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**CORE VALUES:**

- ☑ PROFESSIONALISM
- ☑ TRANSPARENCY
- ☑ UNITY
- ☑ INTEGRITY
- ☑ SUSTAINABILITY

**Areas of intervention:**

- ☑ Advocacy
- ☑ Capacity building and coaching
- ☑ Financial inclusion
- ☑ Financial literacy
- ☑ Performance monitoring
- ☑ Research & Development

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**MONTHLY NEWS REPORT**

*AMIR members attending a workshop on data cleaning and migration*



**Shared services: a key stimulus to cost savings**

The implementation of shared services arrangements now has a long history in the private sector. The private sector has been moving towards shared services since the beginning of the 1980s. Large organizations such as the BBC, Ford, HP, Rolls-Royce, and many others are operating them with great success. According to the English Institute of Chartered Accountants, more than 30% of U.S. Fortune 500 companies have implemented a shared-service center, and are reporting cost savings in their general accounting functions of up to 46%.

**What and “How” AMIR can do to achieve what these reputable private companies have achieved?**

The AMIR General Assembly which took place in December 2015 has nominated committees and adopted resolutions aiming at establishing a strong mechanism to provide cost effective services and deliver quality – shared services to its esteemed members. All the efforts made in this regard were to improve and sustain the microfinance services in Rwanda. The ultimate goal for introducing the shared services (as tasked with AMIR secretariat) was about: setting a central access point for client service - Provide more services without increasing cost - Standard service delivery - Provision of service in a way that meets the client’s needs of the sector.

Though AMIR members count to benefit from different types of shared services this year, namely legal, insurance, security and IT; AMIR since early 2016 has achieved a lot of milestones in shared services especially in Information and technology. These are: selection of the software vendor as a business partner of the AMIR Shared IT-Services - 25 pilot institutions have been identified; Collection of basic data of AMIR members - Project MOU Signing workshop between AMIR and 25 identified MFIs/SACCOs members, for taking part in the pilot phase –data cleaning and migration workshop.

According to the project projections, the pilot phase (1) targets 272,236 customers, and will reach a total target market of 400,000 customers in total in project phase (2), with the below electronic payment channels added to the platform: Agency Banking: 50% (200,000 customers) - Mobile Money: 50% (200,000 customers) - Mobile Banking: 30% (120.000 customers) - ATM: 30% (120.000 members).

*“Youth should get out of the comfort zone, and become job creators”*

**JULES NDAHAYO/MD of the UFC**

**Umutanguha** has been engaged in microfinance since 2004. From a single COOPEC in 2003 to six cooperatives registered as a union, and now as a limited liability company, **Umutanguha** was by 2009 providing full financial services serving 58,000 clients predominantly women and youth (80% in July 2013).

Recently **Umutanguha Finance Company** established a partnership with the Ministry of Youth and ICT, this partnership in a short period of time has resulted in connecting UFC with 46,000 IWAWA graduates. These graduates are currently being supported in accessing micro leasing services: buying equipment for the young entrepreneur, who pays it back in installments until he owns it.

“Young people like our special services, we now have reached over 300,000 clients for loans and micro-leasing, and we are glad that their projects are flourishing and they are paying back the loans appropriately.” NDAHAYO revealed.

“Youth has to get out of the comfort zone, and instead of waiting to be employed by others create their own jobs with the help of our services.” He added.

**AMIR to reach out to the underserved Rwandans through FE Campaign**

Rwanda now ranks second in sub-Saharan Africa after Mauritius in terms of financial inclusion echoing other international indexes such as the World Bank Doing Business Report. The Rwanda Financial Sector Strategy is a long-term development strategy that governs the entire financial sector of Rwanda. It is obvious that the strategy helps in the achievement of the financial sector objectives as set out in Vision 2020, EDPRS II, for Rwanda to become an international service center.

The Strategy focuses on financial inclusiveness driven by Access to Finance as the Government rediscovers the benefits of savings. The particular attention has been to reach out to the remaining underserved Rwandans through fast expansion of private credit which has to be accompanied by saving as a key enabler to finance productive activities.

The Rwanda Microfinance Sector works tirelessly employing different strategies to make sure that the financial education global objectives are achieved effectively.

Since 2011, AMIR as the key player in this crusade has proactively introduced a Financial Education Campaign in schools aiming at creating saving clubs.

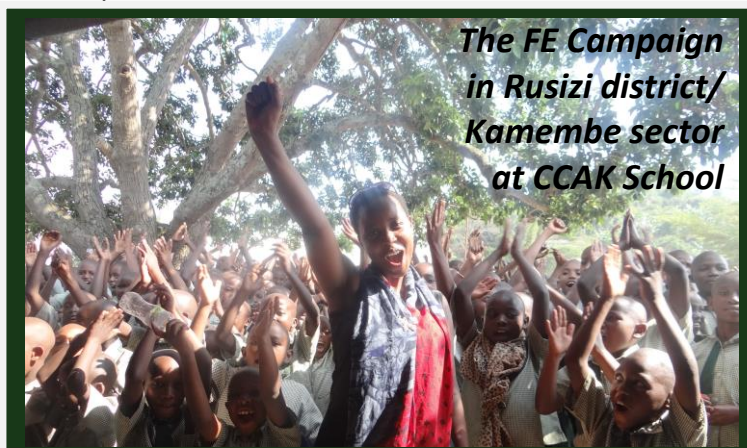
At the beginning of quarter 3 of this year after the baseline assessment of Financial Education programs implemented by AMIR in the past years, 26 selected head masters and teachers were invited and gathered in a strategic planning workshop and they elaborated related action plans.

AMIR plans to monitor, supervise and follow up the implementation of these action plans.

“The next step is to follow the action plans submitted by headmasters and conduct field visits of FE awareness campaign in 26 schools as agreed. During these visits, we will manage to have different meetings with parents, local leaders and other development partners to discuss on the scale up plans. This will help AMIR to Support existing structures to promote financial education (Women and, Youth Councils, Mothers Unions, Akagoroba k’ Ababyeyi, community churches)” Promised by AMIR.

In return, if these action plans are implemented effectively, definitely the microfinance institutions will gain from this FE Campaign by receiving a number of new clients opening saving accounts.

AMIR is extending its financial literacy Programs to TVET schools by linking the FE and SME development that provides orientation to job creation and private sector development.



**The FE Campaign in Rusizi district/ Kamembe sector at CCAK School**