



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL PARTNER, SINAPI ABA SAVINGS AND LOANS, NAMED BEST BANK FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS BY GLOBAL SME FINANCE AWARDS

CHICAGO (November 18, 2020) – Opportunity International congratulates Sinapi Aba Savings and Loans for their recognition as the 2020 Gold Winner for the Best Bank for Women Entrepreneurs, awarded by the International Finance Corporation and the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Finance Forum.

A long-time Opportunity partner in Ghana established in 1994, Sinapi Aba offers a wide range of financial and non-financial services to more than 400,000 clients, of whom more than 80 percent are women. Sinapi Aba believes every person should have the dignity of providing for themselves, and that vision guides them in building clients' financial strength and livelihoods through training, networking, and mentorship programs. The institution helps women entrepreneurs grow their businesses by graduating from microfinance products to larger loans and more advanced services like using digital finance tools. When Sinapi Aba customizes and markets financial services to women, they also reach men who face similar barriers, including low literacy and lack of collateral. This effective gender strategy is a win-win for achieving both social and business objectives.

"Sinapi Aba has always been a leader in addressing the challenges facing those living in poverty in Ghana," added Opportunity International CEO Atul Tandon. "This terrific honor recognizes their dedication to ensuring financial inclusion and opportunity for all."

Organized by the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, and the SME Finance Forum, the Global SME Finance Awards are endorsed by the G20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion and celebrate the outstanding achievements of financial institutions and financial technology organizations in delivering exceptional products and services to their SME clients.

"This award is a great recognition of the tireless efforts of the Sinapi Aba team to unlock the determination, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit of women and men living in poverty in Ghana by empowering and equipping them to reach their full potential," says Deborah Foy, Interim Executive Director, Opportunity International, Inc.

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## **ABOUT OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL**

Opportunity International is a global non-profit committed to ending extreme poverty and promoting quality education for families in need. Since 1971, Opportunity has helped millions of families work their way out of poverty by providing financial resources, training, and delivering ongoing support to start small businesses, earn living wages, and feed their families. The organization provides loans to families seeking tuition and educators who want to improve local schools to get more children into better quality schools. In 2019, Opportunity International and its partners made more than \$3 billion in loans, reaching more than 7 million loan clients and 12 million savings clients in 27 countries, and helped fund 6,400 schools that reached nearly 2 million children. Discover more at [opportunity.org](http://opportunity.org) or join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## **ABOUT THE SME FINANCE FORUM**

The SME Finance Forum works to expand access to finance for small and medium businesses. The Forum operates a global membership network that brings together financial institutions, technology companies, and development finance institutions to share knowledge, spur innovation, and promote the growth of SMEs. To learn more, please visit <http://www.smefinanceforum.org>.