

Your SPM Updates for January

Dear SPTF members:

It is our pleasure to send you this first edition of our new SPTF newsletter. As we mentioned in our [holiday card](#), we are streamlining our communications in 2016. Part of that effort includes replacing our ad hoc announcements, invitations, and other updates with this more user-friendly product. We'll be sending out the newsletters once a month, and they'll also be archived on our website. We hope this will make it easier for you to keep up with all of SPTF's work in the new year.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Thank you!

SPTF Secretariat


Announcements
SPTF Implementation Series

In response to member demand, each language-- English, French and Spanish -- in this year's implementation Series will focus entirely on one dimension of the Universal Standards. This approach will allow each series to deliver more depth and implementation guidance for its focus topic.



English: This year's English-language Implementation Series focuses on Dimension 6 – “Balance Financial and Social Performance.” The first webinar will introduce the series and discuss how and why investors take Dimension 6 issues into account. This builds on several recent blogs and articles discussing why investors should focus on balancing financial and social returns, which you can see [here](#). For more updates on the date and investor speaker for the first webinar, check [here](#).

French: This year's French-language Implementation Series focuses on client protection. The first webinar will take place at **9 a.m. EST on January 28**. The webinar will feature Assilassimé Solidarité, a microfinance institution from Togo, and will focus on fair and respectful treatment of clients. To access the webinar on its date, click [here](#).

Spanish: The Latin American region voted to focus on Dimension 5, “Treat Employees Responsibly.” The series, launched in December with a course on Human Capital Management, is being offered under a new model where SPTF provides our members with courses taught by external experts for a fee. Due to member demand we will launch a second session of the same course in the first quarter of 2016. The course will teach MFIs and networks how to improve their Human Resource Management and their implementation of the practices described in Dimension 5 of the Universal Standards. **You can register for the new course [here](#).** Questions? Contact Diana

Summerlin at dianasummerlin@sptf.info

Presentations and recordings from this year and previous years' Implementation Series can be accessed [here](#).

Send us your feedback!

The 2015 Universal Standards Implementation Survey is still open and we need your feedback. As in 2013 and 2014, SPTF partnered with the Global Appeal for Responsible Microfinance and MIX to develop and send this important survey. This year, we are also partnering with the Microcredit Summit Campaign for further outreach. The survey responses help us understand the progress being made around social performance management, the key challenges facing stakeholders, and the resources that could help institutions achieve social goals more effectively. The survey is available in English, French, and Spanish. To send us your feedback, please [start the survey](#).



Trainings/Webinars/Events

January 21, 2016

Investors can attend a short series to bring them up to speed on the key accomplishments and priorities of the SPTF [Social Investor Working Group](#). The first webinar will take place at 9 a.m. EST on Thursday, January 21 and will provide a general overview. [Click here for dial-in details](#).

January 26, 2016

The next meeting of the [Outcomes Working Group](#) will take place at **10 a.m. EST on Tuesday, January 26**. This webinar will feature the experience of Friendship Bridge, Guatemala, in outcomes measurement. [Click here for dial-in details](#).

March 2-3, 2016

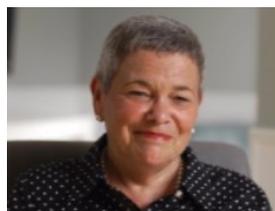
Attend the next SPTF [Social Investor Working Group](#) meeting in **New York City**, hosted by Deutsche Bank. To register or ask questions about the meeting, please contact leticiaemme@sptf.info.

March 15-17, 2016

Attend the **18th Microcredit Summit in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.**, which will explore "Frontier Innovations in Financial Inclusion." On March 17, SPTF will hold a full-day training on the Universal Standards for SPM and the SPI4. For more information on the Summit, visit their [website](#).



SPTF Featured Member



Anne Hastings

Anne Hastings is an inspiring leader and a pioneer in social performance management. She has played key roles in the microfinance industry throughout her career, as an SPTF board member and in numerous other leadership positions, including most recently as director of the Microfinance CEO Working Group. Anne recently left the Working Group to focus on advocacy for the

“graduation approach,” an anti-poverty methodology that integrates financial services with other interventions, including direct relief, livelihood training, and personal coaching. She’ll be consulting to [Uplift](#), a joint venture between Amplifier Strategies and a group of donors to accelerate the global scale-up of the graduation approach. [This article](#) describes Anne Hastings’ hopes for the microfinance industry she has served so effectively.

Read also “[Moving to Haiti to Fight Poverty: Anne’s Story](#)” to learn the unusual path that led her to 17 years in Haiti and her devotion to fighting poverty.



Responsible Microfinance Facility (RMF) – Quarterly Update



The Responsible Microfinance Facility (RMF)

The Responsible Microfinance Facility (RMF) is a three-year initiative aimed at strengthening capacity and social performance management practices of financial institutions in Africa and the Middle East.

Launched in January 2015, the RMF is funded by the Agence Française de Développement and managed by SPTF in collaboration with Smart Campaign. The RMF will offer trainings and provide co-financing to financial institutions for certain capacity-building activities. It has received close to 100 applications to date. **The deadline is March 11 for applications for first-quarter 2015 funding.** To learn more and download application forms in French or English, visit the RMF [website](#).

The RMF is also supporting two research projects: an analysis of integrating client protection into digital financial services, and an update of the Microfinance Index of Market Outreach and Saturation (MIMOSA).



News From Our Members

[MFC Conference](#)



MICROFINANCE CENTRE

In October 2015 the Microfinance Centre and CERISE launched the third round of the SP Fund supported by Ford Foundation. The Fund aims to significantly increase the adoption of the Universal Standards by promoting the SPI4 as a data collection and performance management tool among MFIs, networks and investors.

This 2.5-year program will include: introductory SPI4 workshops for MFIs, investors and networks; online trainings; and off-site support to help them use the SPI4, understand the Universal Standards, and improve practice.

Financial support will be available for MFIs to receive SPI4 external assessments and for networks to collect and analyze data and develop country reports. The Fund will provide scholarships to the SPTF annual meeting in 2016 and 2017 for the most active networks and MFIs. **The first SP Fund call for proposals for networks and MFIs will open at the end of January 2016.** To learn more about the call for proposals for networks and MFIs, upcoming webinars, and other microfinance activities visit MFC's [website](#).

Save the date for the **19th annual Microfinance Centre (MFC) conference** in Tirana, Albania June 22-24, 2016. To learn more, visit MFC's [website](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITY

[Social Performance Manager at Dia Vikas in Gurgaon, India](#)

[Program Director, Financial Inclusion at Innovations for Poverty Action](#)

Send job opening to newsletter@sptf.info.

Must have "SPTF Newsletter Job Announcement in the subject line or will not be included. This section is for organizations to announce job openings. Please do not send resumes.



Member feedback is critical to the success of the SPTF

We welcome your suggestions for future content. Please email us at newsletter@sptf.info using the subject line "SPTF Newsletter Content Suggestion"

To make sure you are receiving SPTF emails, please add the domain "sptf.info" to your safe sender email list.



Resources and References

Explore the resources below for tools and guidance to help strengthen your social performance management and achieve your social and financial goals.

[Universal Standards for Social Performance Management](#)

[CGAP Brief on the Universal Standards Implementation Guide](#)

[Universal Standards Implementation Guide](#)

[SPI4 Tool](#)

[SPTF Guidance Notes](#)

[SPTF Resource Center](#)

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