HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Mobile phones and microinsurance
Microinsurance Paper # 26
Pranav Prashad, David Saunders and Aparna Dalal
Insurers are using mobile phones to address two main challenges facing the microinsurance sector: increasing efficiency and reaching scale. This paper is based on a review of literature and 13 insurance schemes that are using mobile phones in some capacity. The review reveals good practices and lessons for insurers to consider when implementing mobile-based microinsurance.

KNOWLEDGE UPDATE

A smoother road to building quality insurance at scale
Aparna Dalal and Craig Churchill
New impact evidence shows that microinsurance products can provide financial protection, reduce vulnerability, and improve access to critical services for low-income households. And with innovations in product and delivery, more people now have access to microinsurance. Does this mean that microinsurance has finally arrived? The answer depends on where you look.

The microinsurance landscape in Asia and Oceania 2013
Munich Re Foundation
In spite of substantial growth, the microinsurance sector has not been able to cover more than 4.4 per cent of the people in Asia and Oceania. However, the continent is characterised by a multiplicity of products and innovations.

Beyond the actuary’s guess - lessons from 15 studies on client value of microinsurance
Emily Zimmerman, Barbara Magnoni and Michael J. McCord
Over the course of three years, the MicroInsurance Centre’s MILK project conducted 15 client math studies in 10 countries for a range of life, property, and health microinsurance products. This paper brings together lessons about the value that products provide to clients, exploring nuances around when, how, and to what degree.

Microinsurance Booklet
MicroSave
The Optimising Performance and Efficiency Series (OPE Series) brings together key insights and ideas on specific topics, to provide microinsurance practitioners with practical advice. The present volume of OPE series compiles the learning of MicroSave on strategising for microinsurance and optimising product and delivery channel for delivery of microinsurance.

NEWS FLASH

Consultancy to evaluate a joint ILO and UNCDF programme
The ILO’s Social Finance Programme and UNCDF are looking for a consultant to evaluate their Joint Program "Promoting Access to Microinsurance for Financial Inclusion and Decent Work". The evaluation will assess the
relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the market
development initiative undertaken since 2009 in Ethiopia, Zambia and to a
lesser extent in Kenya. Please see the detailed TOR and annexes, and, if
interested, please send your technical and financial proposal to Caroline Phily
(phily@ilo.org), cc Mr Yoseph Aseffa (aseffa@ilo.org) by January 8th 2014.

Report on 6th Microinsurance Innovation Forum
This year’s forum focused on the theme “Building quality microinsurance at
scale”. The forum gathered pioneering microinsurers from across the globe;
you can read a summary of the insights they shared in the forum report.

MICRO recruiting two consultants for Central American project
The Microinsurance Catastrophe Risk Organisation (MiCRO) is recruiting a
Technical Project Manager and a Short-Term Consultant for a catastrophe
microinsurance program in Central America. Candidates are invited to send
their applications by December 31st, 2013.

The UNEP FI Principles for Sustainable Insurance Initiative is recruiting a
Programme Manager
The chosen candidate will primarily support the Programme Leader in running
the daily affairs of the PSI Initiative. The position entails thought leadership,
critical thinking, and excellent programme management and relationship-
building skills. To apply, please send a CV and a covering letter explaining why
you are suited for the job to psi-recruitment@unepfi.org by the 17th January
2014.

From Rio+20 to Beijing 2013: Principles for Sustainable Insurance
Initiative reaches next milestone
The UNEP FI events in China’s capital in November 2013 represented an
important milestone in the journey of the UNEP FI Principles for Sustainable
Insurance Initiative. It is now moving forward with a new 3-year strategy.

Housed at the International Labour Organization’s Social Finance Programme, the Microinsurance Innovation Facility
seeks to increase the availability of quality insurance for the developing world’s low income families to help them guard
against risk and overcome poverty. The Facility was launched in 2008 with generous support from the Bill & Melinda
Gates Foundation to learn and promote how to extend better insurance to the working poor. Additional funding has
gratefully been received from several donors, including the Z Zurich Foundation and AusAID.

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