



University of New Hampshire
Carsey School of Public Policy

*Sustainable Microenterprise
and Development Program*



MICROCREDIT SUMMIT CAMPAIGN

A Project of RESULTS Educational Fund

August 18, 2014

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

With this letter the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire (formerly the Carsey Institute) states its commitment to take specific, measureable, and time-bound action *to help 100 million families lift themselves out of extreme poverty* – and therewith make a major step forward in ending extreme poverty entirely.

For the past ten years, Carsey has been a respected resource for timely, relevant, applied research analysis of critical social, economic, and environmental issues facing families and communities. Our practice of having a foot in two worlds—one in rigorous research and the other on the ground with poverty-focused partners across the globe, has made us an asset for policy makers and change agents. We have also been a leader in solutions-based learning for practitioners through our Masters in Community Development Policy and Practice and the Sustainable Microenterprise and Development Program.

Now, as the Carsey School of Public Policy, we will engage faculty and other experts from a wide range of disciplines to train future policy practitioners. Our work will be grounded in active engagement with leaders working to address societal needs. By the very nature of our work, we will create reciprocal, sustained relationships with community, agency, government and business leaders.

The research and teaching we conduct will inform effective policy solutions and demonstrate how social, natural, and applied science can be applied to real-world problems. We will create opportunities for emerging public and civic leaders to develop practical skills and expertise necessary for improving conditions in communities in the United States and abroad.

Specifically, in cooperation with our regional and global partners we commit to support the *measurement* of movement out of poverty in the following manner:

- Continue to research the social and economic conditions and policies that affect the poor and make the research findings available in a timely and relevant way for other researchers, policy makers, advocates, and practitioners.
- Design and launch research that measures the impact of savings groups in creating social capital, empowerment, resiliency and community action, as well as any risks or unanticipated negative effects of such programs. Will be completed by late 2016.

- Survey the more than 700 graduates of our savings groups training to assess the scale and impact of the savings groups projects they created after learning the methodology from our workshops, and use these findings to continue to improve the effectiveness of our training and capacity building. A report on these findings will be published by March 2015.
- Study how savings groups spread within and between communities to identify conditions that lead to the spontaneous replication that can be the key to large-scale expansion. Design and implementation of this research will be completed by late 2015.
- Study how savings groups can serve as platforms for other development inputs. Design and implementation of this research will be completed by late 2015.

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

- Broadly communicate a package of innovations in savings group design and delivery to improve performance and accelerate adoption principles and practices at a breakthrough level of effectiveness and efficiency to create massive uptake of savings groups methodology across Africa and beyond. Will be completed by 2017.
- Conduct and disseminate research on how combining asset building strategies of conditional cash transfers with savings groups may reduce extreme poverty and build livelihood options for women and their families. Will be completed by 2017.

We look forward to presenting the progress we have made to reach these benchmarks at the next Microcredit Summit and to then renewing our commitment with new benchmarks for specific, measureable, and time-bound actions to help 100 million families lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

Sincerely,



Michael Ettliger
Director, Carsey School of Public Policy
University of New Hampshire