

## Press release

### Lauritzen Fonden invests in financial inclusion in developing countries

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**Lauritzen Fonden invests USD 5 million in Nordic Microfinance Initiatives (NMI)'s latest financial inclusion and microfinance fund. The target group is mainly women in Africa and Asia, and thus Lauritzen Fonden adds a new area to the portfolio.**

Lauritzen Fonden has supported society's vulnerable groups for 75 years, but this is the foundation's first investment in financial inclusion in developing countries.

The investment helps to reach more poor people in Africa and Asia with financial services, which allow them to work their way out of poverty. The focus is on women, both because they are traditionally excluded from financial services, and because the income their micro-business generates typically benefits the whole family and contributes to better health and education of their children.

- At Lauritzen Fonden, we find it important to try new things, both in relation to potential business opportunities and ways to remedy unsuitable conditions in society. We therefore look forward to the cooperation with NMI, where we with an investment in financial inclusion strengthen our social impact and hopefully contribute to sustainable social change beyond Denmark's borders, says Tommy Thomsen, CEO of Lauritzen Fonden.

- We are proud to welcome Lauritzen Fonden. The Fund has a strong social commitment that is well in line with NMI's values. The investment is also strategically important to us, as it underlines the public-private and Danish-Norwegian partnership in NMI, says Arthur Sletteberg, Managing Director of NMI.

**About Lauritzen Fonden:** Lauritzen Fonden is a commercial foundation that provides support for non-profit activities. The business activities include the subsidiaries J. Lauritzen, DFDS and the investment company LF Investment. The fund has total equity of approximately DKK 5.9 billion, and annually around DKK 40 million is distributed for non-profit purposes, particularly for vulnerable children and young people.

**About NMI:** NMI invests in institutions that deliver financial inclusion to poor people in developing countries. The goal is to achieve double bottom line results in terms of positive social outcomes and good financial results. Today, through 18 direct investments, NMI reaches 9 million customers in 6 countries and delivers a good financial return. NMI was established in 2008 as a public-private partnership. The investors include Norfund and IFU (the Norwegian and Danish state funds for developing countries) as well as private sector players including DNB, Ferd, KLP, PBU, TD Veen and Lauritzen Fonden. NMI has offices in Copenhagen, Delhi, Jakarta, Nairobi and Oslo.

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