AccessHolding

The State of SME Banking in Africa -The case of AccessHolding

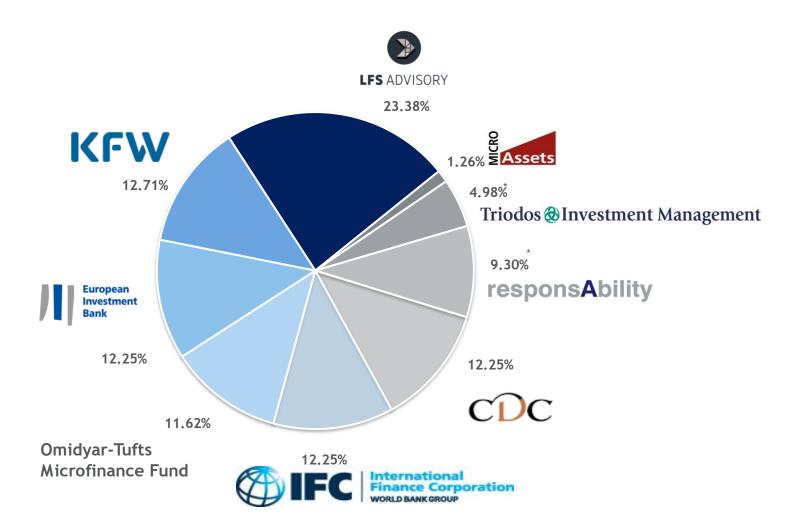
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## Who is AccessHolding? Shareholders

Shareholder structure January 2018



(\*Note: in this chart, the shareholdings of the two responsAbility and Triodos funds are counted together)

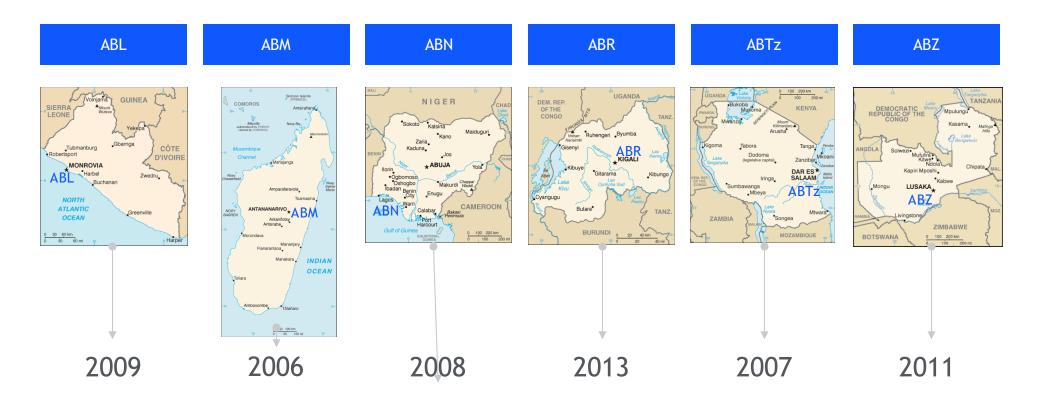
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## The Access African outreach

Network Banks currently operated by the Holding



## African Network Bank KPIs



# Success Factors in MSME Banking

#### Holding Model

- Operating a network of microfinance banks with a "build and maintain" focus bears important advantages in terms of synergies and support.
- Banks in developing markets continue to require strong support provided by central functions for knowledge and cost regression reasons

#### **Regulatory Status**

- Most network institutions have full banking or microfinance licenses and are deposit-taking.
- In an environment of increasingly regulated markets, this presents a key advantage over new players such as MNOs and Fintechs.

#### **Competitive Position**

- Informality of businesses still requires individual assessment and interaction
- Neither large commercial banks nor Fintechs are able to provide adequate financial services to this target group
   → debt is a particular challenge!
- Specialization to MSME business needs is needed

#### Digitization & Physical Infrastructure

- Business customers will still value personal contact, especially when digital processes dominate
  - Branches/physical infrastructure will still be needed i.e. for initial client visits and recovery. Access benefits from its large branch network and number of field staff.
  - Going forward, 24/7 accessbility through various channels will complement (not substitute!) the personal contact.

# Some Challenges & Responses in MSME Lending

FX Risk	<ul> <li>Problem I: Foreign currency-denominated loans, significant income shares in local currency.</li> <li><u>Mitigation:</u> reduction of foreign currency-denominated loan portfolios → involvement in FX-risk management on customer level</li> <li>Problem II: Volatile FX-markets lead to very high hedging cost</li> <li>Mitigation: Local currency funding facilities take away significant FX-risk (→EIB funding in Zambia, Rwanda &amp; Tanzania)</li> </ul>
Risk Management Systems	<ul> <li>Problem: Sales-based / growth-based systems often aggravate ops &amp; credit risk when operations contract → Risk controls require enhancement &amp; formalization, especially for larger loans</li> <li>Mitigation: Segregation of duties / reorganization (3 lines of defense), staff training (→ e.g. EIB TA in Zambia)</li> </ul>
Equity	<ul> <li><u>Problem</u>: Institutional investors (including IFIs and MIVs) are withdrawing from the sector</li> <li><u>Mitigation</u>: Identification of new players</li> </ul>



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