

helping  
the poorest  
help themselves



the **mutunga** partnership

the mutunga update  
december 2005 - issue #7

# Giving creit where credit is due

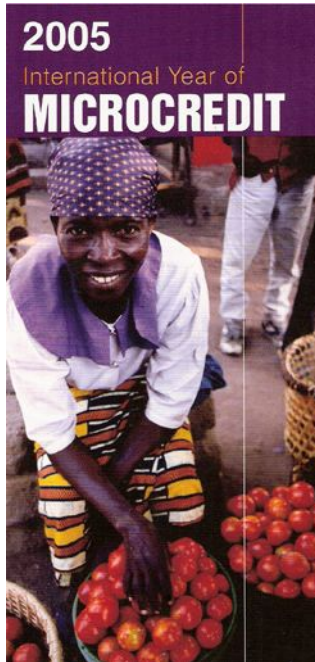
The United Nations brought its 'Year of Micro-credit' to an end by hosting as its final event for the year, the 'International Forum to Build Inclusive Financial Sectors'. Representatives from over 100 countries gathered at UN H.Q in New York, November 7-9, to participate in a conference that included among its panellists and speakers such luminaries as Bill Clinton and HRH Princess Maxima of the Netherlands.

The year has been hailed by the UN as a success, especially in raising public awareness to the issues of microfinance as a highly effective development approach for alleviating chronic poverty.

In her speech to open the conference the Princess said "During the Year I have become more convinced than ever of the benefits of microfinance, not only in reducing poverty but also in building trust and dignity. By enabling entrepreneurship and empowering people, microfinance gives people the opportunity to determine for themselves what is best for them. **Poor people do not want hand-outs: they want opportunities.**"

In Australia the 'Year of Micro-credit' may not have had the exposure as, for example, the UN's 1979 'International Year of the Child'. However campaigners and other

committed souls did their best to bring the micro-credit story to the attention of their various publics.



### A Ship and it's Partner

Certainly in the Mutunga Partnership, we were doing our bit to meet the poor with our product. The October field-trip to Kenya, and the November launch of the Partnership marked two critical points in our development. About 150 people attended the Launch event, which comprised many elements: African food, music and dance, in a TLC main hall transformed into a Kenya 'harambee' meeting place. In every sense the evening was a celebration: a true taste of Africa. The vision, work and goals for 'The Mutunga Partnership' were communicated, and the Partnership was launched. The feedback was generous and very encouraging. Here's a sample:

- We are very excited about the Mutunga Partnership and seeing how it grows and develops.
- It was a wonderful night.
- The music, food, visual effects and spoken information.... all superb!
- Thanks for an interesting evening on Friday; it was a pleasure to be there.
- What a fantastic night last night was! Absolutely inspirational! I can't think of a more just and respectful way of empowering the poor
- Really surprised at how far you had progressed!

A highlight was the presence of Gideon Mbuka. Here are some of his reflections.



**"The launch ceremony for the Mutunga Partnership on Friday 25 November was colourful, informative and captivating. The set up and the programme comprised an authentic "African menu": the dance, songs, clothing, carvings etc. This atmosphere made me feel so much at home although far way from Africa."**

**“I was impressed with the involvement and the commitment of the Australian community to the Mutunga cause as demonstrated by the many people who attended the launch. As I talked with some, they felt that it was an approach worth supporting. Many confirmed that it was an appropriate strategy for empowering the poor as they work to improve their household income and situations. They lauded the approach as not only viable, sustainable and empowering but also one with less administrative cost. The presentations were received with great enthusiasm with some signing on to receive the monthly newsletter and others pledging their commitment and support to the Mutunga Initiative.”** Gideon Mbuka



**Africa Share Partnership** was launched in Nairobi on October 28th. And those attending the launch were informed on the progress achieved so far by our partner agency in mobilizing the groups in Kitengela/Mavoko and Tala/Kangundo in readiness for getting their first loans.

**The Action Plan for Africashare Partnership -January to December 2006.**

**Dec 2005-January 2006**

- Administration: office establishment, equipping office, setting up administrative instruments
- Systems: Finalising the Procedure and Policy manual and developing various products for communication and training, financial tracking, and establishing accounting systems

**Jan –Dec 2006**

- Recruitment: The selection and organizing into savings groups of

1,000 beneficiaries in at least 20  
Client communities

- Preparation of 1,000 borrowers to receive the first batch of loans – beginning with Mavoko/Kitengela and Tala and Kangundo by end March 2006
- Regulatory: Follow up on regulatory issues, and establishing Banking facilities
- Training/induction/orientation: For the Board, Staff and partners
- More consultations with our partners

*“One month after the launch of the Africashare Partnership I visited Australia for a series of activities including sharing with Australian partners on the activities and progress of Africashare Partnership and participation in the launching of the Mutunga Partnership. My interaction with Board members and the many partners and supporters enabled me to understand and appreciate the commitment and support all have for the Mutunga Partnership. This has rekindled my desire to continue allowing God to use me and my team in Kenya for service among the poor”. Gideon Mbuka.*

## **Financial services are as much part of the infrastructure that a country needs for its development as roads or electricity.**

### **And in Australia Dec 2005 – Dec 2006..?**

Here in Australia over the next year our task will be to meet the goal of funding 20 client communities. To achieve this goal **AUD\$240,000** for loans and a further **AUD\$75,000** to fund the local operation to deliver the services to the communities will have to be raised. It is a daunting task but not an unachievable one. Already I am planning meetings with seven interested parties who have invited me to talk with them (and in some cases with their groups and associates), because they wish to contribute to this work. Some of these meetings will take place over the next two weeks.

In addition I plan to run at least **four day conferences** during 2006, to inform interested people – within and outside the Partnership- about how the model works. It will be an opportunity to further explain ‘The Mutunga Partnership’, to answer questions, to familiarise people with the work and its progress, to promote

'The Mutunga \$2 Challenge' and to contribute to a sense of community as we build the Partnership.

We shall also host an **annual celebration** much like our launch, where we can report on the struggles, achievements and surprises and on goals for the succeeding year.

I have begun work on establishing some **working groups or teams** to work more particularly in given areas: 'The Mutunga \$2 Challenge'; the day conferences; Promotion and marketing; advocacy. I also think we need a particular strategy for schools, churches, service clubs and other such groups.

**"The Mutunga Partnership model will give hope to the hopeless and a voice to the voiceless. It will help in alleviating poverty and transforming lives for the millions of people who struggle to put one meal a day on the table."** Gideon Mbuka



### Stop Press

On Thursday Dec 8th Morris was presented with a cheque for \$1000 for The Mutunga Partnership by President Kathy Wilson of the Dromana Rotary Club. (Our very sincere thanks to the Dromana Rotary Club for their generosity)

Our ships are launched. They need wind. I need oxygen.

Feedback is!

In Partnership

Morris



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