

## MICROCAPITAL BRIEFS | TOP STORIES

### ADB Loan to Catalyze \$583m for Rural, MSMEs in Sri Lanka

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

### Insular, IFC to Promote Microinsurance Among Filipino Women

Insular Life, an insurance company in the Philippines, recently partnered with the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation to form "InLife Sheroges," a program providing Filipino women with skill training relating to "financial management, health, and well-being" as well as offering insurance programs with "specific coverage, bundling of products, and customized add-on services" intended to be of particular value to women. Sheroges is to include both protection from financial risk and investment products. Insular, which was launched in 1910, reports total assets equivalent to USD 2.6 billion. March 27, 2019

### OPIC Loans \$10m to ELLEN for Solar Energy in Chad

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the development finance institution of the US government, recently loaned USD 10 million to FinLux E Longlife Energies Nouvelles (ELLEN), a firm registered in France, to distribute solar-powered devices to households, small businesses, medical clinics and educational institutions in Chad. To minimize the upfront cost to users, "the Project Company will retain ownership" of the devices. FinLux ELLEN will operate in collaboration with Bren-Tronics, a US-based provider of batteries and chargers to the military. Sai Fung serves as president of both firms. March 9, 2019

### I&P Raises \$28m for IPAE 2 Fund to Invest in SMEs in Africa

Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P), a France-based investor in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in sub-Saharan Africa, recently raised the equivalent of USD 28 million for its I&P Afrique Entrepreneurs 2 (IPAE 2), bringing the fund's volume to USD 85 million. The fund's new investors include the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries, which is also known by its Dutch acronym BIO; Bpifrance, which was founded by the French government as the Banque Publique d'Investissement; Credit Cooperatif, a France-based financial cooperative; the Dutch government's Dutch Good Growth Fund; Mirova, a France-based impact investment manager; and the World Bank Group. The goal of the fund, which was launched in 2017, is to raise a total of about USD 96 million to invest in about 35 companies. As of 2019, the fund has invested in four firms, which operate in the food, health, human resources and technology sectors. To support IPAE 2's investees, I&P has raised USD 3.4 million for technical assistance. I&P manages four funds with an aggregate volume of USD 142 million. March 16, 2019

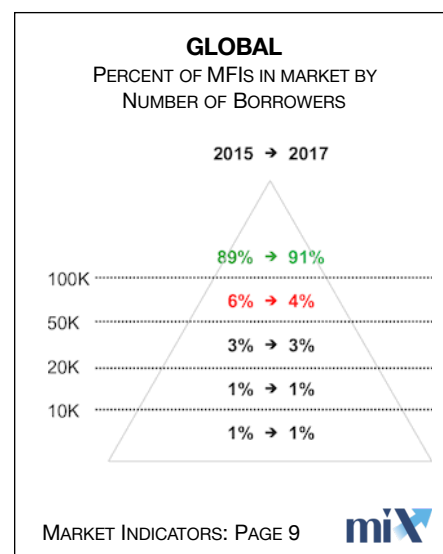
### GGF Loans \$1.1m to Lider for Energy Efficiency, Renewables in BiH

The Green for Growth Fund, a Luxembourg-based public-private partnership, recently loaned the equivalent of USD 1.1 million to Lider, a microcredit foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to on-lend to rural households and small-scale farmers to purchase equipment that produces renewable energy or otherwise reduces the usage of conventional energy. Lider, which was founded in 2002 by US-based NGO Global Communities, has 22 offices serving 40 municipalities. Since its inception, it has issued 46,000 loans totaling USD 75 million, mostly for farming, other entrepreneurial activity and housing improvements. March 7, 2019

### Sanad Loans Al Majmoua \$5m for Enterprise, Housing in Lebanon

Sanad Fund for MSME, a Luxembourg-based investor in lenders to micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), recently loaned USD 5 million to Al Majmoua, a nonprofit provider of loans and business development services to underserved groups in Lebanon. The funds are to be on-lent to low-income individuals for housing improvements and to very small enterprises for business needs. Al Majmoua was formed in 1994 by Save the Children, a UK-based NGO. The microlender reports total assets of USD 85 million, a gross loan portfolio of USD 72 million and 72,800 active borrowers served via 22 branches. March 5, 2019

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## MICROCAPITAL BRIEFS

### Mastercard Foundation Awards \$4.4m for Rural Services in Africa

The Canada-based Mastercard Foundation recently announced that the following organizations will share USD 4.4 million from the final competition of its Fund for Rural Prosperity: Promotion du Sesame du Mali, Lima Kwanza Limited of Tanzania, Savor of Burundi, Sprint Money Limited of Zambia and Syecomp Ghana Limited. The winners will use the funds for clusters of services such as agricultural training, introducing new crops, assistance in creating cooperatives and rolling out mobile financial services. These mobile services include loans with features such as government subsidies, underwriting based on satellite data and repayment schedules tied to harvest cycles. The Mastercard Foundation, which focuses on youth in Africa, reported 2017 expenditures of USD 304 million. March 26. 2019

### Dual Return Vision Fund Lends to Network Active in Kosovo

The Dual Return Vision Microfinance Fund of C-Quadrat Asset Management, a member of the Austria-based C-Quadrat Investment Group, issued a euro-denominated loan of unspecified size during February to an unidentified network of microfinance institutions operating in Africa, China and Kosovo. March 21. 2019

### GCA Foundation Guarantees Loan for Berendina of Sri Lanka

Berendina Micro Investments Company (BMIC) of Sri Lanka has secured a loan guarantee worth the equivalent of USD 426,000 from the Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation, whose head office is in Luxembourg, allowing the microlender to secure funding from an unidentified third party. BMIC, which was established in 2007, will use the funding to boost its work in rural areas. Its products include loans tailored for dairies, farming, emergencies, and “asset building” endeavors such as housing and education. It delivers these services “through 55 plantation estates” and 28 branches. BMIC has a loan portfolio of USD 16 million, serving 99,200 active borrowers while generating return on assets of 1.9 percent and return on equity of 7.2 percent. BMIC’s sibling organizations are Berendina Development Services, which focuses on poverty alleviation and socio-economic empowerment, and the Berendina Employment Centre, which supports rural youth with career training and guidance. March 20. 2019

### IIV Mikrofinanzfonds Lends \$3m to Armeconom of Armenia

Germany-based Invest in Visions (IIV) recently loaned USD 3 million to Armeconom Bank of Armenia from IIV Mikrofinanzfonds, a microfinance investment vehicle that lends to financial institutions in developing countries. Launched in 1991, Armeconom offers loans, credit lines, deposit services, payment cards, transfers and other services to individuals and businesses. It accepts deposits in four currencies, with rates ranging from 0.2 percent to 10 percent per year. Its lending products include offerings designed for women-owned businesses, agriculture, education, solar products, housing, cars and consumer purchases. The bank has 52 branches, 82,000 clients and a loan portfolio equivalent to USD 270 million as of 2019. As of 2017, it held deposits of USD 184 million. March 15. 2019

### IFC Loans \$100m to Equity Bank for SMEs, Renewables in Kenya

The World Bank Group’s International Finance Corporation recently loaned the local-currency equivalent of USD 100 million to the Kenyan member of the Equity Bank Group to: (1) increase its lending to small and medium-sized enterprises; (2) enhance its regulatory capital; and (3) finance renewable energy projects. Equity Bank Kenya will on-lend the funds in increments of USD 10,000 to USD 2 million to firms that fit at least one of the following criteria: (1) employing 10 to 300 people; or (2) posting annual sales of USD 100,000 to USD 15 million. The Equity Bank Group reports USD 3.9 billion in total assets from operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. March 14. 2019

### Baobab DRC Borrows \$815k from GCA Foundation

The Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation, whose head office is in Luxembourg, has informed MicroCapital that it lent the equivalent of USD 815,000 to Baobab DRC, a microfinance institution (MFI) operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The institution is affiliated with Baobab, a France-based firm offering financial services in 10 countries. Baobab DRC’s loan terms vary from four to 12 months. As of its 2017 annual report, the MFI had USD 7.8 million in total assets and a one-year loss of USD 3 million. Via its four branches, it served 11,000 clients, one third of whom were youth, and it was just beginning to offer deposit services. Launched in 2005 as Microcred, Baobab provides digital loans, deposits, insurance and money transfers as well as access to clean water and energy to 650,000 customers. March 12. 2019

### ADB Loan to Catalyze \$583m for Rural, MSMEs in Sri Lanka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral institution based in the Philippines, recently loaned USD 50 million to Sri Lanka’s state-owned Regional Development Bank (RDB) for on-lending to micro- and small enterprises outside the city of Colombo. The ADB loan funds also will serve as regulatory capital, allowing RDB to leverage an additional USD 533 million for lending to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). In support of the loan, the ADB-managed Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction will donate USD 1 million for technical assistance to enhance RDB’s business model through: (1) a marketing campaign to promote its deposit services; (2) increasing its risk management capacity; and (3) training 500 women borrowers to be funded by the ADB loan. Founded in 2010, RDB serves 6 million customers via 268 service points. March 4. 2019

### TriLinc Global Impact Fund II Launches to Invest in SMEs

TriLinc Global, a US-based fund manager founded in 2008, recently launched the TriLinc Global Impact Fund II (TGIF II), for which it seeks to raise USD 300 million to invest in “established, growth stage, middle market enterprises” in developing countries. TriLinc seeks to generate profit by investing in enterprises - primarily small and medium-sized firms - that seek positive, measurable social or environmental impact. During 2017, the company “financed USD 586.5 million in term loans and trade finance transactions in 59 enterprises operating in or trading into 20 developing economies and 3 developed economies.” TGIF II accepts investment as small as USD 150,000, and it charges an annual fee equal to 1.25 percent of gross assets. March 3. 2019

### GCA Foundation Lends VisionFund DRC \$1m for Rural Finance

VisionFund DRC, a microfinance institution (MFI) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has secured a loan of approximately USD 1 million from the Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation. VisionFund DRC provides loans, savings and microinsurance to 2,900 families in rural areas of the province of Kinshasa. Its parent organization, VisionFund International, operates MFIs in 28 countries with an aggregate portfolio of USD 191 million outstanding to 1.3 million customers, of whom 70 percent are women. VisionFund International was created in 2003 by World Vision, a US-based Christian NGO. February 28. 2019

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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!



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## EUROPEAN MICROFINANCE PLATFORM

NETWORKING WITH THE SOUTH

### SPECIAL REPORT

*This feature is part of a sponsored series on European Microfinance Week, which will take place from November 20 through November 22, 2019. The event is held each year by the European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP), a Luxembourg-based network with over 130 members. MicroCapital has been engaged to promote and document the event on-site since 2012.*

#### European Microfinance Award 2019: Resilience to Climate Change

*MicroCapital: Why did you choose “Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change” as the theme of the 2019 European Microfinance Award?*

Christoph Pausch: Climate change is the biggest issue we face as a society today. At the *mitigation* level, action is slowly (too slowly) being taken to reduce global emissions. However, a sensible response must include *adaptation* too. How do we live - and more importantly, help the most vulnerable to survive - in a world with a very different climate than we've been used to?

We have chosen “Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change” as the theme of the Award this year because resilience to the consequences of climate change is critical for the groups who will be most affected by these consequences. These groups are largely financially excluded, and they overwhelmingly live in places that will be most affected by worsening flooding, drought, storms, erosion or pests. Climate change also disproportionately affects those who make their livelihoods from agriculture, forestry, livestock husbandry and fishing.

While this is an immense challenge, we recognize the vital role that the financial inclusion sector can play because much of the resilience we're promoting can be facilitated by financial services. Well-designed initiatives can facilitate risk-reducing measures that help mitigate the catastrophic consequences of shocks; they demonstrate preparedness for future economic shocks; and they offer ways to smooth consumption without taking on unsustainable levels of debt or selling productive assets. We're excited to receive what we hope will be a broad range of innovative responses to these great challenges.

*MC: Is the focus only on insurance, or is there also room for providers of other services, such as savings or non-financial services?*

CP: While we can't predict what initiatives financial institutions and their partners will submit, yes, the range of responses that can increase resilience goes beyond insurance. The microinsurance sector is continually developing new crop, livestock and disaster insurance products tailored for vulnerable segments. We also would be pleased to

see initiatives that cleverly promote savings or loan products for long-term financial planning, such as investing in assets, managing expenses or dealing with emergencies. All of these can build resilience to climate change. Remittance services also can help vulnerable households and communities transfer funds to purchase critical supplies, meet continuing obligations or otherwise mitigate the effects of a disaster driven by climate change. Finally, we're hoping to receive applications that include *non-financial* products and services that complement relevant financial products. This could include capacity building, standard setting or technology that helps clients understand and forecast weather events. This is not an exhaustive list by any means.

*MC: How have you made it easier to apply for this year's award?*

CP: The Award process has changed quite a bit this year, in part based on feedback from a survey we conducted last year. First, there will be two application rounds. A shorter, initial round was launched on March 13 and closes on April 9. Successful first-round applicants will be invited to submit a more extensive application in May. From that pool, up to 10 applicants will become semi-finalists, with three finalists invited to European Microfinance Week in Luxembourg, where we will announce the winner on November 21. In addition to increasing the efficiency of the evaluation process, the easier first-round process will encourage more organisations to apply. We believe this will lead to a higher quality field of applicants.

Separately, we have loosened the eligibility criteria, in that organizations no longer have to provide the financial products or services *directly*. This year, an organization can apply if it is partnering with a financial

services provider, as long as the primary applicant plays an *integral* and *ongoing* operational role in the project. We expect this will bring in a broader range of software providers, hardware manufacturers, NGOs and other stakeholders that are partnering on innovative initiatives but may not be banks, MFIs or insurance companies, etc. All of this information - and much more - can be found in the Explanatory Note that is published on the Award website in English, French and Spanish.

*MC: In addition to the prize money, what kinds of benefits have previous award winners reaped from their participation?*

CP: Anecdotally, we hear from previous winners that the exposure has opened new doors to funding, partnerships and collaboration. Each year at the Award ceremony, a visit to the previous winner yields interesting information on what has changed over the year - including, of

course, how the organization used the prize money. In recognition of this being the tenth edition of the Award, e-MFP is publishing interviews throughout 2019 with each of the previous winners. These interviews will cover exactly that question: how winning the Award translated into impact in the field. So stay tuned to the e-MFP blog for the other interviews in this series!

*Christoph Pausch serves as Executive Secretary of e-MFP. The €100k European Microfinance Award is jointly organised by the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, e-MFP and the Inclusive Finance Network Luxembourg. Applications for the first round of the European Microfinance Award are due April 9. To apply, please visit <http://www.european-microfinance-award.com>.*

## 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, during 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.*

### HPS Poised to Digitize Network of MFIs in Benin After Participation in SAM Innovation Fair, Successful Rollout to 3 Network Members

During the "Innovation Fair" of the most recent SAM, Mohamed Asri of Morocco-based payment solutions provider HPS spoke about his firm's microfinance strategy, including its suite of PowerCARD tools. Mr Asri called SAM "a great opportunity for us to meet dozens of MFIs in Africa and present to them our activity and our products." These meetings led to HPS signing a memorandum of understanding with Consortium Alafia, a network of 44 MFIs in Benin. To date, three Alafia members have tested PowerCARD Microfinance, which offers pay-as-you-go pricing to manage functions such as client transactions, internal finances, services provided via agents, Shariah-compliant products, field staff using mobile devices and third-party services such as insurance. An agreement to roll the service out to most of Alafia's members is currently under negotiation.

In addition to speaking at SAM, Mr Asri managed a demonstration booth on the fourth day of the event. He explains, "We were able to design [the booth] according to our marketing needs. A large number of MFIs were able to contact us and learn more about the competitive advantages of our products." He added that MFI leaders were most interested in how digitizing could help reduce operating costs and how flexible the products could be. Mr Asri also emphasized the potential for digital tools to improve the productivity of MFIs' agents.

As a result of its involvement with SAM, HPS has joined the Microfinance African Institutions Network (MAIN), a member of the SAM steering committee, in order to maintain and expand its networking with SAM attendees. Mr Asri said, "I am so happy with my participation that I am renewing my partnership with SAM as a 'Silver' sponsor to maximize awareness of our work." At the 2019 SAM in Ouagadougou, HPS is considering running an exhibit booth throughout all five days of SAM, rather than just on the day of the Innovation Fair. The firm also is looking into creating a "Fintech Village," a larger space inside the Innovation Fair where HPS can feature all of its activities, products and innovations. For example, it will show off its HPS PAY solution by letting participants download the app to test its mobile payment tools. They will be able to use it to access bitcoin, which they then can spend on drinks provided by HPS. In summary, Mr Asri says, "In 2019, SAM will be key to my commercial strategy. In fact, I wish a future SAM will be organized very soon in Morocco."

Established in 1995, HPS is a leading card and payment technology company with over 400 clients in 90 countries. The mission of HPS is to provide its clients with innovative technology solutions that transcend the entire payments value chain, enabling them to innovate rapidly and bring new products to market with ease and efficiency. The PowerCARD suite is fully integrated with all international payment networks, and it supports all major back-office payments functions.




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"I am so happy with my participation that I am renewing my partnership with SAM as a 'Silver' sponsor to maximize awareness of our work."

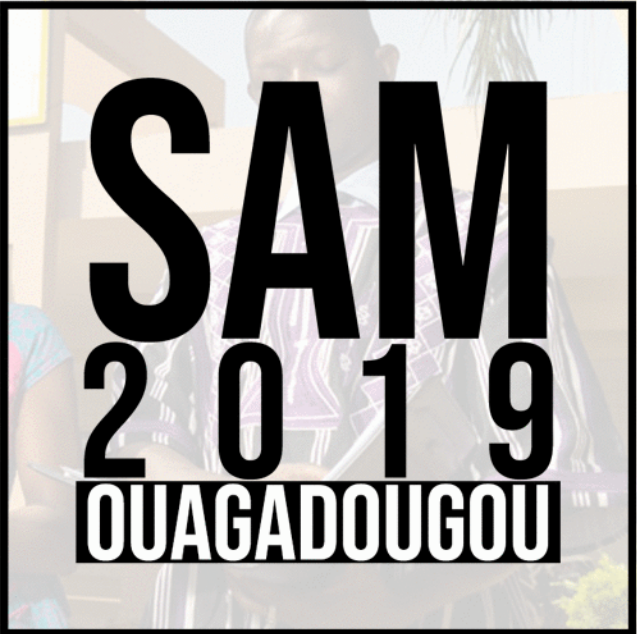
*-Mohamed Asri, HPS  
(pictured second from right)*

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*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>.* 📧





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## EAR TO THE GROUND

### A Fintech Skeptic Responds by...Building a Fintech

Less than a year ago, a team from EA Consultants went to Mexico to perform assessments on two fintech models. During our research, a young, low-salaried worker at a paint company told me how he had begun saving money to get a university degree thanks to one of the fintechs' employee savings solutions. This and other stories softened my skepticism of fintech.

Despite its promise, the reach of most Mexican fintechs remains small, often relying on customers seeking out their services online. Unfortunately, people don't seem to spend much time browsing the internet for that hottest new app in financial management! These passive marketing strategies can be expensive - not because of the cost of digital marketing, which is cheap, but because they tend to generate snail-paced growth, causing firms to burn through their capital reserves. Based on our visit to Mexico, we became convinced that new approaches to distribution are required if low-income communities are going to experience the benefits of digital financial services en masse.

After six months of design, revision and pilot testing, I am excited to say that I am taking my own shot at the fintech distribution challenge. My business partner, Claudette Martinez, and I have set up a company called MeXCo Soluciones (which will operate separately from EA) to address two important aspects of exclusion: *financial exclusion* and *labor-market exclusion*.

We overcome financial exclusion by going door-to-door to promote the adoption and usage of digital financial services. Clients appreciate that we are "high touch," but technology is also a key part of our business model. We identify high-value products, field test them and gather data to help third-party providers align them more closely with client needs. Once a product is fine-tuned, we provide digital on-boarding and post-sales support to build trust and confidence. We do this through a

sales force of "nahuís," a term for "aunts" in the indigenous language. Our nahuís build long-term client relationships so that products are not just used once, but used regularly.

By employing women over the age of 40 for this task, we are tackling another challenge, that of labor-market exclusion. In Mexico, discriminatory practices usually push out all but the most educated women from the labor market after a certain age. In contrast, we are teaching our "mature" nahuís to assess business viability, sell financial services and use digital solutions so fluently that they can, in turn, "teach digital."

By tackling these two forms of exclusion, we believe we have a formula that can overcome several of the barriers to adoption and usage that have been identified in recent years. One of our saleswomen, Irma, who is 58 years old, explains to prospective clients, "I was afraid of technology also. My grandchildren had to teach me how to use Facebook. But I learned how to use this product, and it's simple. If I can learn, you can learn too." (You can see our [nahuís in action](#) on our Instagram page.)

So far, we have piloted the process with two fintechs, and we are excited to be embarking on a new partnership with Banco Santander and ID Mission, the operator of the customer loyalty program SuperRED. Our model is bold yet pragmatic, it is both modern and traditional, it is data-centric and humanistic. Much like Mexico itself, its complexity and contrasts form the core of its identity. We look forward to engaging with you more as we grow!

*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](#). *







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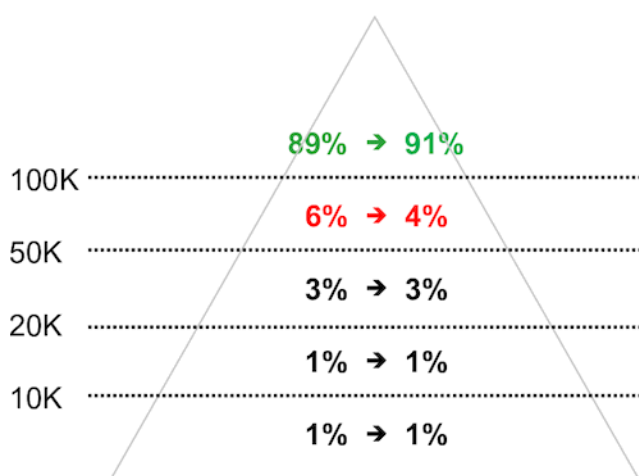
539 MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS (MFIs) REPORTING\*

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

MFI NAME	COUNTRY	AVERAGE ANNUAL USD INCREASE	AVERAGE ANNUAL % INCREASE	2015 (USD)	2017 (USD)
Bandhan Bank	India	1.10 billion	39	2.35 billion	4.56 billion
Vietnam Bank for Social Policies	Vietnam	565 million	8	6.44 billion	7.56 billion
Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited	India	357 million	27	1.16 billion	1.88 billion
Banco del Estado de Chile	Chile	354 million	19	1.74 billion	2.44 billion
PRASAC MFI	Cambodia	348 million	35	857 million	1.55 billion
BRAC Bangladesh	Bangladesh	295 million	19	1.44 billion	2.03 billion
Mibanco Banco de la Microempresa	Peru	290 million	12	2.30 billion	2.88 billion
ACLEDA Bank	Cambodia	287 million	11	2.45 billion	3.03 billion
Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala RDP	India	270 million	31	755 million	1.29 billion
Banco Fasil	Bolivia	268 million	23	1.07 billion	1.61 billion

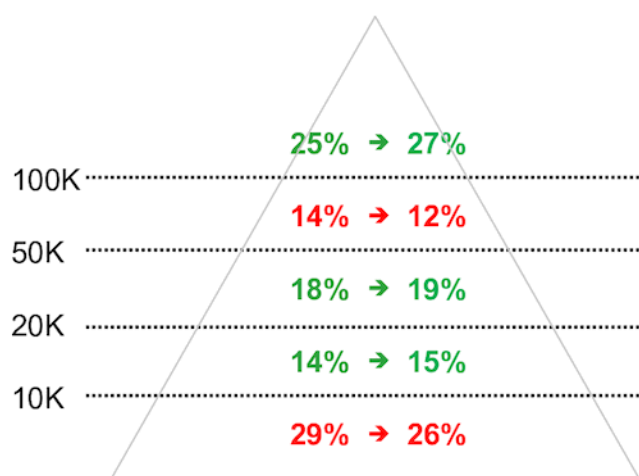
### PERCENT OF MFIs IN MARKET BY SIZE (NUMBER OF ACTIVE BORROWERS)

2015 → 2017



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

2015 → 2017



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

Source: MIX, March 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LendIt Fintech USA

April 8 - April 9, 2019; San Francisco, California, USA

This conference on financial services innovation will cover topics such as the digitization of credit unions and community banks, payments innovation for small businesses, small business lending innovation, blockchain in financial services, financial health and inclusion, and policy and regulation. The standard fee to attend is USD 2,995, with several types of discounts on offer. The event website address is <https://www.lendit.com/usa/2019>. For more details, you may contact the organizers at [info\[at\]lendit.com](mailto:info[at]lendit.com) or +1 646 930 6366.

### Market Systems Symposium 2019

April 8 - April 11, 2019; Cape Town, South Africa

This symposium will focus on “market systems development practice.” The mission of the organizer, US-based NGO EcoVentures International, is to support “micro and small enterprises that move beyond the greening of practices to providing products and services that enhance and protect local resources...and provide youth with a greater sense of where they fit into their community and the world.” The registration fee is USD 865, excluding the pre-training workshops on April 8, which cost USD 365 to attend. Additional details are available by emailing [info\[at\]eco-ventures.org](mailto:info[at]eco-ventures.org), calling +1 202 470 0043 or visiting <https://www.marketsystemsforum.org/>.

### Mondato Summit Africa

April 9, 2019; Johannesburg, South Africa

Themed “Scaling Digital Finance & Commerce Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa,” discussions at this event are slated to cover the evolution of the digital economy, the transformation of telecommunication companies, investment opportunities and government policy. The standard cost of a delegate pass is USD 1,000. For more information, you may contact Arielle Jaffe at +33 6 95 93 43 95 or [ajaffe\[at\]mondato.com](mailto:ajaffe[at]mondato.com). The event website address is <http://www.mondatosummit.com/africa>.

### ICT4D (Information & Communications Technology for Development)

April 30 - May 3, 2019; Kampala, Uganda

The eleventh iteration of this event will focus on how technology can help meet the UN's sustainable development goals. Presentations will address topics such as Digital Financial Inclusion, Agriculture & Environment, Responsible Data & Information Security, and Supply Chain Management. The fee to attend is USD 1,000 for three days or USD 400 per day. Various discounts are available. For more information, you may contact the organizers at +1 410 951 7454, [info\[at\]crs.org](mailto:info[at]crs.org) or <https://www.ict4dconference.org/>.

### 15th Consultative Forum on Inclusive Insurance

May 7, 2019; Panama City, Panama

This event will address the causes and potential solutions to the exposure that poor and other vulnerable people face to climate change and natural disasters, including the potential roles of insurers and policymakers. The forum is scheduled in advance of el Seminario Regional para Supervisores de Seguros de Latinoamérica, which will take place from May 8 to May 10. There is no fee to attend. For more information, you may contact the organizers via +352 26 29 78 or <https://microinsurancenet.org/civcrm/event/info?id=220>.

### AFSIC Investing in Africa

May 8 - May 10, 2019; London, UK

This event has a wide range of sessions including several on financing small and medium-sized enterprises, financial technology, and renewable energy. The standard registration fee is GBP 995, although several types of discounts are available. Additional details are available via <https://www.afsic.net/delegate-registration/>, [event\[at\]afsic.net](mailto:event[at]afsic.net) or +44 7827 440365.

### Africa Shared Value Summit

May 23 - May 24, 2019; Nairobi, Kenya

The agenda for this event includes topics on agricultural value chains and other food systems as well as healthcare and clean energy. The registration fee is USD 200 per day, with a complete event pass available to students and NGO representatives for USD 185. For more details, you may visit <https://www.africasharedvaluesummit.com> or email [info\[at\]shiftimpact.africa](mailto:info[at]shiftimpact.africa). No telephone number is offered.

### Financial Inclusion Summit - South Africa

May 28 - May 29, 2019; Johannesburg, South Africa

This summit focuses on the current status and future expectations for financial inclusion in sub-Saharan Africa. Session topics include: Financial Inclusion, the Changing Landscape; Harnessing Change to Accelerate Financial Inclusion; The Future of Financing for MSMEs; Developing Financial Inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa; and Mobile Payments and Technology. The fee to attend is USD 1,000 per person. For more information, you may call +44 (0) 1322 312078, email [info\[at\]microfinanceassociation.org](mailto:info[at]microfinanceassociation.org), or visit <http://www.microfinanceassociation.org/event/financial-inclusion-summit/>.

### 22nd MFC Annual Conference

May 29 - June 1, 2019; Istanbul, Turkey

Themed “Demystifying Digital in Microfinance,” this event includes a fintech (financial technology) marketplace, traditional conference sessions, “speed networking” with investors, and private programs for CEOs and representatives of microfinance associations. The fee to attend is EUR 720, with discounts available for members of the Microfinance Centre (MFC). For more information, you may visit <http://mfc.org.pl/mfc-annual-conference-2019/>, call +48 22 622 34 65 or email [mfc\[at\]guarant.cz](mailto:mfc[at]guarant.cz).

### MORE DETAILS COMING SOON ON:

#### 6th European Research Conference on Microfinance

June 3 - June 5, 2019; Paris, France

#### 2nd Annual Conference on Fintech and Banking Transformation

June 5 - June 6, 2019; Levis, Quebec, Canada

#### 16th EMN Annual Conference

June 6, 2019; Vienna, Austria

#### Africa Insurance and Reinsurance Conference

June 25 - June 26, 2019; Nairobi, Kenya

#### Inclusive Digital Future: A Summit on Responsible Finance in Action

June 25 - June 27, 2019; Nairobi, Kenya

#### Global Sustainable Finance Conference

July 11 - July 12, 2019; Karlsruhe, Germany

#### 13th Annual Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit

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

#### Global SME Finance Forum

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

#### 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

#### SOCAP19

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

#### European Microfinance Week

November 20 - November 22, 2019; Luxembourg 🇱🇺





Various 2018

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## PAPER WRAP-UPS

### Labour Pains: Discovering the Financial Lives of Zambian Mothers

Based on research by Afriqinsights and Tyroler & Associates, published by the UN Capital Development Fund, December 2018, 16 pages, available at: <https://www.uncdf.org/article/4278/labour-pains-discovering-the-financial-lives-of-zambian-mothers>

When customizing products for mothers, the authors suggest that providers focus on “cost, ease-of-use, accessibility, marketing and communication.” Many of the products available in Zambia that cater to mothers - and women in general - remain relatively unused due to a lack of promotion among these groups. To interest Zambian mothers in digital financial services (DFS), the authors propose hiring women to explain the products in simple terms to other women. These descriptions should include information on the benefits of DFS, such as increased security. In addition to hiring women to act as ambassadors, DFS providers can utilize both digital and traditional social networks to promote their products.

The authors cite education payments as an example of a product area in which DFS providers can offer mothers tools that would be significantly more efficient and less costly than existing alternatives.

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### Do Social Enterprises Walk the Talk? Assessing Microfinance Performances with Mission Statements

By Roy Mersland, Samuel Anokye Nyarko and Ariane Szafarz; published by CERSEM; February 2019; 11 pages; available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352673418301574>

The authors investigate whether 199 microfinance organizations (MFOs) from 59 countries act in line with their stated missions of “poverty alleviation, women’s empowerment, and rural financial inclusion.” To do this, they evaluate “average loan size (scaled by GNI per capita), number of credit clients, and group-based lending methods” as well as the ratios of female and rural clients served. The conclusion is that MFOs generally do “walk the talk.”

### Building Resilience Through Financial Inclusion: A Review of Existing Evidence and Knowledge Gaps

By Danielle Moore, Zahra Niazi, Rebecca Rouse and Berber Kramer; published by Innovations for Poverty Action; January 2019; 16 pages; available at <https://www.poverty-action.org/sites/default/files/publications/Building-Resilience-Through-Financial-Inclusion-January-2019.pdf>

The authors suggest that access to savings and other forms of financial inclusion can address the lack of economic resilience found among lower-income households by contributing to: “I. Increasing investment in the face of risk; II. Strategies for risk reduction; III. Facilitating risk preparedness; and IV. Responding when a shock hits.”

## Business Planning with MICROFIN

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