



### NEWS

[Join us for the global learning meeting: Tuesday 6 November 2012](#)

[SPM training for 7 Francophone African networks](#)

### GRANTEES & PROJECTS

[APSFDCI talks SPM strategy with its members](#)

[Strengthening sector transparency](#)

[Introducing our grantee: the National Partnership of Microfinance Market Stakeholders \(NAMMS\) and the Russian Microfinance center \(RMC\)](#)

### CONTACT

For more information, please contact us by e-mail:

[SPFund@mfc.org.pl](mailto:SPFund@mfc.org.pl)

Visit

[www.mfc.org.pl/en/content/news](http://www.mfc.org.pl/en/content/news)

## NEWS

### Join us for the global learning meeting: Tuesday 6 November 2012

The SP Start-up Fund, in cooperation with the SEEP Network, will hold a global learning meeting for the Fund Grantees on Tuesday 6 November 2012 in Washington DC, linked with the SEEP Network Annual Meeting. The first session will be a closed meeting, during which networks will have the chance to discuss their achievements and challenges around:

- motivating and supporting member MFIs to report to the MIX on social performance,
- supporting SPM improvements based on the weaknesses identified through reporting
- lessons learned and future plans.

Following this, an open session (organized the Fund and SEEP) will present the role of networks in advancing SPM, especially their role in USSPM implementation (Universal Standards for Social Performance). SP Start-up Fund Grantees will share lessons learned and examples of good practice related to section 1 and 2 of the USSPM (Defining and Monitoring Social Goals, and Building Commitment of Board, Management and Staff to SPM).

**The open session will be held at 3 pm on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November.**

### SPM training for 7 Francophone African networks

In late November, an SPM training of trainers (TOT) event will bring together 8 national networks from Francophone Africa and 1 from Latin America in Tunis. The TOT will be carried out by MFC and CERISE and hosted by the Tunisian MFI, ENDA . Participants from networks in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DMR Congo, Burundi, Niger, Togo and Haiti will learn about SPM concepts, tools, and SP-related developments. The event draw on case examples of networks more advanced in SPM capacity building and transparency work. During the workshops, participants will also have the opportunity to discuss their motivations to engage in SPM, and plan their awareness-raising activities in their respective countries.

## GRANTEES & PROJECTS

### APSFDCI talks SPM strategy with its members

The Association Professionnelle des Systèmes Financiers Décentralisés de Cote d'Ivoire (APSFDCI) conducted a series



of 2-days strategic workshops for three of its members to take an in-depth look at SPM. In total, over 50 people participated from the following MFIs: Réseau MUCREFAB de Côte d'Ivoire (REMUCI), Groupe d'Épargne et de Soutien en Côte d'Ivoire (GES-CI) and Crédit Mutuel de Côte d'Ivoire (CMCI).

The workshops started with an overview of what SPM is, and why it is important. MFI staff and board members then worked to clarify their missions and define social goals and objectives. They also reflected on their current

microfinance activities and discussed how to better align them with their social objectives, and developed SPM implementation plans to help them achieve these objectives.

As a result of these workshops, each institution has developed SPM implementation plans. Planned activities include:

- integrating social performance indicators into MIS systems
- conducting studies to assess client satisfaction
- training staff in SPM and client protection
- conducting self-assessment in SPM effectiveness
- developing an SPM communication plan
- establishing social performance committees at board level
- committing to ongoing social reporting to the MIX

APSFDCI plans to run similar workshops with its remaining members in the near future, as part of its social performance scale-up plan.

*“So far, we have contributed to improvements in the lives of some clients. However, we were not able to be certain about it, because we haven't had any evidence. With our SPM program we will be able to measure our performance with regards to creating benefits for clients.” –Chairman of (GES-CI)*

## Strengthening sector transparency

Over the past few months, each SP Fund grantee has worked closely with its members on preparing and validating SPS reports to be submitted to the MIX by October. This work was the culmination of a series of awareness-raising workshops for senior management, and capacity building workshops for MFI technical staff. By the end of September, the MIX confirmed receipt of 162 SPS reports from SP Start-up Fund grantee networks. Still more will follow in October.. The majority of SPS reports submitted by grantee networks come from MFIs that have never reported to the MIX, thus helping to improve understanding of the state of SPM practice across the industry.

## Introducing our grantee: the National Partnership of Microfinance Market Stakeholders (NAMMS) and the Russian Microfinance center (RMC)



Established in 2006 by the Russian Microfinance Centre (RMC) and leading experts, NAMMS currently consists of 9 members and 650 associate members, the most active of which are RMC members. The RMC's mission is to:

- promote a strong and sustainable microfinance sector in the Russian Federation
- facilitate access to financial resources for SMEs and low-income people
- create jobs and improve the living standards of the poor.

The RMC's founded NAMMS to create a platform for the country's dynamic and rapidly-developing microfinance sector, to tackle issues such as: legislation, special program development, inter-MFI dialogue, client protection, and maintaining the social mission of microfinance to improve the lives of Russian citizens.

### Why SPM?

NAMMS/RMC believe that implementing SPM will make pricing practices more transparent and improve the

reputation of the Russian microfinance sector, which was undermined by the backlash against high interest rates charged by some MFIs. Although most of the network's members are committed to their social mission, they do not have the capacity to implement SPM and, as a result, apply it in daily operations.

**Project plan in brief:**

NAMMS/RMC's project targets are:

- Staff from 21 MFIs (42 people), members of RMC/NAMMS will participate in SP-awareness raising
- Staff from 16 MFIs will participate in a lessons learned workshops
- 16 SPS reports will be collected from members and submitted to the MIX
- Write at least one case study on SPM implementation by member MFIs
- Expose 750 people (other than members) to awareness-raising through the RMC/NAMMS conference and the forum
- Carry out 3 presentations on social performance at different conferences
- Conduct 3 broadcasting events in internet TV channel NAUMIR
- Develop 1 social performance country-level analysis report

To date, NAMMS/RMC has organized different awareness-raising events: workshops for MFIs, articles in industry journals, webinars on SPS reporting, and a video conference. The latter was titled: *"Reporting practices and microfinance investors: New questions, new role"* and focused on the role of social investors in promoting social performance, the social investor criteria for social performance, and the role of social performance in analyzing overall MFI performance. In recent months, NAMMS/RMC worked with members to prepare their MIX SPS reports. In total, 31 MFIs will report their social and financial data, including 4 MFIs reporting for the first time, and 5 that did not report last year. Currently, NAMMS/RMC is finalizing its country report based on member data, and is developing case studies on SPM implementation based on MFI experience. It is also planning sessions on social performance-related topics at its annual conference (November 2012).