Action Plan for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Financing











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Moderator



Ghada O. Teima Principal Operations Officer, IFC

Presenter



Ana Fiorella Carvajal Lead Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank









Country Representatives



Magda Bianco Head of the Bank of Italy Consumer Protection and Financial Education Department



Dr. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy Additional Development Commissioner O/o DC(MSME), Ministry of MSMEs, Government of India



Nontobeko Lubisi Director, Financial Inclusion National Treasury – South Africa

Discussants



Jean Pesme Global Director, Finance, in the Finance, Competitiveness and Investment Global Department, World Bank



Adel Meer Acting Director and Global Sector Manager Financial Inclusion and Digital Finance, IFC



Nadim Ahmad
Deputy Director, OECD Centre for
Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions
and Cities

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Horizontal Actions

Improve credit infrastruct ure

- 1. Improve credit reporting systems —with alternative data and alternative lenders
- 2. Implement simpler and less costly insolvency regimes for SMEs.
- 3. Complete framework for secured transactions and movable collateral registries

Diversify funding sources

- 4. Develop framework for alternative lenders and innovative financial products and supervision
- 5. Foster competition through open finance/banking
- 6. Develop framework for equity financing

Foster Fintech

7. Ensure robust foundational infrastructure is in place – digital payments, digital IDs, exchange data systems

Address risks

8. Develop framework for responsible lending, and data protection and cybersecurity

Enabling environment:
Eight recommendations across four main areas

Vertical Actions

Improve targeting

- 1. Enhance data collection efforts –including gender disaggregated data
- 2. Rely on thorough diagnostics

Improve financial additionalit

- 3. Private capital mobilization as a key objective
- 4. Use concessional financing sparingly

Use nonfinancial support

6. Consider needs for capacity building for SMEs and financial institutions —along with financial education

Improve accountabil ity

- 7. Improve monitoring and evaluation focusing on performance indicators and in the long term, incorporate impact evaluations
- 8. Improve coordination and ensure robust governance

Targeted financial interventions:
Eight recommendations across four main areas

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SOUTH AFRICA



Nontobeko Lubisi Director, Financial Inclusion National Treasury – South Africa









SOUTH AFRICA

KCG is a state-owned guarantee scheme that helps SMMEs access finance by sharing risk with lenders



What is it? how it works?

Khula Credit Guarantee (KCG) is a partial credit guarantee scheme designed to share credit risk with lenders and improve access to finance for SMMEs lacking collateral. Product offering include portfolio, supplier, and hybrid guarantees, with a coverage range of 50 to 90% of the loan value.



When was it established?

Established in 1987; acquired by the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) in 2012 as a state-owned credit guarantee entity. KCG underwent major restructuring in 2015 (diagnostic) and 2018 (business plan) in partnership with the World Bank and is now integrated into SEDFA; a newly formed one-stop shop for SMME support and finance.



Why was it established?

To address a persistent **financing gap for SMMEs**, often caused by lack of collateral, high perceived risk, and limited credit history. KCG helps de-risk lending and stimulate credit extension to underserved segments.



Where and who is involved?

South Africa – national footprint, with implementation through participating commercial banks, non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), and supplier-finance providers (**RFIs** – Registered Financial Institutions) across provinces.

SOUTH AFRICA

KCG is delivering some impact, but scaling further requires regulatory clarity and stronger systems

Key achievements



High guarantee uptake: In FY2024/25, KCG issued **R1.388 billion** in guarantees, **335%** of its annual target, reflecting growing lender confidence and demand – good indicator for reputational recovery



Financial sustainability: Maintained a **solvency ratio >1.5** (3.85 Mar 2023 to 3.31 Mar2024), demonstrating resilience and prudent risk management.



Wider lender participation: 60% of guarantees (by value) were issued through non-bank and supplier-finance partners, increasing reach to underserved SMMEs.



Donor capital leveraged: Secured **R300 million EU injection in 2022**, strengthening capital base for further scale.

Challenges and lessons learned



High NPLs/defaults: Non-performing loan (NPL) rates remain high across some guarantee windows (individual (43%),(portfolio 10%-18%) reflecting either borrower risk profiles or lender credit assessment weaknesses.



Limited IT capacity: Reliance on manual and Excelbased systems (e.g., KIBS) constrains scalability, realtime monitoring, and partner integration.



M&E gaps: There is room to improve on outcome-level measurement systems, limited evidence on enterprise growth, or long-term additionality.



Institutional transition risks: Integration into SEDFA changed KCG's status from a Schedule 2 to a Schedule 3B entity, meaning it cannot issue guarantees without Ministerial authorization, resulting in a temporary halt in operations.

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ITALY



Magda Bianco
Head of the Bank of Italy Consumer
Protection and Financial Education
Department









ITALY

The Role of Credit Reporting Systems — **Horizontal Action 1**



Market failure

- Information asymmetry
- ☐ Adverse selection
- ☐ Credit constraints



Italy's response

- CRS (data from all financial institutions)
- ❖ Added role of private CRS (data also from utilities)
- ❖ Regulatory sandbox



Impact

- ❖ Role of rich and solid public ➤ Public CRS reduce interest rates: 21-40 bps interest reduction
 - Private CRS: enhanced lender confidence
 - Sandbox: credit worthiness evaluation on alternative data, enhancing access

ITALY

Diagnostics-Driven Intervention in Financial Education – Vertical Action 2



Information asymmetries

Perceived borrower's opacity

Self exclusion



Italy's response

Measure knowledge gaps (MSMEs FL survey)

Tailored financial education initiatives on specific needs/gaps

Monitoring and evaluation



Impact

Broader access

Enhanced support to economic inclusion

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INDIA



Dr. Ishita Ganguli Tripathy
Additional Development Commissioner
O/o DC(MSME), Ministry of MSMEs,
Government of India

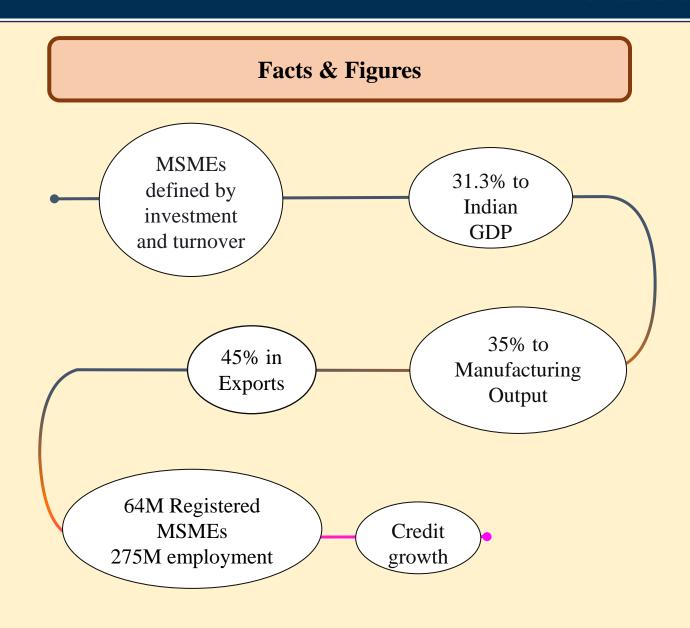








INDIA



Formalisation & Entrepreneurship Development

- Registration-
 - Udyam: Linked to Income Tax Return
 - Udyam Assist: Linked to bank account

Financial Support

- Credit Guarantee
- Equity Infusion

Technology Support

• Network of Technology Centres

Marketing Support

- Public procurement
- Trade fairs, exhibitions, e-commerce

Infrastructure Development

Cluster

Inclusive Growth

• Women entrepreneurs

INDIA

Enabling MSME Financing through DPI

- **Udyam**: Digital identity of enterprise
- **DigiLocker**: to store and share documents securely
- **UPI**: Seamless digital payments
- Account Aggregator
- GST Sahay
- **TReDS**: bill discounting

• Priority Sector Lending



DPI: Key Areas

- Access to Services
- Digital Lending
- Feedback Systems
- Redressing Grievance

PM Vishwakarma: A Case Study

- ❖ 3,000,000 Artisans and Craftspeople
- **&** Benefits:
 - ❖ Digital Identity biometrics
 - **❖** Skill upgradation
 - **❖** Toolkit Support worth \$175.5
 - ❖ Collateral free loans up to \$3,500
 - ❖ 5% rate of interest on loans
 - ❖ Up to 8% interest subvention
 - ❖ Incentives for digital transactions
 - Marketing support
- ❖ Interoperability of portal- ~3.7 million stakeholders.

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