



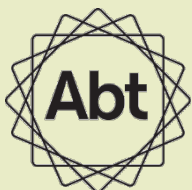
**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# Wealth and Health: Leveraging Microfinance for Better Health Outcomes – Setting the Context

Thierry van Bastelaer, PhD  
Abt Associates

June 13, 2011



**SHOPS is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Abt Associates leads the project in collaboration with**  
Banyan Global  
Jhpiego  
Marie Stopes International  
Monitor Group  
O'Hanlon Health Consulting

# SHOPS and Finance

- Purpose of SHOPS health finance activities:
  - Support financial instruments that reduce or spread out out-of-pocket payments for health care:
    - Financial protection
    - Access to quality health care
  - Leverage grassroots financial structures to advance health outcomes

# What is Microfinance?

- Financial services for low-income clients
- Small, regular amounts
- Reaching at least 120m people with savings, insurance, remittances, loans
- Loans: little or no collateral; joint or individual liability
- Reliance on social capital, regular meetings
- Provided by MFI NGOs, banks,...

# Why Focus on Microfinance for Health?

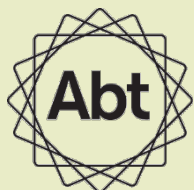
- Controversy
  - “Most powerful anti-poverty strategy ever invented”?
  - The New Loan Sharks?
  - Microfinance is finance
- No controversy
  - Focus on women and low-income families
  - Field presence
  - Regular meetings, small financial transactions
  - Pre-existing trust
  - Huge “captive market”

# What are Opportunities for Health?

- Health/FP Messages (Bandhan/FFH, CARD/FFH, RCPB/FFH, Pro Mujer)
- Health/FP Products (Bandhan/FFH, Pro Mujer)
- Treatment and Referrals (Bandhan/FFH, CARD/FFH, Pro Mujer)
- Health Finance:
  - Health savings (RCPB/FFH, Pro Mujer)
  - Health loans/insurance premium financing (Bandhan/FFH, RCPB/FFH)
  - Micro health insurance: partner-agent model (Health Care International, CARD/FFH)

[thierry\\_van\\_bastelaer@abtassoc.com](mailto:thierry_van_bastelaer@abtassoc.com)

[www.shopsproject.org](http://www.shopsproject.org)



**SHOPS is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.**  
**Abt Associates leads the project in collaboration with**  
Banyan Global  
Jhpiego  
Marie Stopes International  
Monitor Group  
O'Hanlon Health Consulting