



## **MicroVest Becomes a Signatory of IFC's Responsible Digital Finance Guidelines**

*A unique alliance of over 40 fintech investors and digital finance innovators have launched investor guidelines aimed at spreading the benefits of the fintech revolution more widely.*

Bethesda, MD, June 20, 2018 – [MicroVest](#), a global impact investing asset management firm with \$385 million AUM, announced today that it has become a signatory of the guidelines coordinated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Goodwell Investments for investing in responsible digital finance. This initiative has been developed in collaboration with over 50 leading organizations who have teamed up to develop a set of guidelines for investors that are interested in funding inclusive digital financial services in a responsible way.

“Mobile banking, smart money, and other financial-technology innovations have helped to bring down costs while enabling new financial institutions to enter the market, improving product offerings and accessibility,” said John Beckham, Chief Investment Officer at MicroVest. He added, “While we see evolving opportunities in digital innovation, there are also some potential risks that need to be considered. These guidelines will advance valuable and responsible investments in digital finance and lay the groundwork for inclusive growth through technology.”

As a signatory, MicroVest will help accelerate investments that create value-added benefits for digital finance customers and broader digital ecosystems. The firm already has investments in mobile banking and payments platforms across Latin America, Africa and South Asia and is considering new opportunities in other emerging and frontier markets to deliver both social impact and a fair return.

“By teaming up with other leading investors, we want to create a community of practice around responsible fintech that will give more low-income customers easier access to better and more affordable financial products,” says Wim van der Beek, managing partner of emerging markets private equity firm Goodwell Investments, also a co-founder of the Guidelines. “As an active investor in digital financial inclusion, we saw a growing need in the marketplace for a framework that could support investors and operators in building sustainable and trustworthy products and services. We’re proud that so many investors have joined us in our efforts to develop the guidelines that we are launching today.”

The guidelines are a voluntary framework that organizations can sign up to and use as guidance when they invest in responsible digital financial services. The guidelines, which can be [found here](#), will benefit digital financial service providers and their customers by helping investors to better evaluate and manage risks associated with digital transformation and digitalization.

Gil Crawford, CEO of MicroVest, said, “We believe these best practices for responsible digital finance will encourage more investors to come onboard and do their bit to promote an inclusive economy.” He added, “We sincerely hope this will help mitigate the underlying risks and promote healthy development of the DFS markets. MicroVest is committed to adhering to these guidelines to provide digital financial services that are fair, transparent and safe.”

The initiative was officially launched today at the *Connecting the Dots* conference in Amsterdam.

**About MicroVest Capital Management, LLC**

[MicroVest](#) is an asset management firm that offers global investment opportunities across its family of funds. The company invests capital in under-banked markets, providing access to a growing portfolio of sustainable financial institutions. MicroVest's emphasis on detailed due diligence, and focus on aligning values, results in meaningful financial returns for its investors. Since 2003, MicroVest has demonstrated that investing in its funds can be both profitable and purposeful. As of March 2018, MicroVest managed \$385 million across all its funds.

**About the Co-Founding Signatories**

The group of over 50 co-founding signatories that have teamed up to launch the Guidelines in Amsterdam, today, consists of more than 30 investment organizations and over 10 fintech providers that endorse the guidelines. The investor community together has invested around USD 1.5 billion in some 200 digital financial service providers. These include banks, insurance companies, mobile money providers and other fintechs. Together, the co-founders form a unique alliance of leading development banks, investment funds, family offices, private equity firms and debt fund managers focused on the financial sector and fintech, as well as banks, digital lenders, service providers and industry organizations. It is a global group of signatories, from Europe, the US, Africa, China and India. The full list is included in the annex and is also available at [www.responsiblefinanceforum.org](http://www.responsiblefinanceforum.org).

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