



## MAINnews

No. 9 February 2016

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*The Executive Direction of  
MAIN*

*"Wishes You Joyous  
Beginning and Lots of Good  
Cheer and Success  
on This New Year and  
Forever"*

### Roundtable on « A Chain of Financial Solidarity »

On December 17th 2015, SIDI (Solidarité Internationale pour le Développement et l'Investissement) organized a roundtable discussion on « A Chain of Financial Solidarity » which was held at "Caisse des Dépôts" in Paris to honor the retirement of Mr Schmitz Christian who managed the institution for the past 20 years. Over 170 guests comprised of founders, shareholders and solidarity savers, partners and members of the operational team were present at the meeting. Four phases on various topics have marked the evening, i.e:

1. Foundations and founder of the chain of financial solidarity
2. Words of partners: the support SIDI day
3. Convictions of allied of SIDI
4. Handover

The executive director of MAIN had the privilege to speak during the panel which was devoted to partners and has mentioned the support of SIDI to the network since its creation. It was also an opportunity to present the network to the audience and demonstrate what MAIN represents today in Africa through its various activities.

The last panel was dedicated to the handover ceremony between the outgoing director (Christian Schmitz) and the incoming Director (Dominique Lesaffre). This occasion was an opportunity to ask each of the directors to say a few words and share some of their thoughts with the audience. The closing ceremony was made by Mr LESAFFRE, the new director who thanked everyone for coming to this solemn occasion which also marks the beginning of a new era for SIDI.

### Microfinance is expected to grow 15-20% in sub-Saharan Africa in 2016, according ResponsAbility

The microfinance sector is expected to grow 15-20% in sub-Saharan Africa in 2016, according to a recent report published by the Swiss group ResponsAbility, which is the largest private investor in microfinance in the world.

Sub-Saharan Africa is just behind the Asia-Pacific region, where growth of microfinance is expected to peak at 30% this year, thanks to the dynamism of India and unparalleled Cambodian markets. The Caucasus and Central Asia should not however, record a growth of 0-10%, mainly

because of the slowdown in the Russian economy. In Latin America, microfinance institutions are expected to grow by 5-10% against 10% in Eastern Europe and 10-15% in North Africa and the Middle East.

To Learn more: <http://www.agenceecofin.com/microfinance/2312-34737-la-microfinance-devrait-croitre-de-15-a-20-en-afrique-subsaharienne-2016-selon-responsabilite>  
Source: Ecofin, Dec 28th, 2015

### **M-Birr The New Mobile Banking Solution in Ethiopia**

M-Birr is the 1st mobile money service in Ethiopia which is established by a consortium of the major MFIs which allows doing financial transaction through mobile technology. The aim of this company is to equip the MFIs with the modern technology in order to reach as many clients as possible and deliver quality services. In addition, mobile banking could allow the institution to serve existing customers better and at the same time enable to reach new customers. It is fast, efficient, secure, convenient, safe and operates 24/7. One can deposit and withdraw cash at any agents and branches throughout Ethiopia. All operations require entering secret PIN code to get access to one's account. And even if one loses his/her mobile phone, the person doesn't lose his/her money.

Microfinance institutions have legally been registered and started delivering services in Ethiopia since 1996. The National Bank of Ethiopia regulates the institutions along with the banks and insurance companies. Currently there are 35 legally registered microfinance institutions in the country. Among these institutions, the major ones (MFIs) are owned by regional governments/endowment companies. These are Amhara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI), Dedit Credit and Saving Institution (DECSI), Oromia (OCSSCO) Credit and Savings Institutions, Omo Microfinance Institution (OMFI), and Addis Credit and Saving Institution (ADCSI).

The 5 MFIs have close to 8 million clients currently and aims to double this number in the coming few years with the help of this technology in particular. This new area of mobile banking technology is also one of the intended areas of focus for the second edition of the growth and transformational plan of the country.

### **Meet the 2015 SEED Winners: 27 inspiring social and environmental start-up enterprises awarded in Nairobi, Kenya**

The 2015 SEED Winners represent the most innovative and promising social and environmental start-up enterprises selected from more than 500 applications received from 55 countries.

27 SEED Awards to 27 institutions representing Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Namibia operating in agriculture, energy, green technology, waste and sanitation were awarded. The SEED Catalyser offers each SEED Award Winner a customized support package consisting of tools, capacity building, profiling, network building, and financing, all tailored to their individual needs.

### **What is SEED Award?**

The SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development is an annual awards scheme designed to find the most promising, innovative and locally-led start-up social and environmental enterprises in countries with developing and emerging economies. The independent SEED International Jury of experts selects enterprises which have the potential to make real improvements in poverty eradication and environmental sustainability while contributing to a greener economy.

The call for applications for the 2016 SEED Awards will be opened in early 2016. For further information please follow the full information on <https://www.seed.uno>

### **Responsible Inclusive Finance Introductory Training program in DRC, Togo and Ethiopia**

MAIN had the privilege to organize three sessions on Responsible Inclusive Finance Introductory Training during the last semester of the year. The trainings were held in the Democratic Republic of Congo (21-25 September), Togo (04-06 Nov.) & Ethiopia (Nov. 16-18). Each training session was attended by close to 30 participants.

The purpose of the RIF is to strengthen the Social Performance Management (SPM) practices, including client protection practices of financial institutions in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) and the Middle East and North African (MENA). These training sessions enabled participants to better understand the management of social performance, universal norms and the SPI 4 CERISE tool.

The training programmes were successful and participants pledged to disseminate and implement the achievements of the training in their respective institutions.



**Board of Directors Meeting of MAIN**

The 30th and 31st board of directors meetings of MAIN were held on the 28th of June and 4th of December 2015 in Dakar, Senegal preceding the African Microfinance Week and in Lome, Togo respectively. Different reports prepared by the executive direction including the activity and audit report of the year 2014 during the meetings were approved. They have also discussed on different agenda items prepared by the executive direction and passed on resolutions.

10 new applications for membership were received by the board from Togo, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso. Each institution has submitted complete applications and the board approved all and admitted their institutions.



**current composition of Board**

The 30th board meeting has marked the final term of the chairman and members of board of directors except the two founding members who are statutory board members, elected on rotation. The foregoing board has served the organization since 2011. With this regard, the executive direction would like to extend its gratitude to the foregoing board for their effective diligence to monitor the achievements of the objectives of the association. And the executive direction also welcomed the new members of the board and thanked them for having accepted the position to serve the organization for the coming three years. The next board meeting is going to be held in June 2016.