

Host Country:	Pakistan
Name of Borrower:	Kashf Foundation
Project Description:	Expansion of microfinance lending portfolio
Proposed OPIC Loan:	\$7,000,000; 5 year loan
Total Project Costs:	\$10,000,000
U.S. Sponsor:	MicroVest Capital Management LLC (Delaware)
Foreign Sponsor:	N/A
Policy Review	
U.S. Economic Impact:	The Project is not expected to have a negative impact on the U.S. economy. There is no U.S. procurement associated with this Project, and, therefore the Project is expected to have a neutral impact on U.S. employment. The Project is expected to have a neutral five-year U.S. balance of trade impact.
Developmental Effects:	<p>This Project, as a part of OPIC’s 2X Gender Lens Investing Initiative, is expected to have a highly developmental impact through the expansion of lending to women micro-entrepreneurs throughout Pakistan. The OPIC loan will focus on expanding micro lending, but Kashf as an organization also has a secondary focus on providing value-add services to microfinance clients including business training and technical assistance, gender equality trainings, and access to healthcare. The World Economic Forum ranks Pakistan 143 out of 144 countries in terms of economic participation and opportunity for women.^[1] The Project will help to expand inclusive growth in the country, which aligns with the Government of Pakistan’s Vision 2025 initiative to improve access to finance to underserved sectors of the economy, particularly women and rural enterprises. The Project’s provision of greater economic opportunity for women in Pakistan aligns with UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality).</p> 
Environment:	Loans for the purposes of microfinance on-lending are screened as Category C projects under OPIC’s environmental and social guidelines. Environmental, health, safety, and social impact concerns are minimal. However, in order to ensure that the Borrower’s loans are consistent with OPIC’s statutory and

^[1] "Pakistan." Global Gender Gap Report 2016. N. p., 2017. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/economies/#economy=PAK>

	<p>policy requirements, the loan will be subject to conditions regarding the use of proceeds.</p>
Social Assessment:	<p>The Project will be required to operate in a manner consistent with the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards, OPIC's Environmental and Social Policy Statement and applicable local laws.</p> <p>OPIC's statutorily required language regarding the rights of association, organization and collective bargaining, minimum age of employment, and prohibition against the use of forced labor, will be supplemented with provisions concerning non-discrimination, hours of work, the timely payment of wages, and hazardous working conditions. Standard and supplemental contract language will be applied to all workers of the Project, including contracted workers.</p> <p>The Project Company is in the process of restructuring its branch division, and will be required to provide a complete retrenchment plan for its anticipated retrenchment. The Project will be also be required to provide evidence that it has implemented procedures in order to process public grievances.</p> <p>This review covers the commensurate human rights risks associated with microcredit on-lending in Pakistan.</p>