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MCPI Bags Good Corporate Governance Champion Award



The Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI) was recognized by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as Good Corporate Governance Champion during its virtual 85th Founding Anniversary and Recognition Ceremony held on November 12, 2021. MCPI has been given this recognition by the SEC for two consecutive years. MCPI has been assisting the Microfinance NGO Regulatory Council (MNRC) of the SEC in gathering relevant data, supporting regulatory compliance and accreditation of MF NGOs, and setting financial and social performance standards for MF NGOs.

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As the national association of microfinance institutions in the country, MCPI serves as the voice of the microfinance sector and continues to promote an inclusive and client-responsive environment for microfinance. The MCPI Board and management humbly thank the SEC for recognizing our efforts to support the microfinance sector in the country.

MCPI and Grameen Foundation Partnership on Reducing Incidences of Child Labor and Harmful Work Conditions in Economic Empowerment Initiatives

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL-ILAB), Grameen Foundation, and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI) developed a new toolkit under its collaborative project Reducing Incidence of Child Labor and Harmful Conditions of Work in Economic Strengthening Initiatives (RICHES). The RICHES toolkit, both in paper and digital form aims to help the policymakers, microfinance institutions (MFIs), and other financial service providers who work with women ensure that women-led enterprises can improve livelihoods responsibly without resorting to child labor or other harmful labor practices.

In November 2021, Grameen Foundation conducted an online training of trainers (TOT) on the RICHES toolkit for staff of the Microfinance Council of the

Philippines, Inc. (MCPI). The TOT aimed to increase the knowledge and capacities of MCPI staff on concepts of child work and child labor and the use of a number of tools, guides and training in the RICHES toolkit. At this point, a number of staff members are trained and capable to use the tools or support MFIs with technical assistance to use the tools. Through MCPI's Capacity Building program, the knowledge and skills will be cascaded to its members-institutions in order to build awareness of the risks to children and women's health and safety when supporting women's economic empowerment (WEE) activities. The use of the RICHES toolkit will also pave the way for the MFIs to assess risks, identify solutions, and create policies to ensure that women-led enterprises provide a safe environment and working conditions.



Toolkit for WEE Actors

SETTING THE FOUNDATION Phase 1

Start here: Use these tools to build **management-level** awareness and understanding of organizational and program risks of harmful work for children and adults.

- Making the Case Presentation
 - Risk Assessments
 - Social Performance Management (SPM) Guide (SPM Assessment Only)
 - Understanding Harmful Work Training (with Management Only)
 - Linkages Guide (Emergency and External Support Contact List Only)
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- Investor's Guide (For Investors Only)

BUILD THE STRUCTURE Phase 2

Use these tools to build **frontline staff-level** awareness and prioritize new or improved products and services.

- Social Performance Management (SPM) Guide (All tools)
- Understanding Harmful Work Training (with All Staff)
- Market Research Guide
- Financial Services Guide
- Design Workshop

ENGAGE PARTICIPANTS Phase 3

Use these tools to build **participant-level** awareness and support their needs.

- Linkages Guide (All tools)
- Business Diagnostics Guide (Paper + Digital Versions)
- Intra-Household Dialogue Guide
- Risky Business Curriculum (Paper + Digital Versions)
- Monitoring and Evaluation Guide

To access the RICHES toolkit, please visit the RICHES portal at <https://grameenfoundation.org/riches/riches-toolkit>. For training of MFIs on the RICHES toolkit, please contact MCPI at secretariat@microfinancecouncil.org.

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