



**Poverty**

**Microfinance Community**



## Community Update

**No. 72: 19 December 2013**

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#### From the Resource Team

Dear Members,

Greetings from the Resource Team - Microfinance!

At the outset, we would like to thank our members for their participation in the e-discussions as well as face to face activities conducted by Microfinance Community, during last three months. Following are some of the highlights of the events:

**Microfinance India Summit:** Microfinance Community of Practice functioned as a technical partner for Microfinance India Summit and knowledge and outreach partner for the State of the Sector (SoS) Report - Microfinance 2013. The suggestions and recommendations received from the members through the e-discussions and SoS roundtable are incorporated in the SoS report 2013.

**National Rural Livelihood Mission:** With Ministry of Rural Development, Microfinance Community continued working on National Rural livelihood Mission (NRLM) and conducted an e-discussion on the status and strategies of NRLM. A national roundtable in collaboration with the ministry and support of UNDP was also organized. We are happy to inform our members that some important policy decisions have been taken by the cabinet, based on the suggestions of our members.

**Voluntary Savings:** National Savings Institute, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of finance considered Microfinance Community, Solution Exchange, suitable for getting inputs on linking SHGs, Federations and other collectives for National Savings Schemes (NSS). An e-discussion as well as a National Workshop on voluntary savings was organized in consultation and collaboration of Ministry of Finance. Finally, an 'Action Group' is initiated for preparing a proposal for policy changes on the issue of engaging various collectives for National Savings Schemes.

**Policy Practice Atlas:** Production of a 'Policy Practice Atlas on Microfinance' – a one stop information resource on policies, guidelines, circulars on financial inclusion and microfinance is an innovative initiative taken up by Microfinance Community. The availability of Policy Practice Atlas will facilitate in creating more conducive policy environment on microfinance. We will share the document with our members soon.

**National Urban Livelihood Mission:** Working with Ministry of Housing and Urban Development was a new initiative of UNDP and Microfinance Community. While an e-discussion was initiated on an important flagship programme - National Urban Livelihood Mission, Microfinance Community and UNDP also conducted a national workshop on NULM in consultation with the ministry. We will share the report with our members.

**Financial Inclusion of Rickshaw Pullers:** Based on the outputs of the e-discussions and a national level study supported by UNDP, a roundtable was organized to bring all the key stakeholders working on livelihood and financial inclusion issues of rickshaw pullers, on one platform. The study report on financial inclusion of rickshaw pullers and the outputs of the roundtable on rickshaw pullers are useful in identifying several policy issues that are to be addressed for better livelihoods and financial inclusion of rickshaw pullers. We will soon share the report of the roundtable with our members.

**E- Discussions:** Besides various face to face activities, discussions on RBI's paper on banking structure, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Bharatiya Mahila Bank, State of the Sector report -Housing Microfinance were undertaken during this period.

Once again, we convey many thanks to our members.

Regards,

Navin Anand and Mohammad Anas  
Resource Team, Microfinance Community  
Solution Exchange, United Nations, New Delhi

## Members Postings

### *Workshops, Trainings, Conferences & Events*

#### *Upcoming*

*From Mohammad Anas, UNDP, New Delhi*



**Mobile Money and Digital Payments Asia 2014**, January 21 to January 23, 2014, Jakarta, Indonesia

Mobile Money Asia is an annual forum that will focus on the regional value proposition for mobile money. As the branchless banking regulations in many countries across Asia is being amended to enable more stakeholders to drive innovation, the speakers will be focussing on the business case for microfinance, and the next generation of financial services for the un- and under banked. From exploring the commercial case for interoperability to examining the business models driving mobile trends. Please click [here](#) for registration.

## Community News

### Open Queries:

- **QUERY:** [Strategies for implementation of National Urban Livelihood Mission - Experiences; referrals.](#) Click [here](#) to send your responses
- **QUERY:** [Strengthening of SHGs and other collectives under Bharatiya Mahila Bank - Experiences; Advice.](#) Click [here](#) to send your responses

### *From Our Partners*

#### Call for Action

*From Mohammad Anas, UNDP, New Delhi*



#### **2nd Islamic Microfinance Challenge 2014**

*CGAP, the Islamic Development Bank, Al Baraka Banking Group, and Triple Jump have announced the launch of the second Islamic*



### **Cracking the Nut Africa: Improving Rural Livelihoods and Food Security**, January 13 to January 15, 2014, Kigali, Rwanda

This three-day event will highlight innovations in the development of rural and agricultural livelihoods, financial inclusion, and increasing rural food security and nutrition in Africa. The conference will showcase best practices through focused themes like Reducing costs and risks of serving rural clients; Preparing for sustainability of future livelihoods and enticing investors to key agricultural value chains. The conference will also have high-level panel discussions on 'proper feeding of a growing population', and 'facilitating positive behavioral changes'. Please click [here](#) to participate.



### **Executive Education Programme 2014**, 24th - 28th March 2014, J-PAL Global, Cambridge, MA, MIT, USA

This is a five-day program on evaluating social programs that provides a thorough understanding of randomized evaluations and pragmatic step-by-step training for conducting one's own evaluation. It will focus on the benefits and methods of randomization, choosing an appropriate sample size, and common threats and pitfalls to the validity of the experiment. The program is designed for people from a variety of backgrounds including managers and researchers from international development organizations, foundations, governments and non-governmental organizations from around the world, as well as trained economists looking to retool. Please click [here](#) to register.



**Frankfurt School of Finance & Management**  
Bankakademie | HfB

### **Frankfurt School's Development Finance e-learning Platform LinkEd**, March-August 2014, Frankfurt, Germany

LinkEd is the development finance e-learning platform of the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. With LinkEd educational programmes of Frankfurt School can be accessed from all over the world, allowing you to take part in the 6-month part-time certification courses like Certified Expert in Microfinance, Certified Expert in SME Finance and Certified Expert in Risk Management. Click [here](#) for further information and registration.



**HARVARD Kennedy School**  
Executive Education

*Microfinance Challenge, a global contest that invites applications from providers of Sharia-compliant microfinance products. The Challenge is also supported by GIZ. Last date for submitting completed forms is January 31, 2014. [Apply now](#).*

### **Call for papers ITEM5: Microfinance conference in Casablanca**

*The Banque Populaire Chair in Microfinance of the Burgundy School of Business and ISCAE, Casablanca, Morocco. In collaboration with Attafiq Micro Finance. Please click [here](#) to participate*

### **Publications, Papers and Reports**

*From Mohammad Anas, UNDP, New Delhi*



[India Rural Development Report 2013, Ministry of Rural Development and IDFC Foundation, \(Pdf.26.40 MB\), November 2013](#)



[The Global Financial Development Report 2014: Financial Inclusion, The World Bank Group, \(Pdf.9.8 MB\) November 2013](#)



[Smart Aid Index Report 2013: Microfinance, IFAD and CGAP \(Pdf.330 KB\) 2013](#)



[Research paper: Literature review on the impact of microinsurance, Microinsurance Innovation Facility, ILO \(Pdf.778 KB\), October 2013](#)



[Cooperatives and Rural Financial Development, Rabo Bank \(pdf 927 KB\) October 2012](#)

## **Rethinking Financial Inclusion: Smart Design for Policy and Practice** February 23-28, 2014, Cambridge MA, USA

Rethinking Financial Inclusion: Smart Design for Policy and Practice, Harvard Kennedy School's newest Executive Education program, will explore frontier issues in finance for the poor and address challenges faced by both low and high-income countries. The Course will combine an evidence-based approach to understanding the market for finance and client needs with theoretical insights on how to design financial products to meet those needs. Click [here](#) to apply.



**6th National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship**, January 31-February 2, 2014, XLRI Jamshedpur, India

This year's conference is based on the theme 'Rethinking Development- Strengthening the Grassroots' aims to explore and create a platform to showcase and learn from initiatives and social ventures which are promoting a holistic and "grounds-up" model of development. The conference design will entail sessions eliciting social entrepreneurs and development sector professionals who will share their experiences, issues and challenges. Please click [here](#) to register.

## **Legal Updates**

*From Mohammad Anas, UNDP, New Delhi*

### **Reserve Bank of India committee on mobile payments for the unbanked**

*The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a special committee that will look into the possibility of introducing an SMS-based payment system allowing millions of currently 'unbanked' Indians to make financial transfers via their cell phones. The committee, which is due to report by the end of the year, will consider the advantages of having a single application that can run on any type of handset, the RBI said, adding that "any optimal solution that would take mobile banking to every nook and corner of the country" would be examined. Please [read](#) for more details.*

### **All Women Bank : The Bhartiya Mahila Bank launched**

*The first all-women Bharatiya Mahila Bank, a pioneering initiative to empower women, was launched with a corpus of Rs 1,000 crore to function as a universal bank. Coinciding with the 96th birthday of late Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated the first of its seven branches at a function here in the presence of UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, coalition leaders Sharad Pawar and Farooq Abdullah, besides Finance Minister P Chidambaram. Maharashtra Governor K Sankaranarayanan and Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan were also present at the launch of the bank which was announced in this year's Budget. Inaugurating the bank, the Prime Minister emphasised that a lot more was needed to be done to empower women and ensure their safety. Read more [here](#)*



[Focus note: Facilitating Market Development to Advance Financial Inclusion, CGAP, \(Pdf.711KB\), October 2011](#)



**MFIN MicroMeter**© (Pdf.853 KB) November 2013

## **Newsletters, Blogs and Videos**

*From Mohammad Anas, UNDP, New Delhi*

**Videos:**[Financial Literacy Videos: Khan Academy and Bank of America.](#)

## **Job Opportunities**

*From Garima Mishra, Microsave, Lucknow*

Recruitment, for details, please visit  
:Careers at MicroSave  
<http://www.microsave.net/career>

## Network Activity

### Completed Queries

**Query: State of the Sector Report 2013: Microfinance regulations and status of compliances at various levels - Experiences; Advice. – From From Ajay Tankha and Tara Nair, State of the Sector Report 2013-Microfinance, New Delhi**

Issued 15 October 2013. Download [here](#)

*Provides an overview of the current microfinance regulatory environment in India and larger issues surrounding the debate on the need for a comprehensive regulation for various microfinance entities, products and services.*

### Previous Updates

For PDF Version of last update no. 71 **(September 2013 issue)** ,please visit:  
[ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/mf/comm\\_update/mf-update-71-25091302.pdf](ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/mf/comm_update/mf-update-71-25091302.pdf)

For previous updates please click [here](#)

***Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!***

*If you have items to feature in this News Update, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Microfinance Community in India at [se-mf@solutionexchange-un.net.in](mailto:se-mf@solutionexchange-un.net.in).*

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