

# 18th Microcredit Summit



## Frontier Innovations in Financial Inclusion

[www.18microcreditsummit.org](http://www.18microcreditsummit.org)

MARCH  
14-17,  
2016

*Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.*





## The Campaign & 2014 Summit Overview

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Since the launch of the first Microcredit Summit in 1997, the Campaign has been organizing Summits to gather microfinance practitioners, donors, and stakeholders to discuss the current state of the sector, diffuse innovations, address challenges, and galvanize the use of microfinance in the effort to end extreme poverty. To date, the Summits have attracted nearly 16,000 delegates from over 140 countries and carved out its position as a global convener of an unmatched diversity of actors within the ecosystem of those addressing the financial needs of the very poor.

Recognizing that microfinance is just one strategy among many interventions used to alleviate poverty, the Campaign launched a new vision for the Summits, moving away from regionally focused summits to wide-ranging collaborative events. This new vision was carried out both in the **2013 Summit theme Partnerships against Poverty: Finance, Government and Civil Society**, and in the **2014 Summit theme Generation Next: Innovations in Microfinance**.

These ground-breaking events served as an opportunity for microfinance stakeholders to promote best practices and to engage in a thoughtful discussion around the challenges and opportunities associated with the growth and transformation of the sector. We characterized this as the “next generation” of microfinance guiding the sector to look forward in the financial inclusion movement and continue targeting the world’s poorest. Innovative leaders shared strategies for reaching those living in poverty, such as savings groups and asset-building cash transfer programs, and the challenges that come with growth and scale, such as leadership development and client protection.



*Courtesy of Enda Inter Arabe*

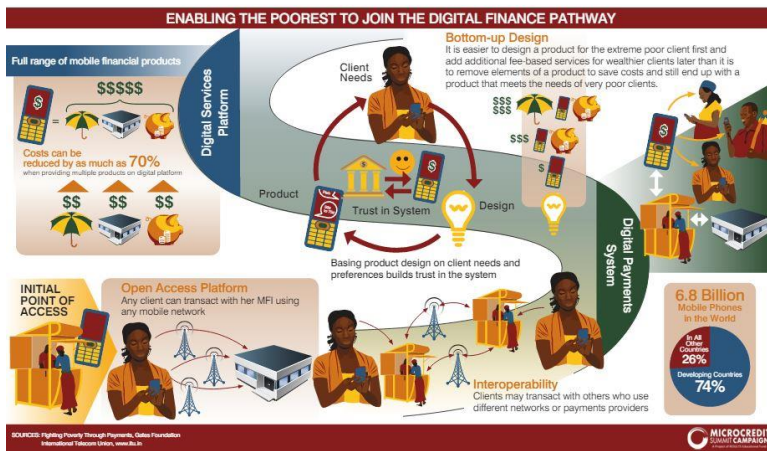
The 2014 Summit brought together **875 people from 60 countries** and featured 160 speakers and presenters in 7 plenary sessions and 35 workshops. We recognized *Truelift Milestone* award-winning organizations for their exemplary work in providing financial and other services to those living in extreme poverty. We also highlighted the **Campaign Commitments** made by 35 organizations to take specific action to help bring about the end of extreme poverty, and 60 more individuals wrote out their commitments during the Summit. Together, we built a vision for the next generation of financial services that reach everyone and that provide even the poorest and most remote with the tools and resources they need to complete the journey to sustainable livelihoods.



## 18th Microcredit Summit

We stand today at the edge of a new frontier. Over the horizon lie uncharted experiments in sustainable development and technology, unanswered questions on best practices for gender equity and youth employment, and unresolved debates on the most effective social and financial inclusion policies that create shared solutions for social change. It would be an easier task to stay the course and accept the status quo, but we believe current times require innovativeness, boldness and determination.

The Microcredit Summit Campaign, in partnership with the Arab Gulf Fund Program for Development (AGFUND) and the Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development, invites you on a journey over the horizon. Join us as we explore **Frontier Innovations in Financial Inclusion** at the *18th Microcredit Summit* this March 14-17, 2016, in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. More than 700 people from the Middle East, Africa, and beyond will explore how microfinance and financial inclusion strategies can create clear pathways out of poverty for the most vulnerable segments of society across the globe.



In recent years, Africa and the Middle East have experienced success, especially with innovations in growing mobile money accounts and experimentations in sub-Saharan Africa. Recent Global Findex 2014 numbers show there is a major opportunity in expanding financial inclusion among women and the poorest households in Africa and the Middle East. But outreach is still low in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), compared to other regions. We

must do more to reach those new frontiers in social and financial inclusion for women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those living in poverty.

Leaders from around the world will convene at the *18th Microcredit Summit* to partake in partnership building, knowledge-sharing, and thoughtful discussion around practices and policies that promote outreach, put clients at the center, and accelerate social change. The Summit agenda will explore these questions:

- How do we advance national financial inclusion strategies that create the appropriate policies and regulatory framework that promote social inclusion for all?
- How do we create more innovative pathways that build resilience and empower those who are often excluded, including women, the elderly, and those living with disabilities?



- How can we use financial inclusion to promote entrepreneurship and provide the appropriate products and services to empower the youth?
- How do we ensure a full range of microfinance products and services reach those who are socially and financially excluded?
- How can we capitalize on the natural synergies between different sectors to contribute to the success of the Universal Financial Access 2020 goal, the World Bank 2030 goals, and the U.N. Global Goals?
- How can we connect rural and remote areas with high levels of poverty with growing markets in their own countries and in other parts of the world?

The *Microcredit Summit Campaign* and its partners are seeking the support of leading organizations and champions for this event to coordinate the efforts in closing the gender gap in financial inclusion and contribute to the success of the post-2015 Global Goals for Sustainable Development and the World Bank goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030. We invite you to take a look at the complete list of sponsorship packages offered and consider the opportunity to be recognized at this forward looking event.

Your sponsorship and participation at the Summit will give you exclusive visibility, unique connections, and an extensive list of benefits. We hope you agree to partner with us and sponsor the 18<sup>th</sup> *Microcredit Summit*.

For more information on sponsorships or any other questions, please contact Fabiola Diaz, at [diaz@microcreditsummit.org](mailto:diaz@microcreditsummit.org).

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to a rewarding partnership.

Larry Reed  
Director, Microcredit Summit Campaign



Courtesy of Enda Inter Arabe



## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



The **Microcredit Summit Campaign** is the world's largest global network of microfinance practitioners and stakeholders. The Campaign was launched at the first Microcredit Summit in 1997, which remains the

largest gathering of microfinance practitioners to date. Since then, the Campaign has led the sector toward reaching the ambitious goals set by its members at the 1997 Summit and expanded in 2006.

### The Campaign's Goals

1. Reaching 175 million poorest families with microfinance.
2. Helping 100 million families lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

The Campaign is the only microfinance organization that has set bold, measurable goals for using microfinance to end extreme poverty and regularly measures progress toward achieving those goals. The aim of the Summit is to catalyze commitment toward the Campaign's goals, accelerate innovation, promote best practices, and command mainstream media attention to microfinance.

Responding to the World Bank's movement to end extreme poverty by 2030 and acknowledging that full financial inclusion can only be achieved by targeting the extreme poor, the Campaign has created the **100 Million Project**, aimed at motivating microfinance stakeholders to provide products and services that reach those in extreme poverty and facilitate their movement out of poverty. Launched at the *2013 Partnerships against Poverty Summit*, the *100 Million Project* galvanizes the industry through recruiting **Campaign Commitments**: building capacity, using measurement tools, and disseminating innovations that facilitate movement out of poverty in the effort to meet Goal 2, or the "100 Million Goal."

As the administrative home for Truelift, an industry initiative to advance pro-poor microfinance, the Campaign is focusing not only on the number of clients reached (Goal 1) but also on the client-level outcomes (Goal 2). Truelift will recognize those MFIs doing the most to help families lift themselves out of poverty.





**The Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND)** is a regional development organization, established in 1980 upon the initiative of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (AGFUND's President) with the support of leaders of the Arab Gulf States. AGFUND works to support sustainable human development toward the targeted groups in the least-developed countries (LDC).

The core developmental works of AGFUND involve alleviating poverty through Financial Inclusion, Early Childhood Development, Women Empowerment, NGO's Enhancement, and Open Education. Proceeding from these core activities, AGFUND had led several initiatives that construe its main objectives. Several initiatives were embodied in specialized development organizations and large projects that reflect and express AGFUND objectives.

### **Poverty Alleviation and Financial Inclusion**

The approach that AGFUND follows in alleviating poverty is traced back to 1997, when HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, AGFUND's President, launched his initiative to establish Banks for the Poor in the least-developed countries, with the aim of integrating the target groups in the financial system of their respective countries, and transforming them into self-reliant productive force. Since then, through advice, consultancy and technical assistance in many countries, AGFUND has sought to pave the way for the regulatory environment of this type of banks. These efforts yielded in 2006 with the opening of the first Microfinance bank in the Arab World in Jordan, namely Alwatani, followed by Alamal in Yemen, then Ibdaa banks in Bahrain, Syria, Sierra Leone, Lebanon, Sudan, Palestine, and Mauritania.

Thus, AGFUND has become the major player in the Arab World in establishing Microfinance banks and providing people who suffer extreme poverty with financial services. In addition, more banks are in the pipeline in Morocco, Tunisia, the Philippines, Comoros and Senegal. AGFUND banks provide services and products ranging from loans, savings, deposits, to current accounts, health insurance, remittances and currency exchange. These banks provided 466,000 loans to more than 2,600,000 beneficiaries, 64% of them are women. They also hire 1,000 employees in 72 branches.



مندوق خليفة لتطوير المشاريع  
Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development

**Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development** has been established in 2007 as an independent body of Abu Dhabi Government to implement the long-term vision of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, under the direction of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. Khalifa Fund aims to contribute towards enhancing the country's competitive economy and to transform the Emirate of Abu Dhabi into a major investment and economic hub in the region.

### **Vision**

To lead entrepreneurship development and to facilitate the growth of competitive SMEs.

### **Mission**

To fuel an entrepreneurial culture, drive innovation and sustainable growth of Emirati SMEs that contribute to the social and economic development of the UAE by providing access to services and financing, and by facilitating an SME-friendly environment.

The Fund provides financing solutions for viable projects, which help to feed the national economy. These financing programs are Khutwa, Bedaya, Zeyada and Tasneea, which cover all segments. In addition, there are number of social initiatives like Sougha, which targets the Emiratis who work on heritage handicrafts, Al Radda that targets rehabilitation center inmates, Ishraq for those who have recovered from addiction at the National Centre for Rehabilitation. Amal is a Khalifa Fund initiative that target special-needs Emiratis. In addition to Al Hasela which targets the Emiratis fishermen.