of-sale purchases and to withdraw cash from automated teller machines (ATMs). Customers will be able to acquire the cards at 10,000 sales points in Turkey. In addition, ininal CEO Ömer Suner commented, “Earlier this year, we had introduced bill payment capabilities through our ininal Wallet. Going forward, we plan to diversify the basic banking services we offer and add a 24/7 money transfer capability to our product features.” Founded in 2012, ininal provides financial services via payment cards and a mobile wallet application that can be accessed via mobile phones. Multinet UP, a Turkish debit-card network, acquired ininal in 2016. July 28, 2019

### ResponsAbility Securitized \$175m for 26 Lenders

Switzerland-based ResponsAbility Investments recently securitized USD 175 million for lending to 26 funders of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The three-year securitization offers listed bonds at senior and mezzanine levels with unspecified “commercial” fixed rates of return, as well as a junior level with a variable rate. The MSME lenders, which include Ameriabank of Armenia, serve 30,000 enterprises and 5.6 million individuals, of whom 81 percent are women. The transaction was arranged by US-based financial group JP Morgan. Eric Wragge, the managing director of the securitized products group at JP Morgan, said “applying capital markets technology to traditional impact investing creates the potential to open this sector to a wider range of investors.” The investors include Alecta, a Swedish manager of pension funds for 2.5 million people; Calvert Impact Capital, a US-based nonprofit investor with a portfolio of USD 377 million; and the US government’s Overseas Private Investment Corporation. July 26, 2019

### VisionFund, DFID to Expand Mobile Banking in Rural Myanmar

VisionFund Myanmar, a microfinance institution (MFI) owned by the nonprofit VisionFund International, is partnering with the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) on a USD 1.7 million project to expand mobile banking in Myanmar. This will add airtime top-up, remittances and bill payment to the menu of services that VisionFund Myanmar already offers, such as loans, savings and insurance services. The new program also includes financial and digital literacy components. Tim Tempany, the program and strategy director of VisionFund Myanmar, said, “Our proposed partnership with major telecom operators will allow us to extend the access and availability of financial products and services to clients in places that have been very hard to reach using traditional banking methods.” VisionFund Myanmar serves 190,000 people via 51 service locations. VisionFund International operates in 29 countries and is owned by World Vision, a US-based Christian relief and development organization. July 26, 2019

### Sanad Launches Equity Sub-Fund II with \$23m for MENA

The Sanad Fund for MSME, a Luxembourg-domiciled investor in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), recently launched its Equity Sub-Fund (ESF) II, to continue investing in financial intermediaries with the aim of increasing financial inclusion and job creation in the Middle East and North Africa. The sub-fund’s mandate includes agriculture and technology as well as traditional financial services, focusing on markets in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinian Territories, Morocco and Tunisia. Through its first close, ESF II raised USD 23 million from the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development, which is also known by its German acronym BMZ. The sub-fund’s predecessor, ESF I, deployed USD 30 million in the region over six years. Including its Debt Sub-Fund, Sanad had total available funding equivalent to USD 379 million prior to the close of ESF II. July 23, 2019

### IFC Loans \$15m to Stanbic Bank Zambia for SMEs

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, recently announced that it has disbursed a loan equivalent to USD 15 million in favor of Stanbic Bank Zambia, a subsidiary of South Africa’s Standard Bank Group. Commenting on the transaction, Stanbic Bank Zambia CEO Leina Gabaraane said, “The funding from IFC is timely and fits with our SME [small and medium-sized enterprise] strategy, which is aimed at leveraging our corporate banking ecosystem to identify new SMEs for funding. By 2022, we plan to quadruple the number of women-owned SME borrowers from 50 to about 200, representing an outstanding portfolio of [USD 6.3 million], up from [USD 1.3 million].” Stanbic Bank Zambia serves 150,000 customers in Zambia with total assets of USD 1.17 billion and total equity of USD 128 million. Established in 1862, Standard Bank Group serves 26 countries, including 20 in Africa. During 2018, the group generated return on equity of 18 percent, ending the year with total assets of USD 153 billion. July 22, 2019

### EFSE Loans \$2.6m to VisionFund’s SEF for Rural MSEs in Armenia

The European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE), a microfinance investment vehicle domiciled in Luxembourg, recently announced that it has lent local currency approximately equivalent to USD 2.6 million to SEF International, a microlender in Armenia, to finance micro- and small enterprises in rural areas. Commenting on the transaction, SEF CEO Garegin Gevorgyan said, “We enjoy our collaboration with EFSE and use it to enable better access to financial services in rural communities through responsible lending. Local-currency funding from EFSE mitigates foreign-exchange risk for our borrowers.” SEF, which offers consumer, enterprise, farm and housing loans, reports total assets of USD 29.9 million, a gross loan portfolio of USD 24.6 million and 19,000 active borrowers. SEF was founded by US-based Christian relief organization World Vision International in 1997. Its ownership has since been transferred to VisionFund International, a nonprofit subsidiary of World Vision. VisionFund reports total assets of USD 688 million and a gross loan portfolio of USD 494 million outstanding to 1.1 million borrowers. July 19, 2019

### Tech, Energy Players in Pakistan, Cameroon Win \$200k from Visa

Tez Financial Services, a private firm in Pakistan, and Green Girls Organization, an NGO in Cameroon, each recently won prizes of USD 100,000 in the inaugural Women’s Global Edition of the Visa Everywhere Initiative, a program of US-based payments technology company Visa. Tez, a woman-owned firm that was established in 2016, won the financial technology award for its app for mobile phones that provides savings, insurance, credit and investment products to people without access to conventional banking services. Green Girls, which trains women and girls to create renewable energy from the sun and bio-waste, won in the social impact category. July 15, 2019

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Daena McClintock and Soham Mehta

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For questions, comments or suggestions, please contact us via  
info[at]microcapital.org or +1 617 648 0043, Boston, USA

Please refer to <http://MicroCapital.org> for the sources of information appearing in this publication. Among these, MicroCapital recognizes CGAP, its FinDev Gateway and the Microfinance Information Exchange for their outstanding work disseminating information on microfinance. Thank you!

### Kosovo's KEP Trust Borrows \$2m from IIV Mikrofinanzfonds

The Kosovo Enterprise Program (KEP) Trust recently borrowed the equivalent of USD 2.3 million from Germany-based Invest in Visions' IIV Mikrofinanzfonds, a microfinance investment vehicle that is active in developing countries. IIV also invested in unspecified microfinance institutions in Chile and Tajikistan. KEP Trust, founded in 1999, provides microloans and training services to small and medium-sized enterprises via 32 branches. As of 2016, the most recent data available, KEP Trust had total assets of USD 31.2 million. July 15, 2019

### ICD, Kapitalbank Prep Shariah-compliant Services in Uzbekistan

The Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector, a Saudi Arabia-based multilateral institution, recently announced an agreement with Kapitalbank, an Uzbek commercial bank, to provide technical support to Kapitalbank in developing Islamic financial services. To comply with Shariah, Islamic lending harnesses concepts such as sharing profit and loss in place of conventional interest payments. Kapitalbank was established in 2000 and has built up total assets equivalent to USD 569 million. Its goals include "the active development of corporate and investment banking business, conquering [the] fast growing [small and medium-sized enterprise] sector and expansion of the number of services to retail customers." July 11, 2019

### Egypt Doubling Microloan Cap to \$12k

Egypt's Financial Regulatory Authority is in the process of increasing the maximum loan size that microfinance institutions may disburse from the equivalent of USD 6,000 to USD 12,000. The goal of the change reportedly is to help microenterprises grow, thus "creating more job opportunities for youth." July 11, 2019

### PBU Places \$15m in NMI Fund IV to Invest in Women

Paedagogernes Pension (PBU), Denmark's Pension Fund of Early Childhood Teachers, recently invested the equivalent of USD 15 million in NMI Fund IV, which is managed by the Norway-based Nordic Microfinance Initiative (NMI). The goal of the investment is to reduce women's "dependence on men, their inability to borrow money from a bank, and social and cultural norms [that] make it difficult for these women to have a place in economic life and thus have an impact on their own future." PBU, which is owned by its 115,000 teacher-members, manages pensions valued at USD 11 billion. NMI Fund IV supports financial service providers that supply "social loans (e.g. for education or housing), savings, micro-leasing, micro-insurance or payment services" in Africa and Asia. NMI, a public-private partnership supporting micro-finance institutions (MFIs) in developing countries, manages four funds with aggregate assets of USD 275 million. These assets include debt and equity placements in 21 MFIs that reach 8 million people, of whom "95 percent are women and 71 percent reside in rural areas." July 11, 2019

### IIV Lends \$13m to China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation

Germany-based Invest in Visions (IIV) recently announced that it has disbursed a loan of USD 13 million to the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) from IIV Mikrofinanzfonds, a fund investing in low- and middle-income countries. CFPA, an NGO in China, was established in 1989 and began providing microfinance services in 1996 with funding from the World Bank. The institution has a gross loan portfolio of USD 1.1 billion and 366,000 borrowers. Of its loans, 97 percent are deployed in rural areas, 92 percent are outstanding to women and 77 percent are for entrepreneurship. In addition to microlending, CFPA provides services such as post-disaster relief. July 5, 2019



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## SPECIAL REPORT

*This vignette is part of a sponsored series demonstrating the value of SAM (the French acronym for African Microfinance Week), a major conference dedicated to financial inclusion in Africa. **The next SAM will take place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from October 21-25, 2019.** The first three SAMs were in Tanzania in 2013, Senegal in 2015 and Ethiopia in 2017.*

*The goal of SAM is to provide a unified platform for addressing issues facing microfinance in Africa by bringing together investors, microfinance institutions (MFIs), researchers, banks, networks, innovators, governments and other stakeholders.*

*The 2017 SAM hosted 700 participants from 58 (mostly African) countries, including representatives of 200 MFIs; 25 exhibitors at the Innovation Fair; and 26 investors, who made 170 MFI contacts at the Investor's Fair. The proceedings also included conference sessions presented by 60 speakers plus 20 training programs.*

### SAM Facilitates Long-term Relationship for Agora Microfinance Zambia, Triple Jump

Team members of Triple Jump, an impact-focused asset manager with offices in the Netherlands and Kenya, and Agora Microfinance Zambia (AMZ), a microfinance institution dedicated to serving low-income, rural households in Zambia, met for the first time at the Investors' Fair at the 2017 SAM conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During a speed-dating session, Triple Jump found AMZ to be an interesting prospect because of its rural focus as well as having a smaller, yet high-quality portfolio. In the first quarter of 2018, AMZ **borrowed EUR 500,000** (USD 560,000) from Triple Jump for 24 months. Despite the difficult economic times in Zambia due to the effects of high government borrowing levels, AMZ continues to grow in terms of client outreach as well as portfolio size (68 percent in local-currency terms since disbursement of the loan).



In terms of social performance, AMZ is committed to the financial inclusion of individuals who are more difficult to serve. Of its nearly 30,000 micro-borrowers, **85 percent are based in rural areas, and 62 percent are women. The MFI's average loan size is only USD 130.** Despite this focus on the "base of the pyramid," AMZ impressively has managed to keep down both the number of customers experiencing repayment difficulties and the number of people borrowing from multiple institutions. Triple Jump quantified this commitment to social performance via its proprietary assessment tool, on which AMZ scored a "good" 73 percent overall and an "excellent" 83 percent in terms of client protection. Although there is still room for improving

how the MFI uses social-performance data for decision making, this is a common issue for an organization of its size, and Triple Jump is confident that AMZ is on the right track.

In the area of technical assistance, AMZ asked Triple Jump for help improving its **risk assessment practices as part of restarting agri-lending**, which it had discontinued previously after experiencing low repayment rates. In particular, AMZ was keen to use the Agricultural Loan Evaluation System (ALES) tool from the Frankfurt School. This eventually became the first implementation of ALES in Southern Africa. Triple Jump and AMZ acted quickly to set up the project, in partnership with another technical assistance provider, the Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation, in order to be ready for the next planting season.

This time, AMZ targeted five key crops, namely maize, watermelon, soya beans, tomatoes and groundnuts. Loan officers used the ALES software to perform credit assessments and calculate loan amounts and repayment terms based on factors including crop type and acreage. During the pilot period from November 2018 to July 2019, AMZ built up a product portfolio of EUR 75,000 (USD 85,000), reaching 400 farmers and maintaining PAR30 at 0.5 percent. The key learnings are that: (1) the loans should be managed only by client officers who are familiar with both ALES and agriculture; and (2) that ALES does not eliminate the need for monitoring clients after loan disbursement. Based on its success, AMZ is expanding the agriculture loans to more of its branches.

Lorraine Indangasi, one of Triple Jump's investment officers for Africa and the Middle East, summarized the relationship with AMZ as follows: **"Through the SAM conference, Triple Jump met AMZ, and this turned out to be an inspiring example, looking at the robust expansion of AMZ, staying close to its mission, and with strong rural outreach and sound products."**

AMZ CEO Susan Chibanga said, "Triple Jump has been extremely supportive in providing debt finance for portfolio growth and technical assistance for the agriculture product pilot. With the technical assistance, ALES has brought efficiency to our appraisals and monitoring. **Our rural outreach with targeted focus on smallholder farmers has been greatly enhanced** with the introduction of the agriculture product, and we are most grateful to have had input from Triple Jump."

During the 2019 SAM, Triple Jump's team expects to further broaden its network by meeting with peer investors and prospective investees as well as industry experts. Triple Jump also will participate in the Investor's Fair, with the aim of deploying new investments to MFIs in Africa. Through the panels in which Triple Jump team members will participate, Triple Jump will share market knowledge and expertise with various stakeholders. Triple Jump is also sponsoring the SAM conference, with the aim of creating more awareness of its role as an impact investor among all stakeholders present.



*ADA, an NGO based in Luxembourg, co-organizes SAM every two years with the support of Luxembourg's Ministry for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. The SAM steering committee members are: ADA, Luxembourg's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Microfinance African Institutions Network, the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association, and the Fédération des Associations Professionnelles des Systèmes Financiers Décentralisés de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine. We invite you to learn more about SAM at <http://www.sam.africa>.*



## EAR TO THE GROUND

### It's Not About You, Fintechs: Big Banks and Big Tech Control the Race for Market Share in Mexico

Last week, I was lucky to be in Mexico City during Finnovista's Demo Day, where the latest graduates from Finnovista's Scale Start-Up Bootcamp showcase their progress and potential after six months of mentorship, support and cross-learning. These fintechs have been tackling the payments, credit and insurance spaces creatively. *Sonect*, for example, goes directly to the merchant, "uberizing" cash management for shops when they have too much or too little cash on hand.

However, even more important, perhaps, were the happenings off-stage. In the audience (as well as on stage) were banks, banks and more banks, all sniffing out would-be partners for joint ventures or acquisition. Mexican banks have clearly decided to make a play for fintech, while accepting that their own bureaucratic structures might never allow them to reach the hundreds of thousands of still-unbanked customers. The banks are not without challengers, however. "Big techs" like Facebook, Google and PayPal have been eyeing the same space. Unlike in some other parts of the world, where fintechs are riding mobile networks to disrupt MFIs and banks, fintechs in Mexico are poised to become critical partners for banks as banks try to fight off big tech to stay relevant.

Interestingly, fintechs themselves may have inadvertently drawn the big techs into this space. Most fintech entrepreneurs I have spoken with are relying on search-engine ads and Facebook banners to acquire new customers. I wonder if the big techs are planning to steal a page from

Amazon's playbook. They must be amassing quite a bit of data about who is clicking on these ads and acquiring financial services from their tiny counterparts. For a big tech to offer its own financial products to these users is a logical next step for these behemoths.

If banks in Mexico really want to make headway in this space, they will need to offer their distribution channels to fintechs to help them grow independently of the big tech advertising channel. Sadly, these banks are not well known for the responsiveness of their distribution channels. Most banks rely on unwelcoming branches that keep limited hours and ATMs that place customers at risk of theft. Those banks that do have alternative distribution channels are at an advantage. Saldazo, through which Citibanamex services are available at OXXO convenience stores, is one of the most successful "digital" bank products in Mexico.

To attract the best fintech partners, banks will need to deliver better customer acquisition outcomes than big tech. Doing so will also allow those fintechs to avoid giving away their own customers to the likes of Facebook as they race to advertise online. I am not sure who the winners or losers will be in the end, but I am concerned for the end-customer, who isn't likely to be heard as big banks and big tech fight it out.

*About the Author: Ms Barbara Magnoni is President of EA Consultants, a development-consulting firm based in New York. She has 25 years of international finance and development experience and has worked with organizations including Goldman Sachs, Chase and BBVA and has advised institutions such as the International Finance Corporation, the US Agency for International Development and the International Labour Organization. She may be reached at +1 212 734 6461 or [bmagnoni\[at\]eac-global.com](mailto:bmagnoni[at]eac-global.com), or you may follow her on Twitter at [BarbaraatEA](https://twitter.com/BarbaraatEA).*



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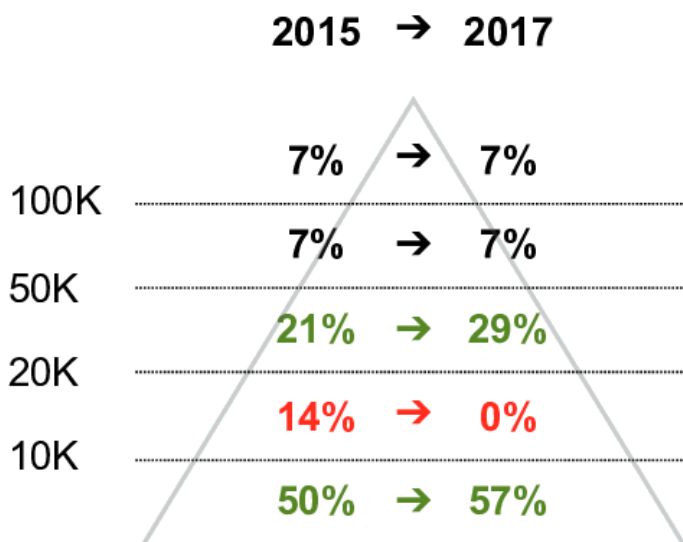


14 MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS (MFIs) REPORTING\*

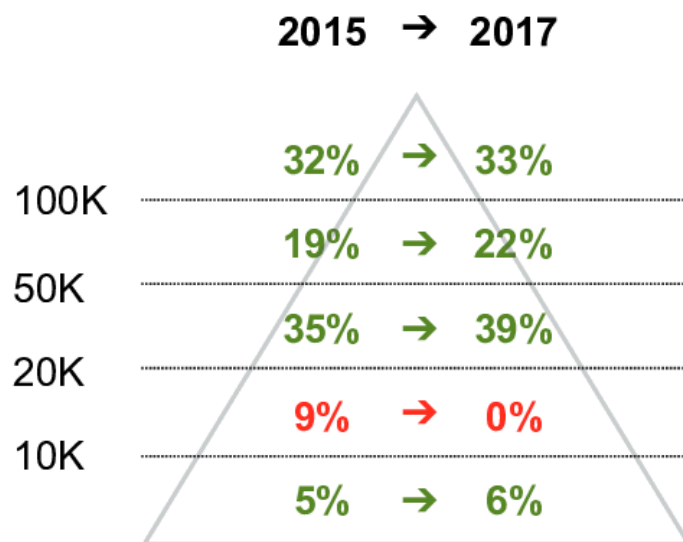
### TOP MFIs BY GROWTH IN GROSS LOAN PORTFOLIO: CHANGE IN USD

MFI NAME	AVERAGE ANNUAL USD INCREASE	AVERAGE ANNUAL % INCREASE	2015	2017
Bank Eskhata	4.74 million	4	133 million	142 million
Microcredit Organization Mehnatobod	253,000	76	241,000	748,000
Microcredit Organization Furuz	167,000	14	1.14 million	1.48 million
Microcredit Fund MicroInvest	(7,000)	-3	282,000	267,000
Microcredit Fund Rushdi Sugd	(50,000)	-7	711,000	611,000
Microcredit Fund Sarvati Vahsh	(145,000)	-19	853,000	563,000
Microfinance Deposit Organization Matin	(1.80 million)	-15	12.9 million	9.35 million
Microfinance Deposit Organization Humo	(2.95 million)	-10	30.6 million	24.7 million
Microfinance Deposit Organization Arvand	(3.35 million)	-11	31.3 million	24.6 million
The First MicroFinance Bank	(4.60 million)	-12	39.2 million	30.1 million

### PERCENT OF MFIs IN MARKET BY SIZE (NUMBER OF ACTIVE BORROWERS)



### MARKET SHARE BY MFI SIZE (NUMBER OF ACTIVE BORROWERS)



\*Includes only MFIs that reported data for both 2015 and 2017 to the Microfinance Information Exchange (MIX) Market

Source: MIX, July 2019





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- Agricultural Finance
- Sustainable Finance
- Masterclass on Blockchain in Business Strategy

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### African Global Payment Summit

August 27 - August 28, 2019; Johannesburg, South Africa

This event will cover financial inclusion, reducing the cost of remittances, interoperability of digital payment systems, blockchain technology and case studies from other continents. The full fee to attend is USD 995, but various discounts are available. More details are available from Livia Eckett via [leckett\[at\]currency-research.com](mailto:leckett[at]currency-research.com) or +34 627 576 835, or you may visit <https://www.africa.globalpaymentsummit.com>.

### Convergences World Forum

September 5 - September 6, 2019; Paris, France

The twelfth edition of this event again focuses on meeting the UN's sustainable development goals and creating a society with "zero exclusion, zero carbon and zero poverty." In addition to conference sessions, a 3Zero Village will showcase the work of organizations that are "building tomorrow's sustainable solutions." Registration fees have not yet been established. More details may be sought from Paul Constantin via [paul.constantin\[at\]convergences.org](mailto:paul.constantin[at]convergences.org) or +33 (0)1 42 65 78 83, or you may visit <http://www.convergences.org/>.

### Sa-Dhan National Conference

September 16 - September 17, 2019; New Delhi, India

This event will address how microfinance dovetails with topics such as clean energy, sanitation, clean water, urbanization, mobile services and good governance. The maximum fee to attend is INR 8,000 for domestic delegates or USD 500 for international delegates, but a range of discounts is offered. More details are available via [conference\[at\]sa-dhan.org](mailto:conference[at]sa-dhan.org), +91 11 47174400 or <https://sadhannationalconference.wordpress.com>.

### 2nd Annual Africa Agri-Finance Forum

September 17 - September 18, 2019; Nairobi, Kenya

This second annual conference on financing agriculture in Africa will present solutions to close the "productivity gap" including how to increase yields, save water, improve soil health and harness renewable energy. A trade show will run alongside the conference sessions to showcase relevant technologies. The cost to register is USD 500. More information is available via +254 20 2218114, [agri-finance\[at\]aidembs.com](mailto:agri-finance[at]aidembs.com) or [https://aidembs.com/aidembs-upcoming-conferences/?event\\_id1=13](https://aidembs.com/aidembs-upcoming-conferences/?event_id1=13).

### MENAFIF (Middle East & North Africa Financial Institutions Forum)

September 24 - September 25, 2019; Dubai, UAE

The goal of MENAFIF is to connect investors and financial institutions to "catalyze debt raising, equity investments and technical assistance programs" to support private sector growth and increase financial inclusion. The forum offers sessions on the status of the region's financial markets, challenges faced by financial institutions, "Microfinance Institutions in a Changing Landscape," and how to reach unbanked groups as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. The fee to register is USD 350, but it will rise to USD 495 in September. For more details, you may visit <https://www.menafif.com/>, email [info\[at\]afiforum.com](mailto:info[at]afiforum.com) or call +971 4 230 8555.

### 13th Annual Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit

October 1 - October 4, 2019; Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

The thirteenth iteration of this summit will focus on the following topic areas: (1) skill-building for "a changing world of work;" (2) transitioning into the workforce; (3) self-employment; and (4) the "future of work." The fee to attend is USD 895 until September 6 and USD 950 thereafter. Discounted rates for certain groups, as well as add-on trainings are also available. For additional information, you may call +1 202 783 4090, visit <https://www.youtheosummit.org> or email [summit\[at\]makingcents.com](mailto:summit[at]makingcents.com).

## MORE DETAILS COMING SOON ON:

### Global Money Transfer Summit

October 2 - October 3, 2019; London, UK

### Global Impact Investing Network Investor Forum

October 2 - October 3, 2019; Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### 9th Annual Central Asian and Caucasus Microfinance Forum

October 3 - October 4, 2019; Tbilisi, Georgia

### Global SME Finance Forum

October 7 - October 9, 2019; Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### Opportunity Collaboration

October 13 - October 18, 2019; Cancún, Mexico

### Cracking the Nut

October 14 - October 15, 2019; Dakar, Senegal

### SEEP Annual Conference

October 21 - October 23, 2019; Washington, DC, USA

### SAM (Semaine Africaine de la Microfinance)

October 21 - October 25, 2019; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

### Making Finance Work for Women 2019

October 22 - October 23, 2019; Singapore

### 2nd Annual Asia Pacific Microfinance Forum

October 22 - October 23, 2019; Singapore

### SOCAP19

October 22 - October 25, 2019; San Francisco, California, USA

### Social Enterprise World Forum

October 23 - October 25, 2019; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### FOROMIC: Reinventing Inclusion

October 30 - November 1, 2019; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

### Inclusive Insurance for Emerging Markets

November 5 - November 7, 2019; Dhaka, Bangladesh

### 3rd Asia Finance Forum: The Future of Inclusive Finance

November 6 - November 7, 2019; Manila, the Philippines

### European Microfinance Week

November 20 - November 22, 2019; Luxembourg

### Sankalp Global Summit

November 26 - November 27, 2019; Mumbai, India

### Inclusive Finance India Summit

December 4 - December 5, 2019; New Delhi, India

### Livelihoods India Conference

December 12 - 13, 2019; New Delhi, India

### AFIF (Asia Financial Institutions Forum)

January 22 - January 23, 2020; Bangkok, Thailand

### FINTEX Africa 2020

February 12 - February 13, 2020, Kigali, Rwanda 🇷🇼

## PAPER WRAP-UPS

### Influence of Ownership Type and CEO Power on Residual Loss: Evidence From the Global Microfinance Industry

By Leif Atle Beisland, Daudi Pascal Ndaki and Roy Mersland; published by *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*; May 2019; 40 pages; available at: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333175215\\_Influence\\_of\\_Ownership\\_Type\\_and\\_CEO\\_Power\\_on\\_Residual\\_Loss\\_Evidence\\_From\\_the\\_Global\\_Microfinance\\_Industry](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333175215_Influence_of_Ownership_Type_and_CEO_Power_on_Residual_Loss_Evidence_From_the_Global_Microfinance_Industry)

Based on data from 374 microfinance institutions in 76 countries, the authors seek to identify “whether the agency cost component referred to as ‘residual loss’ differs between nonprofit and shareholder-owned microfinance organizations and whether such costs are further influenced by CEO power.” The authors define agency loss as “loss associated with management diverting resources for personal gain (for example, consuming a perquisite excessively or overstaffing to secure an ‘easier life’ for the CEO) that would otherwise have been used to grow the firm or been distributed to its owners as dividends.” Dr Beisland et al conclude that residual loss is higher in nonprofit microfinance institutions (MFIs) relative to shareholder-owned MFIs when the CEO has higher levels of power to act on her or his own. Conversely, when CEOs are subject to stronger oversight, nonprofit MFIs seem to experience lower residual losses than shareholder-owned MFIs.

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### Toward Better Resilience During the War Crisis: Case Study of Three Microfinance Institutions in Yemen

By Nashwan Sabrah and Nabeel T Alsohybe, published by the Macrothink Institute, June 2019, 17 pages, available at <http://www.finder.gateway.org/library/toward-better-resilience-during-war-crisis-case-study-three-microfinance-institutions-yemen>

Based on interviews with 11 staff members of three microfinance institutions (MFIs), the authors describe some of the MFIs’ challenges and responses since armed conflict began disrupting commerce in Yemen in 2015. For example, the displacement of many individuals from their homes has made group loans less suitable. To cope with customers’ evolving needs, MFIs in Yemen have implemented strategies including mechanisms to facilitate rapid product innovation and flexibility for branches to respond to local conditions.

### The Inclusion Imperative: A Call to Action

By Shawn Hunter, published by FDC, May 2019, 25 pages, available at <https://www.fdc.org.au/single-post/2019/05/14/The-Inclusion-Imperative---FDC-Releases-Policy-Recommendations-to-Support-Greater-Inclusive-Growth-and-Development>

Aimed at policy makers and regulators, this report sets out 11 recommendations intended to aid “inclusive growth and development efforts” in the Asia-Pacific region. Three of the recommendations involve aligning broader development efforts with strategies relating to financial inclusion, gender issues and technology. The other recommendations include promoting a wider array of financial services, facilitating regulatory innovation, improving infrastructure and increasing regional cooperation. The paper is based on policy forums that were arranged by FDC and held in Japan and Thailand during 2018. 📄

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