



## Microfinance Policy Forum for the Arab World

Hotel Le Royal, Beirut  
Crystal Room  
May 11, 2009

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| <b>8:30 – 9:00am</b>   | <b>Registration</b>   |
| <b>9:00 – 9:15</b>     | <b>Welcoming and Introductory Remarks (CGAP and Sanabel)</b>  |
| <b>9:15-10:00</b>      | <b>Microfinance in the Arab World: An Overview</b><br>This presentation provides an overview on the state of microfinance in the Arab World and the potential effects of the global financial crisis on the region's microfinance institutions.   |
| 10:00 – 10:20          | Coffee/Tea Break  |
| <b>10:20 – 11:40</b>   | <b>Session 1: Current Challenges for the Microfinance Sector</b><br>This session is an open discussion to address the supervision and regulation of microfinance institutions, the impact and mitigation of the financial crisis, the transformation of non-profit MFIs into for-profit regulated institutions, consumer protection through regulation and the potential of Islamic microfinance. |
| <b>11:40 – 12:40pm</b> | <b>Session 2: Morocco – A Case Study</b><br>Morocco has long been portrayed as the success story of microfinance in the Arab world -- it accounts for almost half of microfinance clients in the region. In 2008, however, some MFIs began to face critical repayment problems and policy makers, along with the institutions themselves, are coming to terms with this new challenge.            |
| 12:40 – 2:00           | Lunch (Restaurant Le Jardin)  |
| <b>2:00 – 3:00</b>     | <b>Session 3: New Microfinance Regulations in the Arab world</b><br>Representatives from countries that have recently enacted new legislation on access to financial services will present their experience, including the motivation behind the new legislation, the challenges they faced in enacting it, and their expectations of the impact of the new legislation.                          |
| <b>3:00-3:10</b>       | <b>Introduction of Alliance for Financial Inclusion</b>   |
| <b>3:10 – 4:00</b>     | <b>Session 4: Next Steps</b><br>This session provides an opportunity to discuss ways for policy makers in the region to work together to promote peer learning and advance microfinance in the Arab world.  |