

# AMIR Code of Conduct Compliance Survey 2018

## Introduction

The Association of Microfinance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR), is an umbrella of microfinance institutions in the country. Its mandate includes capacity building for its members, and the promotion of responsible finance.

AMIR brings together 343 out of 459 licensed institutions in the country. AMIR has the purpose to facilitate a vibrant microfinance industry that contributes to poverty reduction and financial inclusion.

From this perspective, AMIR is leading a market process to develop a healthy sector, driven by ethical and consumer-oriented practices. An industry Code of Conduct was developed and endorsed by AMIR members in 2013; and revised in 2017. The new version of the Code of Conduct was endorsed by AMIR members in the general assembly that took place in November 2017.

AMIR has committed to carrying out annual checks on the extent to which members comply with the letter and spirit of the industry Code of Conduct. In this respect, AMIR carried out a quick survey on a sample of members to monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct. This report summarizes key findings from the survey conducted in December 2018.

#### Methodology

AMIR has developed a compliance tool that can be used by members to monitor their compliance with the Code of Conduct and report back to the association. However, AMIR experience in 2017 was that self-reported results were too optimistic, and therefore, not credible.

AMIR opted to use a group of graduates from University of Rwanda-College of Economics and Business studies (UR-CBE) to conduct a quick assessment, using a simplified assessment tool. Data collectors were trained on the Code of Conduct for a half day, and were previously trained on consumer protection principles, as well as mystery shopping technique.

Data entry and analysis was conducted by two of the data collectors, using a simple Excel spreadsheet.

The sample

The team sampled 186 institutions (53% of AMIR membership and 40% of the microfinance sector) around the country, using purposeful sampling method: Umurenge SACCOs were selected per district (5 SACCOs per district); while all other institutions were directly targeted by data collectors. As a result, 24 non-Umurenge SACCOs were sampled (100%), and only 9 limited companies accepted to be surveyed (45% of the total market segment).

All types of institutions were included in the sample (fig.1):

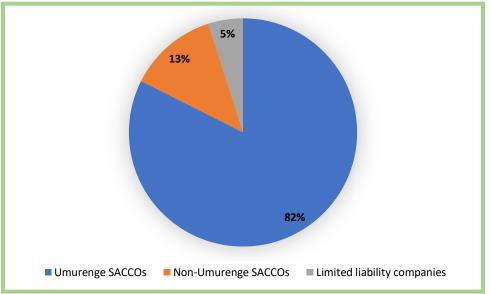


Figure 1: Sampled institutions per legal status category (n=186)

The tool used identified different levels of compliance:

- Awareness about the provisions in the code of conduct
- Implementation of those provisions (the assessment included a scale of 1 to 5; for all the 37 indicators included in the tool-see annex 1)

Level of implementation	Score
The institution is not aware of this requirement in the code of conduct	0
The institution is aware of the requirement but will not implement this clause of the	1
CoC.	
The institution sees the value to implement this clause of the CoC, but has no clear	2
plan to do so (the institution has not yet considered how to implement this clause of	
the CoC)	
The institution has already begun planning for or piloting the implementation of this	3
clause of the CoC (e.g., a strategy exists) but it is still far from full compliance.	
The institution partially implements this clause of the CoC (some components are not	4
yet in place, or there is no documentation/evidence about how it is implemented).	
The institution currently implements all the components of this clause in the CoC, and	5
this implementation is well documented and verifiable.	

## **Findings**

#### **1. Overall Performance**

The overall average score was 4.56 over 5. The lowest overall average score was 3.8; regarding privacy of client data. The biggest challenge identified was putting in place policies and mechanisms to protect client's data (3.2).

Performance	Overall	Umurenge SACCOs	Non-Umurenge SACCOs	Ltd CO
Average score	4.56	4.54	4.63	4.62
Minimum	3.8	3.7	4.35	4.17
(Area)	Privacy	Privacy	Privacy	Complaints handling
Maximum	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.89
(Area)	Whistle-blowing	Prevention of OI	Whistle-blowing	Prevention of OI
	policy		policy	Responsible pricing
				Whistle-blowing policy

96.7% of surveyed MFIs have reached more than 75% of total scores<sup>1</sup>. 90% of surveyed institutions have total points larger than 148 (the range between partial and full compliance with all the indicators). Only 13 institutions (all of which are Umurenge SACCOs) have an average score lower than 4 points (SACCO Jyejuru Cyabakamyi, Ntyazo SACCO, Duhoranijabo SACCO, Akabando SACCO, Umurange SACCO, Cyabingo SACCO, SACCO Gase, Rebakure SACCO, Imbonera SACCO, Rugezi SACCO, Kabogo Vision SACCO, SACCO Gitesi, and Bwishyura SACCO).

Figure 2: Average score per CoC component and per MFI category (n=186)

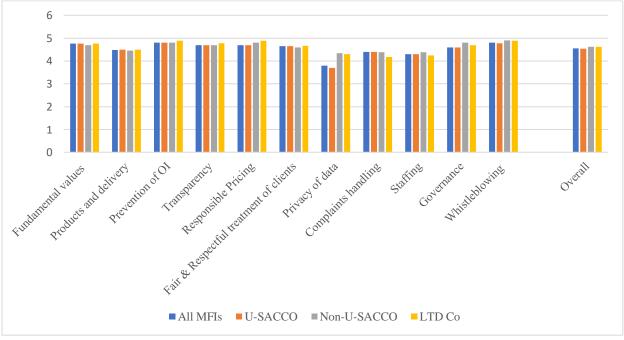


Figure 3: Frequency of total points per range (n=186)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The maximum score is 37 (number of indicators) \* 5= 186.

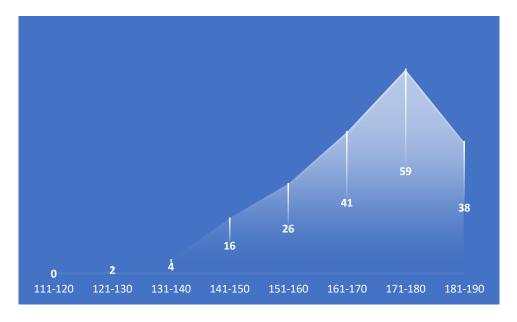
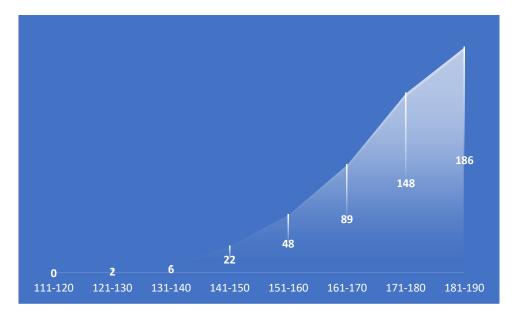


Figure 3: Cumulative frequency of total points per range (n=186)



- 0.25 percentile includes 5 MFIs
- 0.5 percentile includes 35 institutions
- 0.75 percentile includes 104 institutions

The first 2/4 percentiles (0-50%) include only 40 institutions (22%), and therefore, the majority are in the upper percentiles (78%). This demonstrates high degree of compliance with the CoC within most of AMIR members.

2. Strengths and weaknesses

Areas of the CoC where there are many sampled institutions that fully comply with the clauses include:

- Responsible Pricing (150 institutions or 82.4%)
- Prevention of Over-indebtedness (149 institutions or 81.9%)
- Core values (141 institutions, or 77.5%)
- Transparency (139 institutions, or 76.4%)

There was a low score (below 4) on Privacy of clients' data (particularly on "privacy policy and appropriate technology systems for gathering, processing, using and storing client information in a secure manner"; where the average score was 3.2). Indeed, only 80 MFIs reported to be fully compliant with this requirement (44%). Many MFIs reported that they don't know how to comply, including 24 Umurenge SACCOs, while many other have not yet planned to comply with this requirement (e.g. 67 Umurenge SACCOs -37% of the sample-reported that they don't have a plan to comply with the requirement).

Other areas where improvement is needed include:

- training staff on complaints handling, put in place complaints resolution systems and ensure that they are actively used and effective (average score:3.9).
- putting in place human resources and financial procedure manuals to regulate and guide staff recruitment, evaluation, salaries, retention and dismissal so that both parties (employer and employee) are at the same level of understanding on the purposes and consequences of application of those procedures (average score: 3.9).

#### 2.1.Limited companies

The average score per institution in the Limited liability company category is 4.62 over 5. The lowest score is 4.35 (161 points over 185 possible) while the largest is 4.92 (181 points over 185 possible). All the institutions (100%) are above the 75% threshold (148 points over 185 possible) set by AMIR as a target.

Areas of strengths for Ltd companies include:

- Prevention of Over-indebtedness (8 MFIs, 89%);
- Responsible Pricing (8 MFIs, 89%);
- Whistle blowing policy (8 MFIs, 89%);
- Transparency (7 MFIs, 78%);
- Governance (7 MFIs, 78%).

Limited liability companies are on top of all the requirements in the CoC, as none reported not knowing how to implement any clause in it. In addition, no MFI in this category reported inability to implement any requirement in the CoC. Only one institution reported that they have no yet planned to put in place mechanisms that ensure that they comply with all laws and regulations, including AMIR CoC.

Limited liability companies are less compliant in staffing practices (only 4 institutions are fully compliant-44%); and complaints handling (only 3 institutions are fully compliant=33%). In a nutshell, there is a need to push for full compliance in all Ltd companies in the following areas:

- put in place human resources and financial procedure manuals to regulate and guide staff recruitment, evaluation, salaries, retention and dismissal so that both parties (employer and employee) are at the same level of understanding on the purposes and consequences of application of those procedures (only 1 MFI is fully compliant);
- ensure that clients are aware of their right to complain, give feedback and how to file complaints (only 2 MFIs are fully compliant);
- train staff on complaints handling, put in place complaints resolution systems and ensure that they are actively used and effective (only 2 MFIs are fully compliant).

### 2.2.Non-Umurenge SACCOs

The average score in this category is 4.63. Individual scores per MFI range from a minimum of 3.49 (129 points over 185 possible), and a maximum of 5 (185 points over 185). Only one institution (COOPEC Zamuka) is under AMIR's threshold of 75% compliance target (148 points) with 129 points (a score of 3.49).

Non-Umurenge SACCO demonstrated high levels of compliance in governance and whistle blowing policy (22 are fully compliant in each, or 96%). They are also doing well in prevention of over-indebtedness and responsible pricing, where 20 institutions out of 23 (87%) are, on average, fully compliant with the indicators in those components. However, non-Umurenge SACCOs need to improve on the following areas:

- train staff on complaints handling, put in place complaints resolution systems and ensure that they are actively used and effective (only 10 MFIs are fully compliant-43%);
- explore other unserved and underserved areas for expansion, avoiding areas that are already adequately served (only 11 MFIs are fully compliant-48%);
- put in place human resources and financial procedure manuals to regulate and guide staff recruitment, evaluation, salaries, retention and dismissal so that both parties (employer and employee) are at the same level of understanding on the purposes and consequences of application of those procedures (only 11 MFIs are fully compliant-48%).

2.3. Umurenge SACCOs

The average score in this category is 4.54; from a minimum of 3.38 (125 points out of 185 possible) and a maximum of 5 (185 points). In this category, 13 institutions (8.8%) don't meet AMIR target of 75% compliance. These are: SACCO Jyejuru Cyabakamyi, Ntyazo SACCO, Duhoranijabo SACCO, Akabando SACCO, Umurange SACCO, Cyabingo SACCO, SACCO Gase, Rebakure SACCO, Imbonera SACCO, Rugezi SACCO, Kabogo Vision SACCO, SACCO Gitesi, and Bwishyura SACCO.

Areas where efforts should be concentrated in terms of improvement include:

- a privacy policy and appropriate technology systems for gathering, processing, using and storing client information in a secure manner (score:3);
- train staff on complaints handling, put in place complaints resolution systems and ensure that they are actively used and effective (score: 3.9);
- put in place human resources and financial procedure manuals to regulate and guide staff recruitment, evaluation, salaries, retention and dismissal so that both parties (employer and employee) are at the same level of understanding on the purposes and consequences of application of those procedures (3.85).

## **Way Forward**

This survey pinpointed areas where AMIR needs to strengthen communication with members to increase awareness, and possibly provide technical assistance in implementing some provisions in the code of conduct. In general, there is a need to strengthen:

- Privacy of client's data, particularly in SACCOs;
- Mechanisms for complaints handling in limited companies and SACCOs.
- Building the capacity of staff to be able to understand the content of the CoC and comply with it. This includes putting in place human resource development policies and training staff.

Any intervention to improve compliance with the code of conduct should be tailored to the needs of the target institutions, as the analysis demonstrated that SACCOs, no-Umurenge SACCOs and limited companies have each their own challenges, different from other categories.

The next survey will take place towards the end of 2019; to compare with results in this report. This report is considered as a baseline, as the previous one used a different tool, and therefore, had different conclusions.

#### Annexes

1. Overall Performance

Institution								
Respondent								
Position								
Contacts								
Date				Fre	quen	cy p	er sco	re
					1			
		Average						
Component	#Q	Score	0	1	2	3	4	5
0: Core	1	4.5690608	1	0	1	5	60	114
Values	2	4.8232044	0	0	2	0	26	153
	3	4.7569061	0	0	1	5	31	144
	4	4.8287293	0	0	0	0	31	150
	5	4.8388889	0	0	0	2	25	153
	6	4.7277778	0	0	0	2	45	133
		4.7574279						
CPP #1	7	4.6629834	0	0	0	5	51	125
	8	4.2833333	1	0	5	26	57	91
	9	4.679558	0	0	3	6	37	135
	10	4.3149171	8	7	2	6	38	120
		4.485198						
CPP#2	11	4.7912088	0	0	0	2	34	146
	12	4.9065934	0	0	0	1	15	166
	13	4.7222222	0	0	1	2	43	134
	_	4.8066748						
CPP #3	14	4.7679558	0	0	1	2	35	143
	15	4.6923077	0	0	1	7	39	135
	16	4.7142857	0	0	2	7	32	141
		4.7248497					_	
CPP #4	17	4.489011	3	3	6	12	24	134
	18	4.8791209	0	0	2	1	14	165
	19	4.8021978	0	1	0	2	28	151
(7777)// <b>5</b>	- 20	4.7234432			-	4.0	2.0	4.2.4
CPP#5	20	4.5549451	2	0	2	13	39	126
	21	4.7967033	0	0	0	3	31	148
	22	4.7197802	0	0	2 5	6	33	141
	23 24	4.2944444	3	0	5 0	25	47	100
_	24	4.8932584	0	0	0	2	15	161
CPP #6	25	4.6518263 3.2044199	12	1	28	73	31	36
CPP #0	25	4.4751381	3	1	20 5	8	45	119
	20	3.839779	5	1	5	0	45	119
CPP #7	27	4.6850829	0	0	1	7	40	133
011 #7	28	3.9175824	7	0	13	41	40	80
	29	4.4640884	1	0	3	19	45	113
	30	4.4628571	1	0	4	18	41	111
	20	4.3824027		, v				
HR policies	31	4.8066298	1	0	1	1	25	153
1	32	3.8674033	15	0	10	26	48	82
	33	4.281768	4	0	5	22	51	99
		4.3186004						
Governance	34	4.3646409	6	0	6	10	47	112
	35	4.8666667	0	0	1	1	19	159
	36	4.6740331	1	0	2	13	22	143
		4.6351136						
WB	37	4.8076923	0			3	29	150

2. Limited Liability Company Performance

Component		MFI1	MFI2	MFI3	MFI4	MFI5	MFI6	MFI7	MFI8	MFI9		0		equ 2		ies 4	5
0: Core values	1 2 3 4 5 6	5 5 5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5 5 4	4 5 5 5 4 4	5 5 4 5 4	5 5 5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5 5 5	4 4 5 5 5	5 5 5 5 5 4	4 5 4 5 5 4	4.666667 4.888889 4.777778 4.888889 4.888889 4.888889 4.444444	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	3 1 2 1 1 5	6 8 7 8 8 8
CPP #1	7 8 9 10	5 5 5 5	5 4 5 4	4 4 5 5	4 4 5 5	5 5 5 5	5 4 4 5	5 5 4 5	4 3 4 5	4 3 4 5	4.759259 4.555556 4.111111 4.555556 4.888889 4.527778	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 2 0 0	2 4 4 1 3	6.8 5 3 5 8 5.3
CPP #2	11 12 13	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 4	5 5 4	5 4 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 4.888889 4.777778	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 1 2	9 8 7
CPP #3	14 15 16	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	4 4 5	5 4 5	4 4 4	4.888889 4.777778 4.666667 4.888889	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	1 2 3 1	8 7 6 8
CPP #4	17 18 19	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	4 5 5	4 5 5	4 5 5	4.777778 4.6666667 5 4.888889	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	2 3 0 0	7 6 9 9 8
CPP #5	20 21 22 23 24	5 5 5 3	3 5 4 4 5	5 5 5 5 5	5 5 5 4 5	5 5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5 5	4 5 5 4 5	3 4 5 5 4	4 5 5 4 5	4.333333 4.888889 4.888889 4.555556 4.666667 4.666667	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	2 0 0 0 1	2 1 1 4 1	5 8 8 5 7
CPP #6	25 26	3 5	4 4	5 4	5 4	5 5	5 5	4 4	4 4	4 4	4.333333 4.3333333	0	0	0	1 0	4	4
CPP #7	27 28 29 30	4 4 5 5	4 4 5 4	4 4 4 4	4 4 5 5	5 5 5 4	5 5 4 5	3 3 3 3	4 3 4 4	4 4 4 4	4.333333 4.111111 4 4.333333 4.222222	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	1 2 1 1	3 6 5 4 5	5.7 2 2 4 3
HR Policies	31 32 33	5 3 3	4 4 5	5 4 4	5 4 5	5	5 5 5	5 3 4	5 3 4	4 4 4	4.166667 4.777778 3.75 4.222222	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 3 1	2 4 5	2.8 7 1 3
Governanc	34 35 36	2 5 5	4 5 5	4 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5	4 5 5	4 5 5	4 5 5	4.25 4.111111 5 5	0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	3.7 3 9 9
WB	37	5		5	5			5		4	4.703704 4.888889 4.888889		0		0		7 8 8
					175 4.7						4.622896						

# 3. Non-Umurenge SACCO Performance

		Average			Freque	encies		
Component	#Q	Score	0	1	2	3	4	5
0: Core values	1 2 3 4 5 6	4.25 4.833333 4.625 4.791667 4.875 4.75	1 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 0 0 0	2 0 1 0 0 1	6 1 4 5 3 4	14 22 18 19 21 19
CPP #1	7 8 9 10	4.6875 4.75 4.043478 4.695652 4.333333 4.455616	0.166667 0 1 0 0 0 0.25	0 0 0 2 0.5	0.5 0 1 1 1 0.75	0.666667 1 4 1 0	3.833333 4 6 2 2 5 4.25	18.83333 19 11 19 16 16.25
CPP #2	11 12 13	4.435616 4.708333 5 4.73913 4.815821	0.23	0.5	0.75	1.3 1 0 0.333333	4.23 5 0 3.666667	16.23 18 24 17 19.66667
CPP #3	14 15 16	4.73913 4.708333 4.666667 4.70471	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	1 1 0 0.666667	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	3 4 8 5	19 19 16 18
CPP #4	17 18 19	4.666667 4.958333 4.791667 4.805556	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	2 0 0.666667	4 1 5 3.333333	18 23 19 20
CPP #5	20 21 22 23 24	4.541667 4.833333 4.708333 4.166667 4.916667	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	1 0 1 3 0	2 0 0 3 0	4 4 4 5 2	17 20 19 13 22
CPP #6	25 26	4.633333 4.041667 4.666667	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 4 2	1 3 0	3.8 5 2	18.2 12 20
CPP #7	27 28 29 30	4.354167 4.583333 3.875 4.5 4.583333	0 0 1 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	1.5 0 2 0 1	1.125 1 5 2 1	3.725 8 6 8 5	17.65 15 10 14 17
HR Policies	31 32 33	4.385417 4.708333 3.958333 4.458333 4.375	0.25 0 1 0 0.333333	0 0 0 0	0.75 1 2 1	2.25 1 4 2	6.75 2 6 4.666667	14 20 11 15 15.33333
Governanc	34 35 36	4.375 4.666667 4.958333 4.916667 4.847222	0.333333 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	1.333333 1 0 0 0.333333	2.333333 1 0 1 0.666667	4.000007 3 1 0 1.333333	15.33333 19 23 23 21.66667
WB	37	4.916667 4.916667	0	0	0.333333	0	2	21.00007
		4.634637						

### 4. Umurenge SACCOs Performance

		Average			Freque	encies		
Component	#Q	Score	0	1	2	3	4	5
0: Core values	1 2 3	4.616438 4.815068 4.787671	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 1 0	3 0 4	50 24 23	93 121 119
	4 5 6	4.828767 4.834483 4.744828	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 2 1	25 20 35	121 123 109
CPP #1	7 8 9 10	4.771209 4.664384 4.335616 4.680272 4.287671	0 0 0 8	0 0 0 0 5	0.166667 0 4 2 1	1.666667 4 20 5 5	29.5 41 45 31 31	114.3333 101 77 109 96
CPP #2	11 12 13	4.491986 4.795918 4.897959 4.712329 4.802069	2 0 0 0	1.25 0 0 0	1.75 0 0 1 0.333333	8.5 1 1 2	37 28 13 35 25,33333	95.75 118 133 108 119.6667
CPP #3	14 15 16	4.77551 4.693878 4.714286 4.727891	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0	2 7 5.333333	29 31 22 27.33333	119.0007 116 109 116 113.6667
CPP #4	17 18 19	4.442177 4.863946 4.795918 4.70068	3 0 0	3 0 1.333333	6 2 0 2 666667	10 1 4.333333	17 12 22 17	108 108 132 122 120.6667
CPP #5	20 21 22 23 24	4.578231 4.782313 4.707483 4.303448 4.902098	2 0 0 3 0	0 0 0 0 0	1 0 1 2 0	9 3 6 21 1	31 26 28 38 12	104 118 112 81 130
CPP #6	25 26	4.654715 3 4.452055	1 12 3	0 1 1	0.8 24 3	8 67 8	27 22 36	109 20 95
CPP #7	27 28 29 30	3.726027 4.739726 3.92517 4.472603 4.464286	2.5 0 6 1 1	0.25 0 0 0 0	3.875 1 11 3 3	14.375 5 33 15 15	24.125 25 29 33 31	82.5 115 68 94 90
HR Policies	31 32 33	4.400446 4.821918 3.85034 4.260274	2 1 14 6,333333	0 0 0 0	4.5 0 8 4	17 0 19 18 12.33333	29.5 21 37 40 32.66667	91.75 124 69 80 91
Governanc	34 35 36	4.310844 4.328767 4.848276 4.623288 4.60011	6.333333 6 0 1 2.333333	0 0 0 0	4 4 1 2 2,333333	12.33333 9 1 11 7	38 17 22	89 126 110 108,3333
WB	37	4.782313 4.782313	2.333333 0 0	0	2.333333 0 0	3	25.00007 26 26	108.3333 118 118
		4.634637						

#### 5. Tool Used for Data collection

		The institution is not aware of this requirement in the code of conduct (0)	implement	sees the	implementati on of this	The institution partially implements this clause of the CoC (4)	The institution currently implements all the components of this clause in the CoC, and this implementati on is well documented and verifiable (5).
We are committed to being honest and ethical in our relationships with customers and other stakeholders	1						
We provide to low income customers—women, men, boys and girls—financial and non-financial services that are demand- driven, properly addressing their needs and enhancing their wellbeing.	2						
We provide to our clients complete and accurate information.	3						
We are committed to fair practices, which balance respect for clients' dignity and an understanding of their vulnerable situation.	4						
We safeguard clients' personal information We provide to our clients formal and informal channels for their feedback and suggestions and consistently assess the impact of their services	5						
their services	6						
We design products that are appropriate to clients' needs and do not harm. We proactively seek client feedback on products and delivery	7						
channels, investigate drop-outs. We use that information to develop new products or to improve	8						
existing ones.	9						
We do not use aggressive sales techniques	10						
We conduct appropriate client repayment capacity analysis before disbursing a loan	11						
We systematically report to and use data from the credit bureau.	12						
We make sure that the management and Board are aware of and concerned about the risk of over-indebtedness and monitor it.	13						
We fully disclose to clients cost and non-cost information. We raise the client's awareness of the options, choices and responsibilities in financial relations with other MFIs.	14						
We use a variety of disclosure mechanisms, to communicate clear and accurate information about our products.	15						

17 18 19 20 21						
18 19 20 21						
19 20 21						
20 21						
20 21						
21						
21						
21						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
29						
30						
31						
32						
33						
24						
34						
35						
36						
37						
	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 31 32 33 34 34 35 36	24       25       26       27       28       29       30       31       32       33       34       35       36	24	24	24	24