

# Main Network

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# MAIN NETWORK News

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

Editorial..... p .2

Free Financial Literacy  
Workshops in South Africa ... p .3

The Association of Ethiopian  
Microfinance Institutions  
inaugurated the Inclusive  
Hostel ..... p. 4

Improving MFIs' good  
governance with MAIN ..... p. 5

Training on "Savings Group  
Program design and  
implementation  
management" ..... p.5

Training on "Savings Group  
Management Information  
systems " ..... p.6

Upcoming events ..... p. 6

## EDITORIAL

### Dear Readers and Members,

The last quarter of the year is always a hectic period for MAIN. We continue to support the work of our members and partners through the different training sessions we have organised the past months.

MAIN promotes capacity building of microfinance institutions, as well as experience sharing so that all together we, the microfinance practitioners, can collectively meet the sector's challenges.

This newsletter is an opportunity for us to review the training courses of the recent weeks and to discuss the importance of the sub-themes for the sector: governance, program design & implementation, management of information systems. With this regard, several participants have expressed their positive feedbacks from the trainings they have attended.

The microfinance sector is constantly changing; thus we are the agents of change for tomorrow's advancement of the microfinance sector.

Capacity building of microfinance practitioners remains our primary concern and we hope to welcome you to benefit from our upcoming training sessions utmost.

Enjoy the reading!

**Mohamed ATTANDA**

**Executive Director**

# FREE FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA

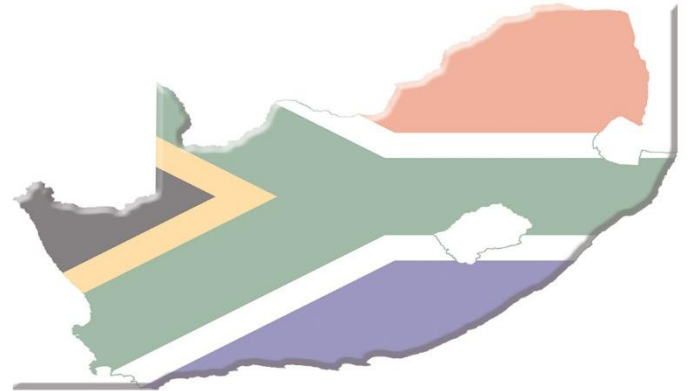
The lack of financial education is a salient problem that not only affects those living in developing countries. Everyone around the world earns money, spends it to cover basic needs, and even tries to save a small amount of money whenever they can. Everyone, even in developed countries, needs to know how to manage money. If money is mismanaged, the consequences can be serious. Being able to manage money is not something innate in everyone. Hence, the importance of being taught money management is indispensable.

One of microfinance's goals is to improve the financial literacy of the poor and of people wanting to get an Income Generating Activity. The purpose of financial education is to help them better manage their money, improve their spending habits and learn to save money to better address shocks and the unexpected, i.e. to be prepared for financial difficulties.

The second week of September celebrates Financial Planning Week in South Africa. Organised by the Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa, that week was an opportunity for many South Africans to benefit from free financial education workshops on 7-8 September.

This type of workshop allows participants to know what financial literacy is and its importance, and to learn to make budgetary and financial decisions for proper management of their money, as well as wise saving.

The first workshop targeted youth aged 20-35 years. This segment of the population represents almost 40% of the South African population, according to the World Bank. It is of primary importance to be financially literate early enough to prepare for the future, and to know money management to make professional plans, such as starting its own activity.



The second workshop target group was domestic workers and gardeners. To gather the largest number of people, the workshop was provided in three languages: Xhosa, Afrikaans and English. The agenda covered budget planning, precautionary and efficient savings, debt and the dangers of credit purchases.

The workshops were also an opportunity for these two groups of people to discuss their financial needs with professionals and get advice.

Note: On 12 and 13 October 2016, a Global Symposium on Financial Education will be held in Auckland, New Zealand. Participants will discuss ways to build more innovative financial literacy policies and improve consumer protection.

## Sources:

<http://www.capetalk.co.za/articles/16385/free-financial-literacy-workshop-for-domestic-workers-and-gardeners>

<http://www.moneyweb.co.za/mymoney/moneyweb-financial-planning/free-workshops-offered-as-part-of-financial-planning-week/>



# THE ASSOCIATION OF **ETHIOPIAN MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS** INAUGURATED THE INCLUSIVE **HOSTEL IN ADDIS ABABA**

**The Inclusive Hostel** was inaugurated on the 1st of September 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It is established by the Ethiopian Inclusive Finance Training and Research Institute (EIFTRI) which is one component of the Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AEMFI). It is a five storey building consists of offices, training rooms and fully furnished bedrooms. Government officials, representatives of microfinance institutions, donors and other guests have attended the opening ceremony.



**The Ethiopian Inclusive Finance Training and Research Institute**, the first of its kind in the country is established by AEMFI (Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions) as an income generating component of the organisation. The aim of the institute is to support the inclusive financial sector with the necessary skills and knowledge and contribute to the development of the human capital and to foster and sustain economic growth in the country.

## **EIFTRI offers:**

**Education:** training in the area of inclusive finance at the Certificate, Diploma, Degree and Masters levels,

**Research:** undertaking research that aims at enhancing the role and contribution of inclusive finance in the sustainable economic development of the country and lead towards poverty reduction.

**Knowledge Management:** dissemination of research findings by organising thematic seminars, workshops and conferences.

The Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AEMFI) was formed as a non-profit, non-governmental association for microfinance institutions and registered on 28th June, 1999 by the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Government of Ethiopia. Since its formation, AEMFI's goals and activities have broadened to include trainings, research, performance monitoring and benchmarking and provision of technical assistance. AEMFI and MAIN have a strong partnership in organizing various capacity building programmes jointly since AEMFI's admission to the network.

For more information please visit, <http://eiftri-ethiopia.org/>



## IMPROVING MFIS' GOOD GOVERNANCE WITH THE MAIN

As part of its capacity building activities for microfinance actors, MAIN (Microfinance African Institutions Network) held a sub-regional, high-level training session on **"How can governance be put at the service of efficiency & sustainability of MFIs?"** from August 29 to September 2, 2016 in Lome, Togo.

This dynamic session was facilitated by Mr. René AZOKLY, PAMIGA Representative for West and Central Africa, in collaboration with Mr. Mohamed ATTANDA, Executive Director of the MAIN. The session was attended by 27 participants (24 men and 3 women) from 23 institutions and 9 different countries in the sub-region (Togo, Burkina Faso, Congo Brazzaville, Benin, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali and DRC). The participants were composed of CEOs, board chairmen and vice-chairmen, secretaries and board treasurers from the respective institutions.

The training session aimed to enable the participants to know the whys and implications of good governance, in order to use them as genuine tools for the MFIs' viability and optimal performance.

We can unreservedly say that all participants gained new knowledge on governance of microfinance institutions. The participants found the training very timely, well-organized and animated, and pledged to contribute to the implementation of what they learnt in their respective institutions.



In addition, the participants would like MAIN to offer this training again to allow other actors involved in the governance of their institutions in order to access the same knowledge.

## TRAINING ON "SAVINGS GROUP PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION MANAGEMENT"

For the sixth consecutive year, MAIN has organised a training course in collaboration with Carsey School of Public Policy of the University of New Hampshire, Plan International, WARO and VSL Associates on **"Savings Group Program design and implementation management"**

This training was led by Ms. Essi DIGO from PLAN International Togo.

The main objective of this course is to provide participants with the methodology and tools to support them in the development and management of community microfinance projects.





The session was held from 5 to 9 September 2016 in Lomé, and was attended by 21 participants (6 men and 15 women) from 8 African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, DRC, Senegal, Niger, Rwanda, Congo Brazzaville and Togo).

A field visit was organised for the participants as part of the training package. This educational visit to Anié, Togo allowed participants to attend a saving groups meeting, exchange with its members and the field officers. It was an opportunity for them to witness full saving group meetings.

At the end of the 5-days training, an evaluation was conducted. The analysis of the evaluation forms revealed an overall good satisfaction level and showed that all their expectations have been met.

## TRAINING ON “SAVINGS GROUP MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS”

As part of its capacity building of stakeholders and users of the VSLA approach, a workshop on the MIS-SAVIX platform was held from September 12 to 16, 2016 in Lomé, Togo. This training was organized by MAIN (Microfinance African Institutions Network) in collaboration with Carsey School of Public Policy of the University of New Hampshire, Plan International, WARO and VSL Associates.



Group picture of participants

The training was led by Mr. Maurice Kobo OUE-DRAOGO, from Plan International Burkina Faso. A total of 12 persons (9 women and 3 men) coming from 6 different countries (Benin, Togo, Rwanda, Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso) attended the training held at the NOVELA Hotel in Lomé.

The core purpose of this training was to strengthen the participants' knowledge and ability to use the MIS-SAVIX.

The methodological approach used during the training consisted of presentations, followed by exchanges/discussions, online demonstrations, individual practical experience on computers, and individual group practical exercises.

The final evaluation at the end of the 5-days training revealed the high satisfaction by participants. This training enabled everyone to develop and strengthen his/her knowledge and capacity in using the MIS-SAVIX to analyse VSLA's projects' data performance in order to make important decisions for their ongoing programmes.

## UPCOMING EVENTS :

- 1 - Training Course on Social Performance, the SPI4 tool and CPP, 07-11 November 2016 Bukavu, DRC
- 2 - European Microfinance Week, 16-18 November 2016, Luxembourg
- 3 - Innovation to promote inclusive finance for a sustainable development in Ethiopia, 23-26 Nov 2016 (Jijiga, Ethiopia)
- 4 - Progress and Future Direction of Financial Inclusion, 17 October 2016, London, United Kingdom

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