

TRENDS AND ISSUES IN MICROFINANCE INFORMAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 26TH July, 2004 AT FAIRWAY HOTEL

The theme of this quarter's Information Exchange meeting was “**Recent Developments in MFI Service Delivery**” The meeting was attended by 52 participants. Mr. Christopher Musoke, Deputy Grants Investment Manager, DFID Financial Sector Deepening Uganda Project (FSDU), facilitated the meeting. The Chairman of the forum, Mr. Keith Muhakanizi, was unable to attend and chair the meeting due to other duties. The meeting was formally closed by Mr. Helton Achaye of the Microfinance Outreach Plan who spoke of the importance of the informal information exchange meetings, and invited the participants to the habitual cocktail following the presentations.

Two presentations were made.

Highlights:

1st Presentation: “Grameen Bank and its new initiatives; observations from a recent tour”

By Mr. Suleiman Namara, former Executive Director AMFIU, now Senior Social Specialist, World Bank, Uganda Office

Mr. Namara made a presentation on Grameen Bank and described its new initiatives in savings mobilization and outreach to the poorest of the poor. The latter theme generated a lot of interest as it included reaching out to beggars or “struggling borrowers” as Grameen calls them.

Further details can be obtained on the following website:

www.grameen-info.org

2nd Presentation: “Forging New Partnerships to transform dependency into independence”

By Ms. Anne H. Hastings, Director, Fondasyon Kole Zepol (FONKOZE) Haiti

Ms. Hastings described Haiti and the challenges facing the country. She gave a brief history of Fonkoze from its inception in 1996 to date and the vision of its founder Father Joseph. She argued against “credit only” approaches as incomplete tools for fighting poverty and discussed how Fonkoze is forging partnerships with other institutions to meet the health and education challenges of its clients. In particular she explained how Fonkoze has worked with Zanmi Lasante (Partners in Health) to develop and test a comprehensive program directed at bringing the poorest women from abject poverty to economic independence – such as those that have shown such promising potential in other countries.

The Power Point files that were shown by the two presenters are very large as they contain pictures and movies. We are therefore unable to attach them to these minutes. They will be posted to the FSDU website as soon as it is up and running.

Brief from the “Microfinance Pin Board”

Procedure for subscribing to MF LIST SERVE

MF-Uganda is linked to the CGAP Gateway! To subscribe, send an email to:

mf-uganda@syberhut.com typing the word subscribe in the subject line. You will receive a confirmation mail from the list serv. Reply to this mail, not changing anything in the subject line, and you are subscribed. You will receive all postings to the list, and can post information, announcements and discussion topics.

The next Trends and Issues in Microfinance – Informal Information Exchange meeting will take place on **Monday 25th October 2004 at 2.30 pm**. The organizers wish to satisfy the desires of the microfinance community for information and therefore invite suggestions for the theme. People with ideas for future presentations should communicate them to SUFFICE (hmutabazi@suffice.or.ug) or to FSDU (chris@fsdu.or.ug). FSDU invites other institutions that would like to sponsor the Trends and Issues meetings to contact us.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Musoke', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Musoke
DFID/FSDU Project