



Lebanese
Micro-Finance
Association

جمعية مؤسسات التمويل الأصغر في لبنان

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WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO SUPPORT THE MICROFINANCE SECTOR



The voice of the
MICRO-FINANCE industry
in LEBANON

Lebanon is witnessing one of its hardest times.

The country has plunged into a deep financial crisis coupled with a political crisis manifested by thousands of people in the streets protesting the poor economic conditions and pervasive corruption. The crisis is likely to deepen in the months ahead. The LMFA and its members are working collaboratively to face this phase. The crisis management and its related components is brought about by the creation of support mechanisms, focusing on the institutions' sustainability and their clients' maintenance.



CRISIS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



Supporting the MFI members that have already embarked into their respective crisis management processes, the LMFA is planning a workshop that complements each institution's efforts to go through this crisis and looks forward into the preparations for the recovery phase.



LMFA'S NEW WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED AND THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS ARE ACTIVATED.

WWW.LMFALEBANON.ORG



REGULAR BOARD AND OPERATIONS MEETINGS



This crisis has intensified the collaboration among the MFIs. The LMFA is regularly hosting its members either on the executive or the operations level to hold open discussions on the best ways to preserve the clients, the institutions, the sector and its reputation.



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LIFE- USAID FUNDED PROGRAM



Since October 17th, 2019, the financial sector is taking one hit after the other. One of the industry's major and biggest supporters has stepped out and reacted in a swift manner to stand by the Micro Finance Institutions. The updated RFA was designed after a couple of meetings with the main MFIs and the LMFA management.



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NETWORK CAPACITY ASSESSEMENT TOOL



The SEEP Network was contracted by Palladium, for the USAID Lebanon Livelihoods and Inclusive Finance (LIFE) Program, to provide a Technical Assistance package for the Lebanese Microfinance Association (LMFA). The TA package includes capacity development for LMFA and periodic Network Capacity Assessments. This second NCAT, performed in September, was determined as a "check-in" or "lightweight" assessment to be conducted three years after the first assessment to measure the association's progress. The findings shared were beneficial in providing a framework for the LMFA to evolve in the needed capacity to better serve its members and to strengthen the microfinance sector in Lebanon. The recommendations are used to enhance and amend the association's business plan.



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MENA FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FORUM – DUBAI



The Middle East Financial Institutions Forum, in Dubai, follows the successful Forum held in Asia earlier this year. The Forum aims to address the most pressing issues facing financial institutions today, including fintech, blending conventional and Islamic finance, financial inclusion and the provision of financial services to refugees. Advancing the financial industry and deepening business relations in this industry, by convening annually and network building: Bringing together the region's actors, from MFI to DFI, from MIV to commercial bank, to strengthen the region's financial systems. The LMFA General Manager, Ilda Nahas, participated in this forum and met the various investors and DFIs present and aiming to invest in Lebanon. Introductions have been made to some of the interested MFIs members of the LMFA.



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THE SEEP CONFERENCE



In October 2019, the USAID Funded Livelihood and Inclusive Finance Program (LIFE) sponsored the LMFA's General Manager, Ilda Nahas, to participate in the SEEP Conference 2019. SEEP's annual conference brings together development practitioners, donors, investors, research organizations, and the private sector, all of whom are dedicated to promoting more inclusive markets and financial systems. This year, Conference's theme "Building Resilience through Market Systems", highlights proven and experimental strategies that harness the potential of the market to support people, enterprises, and communities that are highly vulnerable to the shock-stress-shock cycle. The aim of the visit is to look into the potential assistance and developmental ideas to scale up the LMFA's current model into a wider network that addresses Financial Inclusion on a Nationwide scale, thus enlarging the members' platform to include the major industry stakeholders.

Please take a look at the industry's figures on our website www.lmfalebanon.org and we are proud to announce that the Arabic version of our website is online!



THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

We regret to inform you that due to reasons beyond our control, the LMFA convention has been postponed to an ulterior date that will be communicated in due time. We would like to thank every single person that has helped, encouraged and supported us during more than eight weeks of preparation for the event. Looking forward to seeing you soon!





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