

Latest Practices on Financial Consumer Protection and Financial Education

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Financial & Private Sector Development

Presentation Outline



Global Survey: Trends in Consumer Protection and Financial Literacy



Good Practices for Financial Consumer Protection



Responsible Digital Finace



Financial Capability and Financial Education

Global Survey on Consumer Protection and Financial Literacy



THE WORLD BANK



- Who? Financial regulators (central banks, bank supervisory agencies, financial consumer protection and market conduct regulators where exist) 114 respondents
- > Why? Review of <u>trends</u> and <u>benchmarking practices</u> in financial consumer protection around the world to **assist countries in policy reforms** and to **stimulate the debate** on this topic.
- > What? Financial consumer protection and financial literacy framework and implementation arrangements for **deposit and credit services**:
 - Legal framework (applicable laws)
 - **Institutional arrangements** (institutional structure and functions and powers of relevant authorities)
 - **Disclosure Requirements** (account opening, periodic statements, and other)
 - Fair Treatment (deceptive advertising, bundling, abusive collection practices, etc.)
 - **Responsible Lending** (ensuring affordability and avoiding over-indebtedness)
 - **Dispute Resolution and Recourse** (set-up, timeliness, accessibility, type of complaints)
 - Activities implemented in relation to financial education / literacy.
 - **Responsibility and institutional arrangements** to enforce financial education / literacy.

The number of countries with a legal framework for CPFL increased between 2010 and 2013

2%



Note: Data on 109 countries responding to 2010 and 2013 surveys.

Mirroring diffused legal framework, in most countries multiple regulatory and supervisory agencies have a responsibility for financial consumer protection. The institutional framework is determined by existing bank supervision and overall consumer protection institutional framework



Note: Data for 111 countries that provided information on financial consumer protection institutional arrangements.

More countries assigned legal responsibility for financial consumer protection to financial supervisors and created dedicated teams or units between 2010 and 2013



Note: Data for 109 countries with data for 2010 and 2013.

Responsible agencies broadened their range of compliance monitoring tools between 2010 and 2013, especially in terms of collecting statistics on the number of complaints.



Note: For 97 agencies with responsibility fo financial consumer protection and data in 2010 and 2013.



Note: For 100 agencies with responsibility for financial consumer protection in 2013.

Financial literacy. Most financial regulators are involved in efforts to improve financial literacy.



Note: Based on responses from 114 economies in 2013.

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Note: For 114 economies responding 2013.

Good Practices for Financial Consumer Protection



- Originally developed for Europe and Central Asia
- Launch of revised Good Practices in June 2012
- Set of Good Practices developed using international benchmarks, such as:
 - Principles and recommendations released by the Basel Committee, IOSCO and IAIS, and the OECD
 - Laws, regulations and codes of business practices from developed countries and the experiences of reforming emerging economies
- *20+ Diagnostic Reviews in 4 continents*



Revision of the Good Practices

- In order to ensure that the Good Practices remain "good" and up to date the World Bank engages in a continuous assessment and evaluation of the Good Practices in order to reflect:
 - Changes in the regulatory and policy environment
 - New trends (e.g. digital finance) and emerging risks
 - *Experience from previous CPFL diagnostics*
- The World Bank intends to issue revised Good Practices for Financial Consumer Protection

Responsible Digital Finance

What is Digital Finance?

• **Digital Finance** interpreted broadly to mean the delivery of all or part of the full range of financial services using digital electronic means for the purposes of both the additive model and the transformative model

How is DF different from conventional finance?

- The electronic environment is fundamentally different in a number of respects:
 - > high speed of transactions and information exchange;
 - > the limited written records of accounts and transactions;
 - > the involvement of unregulated entities;
 - > the important role of intermediaries;
 - > the rapidity of innovation; and
 - > the significant scale and volume of the offered services and the related risks.
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Responsible Digital Finance: Specific Issues

Consumer protection issues with specific importance to digital finance:

- Protecting clients' funds (especially with non-bank issuers)
- Electronic disclosures and contracts
- Liability regime
- Intermediaries
- Record keeping
- Privacy and data protection
- Know your customer
- Product suitability / over-indebtedness
- Recourse mechanisms
- Deposit insurance
- The consumer's responsibilities
- The regulatory framework (gaps)
- Financial capability / literacy

CPFL in a Digital Landscape

Why is consumer protection especially important in the digital finance context?

- help build trust, promote competition and support further development
- meet financial inclusion targets
- address emerging risks and prevent market abuses

What is the role of the World Bank in the digital finance context?

- Work is ongoing to identify consumer protection issues <u>specific</u> to the digital financial services (DFS) environment (particularly within the framework of RFF V)
- A work plan is being developed to identify good practices for responsible digital finance that will reflect and help to implement existing international principles and standards and cover the 3 pillars of responsible finance: (i) regulators, (ii) the private sector and (iii) consumers

Existing International Principles and Standards

Examples of existing international principles and standards relevant to digital finance services are:

- The Australian ePayments Code
- The G20 Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion
- The G20 High Level Principles on Financial Consumer Protection
- The World Bank's Good Practices on Financial Consumer Protection
- AFI Guidance Note on Consumer Protection in Mobile Financial Services
- The GSMA Mobile Privacy Principles...

What is Financial Capability?

A World Bank definition:

- Financial capability is the **internal capacity**
- to act in one's best financial interest, given
- socio-economic environmental conditions.
- It encompasses the **knowledge** (literacy),
- attitudes, skills, and behaviors of consumers
- with regard to managing their resources, and
- understanding, selecting, and making use of
- financial services that fit their needs.

The terms **financial literacy** and **financial capability** are often used interchangeably. The term financial literacy (also financial knowledge) is a narrower term that represents the level of aptitude in understanding personal finance, and often refers to awareness and knowledge of key financial concepts.

Why Does Financial Capability Matter?

Financial capability is an essential component of financial consumer protection strategies.

It is seen as enhancing financial inclusion, financial stability and the effective functioning of financial markets.



Financial capability is increasingly a priority for high income and emerging economies. At least 36 countries are working on a national strategy for financial inclusion.



Increasingly Central Banks and Market Conduct Supervisors are designing and implementing Financial Capability / Strategies.

Activities in Financial Education?

- National financial capability surveys to assess levels of financial awareness and knowledge
- National Strategies for Financial Education
- Implementation of Financial Education Strategies
- Impact assessment
- Mapping Existing Financial Education Initiatives

FL: Selected Resources



Financial Education Programs and Strategies



Advancing National Strategies for Financial Education



A Toolkit for the evaluation of financial capability programs in lowand middle-income countries



d middle-income countrie

Evaluation studies of programs to enhance financial capability in low- and middleincome countries





Why Financial Capability is important and how surveys can help

CP: Selected Resources





Responsible Finance Website responsiblefinance.worldbank.org *FI Strategies Reference Framework* bit.ly/FIStrategiesReferenceFramework



Global Survey on Innovative Retail Payments worldbank.org/financialinclusion



Good Practices for Financial Consumer Protection bit.ly/GoodPracticesConsumerProtection



General Principles for Credit Reporting bit.ly/GeneralPrinciplesCreditReporting

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