



Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion

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Issue 2



# CEFI Nius

## MESSAGE FROM CEFI DIRECTOR



### 2017: A YEAR IN REVIEW

2017 has been a great year ! With your support, CEFI has built on the momentum and success of the first national strategy implementation. Briefly, here are our key highlights of the year:

**2nd Financial Inclusion Strategy:** Great progress was recorded in 2017 with all seven working groups were functioning and proved to be effective mechanism for public, private partnership (PPP) for financial inclusion.

**Coordinated Actions:** Partnership and stakeholder mobilization is critical for the successful implementation of the financial inclusion strategy. CEFI established, developed and strengthened partnership with key stakeholders.

**Deepening Financial Access:** The Financial Inclusion Innovation summit was a success through partnership with BPNG, FDC and PFIP. A PNG microfinance fair was arranged in concurrent to the summit providing great exposure for the PNG microfinance industry. Over 250 foreign and local participants attended. Established partnership with Productive partnership in Agriculture project (PPAP) funded by World Bank to link coffee and Coco farmers to formal banking institutions. In partnership with Market development facility (MDF) DFAT funded project to design savings product for farmers in Western highland region to purchase agriculture Implements. PML is identified as the financial institution.

**Better Market Information:** In October, financial inclusion mapping process commenced to develop a digital dashboard to provide financial inclusion information. 2) PNG Microfinance benchmark report for 2016 published with an additional new report on trend analysis 3) Final report completed on Mobile payments for Cocoa farmers in Bougainville in partnership with Mi-Bank and MDF. 4) Developing Gender Equity & Social Inclusion Policy (GESI) for Microfinance Institutions in PNG and now working on developing institutional action plans . 5) CEFI commenced registration of Financial education training institutions in PNG. 6) NICTA commenced compulsory registration of SIM for all mobile phone users

**Knowledge Sharing & Communications:** The last quarter, saw CEFI's communications platform greatly improve with first quarterly CEFI news letter released in October and CEFI's social media presence established and maintained on a daily basis feeding information on all financial inclusion related activities in PNG. CEFI also entered into partnership with National newspaper to provide financial inclusion information on a weekly basis.

I look forward to your continued support and partnership for 2018 and working with you all in achieving our vision of creating a financially inclusive Papua New Guinea.

Sincerely,

*Saliya Ranasinghe*



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#### GREETINGS!

- Happy New Year from CEFI Board, Management and Staff
- Welcome to our 2nd edition and first e-newsletter for 2018: **CEFI Nius**
- To publish your stories send us an email: [info@thecefi.org](mailto:info@thecefi.org)



## FINANCIAL LITERACY GIVING WOMEN OPPORTUNITIES

Through CEFI & MEP, girls and women have been given the opportunity to be smarter in handling their finances.

Participants in their training say it was an eye opener and one that gave them confidence to make better decisions.

The recent graduation of participants in financial literacy program saw a good number of female trainees receive their certificates.

Some of them include primary school children from as far as Nuku District, who made the long journey to receive their certificates.

Grade Seven student Dorothy Arket was thankful for the training, saying she realises the importance of saving money.

“On behalf of Dapu Primary School, we want to thank you for the financial education, for giving us this training to know how to budget the money to look after our future,” she said.

Cathleen Biai, from Ward Five, Vanimo-Green LLG, said the training has made her realise how much she wastes on unnecessary items such as betelnut and cigarette.

She now plans to cut down on those expenses and run a small business.

*“The digital dashboard for financial inclusion will make it possible to visualize the geographic concentration and overall landscape of PNG’s financial services infrastructure and user context in order to measure and analyze access to financial services geographically.”*

**BANK’S FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING REACHES OVER 21,000**



More than 21,000 people have received financial literacy training this year through the Bank South Pacific’s banking education programme.

This includes 8000 students in 108 schools visited this year.

The training includes basics on budgeting, savings and mobile money, and banking education.

About 43 per cent of the participants were women.

“With the basic skills of budgeting and savings, we hope that we can help the population to be financially literate to better manage money,” he said.

BSP uses the CEFI & MEP Financial literacy modules for their financial literacy training.

BSP bank has also supported community projects on education, health, sports and the environment.

## BPNG AND CEFI CREATE DIGITAL DASHBOARD FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION



The Bank of PNG and CEFI have entered into a partnership with a French company called Horus Telecom & Utilities embarking on a digital mapping exercise that will begin to map PNG’s financial infrastructure - these are bank branches, sub branches, ATMS, agents and EFTPOS (Electronic funds transfer at point of sale).

Improving access to financial services remains one of the development challenges for the country and this mapping exercise is one of the collaborative efforts to extend financial services to the unbanked majority.

The digital dashboard for financial inclusion will make it possible to visualize the geographic concentration and overall landscape of PNG’s financial services infrastructure and user context in order to measure and analyze access to financial services geographically.

“This will be a comprehensive digital dashboard that will display a whole range of information like population data per lowest Government administrative level (LLG), demographic data, Number of access points per institution including distance to access points, Mobile phone network penetration, financial education coverage and, even a reporting system road map,” says Saliya Ranasinghe, Director CEFI .

“This dashboard grounded in objective data and indicators will enable CEFI to manage and analyze data ultimately assisting decision-makers to formulate new policies and programs to facilitate the expansion of agent banking and e-money, or to implement new financial education schemes in areas where uptake of financial services is low.”

“Moreover, with all financial institutions around the country on board, the dashboard serves as a monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure that CEFI and BPNG can track progress towards PNG’s financial inclusion targets.”

The digital dashboard for financial inclusion project is funded by the Microfinance Expansion Project (MEP). MEP is co-funded by the Asian Development Bank, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Government of PNG designed to strengthen the growth of the Microfinance sector in PNG.





## 3000 GRADUATE WITH FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

Over 3,000 people from Vanimo in the West Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG) graduated in December last year from the financial education training program conducted under CEFI & the Microfinance Expansion Project. The project is supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Governments of Australia and PNG.

“Financial literacy is very important for the nation. It is important that we continue to bring these trainings to the people. People should have the skills and knowledge on how to save and budget to be able to use the services and products provide by financial institutions and to better their lives,” said Rex Tawian, from Horizon Consulting who were the training partners in Vanimo.

Tawian also added that the demand for training in the province has increased since the organization carried out the financial literacy trainings. “Training has been carried out to villages, students, staff from the provincial govern-

ment and inmates from Vanimo Correctional Centre.”

The Microfinance Expansion Project was designed to increase financial inclusion in PNG by improving people’s knowledge of and access to financial services, targeting financial literacy education for 130,000 people across the country by the end of 2017. This target has already been achieved, with financial education reaching over 190,000 people—40% of whom are women. It also supports partner financial institutions in their efforts to roll out appropriate financial services.

“The project is delivering financial education and providing better access to financial services, which is changing people’s lives for the better in PNG,” said Emma Fan, Regional Director of ADB’s Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office in Sydney. “It allows more people in PNG to contribute to the economic development of the country.”



### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SKILL TOT TRAINING CONDUCTED IN LAE

CEFI & MEP partnered with Anis Foundation Incorporation and conducted one week Business Development Skills (BDS) Training of Trainers (ToT) Training to a total of 7 participants of which 4 males and 3 females. The training from 18th December to 22nd December, 2017 was held at PNG Union Mission of SDA Church Head Office, Top Town, Lae, Morobe Province.

The training targeted people who have been trained and had conducted BDS with market vendors and SME owners. Most participants had formal education background with Degree in Banking & Finance, Business Management, and Diploma in Teaching and were young and energetic to conduct trainings in NCD with Micro Small Entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs.

The Anis Foundation Incorporation BDS ToT training was facilitated by Sebastian Mugup, a Training Development Specialist with the Microfinance Expansion Project.



## CLIENT STORIES



### Naulem Koni –West Sepik

Naulem Koni is a Grade 7 teacher at Wutung Primary School, and has been a member of the Teachers Savings & Loans Society (TISA) for more than nine years. Because TISA is located in almost all provinces of the country, it is easy for teachers to join and commit to a savings plan. Naulem is thrilled with the savings he has made through his years at TISA. He lives close to the PNG-Indonesian border, and his savings allow him and his family to travel regularly to Irian Jaya to shop and visit his wife's family.



### Margaret Toea- NCD

I am a client of MiBank and was selected by them to attend the pilot training run by the Micro-finance Expansion Project (MEP) on Banking Services, Financial Negotiation and Debt Management recently. The 3 modules were an eye opener for me especially in managing my finances. I have registered a small business and I do bits and pieces to sustain myself and this training has given me knowledge in making financial decisions, especially what is necessary and what is not an immediate priority. I have also learnt that managing debts is important in life especially for people with loans. People must understand the commitment they make to banks especially in settling their loans timely and the implications that it will have on their daily lives. I feel empowered attending this training.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING OF TRAINERS COMPLETED IN KIMBE, WEST NEW BRITAIN

CEFI & MEP partnered with Foundation For People At The Cross Road Incorporation and conducted one week Business Development Skills (BDS) Training of Trainers (ToT) Training to a total of 6 participants- 5 males and 1 female from 11th December to 15th December, 2017, held at Mania Guest House, Kimbe, West New Britain Province.

The training targeted people who have previous training and had conducted Business Development Services with market vendors and SME owners. Most participants had formal education background with Degree in Banking & Finance, Business Management, and Diploma in Teaching and are young and energetic to conduct trainings in National Capital District with Micro Small Entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs.

Mr. Fred Waluka, the Director & Lead Trainer for Foundation For People At The Cross Road Incorporation said "we are privileged to partner with MEP to conduct BDS train-

ings for the micro small entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs in West New Britain Province. I congratulate all participants and urge you all to fulfill your assigned tasks ahead of you and I wish you luck in your business ventures!"

The training was conducted by Mr. Sebastian Mugup – Training Specialist for Micro-finance Expansion Project.



## GRADE 6 DROPOUT GRADUATES

Agatha Nikengu from Waromo Village in the West Sepik Province is one of the participants who took part in the #financialliteracy training program. A grade 6 drop out and mother of 2 she says she has learnt a lot on how to save and budget. She said the training has made her realise how she was spending her money why it was important to save.

## TRAINING HELPS PARTICIPANT SAVE & BUDGET

"Learning about budgeting and saving is very challenging, it may sound easy to do but doing the actual thing can be tough." This was what Maria Anuot said after receiving her certificate in Financial Education recently.

She was one of 3005 participants who attended a 10 day training on budgeting and savings conducted by the Horizon Consulting, a business and development consultancy firm in the Vanimo-Green River District of West Sepik Province.

She said before attending the training she would spend more money than what she earned or had and she had to borrow to meet her other needs.

"The training I received has challenged me to control my spending, I have failed numerous times to budget and the training has thought me that I can control my spending and I can save."

*Pic: Maria Anuot (second from left) with fellow participants who received their certificates during the graduation.*



## CEFI SOCIAL MEDIA



Click on any of the above icons to access our social media sites

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# In the News

- ◆ **Centre creating Financial Freedom**  
<https://www.thenational.com.pg/centre-creating-financial-freedom/>
- ◆ **Bank of PNG Buys National Electronic Payments Switch**  
<https://www.bankpng.gov.pg/announcement/bank-of-png-buys-national-electronic-payments-switch/>
- ◆ **Financial literacy training for 8,000 students** <http://www.looppng.com/tags/financial-literacy-training>
- ◆ **Financial literacy an asset for the future** <http://www.looppng.com/business/financial-literacy-asset-future-65979>
- ◆ **Westpac hub showcases work to Australian delegation** <https://www.thenational.com.pg/westpac-hub-showcases-work-australian-delegation/>
- ◆ **PNG moving into a cashless society** <https://postcourier.com.pg/png-moving-cashless-society/>
- ◆ **Local firm praises project** <http://www.looppng.com/business/local-firm-praises-project-70529>
- ◆ **FinTech for financial inclusion in the Pacific** [https://www.afi-global.org/news/2017/11/fintech-financial-inclusion-pacific?utm\\_content=buffer83b76&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://www.afi-global.org/news/2017/11/fintech-financial-inclusion-pacific?utm_content=buffer83b76&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

## LINKS & RESOURCES

### Top ten downloaded publications from 2017:

1. Blockchain: Opportunities for Private Enterprises in emerging markets
2. Financial data collection through interactive mobile phone podcasts
3. Behavioural applications to digital finance
4. The role of financial services in humanitarian crises
5. Status of microfinance in India 2016-2017
6. Delivering formal financial services to savings groups: a handbook for financial service providers
7. Connected women: mapping the mobile money gender gap: insights from cote d ivoire and mali
8. Economic inclusion of the poorest refugees: building resilience through the graduation approach
9. Financial inclusion and inclusive growth
10. Serving refugee populations: the next financial inclusion frontier–guidelines for financial service providers

**TO DOWNLOAD REPORTS:** click here

<https://www.microfinancegateway.org/library/top-ten-publications-2017>

