

Opportunities and Challenges in Social Investment: Experience Sharing among MFIs and Technical Assistance Providers

Objectives

1. Explain the factors that encouraged the institutions to focus on social performance either as MFIs or technical service providers
2. Enumerate the different opportunities that MFIs and service providers are foreseeing in the growth of social investment as a catalyst for heightened activities on social performance
3. Share the current and expected challenges that will hinder the further development of social performance among organizations
4. Expound on the lessons learnt on social performance

Schedule: 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Duration: 2 hours 15 minutes

Introduction

This panel discussion is about sharing your experiences as an organization in social performance. It is designed to enable the participants to learn from your experiences at different stages of social performance implementation. Opportunities will be highlighted to serve as impetus for more organizations to pursue social performance more vigorously. On the other hand, challenges and constraints will also be discussed to forewarn the participants on possible pitfalls and obstacles. Taken together, it will round off the experience and knowledge of the participants in understanding social performance. The role of social investment will be highlighted as a trigger and positive factor towards increased social performance activities among organizations.

It is recognized that some of the panel participants are just starting or are thinking of getting more focused on social performance. The organizers thought that this is a good opportunity to understand the motivation of these organizations in getting more involved in social performance. A number of other organizations in the audience are in the same category and it will provide valuable insights into their thought processes and hopefully will seriously consider taking the next steps or level of their social performance initiatives.

For more advanced organizations, their experiences in social performance will undoubtedly lower their learning curve that will enable them to better manage its implementation. Models or successful approaches will provide practical solutions for the participants in tackling both perceived and experienced challenges.

Technical service providers' role in catalyzing, guiding, providing resources, and strengthening capacity in social performance will be shared with the participants. Their suit of practical solutions related to social performance will offer opportunity for the participants to understand better how they can be harnessed to provide mission critical support.

Panel questions

- a. What factors prompted your organization to be engaged / involved in social performance?
 - i. Mission-driven
 - ii. Regulation
 - iii. Funding support
 - iv. Network support
 - v. Availability of models or suit of solutions

- b. What are the perceived or experienced benefits in being involved in social performance?

- c. What are the opportunities that social performance can offer to your organization and the microfinance sector? What are the necessary elements or factors you need in order for your organization to take advantage of the opportunities?

- d. What are the challenges and constraints that hinder your ability to further your involvement in social performance?

- e. What are some of the strategies you employ to overcome the challenges? What made these strategies effective? How can you further improve on those strategies?

- f. What other factors or support do you think is needed by your organization to jumpstart or boost your social performance initiatives?