

What is the Initiative?

The Access to Insurance Initiative is

- **A global programme** designed to strengthen the capacity and understanding of insurance supervisors, to facilitate their role in expanding access to insurance markets, and to support the implementation of sound regulatory and supervisory frameworks consistent with international standards;
- **An important strategy for reducing poverty:**
The inability to manage vulnerability can perpetuate

poverty. Insurance services, in particular, can play an important role in mitigating welfare losses;

- **The key route to address the challenges of a conducive regulatory and supervisory approach:**
One of the possible causes for low levels of access to insurance services is policies and approaches that are, inadvertently or otherwise, not conducive to the supply of appropriate products and services, particularly in emerging markets.

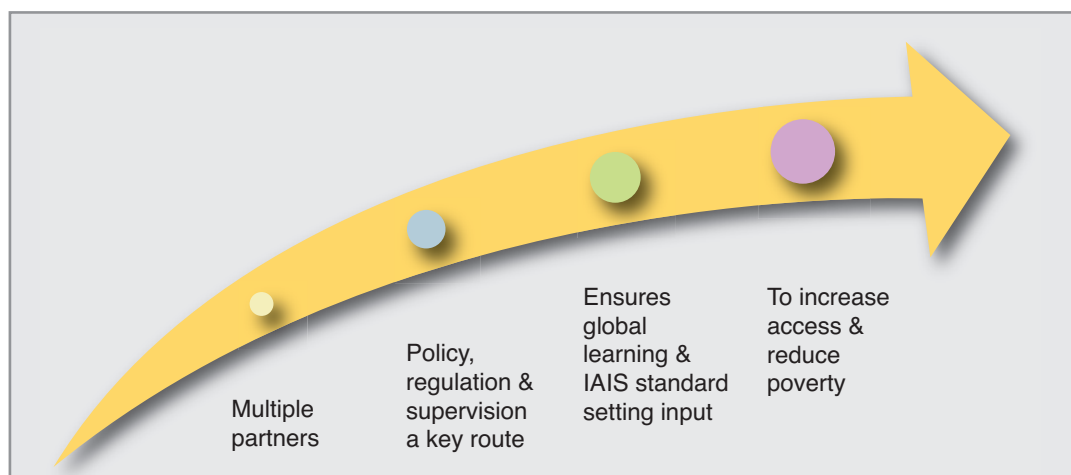


Figure: Key Features

Goal, purpose and activities of the Access to Insurance Initiative:

- **Goal:**
To grow financial inclusion in the insurance sphere and to facilitate the enhanced capacity of policymakers, regulators, and supervisors on insurance market access.
- **Purpose:**
To contribute to sound, effective and proportionate policies, regulation and supervision of insurance markets that facilitate growth of insurance for the low income clients.

- **Activities:**
 - To generate knowledge and learning on how regulation and supervision can facilitate access;
 - to disseminate this knowledge and build awareness,
 - to catalyze pilot projects for national implementation,
 - to support regional training and capacity building initiatives,
 - to contribute to the IAIS (International Association of Insurance Supervisors) processes of standard setting and guidance,
 - to facilitate a stakeholder dialog with the insurance industry to spur the development of adequate products, delivery and consumer protection approaches for low income clients.

IAIS Linkage is key and a valuable distinction

Recognizing that policymakers, regulators and supervisors give weight to following standards and precedents from international standard setters, the participation of the IAIS is particularly important. A close collaboration between international development agencies and insurance supervisors through the IAIS is both essential and valuable to ensure that the regulatory and supervisory frameworks are consistent with international standards. The IAIS is a founding sponsor of the Initiative.

Governance and structure

The Initiative operates as a partnership of the institutions that are signatories to its Charter.

The Access to Insurance Initiative operates under the guidance of a Governing Board that determines its strategy and provides oversight for all its activities, an Advisory Committee, that develops strategy and supports day to day implementation for the approval by the Governing Board; and an Executive Secretary responsible for day to day operations hosted by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The founding sponsors of the Initiative are the IAIS, the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), the DFID (Department for International Development)- funded FinMark Trust, and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Structural and sustainable improvements in the overall financial system require concerted actions by all stakeholders under a holistic financial system development approach which focuses simultaneously on all three intervention levels:

- framework conditions, including sector strategies, regulation and supervision (macro level),
- service providers and public goods (meso level), and
- insurers and intermediaries (micro level).

The Initiative's main focus is improving the framework conditions at macro level. However, it also plays a role in bringing public and private stakeholders together, raising awareness at all levels and coordination with partners who support the other levels.

The Initiative is a partnership between:



Hosted by:



To contact the Initiative see: www.access-to-insurance.org or email: info@access-to-insurance.org