

MFTransparency, the global leader in pricing transparency, announces its new project
enabling Africa to Price Responsibly & Educate on Interest Rates
in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation

Through the ***enabling APR & EIR Program***, MFTransparency will raise awareness of transparent pricing issues in 8 countries in Africa. The project, beginning in May 2010, will include **Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique**. The main objective of the ***enabling APR & EIR Program*** is to promote improved consumer protection principles through microfinance product pricing transparency. The program will include the following activities:

- **Data Collection, Analysis & Dissemination:** We will collect pricing data, by product, from MFIs in each country. We will then publish this data on our website (www.mftransparency.org) with analysis and descriptive market information.
- **Training on Pricing Transparency:** In each of these 8 countries we will host a workshop, open to all industry stakeholders, where we will provide training on the costs and pricing of credit products. We will also provide a tool for reporting the prices of microfinance loan products in a common format that includes all costs to the borrower, including interest rates, fees and other charges.
- **Development & Dissemination of Educational Materials:** We will develop educational and training materials tailored to several specific audiences including consumers of microfinance products and MFI management and staff.

The **new MFTransparency** program for transparent pricing in **Africa**

By collecting data on prices for microfinance loan products, MFTransparency will provide an important service to an industry lacking a mechanism to ensure accurate reporting. This work addresses a fundamental component of client protection by enabling consumers to make informed decisions. It also facilitates the functioning of healthy free markets in which fair competition is possible and artificially high profit-seeking rates are exposed. Through the ***enabling APR & EIR Program***, MFTransparency seeks to further sustainable microfinance and expand access to microloans for the poor.