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MICROFINANCE WEEK 2015
FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Microfinance response to the refugee crisis

Resi Janssen
resi.janssen@cordaid.nl





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- Cordaid: international relief and development organisation; social investor
- > 100 years providing relief to refugees. Actually:
 - in the conflict areas
 - in the neighbouring countries (Lebanon, Turkey, etc.)
 - along the roads to Europe
 - In the Netherlands
- In collaboration with Local Caritas partners



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Social cooperatives for refugees in The Netherlands

- Socio-economic participation of refugees is limited
- 25%-35% lives below poverty line
- 33% is dependent on welfare allowances
- Language problems, diploma's not recognized, years outside the labour market during long asylum procedures, no network, employers have no experience with refugees



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Social cooperatives for refugees in The Netherlands

- 10-15 members
- (Legal) advise, training, coaching, linking to financial services, exchange of experiences,
- EUR 5.000 for start-up costs
- AfriPan Coop





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In fragile countries: Cordaid's Stability Impact Fund: SIF

- Investments (+ grants) in MFIs, SMEs and Funds
- In fragile countries: a.o. South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, DRC
- South Sudan 2 MFIs: experience with clients fleeing because of conflict. Actions taken:
Phoning / visiting clients ASAP, Clients days, Radio talks with peace message, Enabling clients to withdraw savings in another branch than where they "belong" to, adapt loan terms, flexibility, Contingency plan, cost cutting, ...



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Support to entrepreneurship and job creation to prevent migration to Europe

- SIF invests in XS and SMEs and provides technical support to SMEs.
- Investment in West African Venture Fund that has invested in 22 companies.
- Training of entrepreneurs in SL and Ethiopia
- Proposal for new project: CHIP



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CHIP Proposal

- to help 8.000 young entrepreneurs starting their own business and 2.000 to find a salaried job
- in Nigeria and Egypt
- “Youth Economic Hubs” offering young starting entrepreneurs access to a network of relevant stakeholders, market oriented professional training and skills. Access to finance via ABA and ACDA in Egypt and Fortis MFB in Nigeria.



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THANK YOU.

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE CORDAID.