

To the members of the Savings & Credit Forum and interested persons:

## INVITATION

# **Community-managed Savings and Lending Approaches: Overview, Ethiopian Case Study, Outlook**

DATE: **FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST 2008 (9:45 TO 15:30)**

LOCATION: **TAGUNGSZENTRUM BLUMENBERG,  
SCHÄNZLISTRASSE 33, BERN**

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The next Savings & Credit Forum organised by Intercooperation on behalf of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) will have a closer look at the topic "**Community-managed Savings and Lending Approaches**" with a regional focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. The forum will include an overview of community-managed savings and lending approaches, a presentation of the Village Savings and Loan Model, the case study of the Village Savings and Loan Model by CARE in Ethiopia as well as sufficient time for discussion and exchange.

Mr. **Hugh Allen**, co-funding partner of VSL Associates and international microfinance practitioner, will speak on the evolution of community-based savings and lending approaches. He will introduce the Village Savings and Loan Model in a second presentation as an innovative and promising approach for maximising access to finance in rural areas in a cost-effective manner in Africa and elsewhere. He has been pioneering this model over the past 15 years in various African countries as well as in Bangladesh. Several international NGOs and donors have now committed substantial funding for its application in African countries.

Ms. **Yetnayet Girmaw**, a senior microfinance practitioner from Ethiopia who is managing the Village Savings and Loan Fund of CARE in Ethiopia, will present the experiences of CARE in rolling out this model and elaborate on its main potential and challenges. She will conclude with recommendations for applying this model in other African countries.

Looking forward to meet you in Bern on 29<sup>th</sup> of August, we remain, with best regards.

The BSM Finance Team



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA  
Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC  
Direzione dello sviluppo e della cooperazione DSC  
Direcziun da svilup e da cooperaziun DSC



## REGISTRATION

### SDC Savings & Credit Forum

**Deadline for registration is: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

via E-mail to [evongunten@intercooperation.ch](mailto:evongunten@intercooperation.ch)  
via Fax to INTERCOOPERATION 031 / 385 10 09  
(attn. Elisabeth von Gunten)

## Community-managed Savings and Lending Approaches: Overview, Ethiopian Case Study, Outlook

**FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST 2008**  
**9.45H - 15.30H**  
**BERN**

I would like to register for the forum:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to have lunch: **YES - NO** *(please delete what does not apply)*  
Vegetarian: **YES - NO** *(please delete what does not apply)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_