The importance of insurance

In many parts of the world, people and businesses live and operate without the security of insurance. However, when loss strikes, it does not fall to the poor. In the event of a shock, past development efforts may be reversed and the near-poor may fall (back) into poverty. Even those in a relatively secure position may find themselves dragged into financial hardship. Insurance protects against unforeseen losses and financial vulnerability. In areas such as agriculture, innovative insurance products can provide solutions to deal with the impact of climate change and catastrophic events. In this way, insurance can also reduce the likelihood of food and economic crises.

The power of insurance regulation

Too often, insurance providers may not see a compelling business opportunity to offer products to the low-income population, and individuals or companies do not fully understand the benefits.

“A robust supervisory framework creates incentives for industry involvement and helps build consumer confidence through effective policyholder protection, particularly for low-income households.” Peter Braumüller, Chair of the Governing Council A2ii

Our solutions

The Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii) is a unique global partnership with the mission to inspire and support supervisors to promote inclusive and responsible insurance, thereby reducing vulnerability.

“We strengthen the capacity of supervisors seeking to advance inclusive insurance markets, particularly for low-income clients, by promoting sound, effective and proportionate regulation and supervision based on globally accepted insurance standards.” Hannah Grant, Head of Secretariat, A2ii

The core fields covered by the A2ii are knowledge generation and dissemination, dialogue and learning, inputs for the development of global standards and guidance, support for country implementation processes in the area of regulatory and supervisory reform, support for regional implementation and capacity development of insurance supervisors.

“The A2ii is a key strategic partner of the IAIS. In working towards the goal of effective and globally consistent supervision of the insurance industry, the A2ii’s implementation and capacity building support to emerging market supervisors is most valuable to the process.” Jonathan Dixon, Secretary General IAIS

How A2ii works: partnerships

We are the key implementation partner of the global standard setting body for insurance supervision, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), on access to insurance. The IAIS determines the necessary standards and structures for a strong industry. We listen to and work closely with insurance supervisors and provide guidance on how to implement those standards. A2ii’s close relationship with insurance supervisors and the IAIS enables us to better identify areas where support is needed and to feed what we learn on the ground back into the IAIS’s standard setting process. The A2ii works closely with its development partners leveraging off our comparative strengths.
Our achievements:

- We contributed to 8 supervisory papers of the IAIS, which provide supervisors with guidance on how to implement an inclusive regulatory and supervisory approaches.

- We conducted 20 country assessments, from Colombia to Ethiopia to the Philippines, which have set in motion regulatory changes in at least 15 countries.

- We have worked with local and global partners, insurance organisations and agencies to build the capacity of insurance supervisors and regulators. Today, there are at least 36 countries with inclusive regulatory framework, with at least 18 countries in the process of developing their frameworks, as compared to only 6 in 2009.

- As affiliated members of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion we have contributed to the work of the G20 on financial inclusion and raised the awareness of the need for insurance to be included in national financial strategies.

- Since 2014, we have been facilitating about 6 Dialogues per year, followed up by a report or blog published on our website. Supervisory Dialogues are a closed format for supervisors only, while Public Dialogues are open to all stakeholders. In 2022 we held 5 Supervisory Dialogues and 2 Public Dialogues, in English, French and Spanish.

- A2ii has published 31 blog posts since launching the blog in 2020. Recent thematic blog posts were published on health insurance, mainstreaming gender in inclusive insurance, artificial intelligence, women’s access to insurance, and migrant insurance.

In 2022 A2ii organised:

18 Events

Topics included
Artificial Intelligence, Climate and Disaster Risk and the Protection Gap, Index Insurance, IFRS 17, Remittance-linked insurance, Risk-based Supervision, and the Role of Technology and Data

With 1321 participants
From 120 countries
53% of them female

Our capacity building highlights:

A2ii has launched 3 self-paced trainings on Connect.A2ii on Climate, Actuarial Skills for Supervisors and Gender

A2ii held 3 virtual trainings in 2022

123 participants
2 Actuarial Trainings
1 Global Inclusive Insurance Training

The Third Inclusive Insurance Innovation Lab (iii-lab) 2021 – 2022

About 60 participants:
- insurance supervisors
- industry representatives
- intermediaries
- consumer representatives

4 countries:
Costa Rica, Grenada, Zambia and Zimbabwe

94% of lab participants think that the lab process provided them with actionable insights that they can apply to their work