

*Progressing Financial Inclusion Through
Greater Regional Cooperation*

MEKONG

FINANCIAL INCLUSION FORUM
PROGRAM

11-14 July 2016

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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INTRODUCTION

The Mekong Financial Inclusion Forum is a major new industry initiative to explore and discuss the differences, similarities and opportunities for achieving financial inclusion within this unique region.

The 1st Mekong Financial Inclusion Forum is an initiative of the Banking with the Poor Network (BWTP) and organized by the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) and Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA), in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) which receives donor support from DFAT. The Forum is being hosted by the National Bank of Cambodia.

The Forum aims to strengthen the level of cooperation and knowledge exchange between countries and institutions to progress financial inclusion within the Greater Mekong Subregion, namely: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and People's Republic of China (specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region).

The Forum will address the region's priority issues including: the role of national development strategies, best practice regulation and supervision; the use of technology and alternative delivery channels; the provision of client education and consumer protection; developing infrastructure that will enable financing for micro, small and medium enterprise; and creating and promoting coordinated action and partnerships between the private sector, government, the community and development partners. The Forum will also incorporate gender perspectives into each session in order to capture the diversity and range of issues faced by men and women in accessing and using financial services.

About the Banking with the Poor Network

The Banking with the Poor Network (BWTP) is an Asian association of a diverse range of microfinance stakeholders committed to improving the quality of life of the poor through promoting and facilitating their access to and use of sustainable financial services. The BWTP Network is the largest regional microfinance network in Asia, with over 100 member institutions – comprising MFIs, NGOs, commercial and development banks, microfinance networks, non-bank financial institutions, cooperatives, central banks and service providers.

For more details, visit: www.bwtp.org

DAY 1 - 11 JULY

07:30-17:00 **Mekong Financial Inclusion Forum Registration**

Workshops and Field Visits

13:30-18:00 **Workshop 1: Research Meets Asia - Enhancing Financial Inclusion in the Asia Region**

Facilitator: Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA)

8:30-17:00 **Workshop 2: SIMFI – A Microfinance Institution Simulation Platform**

Facilitator: Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA)

13:30-15:30 **Workshop 3: Youth Economic Ecosystem in Cambodia: A UNCDF Assessment**

Facilitator: United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

8:30-12:30 **Workshop 4: Microfinance Product Diversification – Introduction and Peer Exchange**

Facilitator: Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA)

8:00-13:30 **Field Visit 1: LOLC (Cambodia) Plc**

8:00-17:30 **Field Visit 2: Microfinance Institution “Amret”**

17:30-19:00 **ASEAN Working Committee for Financial Inclusion Meeting (Closed Session)**

DAY 2 - 12 JULY

08:00-09:00 **Mekong Financial Inclusion Forum Registration**

09:00-10:00 **Welcome, Introductions and Addresses**

Welcome Remarks

- **Mr. Chandula Abeywickrema**, Chairman, Banking with the Poor Network (BWTP)
- **Mr. Olivier Massart**, Executive Director, Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA), Luxembourg
- **Ms. Judith Karl**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- **Mr. Jan Hansen**, Senior Country Economist, Cambodia Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Keynote Address

- **Her Excellency Neav Chanthana**, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia

10:00-10:15 **Coffee Break & Networking**

DAY 2 - Continued

10:15-10:45

Launch of Cambodia Financial Inclusion Demand Side Survey (FinScope) by the National Bank of Cambodia

Opening Remarks

- **Her Excellency Neav Chanthana**, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia

Address: The Need for National Financial Inclusion Strategies

- **Mr. Henri Dommel**, Director, Inclusive Finance, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Presentation: Topline Findings of Cambodia's FinScope Survey

- **Mr. Obert Maposa**, Information and Research Specialist, FinMark Trust

Closing Remarks

- Representative, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia

10:45-12:15

Session 1: Overview of the Mekong Region

Financial inclusion within the Greater Mekong Subregion is characterized by a diversity of domestic markets and contexts; gender differences in access and usage of financial services, different approaches to the provision of financial services, levels of financial sector development, influence of disruptive technologies and business models from other parts of the world; and results being achieved. While the financial sectors of each country within the region are at differing stages of development, they share many of the same challenges and are experiencing similar trends which are opening up new opportunities for economic growth. This session will examine these key trends and challenges impacting the Mekong region and highlight some of the most promising opportunities for stakeholders to act upon. The session will also showcase a range of financial inclusion success stories to further illustrate how the region is effectively responding to the challenge of greater financial inclusion.

Moderator:

- **Ms. Nina Nayar**, Associate, The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Feisal Hussain**, Senior Regional Technical Advisor, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- **Mr. Stephen Higgins**, Managing Partner, Mekong Strategic Partners, Cambodia
- **Ms. Ratchada Anantavasilpa**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank Group
- **Mr. Sanjay Sinha**, Managing Director, M-CRIL

12:15-13:30

Lunch & Networking

DAY 2 - Continued

13:30-15:00

Session 2: Financing the Excluded: Innovations for Last Mile Financing in the Mekong

What are the successful innovative products and services impacting financial inclusion in the Mekong region? How can financial services providers increase access and use of financial services and products targeted to women and men, particularly the poor, unbanked households and minority clients? How far down into the informal economy can formal financial services providers (i.e., banks and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs)) reach? What are the relevant costs and benefits of investing in innovative products? This session will examine the successful financial inclusion innovations in the Mekong region for last mile financing and look at ways in which these innovations could be replicated or scaled up to increase overall impact.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Kammy Naidoo**, Global Programme Advisor, Making Access Possible, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Gaurav Bhandari**, Senior Global Partnerships Manager - Asia, Greenlight Planet
- **Mr. Chea Phalarin**, Chief Executive Officer, Amret Microfinance Institution, Cambodia
- **Mr. Isara Wongrung**, Senior Executive Vice President (Personal Customer Group), Government Savings Bank, Thailand
- **Ms. Marie Valdez**, Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Software Group

15:00-15:30

Coffee Break & Networking

15:30-17:00

Session 3: Policy and Regulation in the Mekong: Developing Strategic Frameworks for Financial Inclusion

Effective policy and regulation is informed by industry and clients. This session will focus on the different approaches used by governments to formulate policies and regulations, and define and implement national financial inclusion strategies. As part of this discussion, we will focus on both the use of data to influence policy decisions and establish national financial inclusion roadmaps, and how it can reveal opportunities for public-private partnerships and stronger relationships between the financial inclusion community and regulators. The role of national networks and associations as an important evidence-based advocacy channel and relationship builder between the government and industry will also be examined. The importance of gender-disaggregated data to better analyze market barriers and customers for informed policy decision making will also be emphasized.

Moderator:

- **Mr. Charles Marwa**, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist & Financial Inclusion Data Working Group Manager, Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)

DAY 2 - Continued

Panelists:

- **Ms. Pamouane Phetthany**, Director, Lao Microfinance Association (MFA)
- **Dr. Don Nakornthab**, Senior Director, Financial Institutions Strategy Department, Financial Institutions Policy Group, Bank of Thailand
- **Mr. Rath Sovannorak**, Deputy Director General, Banking Supervision, National Bank of Cambodia
- **Ms. Dan Wang**, Deputy Secretary General, China Association of Microfinance (CAM)
- **Mr. Pungky P. Wibowo**, Director of Payment System Policy and Supervision Department, Group of Retail Payment System Development and Financial Inclusion, Bank Indonesia
- **Dr. Sandar Oo**, Director General, Financial Regulatory Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar

17:00-18:30

Session 4: The Impact of Finance on the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs)

This session will focus on the role of the financial services providers in the development of MSMEs and women's entrepreneurship. As part of this discussion important case studies relevant to the Mekong region will be examined to show how financial services providers and other financial inclusion stakeholders can support start-up and small enterprises to expand. This will include the role of various financial inclusion stakeholders in developing the necessary infrastructure, promoting innovation, and supporting entrepreneurship; along with the role of state owned and development banks in supporting MSMEs through risk-sharing and other means. The session will also examine the perspective of investors and provide discussion on topics such as supply chain financing, developing MSME clusters and promoting trade.

Moderator:

- **Mr. Christian Baron**, Executive Advisor, Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA), Luxembourg

Panelists:

- **Mr. Pascal Ly**, CEO, Credit Bureau Cambodia
- **Mr. Gerald Sun**, Vice President, Head of Sales, Commercial Payments, Asia Pacific, MasterCard Worldwide
- **Mr. Yannick Milev**, Country Coordinator for Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Entrepreneurs du Monde (EDM)
- **Ms. Nguyen Thi Tuyet Minh**, Chairwoman, Vietnam Women Entrepreneurs Council
- **Mr. Venkat EN**, Partner, Aavishkaar, India
- **Mr. Shigehiro Shinozaki**, Financial Sector Specialist (SME Finance), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

18:30-21:00

Mekong Financial Inclusion Forum Cocktails and Welcome Dinner

DAY 3 - 13 July

09:00-10:30

Session 5: The Place of MFIs in the Financial Inclusion Ecosystem

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) play an important role in expanding access to quality financial services; particularly to poor and rural communities. MFIs traditionally have been driven by a social mission to serve the poor and low income households, specifically women, rather than only commercial objectives, to further support local development at a grass-roots level. This level of interaction with communities gives MFIs a unique advantage when it comes to building relationships and understanding the specific needs of unbanked and underserved men and women. In this panel discussion representatives from the region's leading MFIs along with industry experts will discuss the role of MFIs in society and the financial inclusion ecosystem as enablers of greater access, usage and impact of financial services to the excluded. This discussion will also explore ways in which MFIs can support other social and environmental needs of the communities they operate in through Microfinance Plus (MF+), the advantages of MFIs forming partnerships with other financial inclusion stakeholders such as commercial banks and MNOs to leverage digital financial service platforms, and the challenges and opportunities MFIs have in accessing finance.

Moderator:

- **Ms. Anya Berezhna**, Regional Manager, South & East Asia, Symbiotics

Panelists:

- **Mr. Somphone Sisenglath**, Managing Director, Ekphatthana Microfinance Institution, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- **Ms. Leonie Lethbridge**, Chief Executive Officer, ANZ Royal, Cambodia
- **Mr. Robin Gravesteijn**, Data Management Specialist (Analytics and Research), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- **Mr. Ko Ko Maung**, Director, Financial Inclusion and Micro-finance Division, Financial Regulatory Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break & Networking

11:00-12:30

Session 6: Realizing Potential and Minimizing Risk through Client Protection and Developing Financial Capability

With the growing number and sophistication of financial products and services being offered by institutions, greater opportunities are becoming available for women and men to utilize the formal financial sector to strengthen their own economic position and prospects. However, this market development can also bring with it significant risks, such as predatory lending practices, data and identity protection, etc. Due to the rate at which these new products and services are developed, it can be challenging for regulators to keep up with the latest offerings to ensure that appropriate and effective regulatory measures are in place to protect consumers. This session will explore this situation in the Mekong region and highlight examples that demonstrate

DAY 3 - Continued

effective ways in which financial education programs can be delivered to build the financial capability of female and male clients. The session will also illustrate how the financial education programs of financial services providers positively impacts their operations.

Moderator:

- **Ms. Kelly Hattel**, Financial Sector Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Panelists:

- **Ms. Jaclyn Berfond**, Specialist, Research, Monitoring & Evaluation, Women's World Banking (WWB)
- **Ms. Jayshree Venkatesan**, Financial Inclusion Consultant
- **Mr. Voeun Sok**, Chief Executive Officer, LOLC (Cambodia) Plc.
- **Mr. Shane Nichols**, Program Director, Good Return

12:30-14:00

Lunch & Networking

14:00-15:30

Session 7: Stimulating the Use and Impact of Remittances through Technology

Much of the Asia region is characterized by increasing migration, and the Greater Mekong Subregion contains several major migration corridors. The growing level of various forms of migration, both within and outside of the Mekong region, is continuously stimulating growth and demand for remittance services; however significant barriers still exist for many migrant families to access and use formal remittance services due to issues such as high cost and the lack of services which meet their unique needs. Furthermore, women's role both as remittance senders and remittance receivers is particularly important due to changing dynamics in the Mekong region. This session will examine ways in which the latest technology innovations can be used to increase access and reduce costs of formal remittance services in the Mekong region. The use of mobile financial service platforms as well as alternative financing models for remittances will be discussed and how these platforms can be used to address the gender specific barriers faced by women. The session will highlight the need for migrants, specifically women, to maintain ownership and control over their remittances and innovative models used to address this.

Moderator:

- **Mr. Ron Bevacqua**, Managing Director, ACCESS Advisory Inc.

Panelists:

- **Ms. Franchette Chingcuanco-Cardona**, Product & Marketing Director, Wing (Cambodia) Limited Specialised Bank
- **Ms. Irma Cosico**, Chief Executive Officer, ASKI Global
- **Ms. Juanita Woodward**, Principal Consultant at Connecting the Dots, Singapore Country Director at WorldRemit
- **Mr. Nitish Narain**, Manager, MicroSave

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break & Networking

DAY 3 - Continued

16:00-17:30

Session 8: Accelerating Financial Inclusion in the Mekong through Collaboration

In this session panelists will highlight the most important messages from the Forum and specifically identify the most significant opportunities for greater collaboration to accelerate financial inclusion of women and men in the region. These collaboration opportunities will relate to both cross-sector as well as cross-border cooperation with the aim of facilitating ongoing discussion and action to support the continued expansion of financial inclusion in the Mekong region.

Moderator:

- **Mr. Chandula Abeywickrema**, Chairman, Banking with the Poor Network (BWTP)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Kiatchai Sophasienphong**, Vice Minister for Finance, Ministry of Finance, Thailand
- **Dr. Bun Mony**, Chief Executive Officer, Sathapana Ltd., Cambodia
- **Ms. Mirjam Janssen**, Regional Manager East & Southeast Asia, Triodos Investment Management
- **Mr. Sonexay Sithphaxay**, Deputy Governor, Bank of the Lao PDR
- **Ms. Kelly Hattel**, Financial Sector Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

17:30-18:00

Closing Remarks

- **Ms. Sabine Spohn**, Senior Investment Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- **Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Cambodia
- **Ms. Corinne Feypel-Molitor**, Member of the Board of Directors, Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA)
- **Mr. Chandula Abeywickrema**, Chairman, Banking with the Poor Network (BWTP)

DAY 4 - 14 July

The first Mekong Microfinance Investor's Fair

Organized for the first time in the Mekong region, the objective of the Microfinance Investor's Fair is to bring microfinance institutions (MFIs) together with the investors active in the sub region. By encouraging these partnerships and exchanges of experiences, the Fair aims to increase access to external funding for MFIs.

The first Mekong Investor's fair will take place on Thursday 14th July 2016, at the Intercontinental hotel in Phnom Penh, following the Mekong Financial Inclusion Forum.

The morning of the event will be dedicated to speed-dating sessions between MFIs and investors. These sessions are the perfect opportunity to meet a maximum amount of shareholders.

These sessions are the perfect opportunity to meet with a large number of potential shareholders. In order to plan these sessions, the organizers will be collecting participants' data in advance via online forms.

Each speed-dating session is 25 minutes long. The afternoon agenda will be more flexible and will include the possibility of taking private appointments with all exhibitors.

Participation at the Mekong Microfinance Investor's Fair is limited to representatives of microfinance investment companies (investors) and microfinance institutions (MFIs).

ORGANISERS



The Banking with the Poor Network (BWTP) is an Asian association of a diverse range of microfinance stakeholders committed to improving the quality of life of the poor through promoting and facilitating their access to and use of sustainable financial services. The BWTP Network is the largest regional microfinance network in Asia, with over 100 member institutions – comprising MFIs, NGOs, commercial and development banks, microfinance networks, non-bank financial institutions, cooperatives, central banks and service providers. For more details, visit www.bwtp.org



The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) is an independent Australian foundation making a distinctive contribution to building prosperity in developing countries in the Asia Pacific region by pursuing initiatives that reduce poverty and promote equitable growth. We achieve this by researching, piloting and promoting development initiatives that are market-based and innovative, drawing on the collective skills, knowledge and resources of organisations from across the public, private, NGO and academic sectors. Established in 1990, FDC has its head office in Brisbane and a Pacific regional office in Fiji. For more details, visit www.fdc.org.au



Appui au Développement Autonome (ADA) – For 22 years, ADA has been committed to developing microfinance services to populations excluded from traditional banking channels. Our aim is to strengthen the autonomy and capacity of microfinance institutions (MFIs), professional associations and networks. In South-East Asia, ADA supports technically and financially the national microfinance networks of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. ADA also provides support to governments to reinforce and structure the microfinance industry on regional and national levels. We develop and offer specific and innovative microfinance products to MFIs, trainings to microfinance professionals acting in and for the south, and support MFIs in their search for funds. In addition, we have chosen to be present in the field of research to anticipate the future needs of the world of microfinance and to measure the social impact of our actions. ADA, whose headquarters are in Luxembourg, pursues its goals with the support of the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. ADA benefits from the patronage of HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg. www.ada-microfinance.org



Luxembourg's Development Cooperation has been committed for nearly 20 years to the development of microfinance and inclusive finance. The Directorate works with civil society stakeholders specialised in microfinance. Luxembourg supports the evolution of the sector through its contribution, conceptualisation, support for research and development of new tools, political action in many national and international fora, exchanges with multilateral and bilateral partners, both public and private, or CSOs and through its financial commitment to a multitude of actors and programmes active in this area. www.gouvernement.lu/cooperation

PARTNERS



The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) is the national prudential regulator and supervisor in Cambodia of banks and financial institutions, which are legal entities licensed to carry out banking operations as their regular businesses (Commercial banks, Specialized banks, Microfinance Deposit-Taking institutions, and Microfinance institutions). The NBC is also responsible for monetary policy in Cambodia. The main prudential functions of the NBC are to license, de-license, regulate and supervise banks and financial institutions



United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is the UN's capital investment agency for the world's 48 least developed countries. With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers "last mile" finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF's **Shaping Inclusive Finance Transformations (SHIFT)** programme in the ASEAN region, which receives donor support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, works to advance women's economic empowerment by unlocking financial markets, and integrating women-centric strategies in growing inclusive enterprises. SHIFT uses innovative financing mechanisms to extend investments in last-mile financial infrastructure.



The Asian Development Bank (ADB), based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. For more information about ADB, visit www.adb.org.

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\$16.29 B

Loans, Grants, and Others

\$141 M

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\$10.74 B

COFINANCING

\$4.56 B

Commercial Cofinancing

\$6.17 B

Official and other concessional cofinancing

OFFICIAL AND OTHER CONCESSIONAL COFINANCING

\$6.17 BILLION for 154 projects*
(Compared with \$4.43 billion for 167 projects in 2014)

*A project with more than one source of cofinancing is counted only once.

WHERE WE WORK

CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA

\$1.22 B

Uzbekistan Fund for Reconstruction and Development, \$70 M

Islamic Development Bank, \$100 M

Eurasian Development Bank, \$150 M

World Bank, \$500 M

United Kingdom, \$301 M

Others, \$0.4 M

Japan, \$0.6 M

Clean Energy Fund, \$2 M

Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund, \$96 M

LOANS \$820 M

GRANTS \$400 M

EAST ASIA

\$270 M

China Construction Bank, \$82 M

LOANS \$248 M

Germany, \$167 M

Japan, \$14 M

Others, \$0.6 M

People's Republic of China, \$0.5 M

Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility, \$0.7 M

Urban Environmental Infrastructure Fund, \$0.7 M

Global Environment Facility, \$5 M

GRANTS \$22 M

SOUTHEAST ASIA

\$2.22 B

Others, \$96 M

European Investment Bank, \$97 M

ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, \$155 M

Germany, \$328 M

France, \$405 M

World Bank, \$1.01 B

LOANS \$2.09 B

Others, \$46 M

Strategic Climate Fund, \$21 M

Regional Malaria and Other Communicable Disease Threats Trust Fund, \$14 M

Asian Investment Facility, \$14 M

Japan, \$14 M

World Bank, \$13 M

GRANTS \$122 M

SOUTH ASIA

\$2.16 B

Japan, \$280 M

Islamic Development Bank, \$220 M

European Investment Bank, \$50 M

Others, \$121 M

Germany, \$625 M

LOANS \$1.96 B

World Bank, \$665 M

Global Partnership for Education, \$100 M

European Commission, \$55 M

Japan, \$31 M

The Netherlands, \$7 M

Republic of Korea, \$2 M

Others, \$2 M

GRANTS \$197 M

PACIFIC

\$281 M

World Bank, \$73 M

LOANS \$173 M

European Investment Bank, \$100 M

Australia, \$23 M

New Zealand, \$13 M

Others, \$15 M

European Commission, \$9 M

Strategic Climate Fund, \$24 M

GRANTS \$108 M

ACROSS THE REGIONS

\$26 M

Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund, \$4 M

Clean Technology Fund, \$4 M

Australia, \$3 M

Japan, \$3 M

Austria, \$3 M

Others, \$9 M

GRANTS \$26 M

REGIONAL MICROFINANCE

RISK PARTICIPATION AND GUARANTEE PROGRAM



Access to finance is a huge problem for individuals and microbusinesses throughout Asia and the Pacific



Globally, more than 2 billion people do not have access to financing



Across Asia and the Pacific, many microfinance institutions still struggle to obtain commercial funding to grow and meet the demands of low-income segments

ADB's Microfinance Risk Participation and Guarantee Program fills market gaps by sharing risks to promote local currency lending to the microfinance sector



ADB is currently working with one international and four local (Indian) partner institutions



Local currency loans have been facilitated in **India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia**, benefiting 20 microfinance institutions

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS*

New loans supported:
US\$371 million

Cofinancing:
US\$201.47 million

Borrowers supported:
2.1 million

*(2012 - end of April 2016)



Most borrowers are **rural women** who take loans averaging **\$200**

SOURCE

• Asian Development Bank

SHIFT in the ASEAN region

UNCDF is the UN's capital investment agency for the world's 48 least developed countries. With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers "last mile" finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development.

UNCDF's Shaping Inclusive Finance

Transformations (SHIFT) programme aims to expand women's economic empowerment through financial inclusion. SHIFT advances financial markets by changing the behavior of market actors to stimulate investment, business innovations and regulatory reform in growing inclusive enterprises. SHIFT catalyses innovative partnerships to accelerate financial inclusion and women's economic participation in the least developed countries of the ASEAN region, through the following four work-streams:



SHIFT's Policy and Advocacy work-stream, forms partnerships and alliances to influence policy makers, financial service providers and governments to enable financial markets to be more responsive to the wider development priorities of governments and their people, giving a specific focus to the needs of women. SHIFT is working to integrate gender strategies in the development and application of financial inclusion regulatory policies and standards by country governments. Similarly, SHIFT is working with inter-governmental bodies in ASEAN to roll out national financial inclusion strategies, support monitoring of targets, and facilitate peer-to-peer learning.



SHIFT's Data and Analysis strengthens the availability and use of supply side and demand side big data analytics to conduct regional and sector-wide research on specific themes including gender, remittances and green finance. Its unique approach aims to increase data usage in the sector to generate more customer-centric financial inclusion policies and practices that expand women's access and usage of financial services.



SHIFT's Learning and Skills Development work-stream plans to support business development service providers and learning platforms to develop or scale-up learning and investment readiness tools, aimed at strengthening the capacity of financial service providers and women enterprises.



The **SHIFT Challenge Fund Facility** is a flexible, common platform for crowding in investors and donors to support projects targeting financial inclusion. The Fund offers competitive matching grants to catalyse investments by private sector financial institutions, often in collaboration with businesses, in testing and scaling innovative business models by altering their risk-adjusted returns on investments. In collaboration with the CleanStart programme, five new projects of US\$3.05 million was co-funded under the challenge fund first window to provide greater financing choices for people who want to access clean energy products and services.

Currently, the Fund's second window, Fostering innovative business models for women's financial inclusion aims to scale-up innovative and sustainable business models and cross-sectors partnerships for advancing women's financial inclusion in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

shift.uncdf.org

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NOTES

NOTES

Conference details at:
bwtp.org/event/mekong_forum

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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