

Fribourg, Switzerland, 21.09.2012

## **The Swiss Capacity Building Facility for Income and Employment Generation is 'on track' and transforms into an Association:**

The Swiss Capacity-Building Facility (SCBF) was launched in April 2011 as a Public Private Development Partnership between the Swiss Private Sector and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to promote financial inclusion in developing and emerging economies. After a start-up phase during which 12 capacity building projects have successfully been launched and 16 Financial Intermediaries are currently supported in 11 SDC partner countries, the SCBF has now formally been transformed into a non-profit association domiciled in Fribourg, Switzerland.

The founding members of the SCBF Association are (in alphabetical order) Allianz SE Reinsurance (Zurich), Bamboo Finance, Credit Suisse AG, Financial Systems Development Services AG (FIDES), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swisscontact, swiss microfinance holding sa, Swiss Re, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and Zurich Insurance Group Ltd. The new status as association allows further partner organisations to join and underscores the long-term commitment of its members to pool human and financial resources for an effective contribution in up-scaling innovative financial services that help reduce poverty in the developing and emerging economies.

The goal of the Swiss Capacity Building Facility – Association for Income and Employment Generation remains unchanged for financial intermediaries in reaching 560'000 poor clients within five years of support received from the SCBF. Hence, the SCBF will impact on about 2,8 million poor family members, allowing them to strengthen their economic potential, build up physical and financial assets, protect their families through better housing, health and education, and improve resilience to economic shocks. Therefore, the SCBF is providing tailor-made support to assist financial intermediaries - such as insurance companies, microfinance, postal, savings, and commercial banks as well as savings & credit cooperatives - in developing countries to design, test, launch, and up-scale financial services and distribution channels to reach large numbers of poor people and small businesses. The SCBF also aims at facilitating CHF 30 million investments by Swiss social investors to co-finance the business expansion of the financial intermediaries.

### **Further information:**

Swiss Capacity Building Facility, Phone +41 26 422 34 40, [info@scbf.ch](mailto:info@scbf.ch)

SCBF Website: [www.scbf.ch](http://www.scbf.ch)

## SCBF Partners in Brief (in alphabetical order):

**Allianz SE Reinsurance Branch Zurich**

Allianz SE Reinsurance (Allianz Re) is managing Allianz Group's risk landscape and capital through reinsurance and capital market instruments. With more than 300 employees in four locations, Allianz Re provides individual reinsurance solutions to about 400 clients globally with a financial strength rating of 'AA' by Standard and Poor's (27th January 2012). Allianz Re's Zurich office was established in 2007 with a focus on open market clients. The Zurich branch further provides special expertise in Agricultural Reinsurance internationally. Further information can be found at [www.allianzre.com](http://www.allianzre.com).

**Bamboo Finance**

Bamboo Finance is a global private equity firm managing 250M USD representing a portfolio of 35 investments in 24 countries with offices in Luxembourg, Geneva, Bogota, San Francisco, and Singapore. We invest in companies that expand access and improve quality and affordability of essential products and services for low income populations, who represent the fastest growing consumer segment in emerging markets. Our pioneering history in financial services gives us a unique ability to identify regions that are poised for growth and sectors that drive economic viability. By financing companies with the potential to scale that merge business innovation with local expertise, we aim at creating inclusive economies and accelerating the next generation of leaders in healthcare, energy, financial services, housing and education. Further information can be found at [www.bamboofinance.com](http://www.bamboofinance.com).

**Credit Suisse AG**

Credit Suisse AG is one of the world's leading financial services providers and is part of the Credit Suisse group of companies (referred to here as 'Credit Suisse'). As an integrated bank, Credit Suisse offers clients its combined expertise in the areas of private banking, investment banking and asset management. Credit Suisse provides advisory services, comprehensive solutions and innovative products to companies, institutional clients and high-net-worth private clients globally, as well as to retail clients in Switzerland. Credit Suisse is headquartered in Zurich and operates in over 50 countries worldwide. The group employs approximately 48,200 people. The registered shares (CSGN) of Credit Suisse's parent company, Credit Suisse Group AG, are listed in Switzerland and, in the form of American Depositary Shares (CS), in New York. Further information can be found at [www.credit-suisse.com](http://www.credit-suisse.com).

**FIDES | FINANCIAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AG**

FIDES | Financial Systems Development Services AG is a company focusing on the development and management of sustainable microfinance institutions in rural areas, as well as related research and consulting activities. FIDES offers extensive experience in the field of financial systems development and small business promotion. FIDES has been involved in leading initiatives in Africa and in some of the most important rural microfinance systems in Eastern Europe. Further information can be found at [www.fidesgroup.org](http://www.fidesgroup.org).



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

#### **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). In operating with other federal offices concerned, SDC is responsible for the overall coordination of development activities and cooperation with Eastern Europe, as well as for the humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation. Further information can be found at [www.deza.admin.ch](http://www.deza.admin.ch).



#### **Swisscontact | Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation**

Swisscontact is the Swiss private sector organization for development cooperation. It was founded in 1959 by representatives from the Swiss economy and universities as a politically and religiously neutral foundation. Swisscontact is involved in over 20 developing countries and Eastern Europe in vocational education and training, supports the development of small and medium-sized companies, and is committed to effective environmental protection. Swisscontact projects help people to help themselves. Further information can be found at [www.swisscontact.org](http://www.swisscontact.org).



capital  
client orientation  
commitment

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swiss microfinance holding sa

#### **swiss microfinance holding sa (SMH)**

SMH is a holding company specializing in equity investment mainly in rural Africa. Created by FIDES in 2007, SMH provides capital and ensures sound governance for the microfinance institutions (MFIs) developed and managed by FIDES. It offers a variety of tailor-made financial products and services active primarily in rural contexts in developing countries. A joint stock company uniting a range of private social investors, swiss microfinance holding sa is registered and headquartered in Fribourg, Switzerland. Further information can be found at [www.fidesgroup.org](http://www.fidesgroup.org).

## Swiss Re



#### **Swiss Re**

The Swiss Re Group is a leading wholesale provider of reinsurance, insurance and other insurance-based forms of risk transfer. Dealing direct and working through brokers, its global client base consists of insurance companies, mid-to-large-sized corporations and public sector clients. From standard products to tailor-made coverage across all lines of business, Swiss Re deploys its capital strength, expertise and innovation power to enable the risk taking upon which enterprise and progress in society depend. Founded in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1863, Swiss Re serves clients through a network of over 60 offices globally and is rated "AA-" by Standard & Poor's, "A1" by Moody's and "A+" by A.M. Best. Registered shares in the Swiss Re Group holding company, Swiss Re Ltd, are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and trade under the symbol SREN. Further information can be found at: [www.swissre.com](http://www.swissre.com).



**Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture**

The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) is an independent not-for-profit Foundation established by Syngenta in 2001. The Foundation's mandate is to create value for resource-poor small farmers in developing countries through innovation in sustainable agriculture and the activation of value chains. The operational strategy of the Syngenta Foundation focuses on smallholders, productivity, and markets. The Foundation works with partners in developing countries and emerging markets to help small farmers become more professional growers by extending know-how, facilitating access to inputs, and linking smallholders to markets in profitable ways. This adds value for rural communities, and sustainably improves food security. Further information can be found at [www.syngentafoundation.org](http://www.syngentafoundation.org).



**Zurich Insurance Group Ltd. (Zurich)**

Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich) is a leading multi-line insurance provider with a global network of subsidiaries and offices in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East as well as other markets. It offers a wide range of general insurance and life insurance products and services for individuals, small businesses, mid-sized and large companies as well as multinational corporations. Zurich employs about 60,000 people serving customers in more than 170 countries. The Group, formerly known as Zurich Financial Services Group, is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, where it was founded in 1872. The holding company, Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (ZURN), is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and has a level I American Depositary Receipt program which is traded over-the-counter on OTCQX. Further information can be found at [www.zurich.com](http://www.zurich.com).

The SCBF welcome other Swiss financial sector institutions to join, provided that they share both the objectives of the SCBF as outlined in the SCBF Articles of Association as well as contribute financial and/or human resources to the SCBF.