



bi-monthly newsletter - issue 47

MISFA Extends its Support to AMA



Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA) extended its financial support to the Afghanistan Microfinance Association for the year 2021. The agreement was signed, by Mr. Bahram Barzin, the Managing Director of MISFA, and Mr. Mohammad Akbar Sarwari, the Executive Director of AMA, on February 9, 2021. Under this agreement, MISFA financed AMA's planned activities under its four main functions; Lobby & Advocacy, Knowledge Management, Coordination and Networking, and Capacity Building during 2021. The grant helped AMA in providing better services to its members and stakeholders at national and regional levels. MISFA, being one of the founding members of AMA, has been providing technical and financial support to AMA since its inception in 2005. AMA acknowledges MISFA's generous support to AMA for the past few years and is looking forward for future supports of MISFA.

The First Microfinance Bank - Afghanistan launches its 1st ATM



Kabul, March, 17th, 2021 - The First Microfinance Bank-Afghanistan launched its first ever Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Services in French Medical Hospital Kabul. FMFB-A ATM services will enable customers to conduct their banking transactions on ATM anytime using AfPay Debit card such as cash withdrawal, balance inquiry, mini account statement from any local ATM Machines which are connected with the Afghanistan Payment System (APS). FMFB-A will increase its ATM network in several regions and provinces across the country to improve the financial inclusions of unbanked population in the country in the coming years. Speaking on the occasion Faburama Ceesay, FMFB-A Chief Executive Officer (CEO), said "This ATM launching is consistent with our Bank's far-reaching digital innovation strategic goals to introduce digital services to the Afghan population, as part of our mission to continuously provide products and services that facilitate national growth and development". During his remarks he said, "FMFB-A is having its network of branches across 38 branches in 14 provinces across 80 districts, serving the population in urban and rural areas. With the development of technology, FMFB-A encourages its customers to use Alternate digital Channels like ATM, Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, which are suiting to customers convenience".

Mr. Bahram Barzin the Managing Director of MISFA Said "FMFB-A as the largest provider of the financial services in the country has played crucial role in improving access to finance. He congratulated FMFB-A's team for reaching another milestone by launching ATM and labeled this an important step for increasing digital touchpoints and digital solution". The AKDN Diplomatic Representative to Afghanistan Mrs. Sheherazade Hirji "Congratulated

FMFB-A for launching its first ever ATM services and said” that The AKDN goal is to deliver services along the continuum of financial needs in ways that help local and national economies grow. For this reason, the AKDN forges partnerships with other actors in the broader financial ecosystem to offer a range of products and services which includes supporting the digital solution, community-based savings groups to mobile banking, from microfinance institutions to corporate banking”. She added that Afghanistan is among the country's with lowest rates of access to finance and offering digital solution is largely led to improve financial inclusion.



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