About the Editors

Beatriz Armendáriz is a lecturer in economics at Harvard University, and a senior lecturer at University College, London. She is also a research affiliate at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University, a research associate at Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMi–Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)) in Belgium, and sits on the board of reputed organizations like Grameen Crédit Agricole Microfinance Foundation and YouthSafe and WaterLex. Her current research includes field work on microfinance and gender empowerment with researchers from the Innovations for Poverty Action (Yale and Harvard).

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Key Features:

- Consists of diverse views and opinions from American and European-based scholars on broad issues that are pertaining to microfinance
- Addresses a common concern pertaining to context-specific challenges for reaching out to a potential clientele of unbanked individuals who are finding limitations to meet their financial needs via microfinance
- Provides clarification on common misperceptions regarding governance, empirical analysis using cross-country data, mission drift, double bottom line, finance of agriculture, gender issues, savings and technology, social entrepreneurship, and ethics

The Handbook of Microfinance gathers selected work from academics and field practitioners. In an attempt to understand the enormous gap between the limited number of clients that are currently benefiting from microfinance services, and the huge number of potential clients that are not, the selected contributions in this handbook have one common thread: the prevailing mismatch between demand by clients of microfinance institutions and potential clients selecting themselves out for their demand for a wider array of financial products is not being met.

The scope of the book is wide. It includes successes and failures, main challenges and debates, methodologies for impact evaluation via random trials, leading trends in Asia versus Latin America, main efforts in Africa, the importance of value chains in Central America, ethical and gender issues, savings, microinsurance, governance, commercialization trends and the potential advantages and disadvantages of it. Lastly it features main lessons from informal finance and 19th-century credit cooperatives addressing the above-mentioned mismatch.

Readership: Researchers interested in Microfinance, graduate students and advanced undergraduates in economics, social sciences or development, interested in microfinance.

704pp Apr 2011
978-981-4295-65-9 US$190 £124
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Printed in May 2011