

# BRAC INTERNATIONAL MICROFINANCE

BRAC has been one of the pioneers of microfinance since it first started in 1974. BRAC first expanded its microfinance operations internationally in 2002 and now operates in six countries outside of Bangladesh - Myanmar, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Together, these six entities serve nearly 750,000 clients, 96% of whom are women.

Our mission is to provide a range of financial services responsibly to people at the bottom of the pyramid. We particularly focus on women living in poverty in rural and hard-to-reach areas, to create self employment opportunities, build financial resilience, and harness women's entrepreneurial spirit by empowering them economically.

We offer inclusive, accessible, and convenient loan and savings products, tailored to the needs of the local community. Our core credit products include group-based microloans provided exclusively to women, and small enterprise loans for entrepreneurs seeking to grow their businesses. We are also exploring innovative solutions to fulfill the unique financial needs of rural small-holder farmers and the youth population. In all our endeavours, we adhere to the industry's The Universal Standards for Social and Environmental Performance Management and the Client Protection Principles, placing clients' well-being at the center of everything we do to achieve our mission.

BRAC believes that sustainable, large-scale change, must address and deliver both economic and social progress. Since we started microfinance activities in Bangladesh in 1974, microfinance has been an integral part of BRAC's holistic approach to development, equipping people who would otherwise be excluded from formal financial systems with the tools to invest in themselves, their families, and their communities.

### **OUR APPROACH**

#### Distinctive, localised and rooted in BRAC's integrated programmes



We deliver financial services in a way that is transparent, fair, and safe.



financial services

accessible, and convenient loan and savings products tailored to the needs of the local community.

# Digital Innovation

We aspire to be at the forefront of financial technology, focusing on digitising field operations and adopting alternative delivery channels.

# Holistic approach

Our microfinance services complement our social development programmes amplifying our mission.

**Empowering women** 

We primarily focus on

of their families.

women, enabling them to

become financially resilient

and improve the quality of life

# **OUR IMPACT**

**94%** of clients said their quality of life improved after engaging with BRAC

**94%** of clients earned more after engaging with BRAC

**92%** of clients saved more after engaging with BRAC

**92%** of clients planned their finances better after engaging with BRAC

76% of clients spent more on home improvements after engaging with BRAC

\*Highlights from 2022 Impact Survey. Conducted by 60 Decibels using Lean Data<sup>SM</sup> methodology in six countries. All the respondents were women.

\*\*Quality of Life, Financial Resilience, Women's Economic Empowerment, Self-Employment & Livelihood Opportunities, and Household Welfare are BI MF's five social outcome focus areas.

#### **READ OUR 2021 IMPACT REPORT**



## **BRAC AND BRAC** INTERNATIONAL

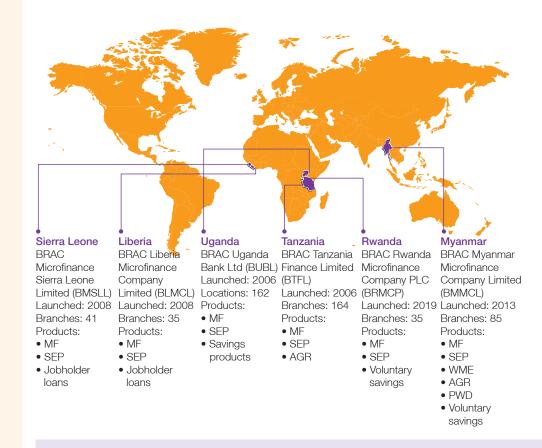
BRAC is an international development organisation founded in Bangladesh in 1972 that partners with over 100 million people living with inequality and poverty globally to create sustainable opportunities to realise potential. BRAC is born and proven in the south, and has become a world leader in developing and implementing cost-effective, evidence-based programmes at scale, with a particular focus on communities in marginalised, extremely poor or postdisaster settings across Asia and Africa.

BRAC first expanded its operations outside of Bangladesh in 2002 and now operates in nine countries in Asia and Africa. Stichting BRAC International, a non-profit foundation formed in the Netherlands in 2009, governs all BRAC's entities outside Bangladesh with an objective to engage in charitable and social welfare activities in any country of the world.

BRAC International Holdings B.V. (BIHBV) was set up in 2010 as a private limited liability and is a whollyowned subsidiary of Stichting BRAC International. BIHBV is a socially responsible for-profit organisation, engaging people in sustainable economic and income-generating activities. The core focus of BIHBV is to provide microfinance services to people, particularly women, living in poverty in rural and hard-to-reach areas to build their financial resilience and improve the quality of life for them and their families.

# WHERE WE WORK

Each microfinance company of BRAC International Microfinance is registered as a separate legal entity and is uniquely positioned to serve their markets. Although initially offering only credit products, we are now deposit taking entities in three countries - Uganda, Rwanda and Myanmar.



AGR: Agriculture loans for smallholder farmers MF: Microfinance group loans for women PWD: Inclusive financing for persons with disabilities SEP: Small enterprise loans WME: Microenterprise loans for women

# **OUR REACH**



97% clients are women



**751,766** borrowers



663,746 savers



57% outreach to people living in rural areas



**68%** outreach to people living in poverty\*



\$93.8 million disbursed in loans

\*people living below \$5.50/day \*data as at March 2023

#### SELINA'S MISSION

Selina Karoli Fissoo has been a client of BRAC for the last ten years.

In 2011, Selina gathered a group of women from her neighbourhood in Arusha so they could get basic financial literacy training and receive loans from BRAC. With her first loan of TZS 150,000 (USD 70), she opened a small kiosk to sell grocery items near her home.

When her husband passed away, Selina persevered and managed to bring her business back to life. She applied for a bigger loan each time and with dedication and hard work, she was able to turn the small kiosk into a big retail store and also built a few rooms in her compound for rent.

Today, Selina is a very successful businesswoman. Alongside her shop and house rents, she also earns decent profits from poultry farming and selling milk to her neighbours and nearby restaurants. Her current loan with BRAC is over TZS 2.5 million (USD 1200).

"I am a fighter and I work hard. I am a single mother who has managed to ensure my children are educated. I have managed to provide for my family and give them a better life," said a confident Selina.



BRAC International Holdings B.V. Zuid Hollandlaan 7, 2596 AL Den Haag, The Netherlands

W: www.bracinternational.org T : +31 (0) 6 50 255 110 F: info.bimf@brac.net

Follow us: 00000 /BRACworld