



## Media Invitation

Bern, 26 February 2016

### SDC Savings and Credit Forum

## Financial inclusion to promote high-impact solutions for African entrepreneurs and producers: an example of the leverage effect of the SDC's funding

Thursday, 3 March 2016  
SDC, Freiburgstrasse 130, Bern, 9am – 4pm

Switzerland is committed to achieving a world without poverty and in peace, in support of sustainable development. Every year, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) invests several hundred million francs in projects aimed at reducing poverty, encouraging rural development, financial inclusion and strengthening public services (such as education, healthcare and access to water) in priority countries for Swiss International Cooperation. At the same time, it contributes to the activities of various multilateral organisations. These contributions allow the SDC to broaden and deepen its influence around the world for the benefit of those most in need.

The SDC also has a leverage effect on both public and private investors, which supplement public aid through additional sums meant to assist many more people. Its role as a catalyst for new sources of financing will be even more critical in the coming years in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as called for in the Federal Council's Dispatch on International Cooperation, which was presented on 17 February 2016.

On 3 March, a one-day forum at the SDC's head office will highlight the positive leverage effect exerted by the SDC. The focus will be on the French NGO PAMIGA and its investment vehicle, PAMIGA Finance SA, and their commitment to helping small businesses and people living in Africa to obtain access to irrigation water and electricity through rural microfinance institutions. Building on an initial credit of 4 million euros from the SDC, PAMIGA was able to raise more than 13 million euros from several organisations, including the US government's development finance institution (OPIC), the Calvert Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the European Investment Bank.

At the 3 March forum, several experts will discuss the financing model used by PAMIGA and the potential benefit of microfinance for people living in rural areas of Africa (click [here](#) for the programme). You are cordially invited to attend the event. Interviews can be organised with the individual speakers upon request.

Journalists who wish to attend are kindly asked to **register by 8am on Thursday, 3 March** through FDFA Information ([info@eda.admin.ch](mailto:info@eda.admin.ch)).

Yours sincerely  
FDFA Information