

The Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii) is a unique global partnership working to inspire and support insurance supervisors to promote inclusive and responsible insurance. As the implementation arm of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), we identify supervisory needs, develop tailored capacity building programmes, translate knowledge gained from the regions into global learning tools, contribute to the IAIS standard setting activities and support the development and implementation of sound regulatory frameworks. Our ultimate aim is to advance inclusive insurance markets globally and reduce the vulnerability of low-income populations against risk.

01 The Importance of Insurance

In many parts of the world, people and businesses live and operate without the security of insurance. However, when loss strikes, it does not discriminate between the rich and poor. In the event of a shock, past development efforts may be reversed and the near-poor may fall (back) into poverty. Even those in a relatively secure position may find themselves dragged into financial hardship. Insurance protects against unforeseen losses and financial vulnerability. In areas such as agriculture, innovative insurance products can provide solutions to deal with the impact of climate change and catastrophic events. In this way, insurance can also reduce the likelihood of food and economic crises.

02 The power of insurance regulation

Too often, insurance providers may not see a compelling business opportunity to offer products to the low-income population, and individuals or companies do not fully understand the benefits.



"A robust supervisory framework creates incentives for industry involvement and helps build consumer confidence through effective policyholder protection, particularly for low-income

households." *Peter Braumüller, Chair of the Governing Council A2ii*

Supervisors play a vital role in overcoming these barriers and in encouraging private and public stakeholders to work together to enhance access to insurance for all. However, this requires specific skills that many supervisory authorities in developing countries lack.

03 Our solution

The Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii) is a unique global partnership with the mission to inspire and support supervisors to promote inclusive and responsible insurance, thereby reducing vulnerability.

"We strengthen the capacity of supervisors seeking to advance inclusive insurance markets, particularly for low-income clients, by promoting sound, effective and proportionate regulation and supervision based on globally accepted insurance standards." *Hannah Grant, Head of Secretariat, A2ii*



The core fields covered by the A2ii are knowledge generation and dissemination, dialogue and learning, inputs for the development of global standards and guidance, support for country implementation processes in the area of regulatory and supervisory reform, support for regional implementation and capacity development of insurance supervisors.

"The A2ii is a key strategic partner of the IAIS. In working towards the goal of effective and globally consistent supervision of the insurance industry, the A2ii's implementation and capacity building support to emerging market supervisors is most valuable to the process." *Jonathan Dixon, Secretary General IAIS*



04 How A2ii works: Partnerships

We are the key implementation partner of the global standard setting body for insurance supervision, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), on access to insurance. The IAIS determines the necessary standards and structures for a strong industry. We listen to and work closely with insurance supervisors and provide guidance on how to implement those standards. A2ii's close relationship with insurance supervisors and the IAIS enables us to better identify areas where support is needed and to feed what we learn on the ground back into the IAIS's standard setting process. The A2ii works closely with its development partners leveraging off our comparative strengths.

05

Our Achievements:

Since our establishment in 2009, the A2ii can already see positive results:

- We contributed to **8** supervisory papers of the IAIS, which provide supervisors for the first time with guidance on how to implement an inclusive regulatory and supervisory approach – based on our experiences working with supervisors on the ground.
- We conducted **20** country assessments, from Colombia to Ethiopia to the Philippines, which have set in motion regulatory changes in at least **15** countries.
- Since 2009 we have worked with local and global partners, insurance organisations and agencies to identify where there was need for insurance protection, to determine the barriers standing in the way and finally, to build the capacity of insurance supervisors and regulators to implement solutions. Today, there are **20** countries with a microinsurance regulatory framework, with 21 countries in the process of developing their frameworks, as compared to only **6** in 2009.
- Through becoming affiliated members of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion we have contributed to the work of the G20 on financial inclusion and raised the awareness of the need for insurance to be included in national financial strategies.

→ In 2017 alone we:

Connected to over **700** supervisors and experts, by organising **15** global and regional events.



700 SUPERVISORS/EXPERTS **15** EVENTS

organised **6** 'Consultation Calls' providing insurance supervisors with a platform to hear from an expert and exchange with their peers.

345 SUPERVISORS from **69** COUNTRIES participated.



Over **90%** of supervisors are very satisfied with the A2ii events they have attended in 2017.*

**source: A2ii stakeholder survey November 2017.*

The Initiative is a partnership between:



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