



Youth-Inclusive Financial Services Linkage (YFS-Link) Program Highlights

Optional Morning Session
Presented by Making Cents International
Thursday, September 8, 2011
8:00 am – 8:45 am

Presenters:

- **Ms. Veronica Torres**, Director, Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods, Making Cents International (Canada)
- **Ms. Rathi Mani**, Program Manager, Youth-Inclusive Financial Services Linkage (YFS-Link) Program, Making Cents International (USA)
- **Ms. Lara Storm**, Director, Youth-Inclusive Financial Services Linkage (YFS-Link) Program, Making Cents International (USA)
- **Ms. Alexi Taylor-Grosman**, Program Coordinator, Youth-Inclusive Financial Services Linkage (YFS-Link) Program, Making Cents International (USA)

Session Description:

Join Making Cents International's Youth-Inclusive Financial Services Linkage (YFS-Link) team for a breakfast session on the latest news from the YFS sector. Come learn about how you and your colleagues can benefit from the development of three new state-of-the-art curricula developed for the YFS sector including *Serious Business: Making a Case for Youth-Inclusive Financial Services*; *Staffing for Youth-Inclusive Financial Services*; and *Savings Products and Services for Young Clients*. The YFS-Link team will highlight key challenges and lessons learned from over fifteen capacity building initiatives around the globe and share exciting developments around technical assistance initiatives including the conception of Jordan's first education loan with Tamweelcom and the development of comprehensive savings and financial education strategies with Freedom from Hunger in Ecuador and Mali.

Presenter Bios:

Veronica Torres

Ms. Veronica Torres is the Director of Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development at Making Cents International. Ms. Torres oversees the technical unit that provides assistance to a range of partners in the areas of youth enterprise development, youth-inclusive financial services, financial literacy, and girls' programming. She has over 15 years of experience working internationally to develop contextually relevant financial and non-financial services for young people in over 20 countries. Ms. Torres has successfully built capacity of local financial institutions and youth-serving organizations in Asia, Latin America and Africa. She has co-authored technical guidance documents in areas of youth enterprise, youth-inclusive market research, youth group-based savings and lending, and financial education.

Rathi Mani

Ms. Rathi Mani is the Program Manager and YFS-Link Master Trainer at Making Cents International for the Youth-Inclusive Financial Services Linkage Program (YFS-Link), an innovative three-year capacity building program designed to help financial institutions develop and offer relevant, profitable, demand-driven financial products and services to youth. As Program Manager for YFS-Link, Ms. Mani is responsible for project management, curriculum development, and

training within the YFS-Link program. Prior to joining Making Cents International, Ms. Mani supported capacity building initiatives for microfinance associations around the world with the Network Development Services Team at the SEEP Network. Ms. Mani's past field experience in microfinance operations and research includes East Africa, and Latin America.

Lara Storm

Ms. Lara Storm is the Director of the Youth-Inclusive Financial Services Linkage Program at Making Cents International. She is responsible for moving forward the program's vision, planning and implementation. Ms. Storm is an experienced microfinance practitioner with over 10 years of professional experience. Prior to joining Making Cents, she managed market research, monitoring and evaluation and the development of financial services for youth in Bolivia. Ms. Storm also served as microfinance accreditation specialist at Catholic Relief Services, as an analyst at Fitch Inc. and has consulted with Women's World Banking, the World Bank and PlaNNet Rating.

Alexi Taylor-Grosman

Ms. Alexi Taylor-Grosman is the Program Coordinator at Making Cents International for the Youth-Inclusive Financial Linkage Program (YFS-Link), an innovative three-year capacity building program designed to help financial institutions develop and offer relevant, profitable, demand-driven financial products and services to youth. In this role, Ms. Taylor-Grosman is responsible for project management, monitoring and evaluation, and content management of the YFS-Link online platform. Prior to joining Making Cents, Ms. Taylor-Grosman worked with FINCA International as a research analyst on client assessment and new product development. Ms. Taylor-Grosman also acts as the Training Director of AMIGOS de las Americas, Washington DC, where she facilitates community service programs for youth volunteers in Latin America.