

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. Through the **enabling APR & EIR Program**, MFTransparency seeks to further sustainable microfinance and improve the quality of microfinance services for the poor.