Yemen Microfinance Network
Newsletter

January - March 2011

Out of 130 Banks and Microfinance Institution from 43 Countries Al-Amal Microfinance Bank (Yemen) achieves number 1 ranking in the world in Islamic Microfinance

The jury committee of the global competition challenge award, announced that Al Amal Microfinance Bank (AMB) is the winner of the Islamic Microfinance Challenge Award which is sponsored by CGAP, Deutsche Bank, Islamic Bank for Development and Grameen- Jameel Foundation, where more than 130 Banks and Microfinance Institution (MFIs) from 43 countries applied for. AMB was selected to receive this award as it offers diversified Islamic financial services which are innovating, sustainable, scalable and market-driven models in line with Islamic Shariaa which contributed in creating more work opportunities in Yemen particularly among the youth. Building on this global report, AMB becomes a unique model in the Microfinance industry world-wide in delivering a full package of diversified Islamic financial services to fund the small and micro-enterprises of a unique model in the Microfinance industry world-wide in delivering a full package of diversified Islamic financial services to fund the small and micro-enterprises of a unique model in the Microfinance industry world-wide.

Nama’a Program awards its distinguished staff

As part of appreciating and recognizing its staff hard work and distinguished achievements during the second half of 2010, Nama’a Microfinance Program held a ceremony to award its dedicated and distinguished staff during the Year 2010. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Mohammed Almoazeb Head of Sustainable Development Department in The Charitable Society for Social Welfare, Mr. Sharar Mohammed Mahyub, Yemen Microfinance Network Managing Director and Mr. Haseeb Alhsukami, Nama’a Microfinance Program Deputy Managing Director who presented the 2010 program achievements based on the set plan for 2010. In his speech on behalf of Nama’a Program Managing Director Mr. Alhsukami valued the Yemen Microfinance Network concrete and professional services delivered in training and building the staff capacity in a short period of time.

Guest speech was delivered by Mr. Mohammed Almuazeb, Head of Sustainable Development Department in The Charitable Society for Social Welfare who highly valued and appreciated the efforts done by Nama’a Program which resulted in the outreach and expansion to the poor and low income people. Mr. Almoazeb also appreciated the role done by Yemen Microfinance Network to enhance and strengthen the capacity building of both staff and Microfinance Programs in general.

The ceremony was ended by distributing the appreciation certificates to all the distinguished branches and staff.

YMN participates in the Consumer Protection Principles Training in Addis Ababa

As part of its obligations and according to the MOU signed with the smart campaign and the SEEP Network, YMN has participated in the TOT course in Microfinance Client Protection Guidelines held in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa held from 28th February through 4th March 2011. The training course was attended by all African Microfinance Networks and Yemen Microfinance Network.

Besides focusing on educating and promoting the client protection six principles, the training course focused on the smart assessment of the microfinance institutions in regard to the principles agreed upon which includes:
1) Avoidance of Over-Indebtedness
2) Transparent and Responsible Pricing
3) Appropriate Collections Practices
4) Ethical Staff Behavior
5) Mechanisms for Redress of Grievances
6) Privacy of Client Data

To more connect the participants to the field, a field assessment was done for a microfinance institution operating in Ethiopia and all participants were involved in the assessment process.

YMN was represented by the Research and Development Executive Mr. Khalil Almikhlafi who was certified by the smart campaign to train and conduct an assessment on Client Protection Guidelines for MFIs.

YMN has prepared a detailed work plan to promote and educate its members through conducting trainings and workshops for both Social Performance and Client Protection Guidelines.

YMN General Assembly Annual Meeting and By-elections

YMN General Assembly Annual Meeting was held on 29th January 2011 to review and approve YMN 2010 progress report and financials. The meeting also discussed 2011 action plan for the network programs and activities.

In the meeting Mr. Mohammed Al-lai, YMN chairman, presented the achievements and the successes achieved by the network in a very short period of time in which the network has built a strong relationship with globally known partners in Microfinance namely The Small Enterprise Education and Promotion (SEEP) Network and Microfinance Network of Arab Countries (SANABEL).

Mr. Sharar Mohammed Mahyub, YMN Managing Director, presented the YMN 2011 ambitious plan in which the network is planning to conduct many activities and programs that will play an essential role to promote the Microfinance Industry in Yemen as a whole.

In the General Assembly meeting, the by-elections was conducted to fill in three vacant seats on the Board of Directors. Six candidates nominated themselves for the vacant seats on the YMN board of directors, Mr. Soufan Alomaisi, Managing Director of Nama’a Microfinance Program, Mr. Ali Saleh Shamsan, Managing Director of Tadhamon Microfinance and Mr. You-suf Alkuraimi, Managing Director of Alkuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank were elected to fill in the three vacant seats on the YMN BoD. Mr Alkuraimi by consensus was elected Vice-chairman of YMN.

YMN would like to congratulate and welcome the three new elected members to the YMN BoD and wish them all the success. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank the departing board member Yusuf Yakubi for his efforts and support.
The First Training Course in 2011 - Planning Skills

YMN organized the first training course in 2011 in Planning Skills. The training started 9-12 January 2011. The course targeting all the staff working in Microfinance Institutions.

The course was delivered by Dr. Abdulaziz Almikhlafi, one of the leading trainers in personal, management and financial skills. In addition YMN conducted a training course in financial analysis. The course was delivered by Mr. Mohamed Al-Mohannadi.

Report Writing Training Course

The Yemen Microfinance Network continues providing new training courses to the Microfinance sector in Yemen. Those trainings targets developing the personal skills of the MFIs staff, which is of high priority to improve their performance. The network conducted a training course in (Report Writing) during the period (13-16 Feb 2011). The course contains basics in report writing, the different types of management reports as well as a step by step process to write successful reports. The course included practical exercises to allow participants to apply the knowledge received.

The training course was delivered by Mr. Rayed Al Abdali who holds a Master degree in Business Administration and is currently a researcher in the Doctoral degree in Business Administration program - Management of human resources. He is an expert and a training consultant accredited by the Canadian center, and a Training of Trainers accredited by the Arab Board for training and consultancy, and a training expert in Training of Trainers certified from the International Academy of Human Resource Development.

March Training course

In March 2011 the Yemen Microfinance Network offered distinctive training courses that aim to develop the personal and training skills of the Microfinance Institutions (MFI) staff. The courses offered in March are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title:</th>
<th>Problem solving and decision making</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>12 – 16 March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainer:</td>
<td>Sami Ameen Albana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the course:</td>
<td>This course is offered to the loan officers of the MFIs. The course content was customized to suit the nature of the problems that are faced by the staff of the Microfinance institutions and make the right decisions to solve them.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title:</th>
<th>Training of Trainers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>19 – 23 March 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trainer:</td>
<td>Adnan Alsada</td>
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<td>About the course:</td>
<td>For the first time YMN provided a TOT course that is aimed at building the training skills of individual staff that are professionals in their fields. Those staff members will be recognized as trainers which will help them in training their staff members. The course focused on practical sessions in which participants practice training within the training hall.</td>
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“SPM project in Yemen”

The training executive of YMN Ms. Nojah Almaghned attended a 2 days workshop on SPM during the period 8 – 9th Feb 2011 in Taiz – Yemen. It was a closing workshop to include all the activities of the project that is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and aimed at building the capacity of small and micro enterprises/MFIs by conducting Training of Trainers (TOT) in the field of SPM. Attending the workshop was the first step of investigating the initiatives that took place in Yemen in this regards. The SPM also contacted SEEP (the global MF network), MIX market, NFC (The European regional network) and Sanabel (The Arab MF network) to explore the steps required to implement SPM in Yemen. In response the YMN prepared its work plan for launching the project that starts by building awareness on its importance among members. The plan contains a number of activities, workshops and trainings meanwhile the network will continue strengthening its relationships with strategic partners.

A training course in Market Research

The Yemen Microfinance Network conducted a distinctive training course in market research for the first time for Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Yemen. The course was held during the period (5 – 9 Feb 2011). It primarily targeted individuals working in Operations, Marketing, Research and Development departments, as well as branch managers and staff involved in search for new opportunities for their respected MFIs. The training course was delivered by Mr. Adnan Katina who holds a Master degree in Economics and a Diploma in (The consulting process skills). He is a trainer for many courses in marketing and personal skills and has done Market researches and feasibility studies for different organizations. The course was offered in a practical manner, in which participants conducted a market research, based on realistic examples that enhanced their capacity to do market researches on their own.

Spotlights

- Abyan Program turns to Islamic Microfinance practices in all branches and launches a new branch in Alsheher Hadramout.
- YMN publishes code of conduct for its members.
- YMN launches two awards for members for 2011, member of the year award and practitioner of the year award.
- YMN members reach 64,194 active clients and 58,412 savers until end of January 2011.