Dear Microcredit Summit Campaign and fellow partners in the global movement to help 100 million families lift themselves out of severe poverty,

With this letter VisionFund International states its commitment to take specific, measureable, and time-bound action to contribute to the Campaign’s goal to help 100 million families lift themselves out of severe poverty.

We know that reaching this goal will require global partnerships that enable organisations to work together in new and innovative ways using a broad range of financial and non-financial services. We join this global movement to demonstrate with others the power of partnerships against poverty and also to inspire new collaborations with those committed to supporting the movement of millions out of severe poverty.

We know too that a goal means little without a concerted effort to honestly and accurately measure progress made towards the goal and therefore we commit to measuring our progress toward our goal through a consistent and reliable system. We also know that movement out of severe poverty will require dedicated efforts to support those journeying out of poverty and we commit to developing and implementing products and services that facilitate this type of movement.

We commit to support the measurement of movement out of poverty in the following manner:

VisionFund is committed to improving the lives of children living in poverty. In 2013, our 36 MFIs impacted 2.8 million children. To ensure we are reaching the intended families, VisionFund is rolling out the PPI across our global network. By the end of 2014, we plan to implement the PPI in 21 of our network MFIs.

We not only want to ensure we are reaching the intended families and providing needed services, but that we are also implementing other important areas of social performance such as client protection. All of our network microfinance institutions have endorsed the Smart Campaign and all have taken the Smart Campaign self-assessment. We have built these principles and practices (and most of the Universal Standards) into our operations policies, and have included key areas in staff training and audit programs.

At year end, we will report back the progress we have made to reach this benchmark and then refresh our commitment with new benchmarks for actions to contribute to the Microcredit Summit Campaign’s goal of helping 100 million families lift themselves out of severe poverty. To that end we designate Lisa Jackinsky, Director of Social Performance and Christian Commitments, (lisa_jackinsky@wvi.org) as our organisational contact regarding this commitment.

Sincerely,

Scott Brown, President and CEO
VisionFund International

This Commitment was presented to and endorsed by the delegates to the 2013 Partnerships against Poverty Summit convened by the Microcredit Summit Campaign in Manila Philippines October 9-11, 2013.