



Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc.



Forum on Social Performance Increases Awareness on MFIs' Impact

MCPI, in partnership with Asian Institute of Management (AIM), organized and facilitated the "Microfinance Forum on Social Performance" last August 18, 2006 at the Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

The one-day forum served as a venue to share the impact assessment and monitoring practices among Philippine microfinance institutions (MFIs) and to help MFIs assess the existing practices for commonalities, differences as well as strengths and weaknesses. The activity was also aimed at identifying a set of yes common impact indicators for the microfinance sector and mapping out the next steps for the refinement of the indicators.



AIM prepared the six case studies as well as the presentations of the six MFIs that have more experience in social performance measurements. These were Center for Community Transformation (CCT), Cebu MicroEnterprise Development Foundation, Inc. (CMEDFI), Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTf), Kabalikat para sa Maunlad na Buhay, Inc. (KMBI), Ahon sa Hirap Inc. (ASHI) and the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD).

Importance of Common Indicators

From the case studies presented, it was seen that there is no set of common indicators used to assess the social performance of MFIs. It was agreed that having a general set of indicators, which can be used to assess the MFIs, would be beneficial to the microfinance sector as it can help promote transparency and accountability at the industry level. The indicators will also serve as a screening mechanism to encourage new MFIs and as a guide for donors, agencies and funding institutions with regard to choosing which organizations they will provide funds. The indicators will also help assess the relative effectiveness of the different methods in alleviating poverty.

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- 1st SPM Working Group Meeting
- Roundtable Discussion on Agri-Microfinance

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The Need for SPM

Ed Garcia, Executive Director of MCPI, explained that the forum is important given that for the past years, the microfinance sector has been focusing on financial performance and neglecting, in the process, the social aspect of microfinance. In early 2000, the need for social performance monitoring, social performance management and for social performance indicators has been talked about internationally.

As part of the Imp-Act Consortium, MCPI believes that social mission should be at the center of microfinance. Social Performance Management (SPM) is at the core of the activities and programs of MCPI. These include capacity building, lateral learning, advocacy, and regional networking and support.

The Imp-Act Consortium is a group of organizations that promote and support social performance management (SPM). It aims to create conditions for successful mainstreaming of SPM.

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