CGAP

What is CGAP's Information Systems Fund?

CGAP launched the Information Systems (IS) Fund in 2004 to provide financing for MFIs to hire external consultants to improve their information systems or technology. Since each MFI is at a different stage of IS development, the Fund will co-finance consulting services at any stage of the information systems cycle (see "6 steps" box).

How can it help you?

A strong information system to track day-to-day operations is essential for efficient management of financial institutions, yet most MFIs lack the skills or resources to implement it. An independent consultant with expertise in IS software and microfinance can help an MFI articulate its IS needs, evaluate or implement new software, and assist with planning or rollout of new technologies like ATMs or credit scoring. MFIs may apply for two rounds of funding, a maximum of USD 15,000 in the first application and USD 10,000 in the second round.

Does your institution automatically qualify?

MFIs meeting at least two of the following criteria are automatically approved:

- At least 3,000 active microfinance clients
- A minimum loan portfolio of US$300,000
- At least two years of microfinance operating history

Submit a one-page application today

Visit www.isfund.org today to fill out a simple one-page application for funding. For more information, speak with your IS consultant, or contact us at info@isfund.org.

To register as an IS consultant

If you have previous experience in microfinance information systems, visit www.isfund.org and fill out a simple one-page application.

CGAP is a consortium of 28 public and private development agencies working together to expand access to financial services for the poor. Learn more at www.cgap.org.

Information Systems Fund

Microfinance Institutions can automatically qualify for up to US $25,000 in funding to help boost their information systems.

Visit www.cgap.org/isfund for details.

CGAP

Standards
Services
Scale

6 Steps Toward Stronger Information Systems

1. **Prepare**—Review processes, documentation, administrative and infrastructural issues.
2. **Assess needs**—Draft current and future requirements for information services.
3. **Evaluate software**—Determine suitability of current software.
4. **Select software**—Assess products, prioritize requirements, and interact with vendors.
5. **Implement**—Rollout new software, ensure services are delivered to the standards required.
6. **Optimize**—Ensure software continues to work well.