



**Lebanese
Micro-Finance
Association**

جمعية مؤسسات التمويل الأصغر في لبنان

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IN TIMES OF CRISIS



The voice of the
MICRO-FINANCE industry
in LEBANON

In challenging times, we roll up our sleeves and get to work with a constructive outlook and high spirits! The LMFA has set itself to reinforce existing partnerships, build new ones, induce perspective changes to secure support of the many industry stakeholders.



DONORS & INVESTORS MEETING AT THE LMFA



Major industry stakeholders met at the Lebanese Micro Finance Association's offices to discuss some of the repercussions of the country's current financial crisis on the microfinance institutions and prepare appropriate responses.

The main discussion objectives were to go over the industry's and MFI's current challenges in light of the crisis and discuss potential joint industry solutions that would be supported by the adapted advocacy tools and lobbying with relevant stakeholders.

We would like to thank all the partner institutions that have attended and actively participated in the discussions.

Some major outcome solutions are being discussed further for implementation.
CGAP - EBRD - EIB- IFC - LEEP- LIFE -PROPARCO - USAID- World Bank



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

WWW.LMFALEBANON.ORG



IFC PSYCHOMETRIC SCORING ROUNDTABLE



The LMFA hosted a round-table facilitated by Oscar Madeddu - IFC's credit reporting and risk assessment guru, to present the project to the MFIs Psychometric scoring, a new way of making credit worthiness assessment by financial institutions. The aim is to improve access to finance for 'the invisibles, the informals, the unscorables', mainly individuals and informal micro enterprises, that do not have the hope to build a credit history. A model built on personality traits and other non-credit data. Expanding financial institutions' client base, digitizing identities of the undeserved and unknown people, and ultimately improving their access to affordable credit.

A pilot project will be developed with interested MFIs.

*a special thanks to Ms. Carol Khouzami



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LEEP & DFID DISCUSSIONS



The Lebanon Enterprise and Employment Programme LEEP funded by UK Aid and implemented by Palladium held a roundtable discussion to look into the challenges faced by the small and micro enterprises and what recommendations and solutions can be proposed to support them.

Six SMEs, three Financial Institutions, two BDS providers and the LMFA's General Manager attended the meeting to voice out their challenges and potential solutions to crisis. The DFID, LEEP and Palladium representatives were very receptive to our ideas.

Key Challenges and Key Opportunities Identification will shape the Potential "radical" LEEP program adaptations ranging from Fund to support purchases, Focus on some value chains/clusters sectors of the broader service economy, Support to the agricultural sector, and look into the possibility of providing seed funding, as well as, building a Survival "boot camp" to provide MSMEs with tools and skills to help them survive through the economic crisis.

Follow ups will be planned along the way involving the major stakeholders of the different sectors.



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ESCWA MINARET ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP CONFERENCE & NETWORKING



Ilda Nahas, the General Manager of the LMFA, participated in the Minaret second annual meeting in Amman. ESCWA REGEND United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) - small-scale renewable energy project. Discussing the challenges and opportunities in terms of access to finance and capacity building. How the MFIs and their financial products can help and support the small scale energy projects. Through the networking, we enhance awareness and build potential partnerships.



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NETWORKING - SECTOR AWARENESS - LOBBYING



Dr. Muhammad Baasiri, BDL Vice Governor, held a closed session on “The Banking Crisis and Ways Forward” at the Nudge Lebanon office.

An outlook on the possible ways of sustainability during the crisis, the financial sector challenges and some potential proposed solutions to reactivate international and national support.

Ilda was able to voice out the microfinance sector’s challenges amidst the financial crisis.



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CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE LMFA STAFF IN TIMES OF CRISIS



A Contingency planning workshop was delivered by 3QA at Antwork.

3QA is a regional social enterprise that offers organizations support through its programs and services that focus on holistic organizational management and excellence in governance.

The workshop focused on the strategies to adopt to use the current funding and secure new/additional in the times of crisis; to support the non-profits in navigating through the crisis and the types of partnerships to be built to sustain that perspective.

Networking with similar entities and discussing similar challenges was an added value!



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