During the third quarter of 2012, Aden Microfinance Foundation (AMF) worked on a radical shift in changing the Method of Disbursement of loans in all branches from cash to Islamic system (Murabaha). Worth mentioning, the new method of disbursement (Murabaha) received high satisfaction from all customers. The foundation issued, during this period, a fund with amount of hundred million YR for 1,300 clients. One hundred fifty young benefited from leasing product where the foundation is considered the first in Yemen working in this product. Aden Foundation developed 2013 plan to include opening three branches in various rural provinces. Source: Aden Foundation

Al-Awael MF Company in cooperation with the Tadhamon International Islamic Bank organize a workshop in

Modes of Islamic Financing and its applications in Microfinance

In July 2012, Al-Awael MF Company organized in cooperation with the Tadhamon International Islamic Bank, Houdh Al-Ashraf Branch in Taiz, a training workshop entitled “Modes of Islamic Financing and its applications in Microfinance.”

The workshop included the definition of most modes of Islamic finance and the methods and the rules that organize these modes. The workshop was implemented in two steps. The first step which focused on the theoretical side discussed all terms, concepts and procedures of Islamic finance. The practical side, second step, required from the participants to apply practical cases in financing operations, new ideas, review the results and then workshop managers commented on them.

The workshop was prepared by Mr. Ammar Al-Zamani, the deputy director of Tadhamon Bank Houdh Al-Ashraf Branch, the former Head of Tadhamon small and Microfinance Taiz Branch, Mr. Abdel Raouf, Investment Manager at Tadhamon Taiz branch, and Mr. Mohammed Alta, Al-Awael MF Managing Director, managed and implemented the workshop.

Al Amal Microfinance Bank joined MoneyGram Transfer Network

Yemen Microfinance Network (June 10, 2012) - MoneyGram (NYSE:MGI), a leading global money transfer company, announced today the addition of Al Amal Bank to its growing global network of agents.

“People that live and work in Yemen depend on our global network of agents to send and receive money to their loved ones,” said Richard Meredith, senior regional director of the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan. “Alam’s unique identity, along with its micro-financing products, makes them an ideal addition to our local network.”

“MoneyGram provides access to services that are critical to the people living and working in Yemen, said Mohammed Al-Lai, CEO of Al-Amal Microfinance Bank. "As we look to expand our capabilities to Yemeni customers, becoming a MoneyGram agent will help us deliver money quickly and reliably to our customers, connecting them to their families across the region and world." According to the World Bank, Yemen ranks among the top 10 remittance recipients in the Middle East, with remittances accounting for 5.2 percent of Yemen’s GDP.

For more information about MoneyGram, you can visit the link below:

www.moneygram.com

Source: Al-Amal Bank

The second Annual Iftar for Sanabel and YMN member institutions

The second time, the Yemen Microfinance Network and Sanabel – The Microfinance Network of Arab Countries held their joint collective Annual Iftar for their members on 30th of July at Al-Bustan Suites in Sana’a, Yemen. The event was a great opportunity for microfinance institutions to socialize, connect, and share information and experiences, updating one another on the latest events and operations in particular on the recovery of programs that were badly affected as a result of the political unrest in the country in 2011 and the period afterward, and discussing the currently available opportunities to pursue, and the new global trends and directions in the microfinance industry from which the members can benefit and use to better improve their products and service offered to the Yemeni poor market.

The event included many important tasks such as the general assembly meeting, election of the new board of directors, discussing and approving the amendments to the networks bylaw, and the presentation of major changes to the network membership levels and criteria. The Iftar was attended by managing directors of the microfinance institutions represented in Yemen, it was an opportunity for YMN and Sanabel to improve and strengthen their linkages, alliances and communications with the member institutions.

Facts on Microfinance in Yemen

Yemen is one of the first countries in the Arab region, which has a specialized law in microfinance. The law, No. 15 for the year 2009, was issued by the Central Bank of Yemen. This law has identified the requirements and procedures for practicing the activity of microfinance; it also identified the groups targeted by these services and the procedures that organize the work. The procedures were set in accordance with the best international practices. Noteworthy, according to the assessment of information unit of the British economic Journal, Yemen recently got the first ranking in microfinance industry in Arab countries. The clients of MFIs in Yemen became more than eighty thousand till August 2012.
Under the auspices of the State Minister and Secretary capital, Al Amal Bank inaugurates the opening of Tahrir Branch, a new model in the microfinance industry

On the 1st of September 2012 Al Amal Microfinance Bank (AMB) inaugurated the opening of Tahrir Branch by the patronage of Mr. Abdalkader Ali Halal, the State Minister and Secretary capital. This branch (Tahrir) is considered a new model based on the provision of inclusive financial services (credit, saving, local and international remittances and money exchange) and incorporation of the best practices in the microfinance industry and the advanced banking sector additionally to the overall look of the branch and features of the financial services it offers. The inauguration was attended by Mr. Omar Bajrej, Chairman of the bank, Mr. Osama Al Shami, Board member of the bank and Government Representative, Mr. Mohammmed Al-Lai, the CEO of the bank, in addition to a number of the bank staff and representatives of local authorities and donor organizations.

The purpose of the seminar was to present the findings of the field study and the experience of the Microfinance program. These effects led to the program operations & portfolio. All clients.

The second paper was presented by Mr. Ghamdan Awn who conducted the field study. Mr. Ghamdan presented the effects of the war on three levels, the program, the staff and the clients.

Mr. Awn ended his presentation with recommendations of intervention for the different parties to help the program to continue its operations.

YMN and AlHuda Center conducted a Training Workshop on Islamic Microfinance

Due to the escalating popularity of Islamic Microfinance in Arab countries with the intention to increase the reach of Microfinance Institutions, the Yemen Microfinance Network, and AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Finance of Pakistan have jointly organized a two days training workshop on Islamic Microfinance on 16th & 17th September, 2012 held in Sana’a, Yemen.

The event was open for regional and international participation. The main objective was to increase the knowledge and practical skills of finance and microfinance professionals in adapting Islamic Financial Solutions. Many different topics were discussed in the event such as:
1. The proper utilization of Islamic Microfinance for alleviation of poverty in poor countries.
2. Islamic Microfinance Products and their structure.

The workshop was lead and certified by international experts in Islamic Finance & Microfinance namely Mr. Mohammed Zubair Mughal the CEO of Alhuda CIBE of Pakistan, and Mr. Qazi Abdul Samed the Shariah Advisor of the Bank of Khyber in Pakistan, and a visiting lecturer of Islamic Financial Systems in City University, Peshawar.

The participants expressed their satisfaction and hoped to organize such trainings in the future.

Sanabel The Microfinance of Arab Countries held its Ninth Annual Conference

On the River Nile in Khartoum, Sudan Sanabel held the largest Microfinance Conference in the Middle East and North Africa region. This conference is the Ninth Annual Conference for Sanabel and will be from October 31st – November 2nd, 2012.

Dr. Mohamed Mahathir is the Keynote Speaker in the opening Ceremony which will be under the theme “New Decade for Sanaž-Dr. Mohamed Mahathir is the Keynote Speaker in the opening Ceremony which will be under the theme “New Decade for Sana”. The conference will be an exclusive occasion to learn about and discuss new trends, challenges, and opportunities facing microfinance practitioners in the Arab region, as well as a unique opportunity to meet and network closely with the sector practitioners from all around the world. More than 500 microfinance practitioners, donors, investors, and government representatives from the region and worldwide are expected to attend this important event in Sudan.

This year Sanabel will also be celebrating the network’s 10th anniversary as part of the Ninth Annual Conference’s proceedings. For more information about the registration, the fees and the conference you can visit the link below:
http://www.sanabelconf.org/sanabel-home.html

The National Microfinance Foundation (NMF) pays the first compensation from its Micro Takaful Fund (My Beloved Ones)

The family of a recently deceased female client of the National MF Foundation branch in Hajjah received the amount of 200,000 Yemeni Rials as a compensation.

The beneficiaries received gifts, educational games, school uniforms, and stationary for the new school year 2012/2013 in the sum amount of 35,000 YR. A cheque was also issued naming the pharmacy from which the medicines were purchased to treat the burns of two of the children incurred during the fire accident caused by the explosion of a gas container, which had led to the death of their mother, the client. The amount of the cheque was 103,000 YR covering the cost of 67 bottles of burn treatment medicine. NMF also paid the amount of 10,000 YR to the deceased client’s husband to cover the burial cost, as well as 52,000 YR to cover the clients unsettled payments.

It is worth mentioning that NMF has two Takaful funds. The last one was founded on 1st of April, 2012 and is dedicated to compensating families and under 18 years old dead clients according to the working mechanisms of their Takaful service (My beloved ones). NMF has released similar compensations from the Takaful Fund reaching 44 cases in the short past period.

A workshop in Financial Risk Management

International Finance Corporation (IFC) organized a workshop in Financial Risk Management in cooperation with Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN). The workshop was held on 12th September 2012 in Mövenpick hotel Sana’a from 12:00 to 16:00. Worth mentioning, the presenter was Stephan Hartenstein (IFC Sr. Risk Management Expert). Many important issues were presented like:
- Risks that have struck MFI’s hard.
- Credit Risk.
- Market Risk.
- Operational Risk.
- Risk Assessment.
- Planning the development of a new Risk Management System and other issues.

The workshop was attended by some of MFI’s Managing Directors and SFD. YMN plans to organize a longer workshop, during the last quarter of 2012, with IFC on this topic based on the members request.