A Comparative Study of Microfinance/Women’s Empowerment Initiatives in Africa and Latin America

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2018 Robert G. Bringle Civic Engagement Showcase

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Research Project

• Our research project will compare and contrast microfinance/women’s empowerment initiatives in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Nicaragua and Mexico.

• The results of our research will provide a brief overview of each country included in the study and why it was chosen and compare various features of several of the microfinance organizations working in this country, including their level of sophistication, their processes and approaches, their collaboration with partners in the host countries, and the outcomes of their activities.

• Our research will also consider what laws and regulations facilitate versus hamper microfinance initiatives and will recommend ways that readers can be involved with or support microfinance/women’s empowerment projects.
Additional Details about the Research

• Supported by the CSL and community partnerships, the authors work with microfinance/women’s empowerment organizations that serve these countries and their involvement has expanded and deepened over the past few years.

• These countries provide an opportunity to compare two countries from Africa with two from Latin America, including a large and small country from each region.

• These countries are either well-served or only lightly served by a variety of microfinance organizations.

• All four countries have experienced many challenges recently, such as natural disasters, civil war, economic hardship, crime and sectarian violence and disease.
Sources and Focus of Inquiry

- Literature review using a variety of databases to retrieve materials about microfinance in each of the four countries.
- Contacts with microfinance organizations in the four countries.
- Use of MIX Market for information on individual microfinance organizations as well as data and reports on the four countries and overall trends in microfinance.
- Time period of interest is 2010 to the present.
- Especially interested in non-profit organizations that are involved in microfinance as opposed to for-profit entities such as banks.
- Looking at concept of social entrepreneurship/civic entrepreneurship and the interrelationship of microfinance and women’s empowerment.
- Focus is on microfinance itself, not the impact of it on issues such as children’s education or health.
- Importance of microfinance: 767 million people, or 10.7 percent, of the world’s population lives in extreme poverty ($1.90 USD per day).
Examples of Microfinance Organizations

• Pro Mujer, which has projects and personnel in five countries, including Nicaragua and Mexico, is large, sophisticated and quite influential and it provides loans along with money management and empowerment training. This organization keeps its focus strictly on Latin America and is very intentional about how it expands its services. It groups its borrowers into “communal banks” for training, support and to ensure that loans are repaid.

• Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR), even after 50 years, is still very small, gives grants rather than loans, and borrowers are expected to contribute a percentage of the overall costs of a project. It works in three countries: Sierra Leone, Kenya and India.

• Both help to build community, particularly in remote and rural areas.
**Pro Mujer - MEX**

**MISSION**
Pro Mujer is an international microfinance and business development organization whose mission is to provide opportunities for women to build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families through training, entrepreneurship and access to credit. By establishing sustainable microfinance institutions that provide an integrated package of financial and human development services, we help women start and grow their small businesses. Pro Mujer supports the needs of its clients and their families and helps women build their self-esteem. The network also offers services and training with existing resources and services in their respective areas.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**
President: \[Email\] (Name)(Email)
Head Office: \[Address\]
Website: [www.promujer.org](http://www.promujer.org)

**LEGAL INFORMATION**
Name: Pro Mujer
Type: Non-Profit
Address: [Address]
Website: [www.promujer.org](http://www.promujer.org)

**PRO MUJER - MEX ANNUAL TRENDS**

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deposits (USD) m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Depositors</td>
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<td>Loss of Risk</td>
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<td>4.54</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUNDING**
Sponsors and Donors

**AT-A-GLANCE**

- Gross Loan Portfolio (USD m): 20.39
- Number of Depositors (m): 1.88
- Number of Credit Lines: 46.44
- Number of Borrowers (m): 20.39
- Number of Depositories (m): 1.88
- Number of Credit Lines: 46.44
- Number of Borrowers (m): 20.39
- Number of Depositories (m): 1.88
- Number of Credit Lines: 46.44
- Number of Borrowers (m): 20.39
- Number of Depositories (m): 1.88
- Number of Credit Lines: 46.44
- Number of Borrowers (m): 20.39
- Number of Depositories (m): 1.88

**FILES**
- [Report 2016](#)
- [Report 2015](#)
- [Report 2014](#)
- [Report 2013](#)
- [Report 2012](#)
- [Report 2011](#)
- [Report 2010](#)
- [Report 2009](#)
- [Report 2008](#)
- [Report 2007](#)
- [Report 2006](#)

**NEWS**
- No related news found.

**ANALYTICAL TOOLS**
- [FPX Analysis](#)

**FPX ANALYSIS**
View or download all financial and social performance data for the FPX, analyzing and benchmarking their performance.
Africa: Sierra Leone and Kenya

Population: 48 million (World Bank, 2016)
GDP per capita: $1,455 USD (World Bank, 2016)
Poverty: 46 percent (UNICEF)

Population: 7 million (World Bank, 2016)
GDP per capita: $496 USD (World Bank, 2016)
Poverty: 60% live below in the poverty line and it has gotten worse.
Latin America: Mexico and Nicaragua

Population: 6.15 million
GDP per capita: $2,151 USD (World Bank, 2016)
Poverty: 24.9 percent (World Bank, 2016) – has improved from 48.3 percent 2005 in with recent economic and political stabilization.

In Calnali, Mexico (site of our project):
Population: 15,815.
Poverty: 26.7% of men and 91.8% of women are economically inactive, with little access to employment in the formal sector.
Promotes Traditional and Non-Traditional Work for Women
Addresses Lack of Opportunities in Rural and Remote Areas
Promotes Preservation of Traditional Crafts
Creates and Builds Community and a Support System for Women

*Photographs from Sierra Leone and Kenya from RSWR website.
Accomplishments and Earnings Contribute to Women’s Empowerment
Conclusions

• To Get Involved:
  • Try Kiva.org – choose a category and then select a project to support!
  • Identify high-quality microfinance organizations through the MIX Market website that support causes you are interested in.
  • Join, volunteer for and support high-quality microfinance organizations.

• Any Questions?
  • Thank you for attending our presentation! Sara and Audra