

Enterprise Development and Microfinance journal

Themes 2011/2012

Our articles are around 5000 words in length, though shorter articles of 3000 words are also welcomed. The following are our planned themes, but we also welcome non-theme articles on any subject within the scope of the journal.

June 2011 edition: Savings revisited (copy deadline 1 February 2011)

For the most under-resourced communities and households, savings represent a cushion against poverty which is not associated with indebtedness or inflexible repayment schedules. For informal groups and financial institutions they provide a source of funding that is independent of the capital markets or of donors. But how can savings be made to work? How can poor people's savings be kept secure? Should MFIs be allowed to intermediate savings? Do smallscale savings make a difference to one's ability to earn and realize enhanced economic development?

Crossfire: 'Are informal savings schemes really much less safe than formal sector savings?'

September 2011: What's new in VC / Market Development (copy deadline 1 May 2011)

Enterprise Development – in the form of systems development (value chain development, M4P) – has been an accepted approach for several years now, and appears to have plateaued in terms of new methods and tools. Papers are invited on new cases, approaches, twists and experiences – what's next?

Crossfire: Systems approaches are here to stay and nothing better will replace a systems approach.

December 2011: Investing in MF Institutions (copy deadline 1 July 2011)

The rapid growth of microfinance investment stalled in 2008 as the financial crisis started ramping up and investors became more cautious. However, all kinds of investments in MFIs continue – public sector guarantees, private equity investments, public share offerings, impact investing. This issue will explore key issues in MF investing.

Crossfire: Microfinance investments are just another way for the rich to continue exploiting the poor.

March 2012: Urban value chains (copy deadline 1 November 2011)

From construction to transport infrastructure, from light engineering to food vendors, how are urban value chains upgrading and still providing income opportunities for poor people? As the products of urban value chains become cleaner, safer or more standardized, how can small businesses still meet the regulations?

Crossfire: Compared to working in rural and agricultural value chains, urban work is more complex and fraught with hurdles.

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