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# The Newsletter

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Microinvest (Moldova)\*©

GRAMREEN CRÉDIT AGRICOLE  
FOUNDATION

[www.gca-foundation.org](http://www.gca-foundation.org)

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### THE FOUNDATION'S KEY FIGURES AS OF JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 2021

#### ACTIVITY

37

**COUNTRIES**  
of intervention



81<sup>3</sup>M€

**PORTFOLIO**  
followed by the Foundation



46%

Outstandings in  
**FRAGILE STATES**

81%

Funding in  
**LOCAL CURRENCY**

#### SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

77

microfinance  
**INSTITUTIONS**  
**SOCIAL IMPACT**  
enterprises



11

**BENEFICIARIES**  
of supported institutions



83%

Microcredit beneficiaries  
**IN RURAL AREAS**



87%


**WOMEN**  
beneficiaries of microcredits



## The recovery of activities in the microfinance sector

For several months now, we have witnessed a recovery of activities in the microfinance sector. This irregular upturn varies according to national contexts and the size of institutions. The new variant of Covid-19 seems to be more aggressive and requires close monitoring.

However, even if the context is still unstable, there is a reason for optimism. Through this new issue, we would like to share with you, dear readers, the great resilience that our partners are showing to support vulnerable populations.


Enjoy the read. 

Éric Campos  
Managing director  
Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation

## News

The Foundation publishes its report «The impact of the crisis on microfinance institutions»

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all economies and in particular the most vulnerable. Along with ADA and Inpulse, the Foundation has investigated the effects of this global crisis on microfinance institutions. You will discover in this report the results of the several studies carried out since March 2020.


[Learn more](#) 

COVID-19  
The impact of the crisis on microfinance institutions



OSHUN steps up its action to promote access to water in Senegal and Burkina Faso


In sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of the population does not have access to water, mainly in rural areas. It is in that context that OSHUN, created at the end of 2017 and partner of the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation since 2018, is deploying an innovative solution for access to water in rural areas.

[Learn more](#) 



KOSSAM and the digital payment for farmers in Senegal

Kossam SDE, subsidiary of Laiterie du Berger, has successfully launched the dematerialization of the «payroll» for more than 850 farmers contributing to the improvement of their living and working conditions. Spotlight on the interview for Portail FinDev of Jonathan Michaud, former Solidarity Banker, and Mamadou Fall.

[Learn more](#) 



[See all the news](#)



## IMPACT FOCUS

# Komida or continued business activities in Indonesia



Founded in 2004 to help populations facing the consequences of the 2004 tsunami, Komida is today a major player in microfinance in Indonesia.

## CONTEXT

Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and the world's fourth most populous nation. The country made vast efforts in poverty reduction over the last decades, cutting the poverty rate down to 10%. While the impact of the Covid-19 crisis was reduced compared to neighbouring countries, the unemployment rate rose and progress in poverty reduction was halted, if not deteriorated.

## THE MFI AND THE FOUNDATION

KOMIDA is one of the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation's historical partners, with 9 loans granted since 2010. It is a cooperative owned by its women members, located in rural areas (97%). KOMIDA offers a large range of services (credit, savings, life insurance and trainings) to 766,650 persons and manages a total loan portfolio of €102 million (as of March 2021), through a network of 318 branches, and 4,558 employees.


## RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS

At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, access to villages was impossible due to the nationwide moving restrictions. KOMIDA could not organise group meetings for transactions as usual. Therefore, it granted a first two weeks moratorium to all members. The introduction of lockdown measures also caused a drastic drop of the voluntary savings as most clients were using it to repay their loans.

Among the businesses most affected were activities linked to gatherings of people or relying on commuting between districts, such as retail and trade with urban cities. Some clients had to adapt: members selling in crowded places (school, markets) changed their business location - while maintaining their core business. In spite of these constraints, the majority of the members' businesses (80%) were still running, as most of them are local and less impacted by Covid-19 measures.

## OUTLOOK

Today, KOMIDA and most of its members' activities are running well, even if they still face changes in the restrictions due to the fluctuating Covid-19 context. In 2021, KOMIDA continues to expand in its existing rural areas with 10 additional branches. In

addition, it will focus on providing their very loyal and resilient members social-oriented microcredits: education, sanitation, home improvement, etc. 



**776,650**  
ACTIVE BORROWERS



**€102M**  
GROSS LOAN PORTFOLIO



**100%**  
WOMEN MEMBERS,  
OF WHICH 97% LIVE  
IN RURAL AREAS



## VIEWES FROM THE FIELD

# UGAFODE or the financial inclusion of refugees



UGAFODE, a partner of the Foundation, is expanding its services to refugees by opening a branch in the Nakivale region of Uganda.

This microfinance institution, which is at the forefront of financial inclusion for refugees, has received support from the UNHCR, Sida, and the Foundation.

## Context

Uganda is the leading country in Africa in terms of hosting refugees with 1.4 million refugees. The country has even lifted restrictions linked to Covid-19 to welcome refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the main countries of origin for refugees in Uganda along with South Sudan and Burundi.

Despite this solidarity, refugees are often denied access to financial services by financial institutions because lending to them is considered too risky. However, many are economically active and have already been developing activities for several years.

## Organisation

Supported by the Foundation since 2015, UGAFODE Microfinance Limited provides financial and non-financial services to low-income but economically active segments of the population in Uganda. 7 urban and 12 rural branches serve over 110,000 savings clients and 18,000 loan clients.

UGAFODE has been allocated a technical assistance budget of €536,780 in the framework of a programme to support financial inclusion of refugees launched by the Foundation, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Foundation also granted UGAFODE a loan of €540,000 in July 2020, of which 50% will be used in the refugee programme to lend to refugees and host populations.

## Impact of the support

Thanks to this support, UGAFODE opened in March 2020 a branch office in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda, the 8th largest refugee camp in the world, hosting more than 134,000 refugees from 13 countries. Since the opening of the Nakivale branch in March

2020, 505 loans totalling €383,596 have been disbursed.

## Outlook

Based on these very encouraging initial results in the Nakivale region, UGAFODE's future plans include: intensifying financial literacy training, conducting survey on its impact on clients and developing even more refugee-friendly products. The ambition is to expand the project to other regions.

Read the interview of Shafi Nambobi, Managing director of UGAFODE



Ugafode (Uganda) © Didier Gentilhomme

€12.1M

Loan portfolio

€6 M

Savings collected

1

Branch in Nakivale (Uganda), the 8th largest refugee camp in the world



## Solidarity Notebooks: A Solidarity Banker in Cambodia



**Testimony of Jean-Baptiste Bounes,  
Mergers and Acquisitions Manager,  
SODICA**

Launched by the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation and Crédit Agricole SA in June 2018, Solidarity Bankers is a skills volunteering programme aimed at all Crédit Agricole group employees for the benefit of microfinance institutions or impact businesses supported by the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation. Read the interview with Jean-Baptiste Bounes, SODICA's Solidarity Banker, who carried out an online mission in favour of Phare Performing Social Enterprise (PPSE) between 2020 and 2021.

### The fight against poverty through entrepreneurship

Eric Campos presented the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation and more specifically the Solidarity Bankers programme during a CACIF corporate plenary session in December 2019.

I was immediately seduced by the poverty reduction missions through the promotion of entrepreneurship with social impact and inclusive finance in developing countries. I contacted the Foundation to be informed of the various Solidarity Bankers missions to be filled in order to apply to a mission in line with my skills and motivations.

After having several interviews conducted by the Foundation team, I was selected to advise PPSE in Cambodia in its fundraising strategy.

The proposed assignment fully met my expectations: to be able to use my skills for the benefit of a project with a strong social impact in a difficult context linked to Covid-19; discover a new culture and get out of my professional comfort zone.

The challenge of this mission was to be able to successfully collaborate remotely over a long period while maintaining intensity in the process of fundraising.

### A remote mission during a pandemic

Due to restrictions linked to Covid-19, I participated through my intervention with PPSE to the Foundation's first online



© Philippe LISSAC / GODONG

Solidarity Bankers mission.

Unlike the field missions which often take place over two weeks, my mission was carried out at the rate of one day per week over 15 weeks which was well suited to an operation of fundraising. This allowed me to be present alongside the manager and shareholders over the long term.

A real educational work was done during the initial discussions to ensure that the level of understanding of the various challenges was the same for each attendee.

In addition, in order to maintain close collaboration over time despite the distance, weekly updates were organised. The upstream definition of the various stages also facilitated the smooth running of the process. This allowed the Foundation to consider new remote missions in a proper way.

### Skills volunteering: an experience to be renewed

This experience was very enriching, both on a human and professional level.

First of all, the real autonomy that was entrusted to me allowed me to ask myself the right questions, to assert myself and to gain confidence in order to complete successfully the missions on a daily basis. This experience undoubtedly marked a turning point in my professional career.

I also had the chance to work alongside a company with a strong social impact and Impact Investing funds, which was really close to my heart as I find this universe fascinating and promising.

This mission has also given me a lot on a human level. I discovered a completely different culture and made inspiring and enriching encounters.

I would particularly like to thank Dara Huot, CEO of PPSE, for his extreme generosity, kindness and trust. The investment in terms of time and workload is certainly significant, but if it had to be done again, I would do it again in a heartbeat.

I wish to thank all the people from SODICA, who contributed to making this mission possible; Dara Huot and his teams for their warm welcome and availability and Céline Hyon-Naudin and Carolina Viguet from the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation for their support in the mission.

Discover the Solidarity Banker's missions to be filled

