



10th April, 2026.

Call for Book Chapter

Microfinance, Access to Impact: Shaping the Future for People, Planet and Prosperity

1. Introduction

Grooming Centre, Nigeria, in commemoration of its 20 years of active service in the microfinance and financial inclusion sector is pleased to announce a call for **chapter contributions** and to invite original and high-quality paper submissions for its Annual Impact Programme, in an upcoming book publication under the overarching theme: **Microfinance, Access to Impact: Shaping the Future for People, Planet, and Prosperity.**

Over the past decades, microfinance has established itself as a cornerstone of financial inclusion, enabling millions of low-income households, women, and micro-entrepreneurs to access financial services previously beyond their reach. This expansion of access has been a significant achievement for development finance and inclusive growth. As the microfinance sector matures, however, there is growing recognition that access alone is no longer sufficient. Stakeholders across the ecosystem, clients, regulators, investors, donors, and communities, are increasingly asking deeper questions about outcomes, quality, sustainability, and long-term impact. How does access translate into meaningful improvements in people's lives? How does microfinance respond to climate and environmental risks that disproportionately affect low-income populations? How can microfinance institutions (MFIs) balance social mission with financial sustainability and strong governance?

This Call for Papers seeks to contribute to this critical shift in discourse by advancing evidence-based, practice-informed, and forward-looking perspectives on the future of microfinance, one that moves decisively from access to impact.

2. Purpose of the Call for Papers

The Call for Papers is a core component of Grooming Centre's Annual Impact Programme and is designed to:

- Stimulate rigorous and reflective thinking on impact-oriented microfinance.

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- Encourage dialogue between research, policy, and practice.
- Document lessons, innovations, and challenges from diverse contexts.
- Inform practitioners, regulators, and development partners seeking to strengthen responsible finance; and
- Position Grooming Centre as a thought leader in inclusive, ethical, and sustainable microfinance.

The Programme seeks contributions that go beyond descriptive accounts to offer analytical insight, critical reflection, and practical relevance.

3. Thematic Focus

The theme Microfinance Access to Impact: Shaping the Future for People, Planet, and Prosperity reflect a deliberate and necessary transition in the microfinance sector:

- From measuring success primarily through outreach, scale, and access.
- To assessing success through depth of impact, sustainability, accountability, and resilience.

It recognises microfinance as a multidimensional development tool—one that must simultaneously advance social inclusion, environmental responsibility, and inclusive economic prosperity.

4. Thematic Pillars and Areas of Interest

Contributors are invited to submit papers that align with one or more of the following interconnected thematic pillars.

a. *PEOPLE - Deepening Social and Human Impact*

This pillar focuses on how microfinance can deliver meaningful, dignified, and lasting improvements in people's lives, particularly among women, youth, and underserved populations.

Relevant topics include, but are not limited to:

- Client-centric and responsible finance practices.
- Women's economic empowerment and gender-lens microfinance.
- Youth inclusion, skills development, and entrepreneurship.
- Consumer protection, transparency, and ethical finance.
- Social performance management and client outcome measurement.
- Financial inclusion, dignity, and well-being beyond access indicators.

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Guiding reflection:

How can microfinance move beyond access to create lasting social and human impact?

b. PLANET – Microfinance and Environmental Sustainability

This pillar explores the growing intersection between microfinance and environmental and climate challenges. Low-income households and micro-entrepreneurs are among the most vulnerable to climate risks, yet often the least equipped to adapt.

Topics of interest include:

- Climate risks and vulnerabilities affecting microfinance clients.
- Green microfinance and climate-smart financial products.
- Financing renewable energy, clean cooking, and sustainable agriculture.
- MFIs' role in climate adaptation and resilience building.
- Environmental risk management within financial institutions.
- Aligning microfinance with national and global sustainability goals.

Guiding reflection:

What role should microfinance play in addressing climate and environmental challenges while protecting vulnerable communities?

c. PROSPERITY – Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Outcomes

This pillar examines the conditions under which microfinance can contribute to inclusive and durable prosperity, balancing social objectives with institutional and financial sustainability.

Relevant topics include:

- Enterprise growth, productivity, and decent livelihoods.
- Financial sustainability and resilience of MFIs.
- Governance, risk management, and regulatory compliance.
- Balancing social mission with commercial viability.
- Impact measurement and management frameworks.
- Policy and regulatory environments shaping the future of inclusive finance.

Guiding reflection:

How can microfinance support inclusive prosperity while remaining financially sound, well-governed, and accountable?



5. Paper Contributions

The Call for Papers welcomes a wide range of contributions, including:

- Empirical research papers.
- Policy analysis and discussion papers.
- Practitioner case studies and field experiences.
- Conceptual and/or theoretical contributions.
- Comparative, cross-country, and/or longitudinal studies.

Submissions should be original, unpublished, and clearly relevant to microfinance, inclusive finance, or closely related fields, particularly within African or comparable emerging-market contexts.

The Call for Papers is open to:

- Academics and researchers.
- Microfinance practitioners and institutional leaders.
- Policymakers and regulators.
- Development partners, donors, and investors.
- Consultants and sector specialists.
- Graduate students and early-career professionals.

Collaborative submissions between practitioners and researchers are particularly encouraged.

6. Submission Guidelines

- Full paper of 5,000 to 8,000 words inclusive of abstract of 300 to 500 words.
- Language: English (British)
- Format: Times New Roman, 12pts, Single space, Microsoft Word with full reference
- Originality: Submissions must not have been previously published, submitted or under review elsewhere.

Please send your full paper to the editor: Prof. Onafowokan Oluyombo email: ooluyombo@pau.edu.ng and copy oluyomboo@gmail.com .



7. Review and Selection Process

All submissions will be blind peer reviewed and accepted papers will be published in an edited Book (Microfinance Access to Impact: Shaping the Future for People, Planet, and Prosperity) while authors may be required to present their paper at a knowledge-sharing conference or symposium to be held later in the year.

8. Key Dates

- Paper Submission Deadline: June 15, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: July 13, 2026
- Revised Submission: August 3, 2026
- Book Publication & Impact Forum: September - October 2026

9. Expected Impact of the Programme

Through this Call for Papers, Grooming Centre aims to:

- Generate actionable knowledge on impact-driven microfinance.
- Influence practice, policy, and institutional strategies.
- Strengthen collaboration across the microfinance ecosystem.
- Contribute to shaping a future of microfinance that is people-centred, environmentally responsible, and economically sustainable.

Editor

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