

PAMIGA Network

The Participatory Microfinance Group for Africa (PAMIGA) was created by leading actors and institutions in African microfinance.

It is with the goal to improve impact and deepen outreach of microfinance in rural areas and urban outskirts that PAMIGA proposes to microfinance institutions advisory services (PAMIGA Advisory Services), financial services (PAMIGA Investment), and a forum to share experiences and best practices (PAMIGA Network).

PAMIGA Network is a dynamic network of African microfinance institutions (MFIs) that have engaged themselves in promoting high-quality microfinance, particularly in rural areas.

The ambition of PAMIGA Network is to help African MFIs face new challenges : increased competition, new technologies and institutions' grouping or merging.

PAMIGA Network : an exchange forum and tailor-made services

- Members of PAMIGA Network belong to a community of institutions and personalities whose objective is to spread microfinance best practices in Africa : they share their knowledge and experience for the benefit of all.
- Exchanges can consist in spreading specific information among members, organizing thematic workshops, giving members an access to an on-line knowledge database specialized in participatory rural microfinance, publishing sector studies and drawing up benchmark indicators for social and financial performances.
- Each Network member MFI can benefit of PAMIGA services according to its needs : the MFI and PAMIGA define together a working plan for a period of three years.
- On demand, Network member MFIs can have access to advisory services delivered by PAMIGA experts.
- After a specific application and assessment procedure, PAMIGA Network MFIs can also have access to financial services (loans and quasi-equity).

PAMIGA Network “Plus”

- A network specialized in African rural microfinance
- References in rural microfinance and participatory microfinance :
 - CIDR, one of the founding members of PAMIGA, is a leading actor in the implementation and operational support and development of participatory microfinance institutions in Africa.
 - PAMIGA experts have all many years of on-site experience in rural microfinance institutions.
- Tailored services for Network members such as on demand monitoring/ assessing, decision-making, introducing innovations, implementing new methodologies, ...
- A constant dialogue with political and supervisory authorities in each country to facilitate an enabling regulatory environment for rural microfinance.

Who can become a member of PAMIGA Network ?

PAMIGA Network defined some eligibility criteria guaranteeing that Network members share a certain number of common characteristics, which will enable to have a high-quality exchange forum.

- The MFI must be mature, i.e. having delivered financial services for at least five years.

- The MFI must be autonomous, i.e. independent from an operator, legally recognized and established as a company, an association or a credit union.
- The MFI must be viable or at least show short-term sustainability perspectives in its business plan.
- The MFI must operate or wish to operate in a rural area.
- The MFI must use or wish to use a participatory methodology for the development of its activities in rural areas.
- The MFI must at least serve 5.000 clients if operating in a urban area, and 10.000 clients if operating in a rural area, corresponding to a loan portfolio of at least 300.000 USD.
- The MFI must have a proven interest in experience exchange, including a will to share its own experiences.

What is the objective of the application procedure ?

The objective of the application and assessment procedure is to check that the MFI complies with the eligibility criteria and to define a working plan between PAMIGA Network and the MFI. The working plan will define the subjects on which the MFI wishes to learn from other members, and the subjects on which the MFI can share its own experiences. As an example, experiences can concern internal audit, new product development, efficiency improvement, MIS, organization, human resources, etc.

The application procedure also helps to define the MFI's needs for advisory and financial services

How is organized the application procedure ?

The MFI must fill in an application form, joining the complementary documents requested (e.g. annual reports, status...). PAMIGA then analyses the application and checks if the MFI complies with the eligibility criteria. If this is the case, PAMIGA proposes a schedule for an on-site mission. During that one-week mission, PAMIGA completes the MFI appraisal and defines with the MFI the experience sharing subjects within PAMIGA Network and the needs for advisory and financial services.

At the end of the mission, PAMIGA and the MFI sign a memorandum of understanding.

As soon as fee payment is done, the MFI becomes officially a PAMIGA Network member and can have access to PAMIGA services.

Fees for PAMIGA Network

The fees per MFI equal to 350 Euros yearly per tranche of 25,000 members or clients.

Example 1 : an MFI that has 12,000 members will have to pay 350 Euros per year.

Example 2 : an MFI that has 27,000 members will have to pay 700 Euros per year.



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