

# Analistas Financieros Internacionales (Afi)

Independent consultants

November 14th, 2014

### We are independent consultants in finance

- Since 1987, consulting in economics, banking and finance
- Based in Madrid (Spain)
- Strong international focus on Latin America and North Africa (30+ countries)
- Main international clients are multilateral financial institutions and their local beneficiaries











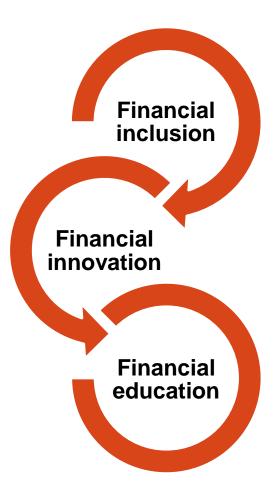




- Other clients include:
  - Spanish financial institutions (deposit institutions, insurance companies, asset managers, etc.)
  - Private international clients (financial and corporate sectors)
  - Public administrations
- Founding member of the Spanish Microfinance Network remEX
- Created Fundacion Afi (<u>www.fundacionafi.org</u>) as part of its CSR.



### Our take on responsible access to finance



An inclusive financial system is the result of proper **regulation and supervision**, the adequate development of the **financial industry**, and the willingness and capacity to address the needs of the **unbanked** 

The application of innovative technologies to the financial sector is a proven **cost-effective** way of swiftly **narrowing the gap** between financial access and financial needs in most emerging and developing countries

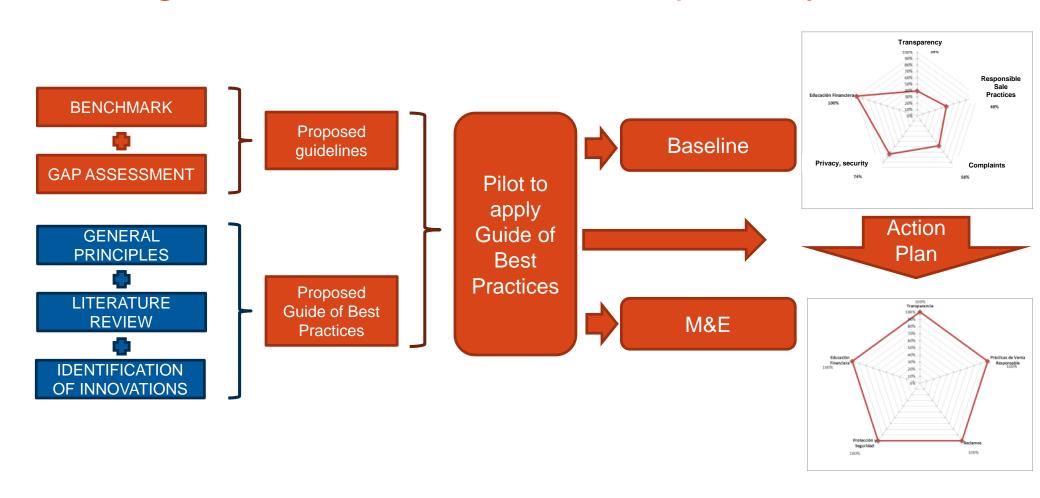
A well-informed and trained universe of clients contributes to the desired scenario of **fair provider-customer relationships** and the **freedom of choice** to consumers. It must be accompanied by the most an appropriate framework for **consumer protection** 

### Basic framework for client protection

#### Client Self-protection Financial education Industry **Authority** Regulation Regulatory compliance Institutions Code of conduct Sanctions Transparency Client protection as a & Protection three-legged stool

European Microfinance Week 2014

# Afi's guided assessment of transparency and CP



# Gaps assessment (regulatory framework)

#### **Criteria for benchmark - 4 categories:**

- Regulatory and institutional architecture for financial regulation and consumer protection (general or specific / financial services or financial institutions).
- Regulation and supervisión:
  - Transparency: pre-contractual clauses, contracts, prices.
  - Abusive & Inappropriate clauses
  - Privacy
- Complaints: resolution, monitoring and disclosure
- Self-regulation (codes of conduct)

# Bridging the Gap: the case of Bolivia

#### Situation in 2010

- Law 1488/1993: Banks and Financial Institutions
- MFI (non-Banks, non-FFP, non-Cooperatives) unregulated and unsupervised.
- No specific regulation on financial consumer protection.

#### Situation in 2014

- Law 393/2013: Financial Services
- MFI (Instituciones Financieras de Desarrollo) under regulation and supervisión (in progress).
- New "Central de Información de Reclamos y Sanciones (CIRS)"- ASFI
- Global Microscope 2014: "Existence and effectiveness of (i) marketconduct rules and (ii) dispute-resolution mechanisms.
  - LatAm is the leader in its capacity to protect the financial consumer, with Peru, Colombia, Chile and Bolivia performing the best in both realms".





#### **Bottom line**

- Equal (non-prudential) regulation and supervisión to same financial products and services.
- Clients deserve equal level of protection regardless of who is providing the (same) financial service.
- Financial service providers should place consumer protection at the center of their business:
  - **Behind the Contracts**
- When regulation falls behind, self-regulation (code of conduct) in the meantime.
  - **Getting Providers to Think about Client Protection**
- Transparency and client protection more effective when accompanied by financial education.



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