



SPFI MOVING FORWARD AMID COVID-19

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic Spes Pauperum Foundation (SPFI) Microfinance NGO Incorporated never loses hope to pursue its vision and mission and to serve its constituents. After the two and half months of total suspension of its operation, the program might suffer to loss its financial sustainability. It's like it has to go back from where the program started. Somewhat picking up the pieces and make it whole again. It's totally going back to zero and so the program will have to start all over again. Can we overcome these challenges? However, despite of the big challenges brought by the worldwide pandemic, the management never loses courage to step forward. The whole economy of the country was then down graded. What will happen now to our microfinance operations? SPFI have to move forward and re-invent plans as COVID-19 is inevitable. The SPFI management had foreseen this situation as the opportunity to reset goals and to continue the program's vision and mission. We have to revise our typical microfinance operation procedures. The reality that we have to seek ways that are suit to what we called now New Normal. We can't do the old ways, even we find it hard to gather our clients for center meetings, people were not allowed to mingle with others and afraid that they might get infected of

COVID-19 virus. The management now adopt pay and go procedure to our respective centers. We also allow our clients to pay on some remittance agents. Even SPFI suspend all yearly activities both for staff and clients to avoid mass gathering which now prohibited due to pandemic. We have to maximize the work force and assign staff by locality just to address the problem on restrictions of areas to enter. As we conduct an assessment to our respective clients, many of them halted their businesses especially clients who are engage in food vending, carenderia, and services alike. The operation department will have to find ways on how to address those concerns. SPFI Management have given extension of payments and even make reschedule of due dates and some have moratorium of payments until they have recovered. The operation has to resume after the two and half month suspension but it had to strictly implement the health protocol and applied work arrangement schedule. Staffs work hand in hand especially the working team at the branch level headed by their branch heads. A remarkable effort had done, just to make the operation stable and recover. We need to step forward amid all the challenges that stricken the whole nations. We need to strengthen our SPFI staffs as well as our clients. We need to develop products and enhance our services that would really fit to the needs of our clients. Everybody have to do their part to attain our ultimate goal which to uplift our clients living conditions. We need to harness our leaders our key officers. We need to rediscover and leverage their potentials by providing more capability building enhancement through more trainings and to enable them to become more resilient and competent enough to lead. We have to access new platforms of learning like conducting of online trainings and seminars. . With our instinct

we just have manifested that no matter what calamities that stricken, we always find things that could make us more productive and agile. Moving forward means seeking those opportunities; to improve our products and services of how we really impact the lives of our clients, and how we fulfil our mission to empower the poor. Struggling in this new time is so obvious. The repayment rate issue is the evidence of how the pandemic affect the institution and to our clients. But in believing that when impediments arise, there's always an opportunity, that's why SPFI take those challenges and see opportunities behind it and never sees it as hindrance but instead it is the primary source of courage to create ideas and enhance the capabilities and a power for innovations. It is the fighting spirit that everyone has, to soar higher and to achieve bigger success. It is our capability possessed beating of those obstacles to reach our vision mission. It is our main goal to give a greater opportunity of our end clients of those micro-entrepreneurs to succeed their small businesses. Giving them a chance also to move forward and alleviate their living status.

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