

Changing the narrative

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES
TO GENERATE GLOBAL IMPACT

NEWSLETTER

Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF) joins the European Microfinance Network (EMN) for the 11th edition of the European Microfinance Day Campaign!

For the 11th consecutive year, EMN, with the support of the Microfinance Center (MFC), will launch its European Microfinance Day (EMD) campaign on March 4th. The EMD initiative aims to raise awareness about the impact of the microfinance sector in Europe from both social and economic perspectives.

This year's theme is "**Changing the Narrative – Supporting Local Communities to Generate Global Impact.**" As we navigate times of high uncertainty due to the ongoing climate crisis and various global conflicts, we face numerous challenges in achieving the goals of the European Green Deal and ensuring a just transition. Additionally, the pressure on small businesses has increased.

The 2025 edition of the campaign will give the floor to EMN members and partners who will share their experiences as actors of the social economy ecosystem and showcase how they support local and rural communities in navigating challenges such as empowering women's entrepreneurship and reducing environmental impacts through the development of inclusive finance. The objective is to look at local communities' experiences to draw lessons and examples that could be replicated in other regions and countries.

Jinishian Memorial Foundation is delighted to share its efforts in advancing financial inclusion for forcibly displaced people from Nagorno-Karabakh in Armenia. Read more in the article on the next page.

The campaign kicked off on March 4th and will be closed by an in-person event hosted by EMN, in partnership with MicroBank and Fundació Autoocupació, in Barcelona on May 22nd. The event will be the occasion to discuss the campaign's results and connect with different microfinance and social economy actors from across Europe.

If you are interested in participating, you can download the communication package at this [LINK](#) or contact EMN Secretariat at m.volpi@european-microfinance.org.

We look forward to meeting you in Barcelona!

Advancing Financial Inclusion for Forcibly Displaced People from Nagorno-Karabakh

Forced displacement uproots lives, disrupts livelihoods, and creates enormous financial challenges for those affected. Many forcibly displaced people (FDPs) struggle to access financial services due to the absence of credit history, lack of collateral, and regulatory barriers. Recognizing these challenges, the Jinishian Memorial Foundation (JMF) has taken an innovative approach to financial inclusion, helping FDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh rebuild their lives through sustainable economic opportunities and financial empowerment.



From Humanitarian Relief to Long-Term Economic Stability

JMF has been at the forefront of assisting FDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh following the 2020 war and the September 2023 attack. During the initial phases of displacement, JMF provided critical humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, food, clothing, and psychological support. However, understanding that true resilience goes beyond emergency relief, the organization transitioned to long-term development strategies.

In early 2024, JMF launched an initiative focused on FDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh who were settled in disadvantaged Gegharqunik region. This program has been designed to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities, empowering displaced families to achieve economic independence and stability. Through a combination of asset provision and tailored technical assistance, JMF seeks to enhance the financial resilience of FDPs and foster their long-term success in their new environment.

Breaking Barriers: JMF's Innovative Approach to Financial Inclusion

One of the most significant hurdles FDPs face is the inability to access traditional financial services. Many arrive in host communities without or a ruined credit history or viable collateral, making it nearly impossible to secure loans or build financial stability. To address this, JMF has introduced an innovative financing model that not only provides immediate financial support but also integrates FDPs into the formal financial system.

JMF's approach includes:

- **A Hybrid Grant-Loan Model:** Understanding that FDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh need both financial assistance and a pathway to independence, JMF has been providing funding where **50% is a grant and 50% is a subsidized loan**. However, the key innovation lies in how the grant is used—not simply as direct aid, but as a mechanism to **secure the loan** itself. This ensures that FDPs receive financial support while simultaneously establishing financial responsibility and creditworthiness.
- **Collateral-Free Loan Access:** Since traditional lending requirements often exclude FDPs, JMF has leveraged the **grant amount as a security guarantee for the loan**. This unique structure removes the need for FDPs to provide personal collateral while still giving them access to much-needed capital.



Empowering FDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh to Build a Stable Future

By providing a structured pathway to financial independence, JMF is not only offering aid but **transforming the way FDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh integrate into the economy**. Their model ensures that displaced families do not remain dependent on external assistance but instead gain the tools to sustain themselves, contribute to their communities, and thrive in their new environment.

Financial inclusion is not just about access to loans—it is about **creating opportunities, fostering dignity, and ensuring long-term economic resilience** for those who have been forcibly displaced. This innovative approach in Armenia serves as a model for how financial institutions, development organizations, and policymakers can collaborate to build more inclusive economic systems that empower the most vulnerable.