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Issue no. 11

Financial Inclusion MENA Newsletter



By GIZ for the Promotion of Financial Inclusion in the MENA region on behalf of the BMZ and EU.

Dear reader,



The Arab World has a financial inclusion strategy. We congratulate the Central Bank of Jordan for the tremendous achievement of having led bringing to life the national strategy to enhance the financial perspectives for low-income segments, women, youth and forcibly displaced persons.

On the path to more inclusive financial sectors and growth quick wins are important. We cherish the entrepreneurs that improved their occupational perspectives through microfinance



or angel investments, sharing with you insights in our latest blogs, and we review with our partners the achievements and next challenges in Jordan.

To assure further success stories in microfinance the health of the sector is a binding condition. The Palestine Monetary Authority is practicing to zoom into the structural capacities in the market to enable long-term sustainable growth in the face of the sector's social mission and potential.

GIZ 2017

Financial technology is a driver in financial inclusion as it broadens financial access “at scale” and improves the quality of financial services through “efficiency.” Over 130 policymakers and regulators from 50 countries reaffirmed this at the FinTech Policy Forum hosted by the Central Bank of Jordan and AFI in Amman on April 2, 2018 as part of our new FIARI initiative.

Above all, financial inclusion plays a catalytic role for achieving sustainable economic development. We reflect on systemic approaches to financial inclusion that align well with economic and labor policies and structural investments for private sector-led growth and job creation at GIZ's regional forum on “Investing in the Arab future” at the Dead Sea on April 23, 2018.

Read more about these and further updates in this edition of our newsletter. Enjoy.

Yours sincerely,
Hayder Al-Bagdadi

Feature: National Financial Inclusion Strategy



The National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2018 - 2020

With support from: Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Jordan's Financial Inclusion Strategy 2018-20 is now available at the Central Bank's webpage.

[Read the strategy...](#)

Financial Inclusion Diagnostic Study in Jordan 2017

In-depth demand and supply side study for financial inclusion
Study in Jordan.

[Read full study...](#)



Videos, Videos, Videos...

Success Story: Wael Qdeisat's Clothing Store



GLZ / Syntax

The microfinance story of Wael from Irbid, Jordan.

[Read full story...](#)

Documentary Video By Tanmeyah

Tanmeyah, the microfinance association, reviews success stories from the sector in Jordan.

[Watch video...](#)



“I Saw an Opportunity in Recycling Steel”: Dirgham’s Story of Steel

[Watch video...](#)



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“I Am Someone Who Always Finds Her Way” – Nisreen’s Journey from a Refugee Camp to the Store Owner She Is Today

[Watch video...](#)



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“The Women Who Come Here Show Me That I Am Succeeding” – Hiba’s Story of Pioneering Womens’ Fitness in Ma’an

[Watch video...](#)



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The PMA’s Activities during the Youth Banking Week 2018

The PMA’s activities during the Youth Banking Week 2018
فعاليات الأسبوع المصرفي للأطفال والشباب السادس 2018

[Watch video... \(Arabic\)](#)

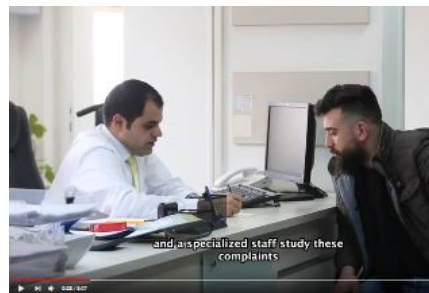


PMA

Consumers Relation Halls

To ensure clients' rights are protected, the PMA established Consumer Relations Halls, the first in the region.

[Watch video...](#)



Further Project News

Finance for Jobs

On April 23, a panel of central bankers, investors and tech start-ups investigated in which ways money is crucial in fostering business ideas and how inclusive financial sectors can contribute to the creation of new jobs and more equitable economic growth.



GIZ / Syntax

[Read more...](#)

Jordan, Next Level: 4 Achievements That Move Forward Financial Inclusion

Jordan-EU-German cooperation in reforming the financial sector caters to enable more businesses and people to use better financial services to improve their economic and job perspectives. A recap of the past three years of the partnership reveals four strategic leaps forward in financial inclusion policy and microfinance.



GIZ 2018

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Supervision of Microfinance Institutions: A Health Issue



GIZ 2018

“A bad liver cannot be compensated by good lungs”:
The interrelatedness of off- and on-site supervision - Applied Microfinance supervision training in Palestine.

[Read more...](#)

[Watch video...](#)

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More Arabic News

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Upcoming events

Microfinance: Revolution or Footnote? Microfinance Over the Next Ten Years

15 May 2018
Webinar (online)
[More...](#)

Illuminated by Data: New Tools to Develop Financial Solutions for Smallholder Families

8 May 2018
Webinar (online)
[More...](#)

Facilitating the Implementation of the IFSB Standards (FIS) Workshop – Banking Sector

2 – 5 September 2018
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
[More...](#)

Banking and Finance Congress 2018 Accelerating Digital Thriving Amidst Digital Disruption

12 September 2018
Cairo, Egypt
[More...](#)

Enhancing Technology, Entrepreneurship and Startup Investments in Egypt and Beyond



Alexandria's 2017 Techne Summit brought together professionals, entrepreneurs, investors, and media to promote the Egyptian entrepreneurial ecosystem and ultimately bridged

a gap between investors and entrepreneurs.

[Read more...](#)



Regional News

Policy Forum in Jordan: FinTech as a Key Catalyst for Financial Inclusion

130 policymakers and regulators from 50 countries attended the FinTech Policy Forum hosted by CBJ and AFI in Amman on April, 2 2018 as part of FIARI.



[Read more...](#)

Microinsurance Needed by UAE's Expat Workers

Low-income migrant workers in the UAE with an average salary of Dh4,000 view life insurance as a most vital type of social protection, and yet the majority of them lack access to this type of coverage, revealed a new report by the UN and InsurTech.



[Read more...](#)

Commodities-backed Digital Currency Announced at Dubai Blockchain Forum

"We set out to create a financially inclusive ecosystem that would enable people from emerging and developing countries to access financing and banking services to send, receive



Publications



Behavioural Interventions That Advance Financial Inclusion
Insight to Impact (i2i)

[More...](#)



European Dialogue No. 12 - European Microfinance Award

banking services to send, receive and store money in a stable and fully backed digital currency and trade in a seamless and efficient way using smart, KYC/AML compliant contracts”.

[Read more...](#)

New Bankruptcy Law in Egypt

The Egyptian government has introduced a bankruptcy law and amended its capital markets regulation. From now on, debtors unable of serving their loans do not need to fear facing prison time anymore. The amendment of the Capital Markets Act allows investors to hedge and thereby aims at deepening Egypt's financial market.



[Read more...](#)

2017 – Housing Microfinance European Microfinance Platform [More...](#)



Financial Inclusion in the Digital Age

The International Finance Corporation (IFC)

[More...](#)



Challenges and Opportunities in Microfinance Technology

awaaz.de

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