



Association of Microfinance
Institutions in Rwanda



PRESS RELEASE

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Rwanda to celebrate Rwanda Microfinance Week 2017:

AMIR seeks to instill CPPs in MFIs practitioners as a boosting approach to deliver quality services to clients in the microfinance sector

-----#RMW2017-----

Kigali, Rwanda, October 13th 2017 - Rwanda will celebrate the Microfinance week from 16th to 20th October. The theme for this year is “**Quality service delivery, a key foundation for a sustainably developed and self-reliant MFI.**” Rwanda Microfinance Week is organized by Association of Microfinance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR) and sector partners. Based on AMIR’s strategic plan, Rwanda Microfinance Week (RMW) is a fundamental component in AMIR's advocacy and communication strategy.

Normally, RMW involves coordinated activities which take place throughout a week across the country. For the first time ever, activities this year will not only include CEO Round table meetings; selection of best performing institutions (Microfinance Institutions/ MFIs and SACCOs); Media reporting tour; as well as Reporters’s Awarding; AMIR decided to involve sector partners mainly in the area of client protection and education: namely par excellence the SEEP Network, and the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB).

The SEEP Network since 2016 is collaborating with AMIR to lead the Responsible Finance through Local Leadership and Learning Program in Rwanda and specifically the program aims at promoting client protection and education.

CEO Round table meetings will be taking place in all provinces in the following districts: Musanze on 16th October; Karongi on 17th October, Kigali on 18th October; Nyanza on 19th October, and Rwamagana on 20th October, 2017. Awarding the best performing MFI/ SACCO, client protection will be basically one of the selection criteria. On the other hand, Media Reporting Tour is expected to be conducted across the country, whereby journalists will be collecting inspiring and success stories from MFIs practitioners and clients. These stories are collected country wide and they are meant to educate the whole society, especially on the sides of demand and service providers, through learning from best practices with respect to client protection and education.

CEO roundtable meetings bring together all MFI/SACCO managers, partners, local authorities to discuss achievements, emerging issues in the sector, recommendations and way forward. This year consumer protection was added on the list of priorities in the awareness events and District Access to Finance Forums have been identified as potential partners in the RMW 2017.

Specific objectives of RMW2017:

- Sharing AMIR’s achievements in professionalizing the microfinance sector of Rwanda.

- Acknowledging joint efforts of partners working toward supporting microfinance development in Rwanda
- Raise awareness of the existing advocacy issues that face microfinance practitioners in Rwanda thus a call for action.
- Raise awareness of Financial Education and Consumer Protection sharing information and the best practices within the sector

About AMIR

Association of Microfinance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR) is an umbrella organization created by microfinance institutions in 2007. As per today; AMIR brings together 344 microfinance institutions, including microfinance banks, microfinance limited companies, Umurenge SACCOs, and NGOs that are promoting microfinance.

AMIR is guided and operates on a strategic plan adopted by microfinance institutions members in 2013 and revised in 2017. The strategic plan is seconded by other documents including the advocacy and communication strategy. Rwanda Microfinance week is one of the peak activities planned in the above mentioned documents.