

Credit Suisse Financial Inclusion Initiative (FII)

Creating an inclusive world

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)



Source: United Nations

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are a universal guiding framework to discuss the impact an organization is having in various areas and with all stakeholders. It's a language that everyone understands and that helps streamline activities, measurement and reporting.

What is Financial Inclusion?

Financial Inclusion is about the provision of financial products and services to people that are commonly excluded from the traditional banking sector. Examples include (women) entrepreneurs receiving loans to build their businesses, smallholder farmers receiving loans or insurance to increase their yield, parents receiving loans or savings products to improve the family's education or health care, or individuals receiving savings products to increase their personal security. Financial Inclusion is not a SDG in itself but is seen as an enabler of many other SDGs like no poverty (SDG 1), access to education (SDG 4) or gender equality (SDG 5).

Why is Financial Inclusion important?

Credit Suisse believes that Financial Inclusion is an effective means to empower individuals and communities to break through the cycle of poverty and participate in the financial system. Also, providing access to financial services is often seen as a first step to providing access to many other essential services in the formal economy (e.g. education, health care, childcare employment, nutritional food etc.) which in turn yields myriads of benefits to society.

What are the long-term benefits of Financial Inclusion?

- Access to savings products provides people with financial security, and allows them to work towards savings goals to become more independent
- Access to loan products, allows people to fund entrepreneurial activities (business loans), and cater to many basic needs such as education (school fees/university loans), health care (emergency loans, microinsurance), and housing (housing loans)
- Other services like financial education (financial literacy training – specifically provided through the Credit Suisse Global Education Initiative) or mobile banking (fintech), allow people to become more independent

What is the Credit Suisse Financial Inclusion Initiative?

The Credit Suisse Financial Inclusion Initiative (FII) is funded by the Credit Suisse Foundation and was created in 2008. It provides grants to financially inclusive organizations to broaden the universe of products and services available for the financially excluded, and to make the industry more robust and successful. Credit Suisse also provides support through volunteering programs that promote the transfer of skills and knowledge between employees and partners.

The FII mandate

With its grants and partnerships, the FII strives to foster market development and innovation by strengthening microfinance institutions (MFI)'s and other financially inclusive organizations' ability to serve the diverse financial needs at the base of the pyramid through:

- Enabling product and services development and innovation
- Developing strong industry partnerships and knowledge sharing
- Effectively leveraging Credit Suisse's skills, expertise, financial and social capital
- Continuous measurement and optimization of impact

A key objective is to leverage the skills and enthusiasm of Credit Suisse employees in order to build partner capacity, raise awareness and advance financial inclusion and impact investing at the firm. Credit Suisse employees can actively support the FII in reaching these objectives through a variety of exciting skill sharing programs like the Global Citizens Program (GCP), Virtual Volunteering (VV) or the Financial Inclusion Advocates network.

How does the FII select its partners?

The Credit Suisse Financial Inclusion Initiative works with selected, industry-leading, and established MFIs and other financially inclusive organizations to advance specific focus areas for the benefit of the Financial Inclusion industry as a whole. We strive for geographic diversification to ensure that new learning can be scaled efficiently across several markets for greater impact.

How does the FII measure the impact of its projects?

The FII upholds a close and regular dialogue with all partners and their management to openly discuss opportunities and challenges of implementation. All partners analyze their activities on a regular basis to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of their programs and to report them to Credit Suisse.

In case additional information about a project is needed, the FII contracts external reviewers/auditors to visit the project and prepare an independent impact report.

What does Credit Suisse do beyond building capacity with grants and expertise sharing?

Credit Suisse supports financially inclusive organizations by providing access to capital. Private capital is made available through innovative, bespoke financial products for impact investors (e.g. dedicated structured notes), and public capital is made accessible through investment banking services (e.g. IPOs, debt raising). All such activities are managed through the dedicated Credit Suisse Impact Advisory and Finance Department (IAF), reporting directly to the CEO of Credit Suisse Group.

Which partners is the FII working with?

Addressing specific UN SDGs

■ SDG 4: Opportunity International – Empowering Generational Change through Education Finance

Strengthening and expansion of education finance through school improvement and school fee loan products in Africa, Latin America and Asia



■ SDG 5: Women's World Banking – Leadership and Diversity for Innovation Program

Equipping leaders of microfinance institutions and other financially inclusive organizations with the training and tools to better serve the women's market



■ SDG 7: CGAP – Access to Asset Finance

Identification of best practice as well as coordination and streamlining of PayGo Solar operators and financing companies to allow for most impactful delivery and most efficient access to global capital markets



■ SDG 8: Accion – Finance Innovation

Supporting Venture Lab to invest in early-stage fintech start-ups and supporting the Center for Financial Inclusion, the industry-wide "Think and Do" Tank



■ SDG 17: Swisscontact – Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

Building a platform to become an ambassador for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Markets, that enables, connects and coordinates for meaningful change out of Switzerland



CREDIT SUISSE AG

Financial Inclusion Initiative (FII)
ROCM 8
CH-8070 Zürich

credit-suisse.com/financialinclusion

financial.inclusion@credit-suisse.com

Disclaimer

This document was produced by and the opinions expressed are those of Credit Suisse as of the date of writing and are subject to change. It has been prepared solely for information purposes and for the use of the recipient. It does not constitute an offer or an invitation by or on behalf of Credit Suisse to any person to buy or sell any security. Any reference to past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The information and analysis contained in this publication have been compiled or arrived at from sources believed to be reliable but Credit Suisse does not make any representation as to their accuracy or completeness and does not accept liability for any loss arising from the use hereof.