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## Inclusive Finance Programme (IFP)

<b>INTERVENTION:</b>	<b>Developing Skills for the Financial Industry</b>
<b>REGION:</b>	Central, East & Southern Africa
<b>COUNTRY:</b>	Kenya
<b>PROGRAMME PHASE:</b>	January 2017 – December 2020
<b>FUNDING:</b>	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Swiss Private Sector and ESPERANZA Kooperative Hilfe gegen Armut



### RATIONALE

Financial services are fundamental to economic growth & development and contribute to the improvement in living standards by providing various services to the rest of the economy. Access to market-oriented quality education in the financial sector; specifically fulfilling the needs of the East African region, is however limited. The region records low numbers of skilled microfinance professionals in commercial banks, Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). Notably, there is need to create a strong workforce of committed and equipped professionals who can deliver diverse financial services to low-income and rural populations. Attending to this skills gap will lead to a stronger financial system and inevitably economic growth.

*Microfinance students during a graduation ceremony*

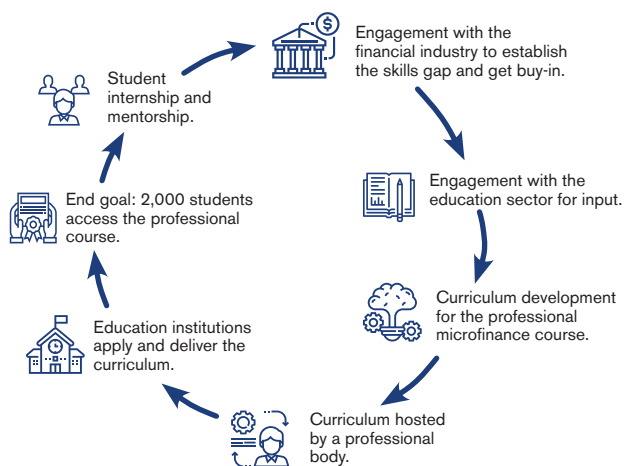


Customers being served by trained microfinance personnel

## INTERVENTION DESCRIPTION

The intervention strives to bolster human resource with the appropriate knowledge and skills that will enable them to develop suitable products and services for the financially excluded. With the necessary skills and insights into the needs of the poor, trained personnel will contribute to further deepening access to microfinance products and services.

The intervention has partnered with financial and training institutions as well as professional bodies to develop a professional microfinance curriculum and reinforce student mentorship and internship opportunities. Engagement in the activities will see practitioners benefit from increased expertise in developing and marketing quality products and services to the financially excluded. This helps to deepen access to microfinance and in turn increases incomes among the excluded population through new or expanded business activities.



## EXPECTED INTERVENTION IMPACT



Reduced microfinance skills gap through the facilitation of the development of a professionally accredited and demand-driven generic curriculum.



Reach 2,000 microfinance students. 1,400 of them should be employed or should have received a promotion within the financial sector.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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