

August 02, 2019 Wealth Research

## **IPO Note**

# **Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd.**

# One of the leading NBFC-MFIs in India

Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd (SSFL) is a leading, rural focused NBFC-MFI with geographically diversified presence in India. The company offers income generating loans under the joint liability group (JLG) model, predominantly to women from low-income households in the rural areas. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest NBFC-MFI in India in terms on Assets Under Management (AUM) at ₹4,437 crore as on 31 Mar'19, a growth of ~40% backed by a healthy growth of 29% in disbursements.

Recommendation: At higher end of the price band of ₹856, issue is priced at 4.0x/2.9x its FY18/19 adjusted book value on post dilution equity basis. SSFL's successful exit from corporate debt restructuring (CDR) mechanism in Mar'17 (well ahead of scheduled date of Mar'18), consistent profits along with a healthy asset book, builds confidence in the prospects. Given the low penetration of financial services in the rural India, the ability of MFIs to reach out to the hinterlands and SSFL's high operational efficiencies, we believe the company could have a considerable scope for growth going ahead. Hence, we suggest investors to subscribe to the issue. However, in light of the current market conditions one must invest in the IPO from a long term perspective.

Objects of the issue: The IPO consists of a fresh issue of 0.47 crore shares (at the higher end of the price band of ₹856) and offer for sale (OFS) to the tune of 0.82 crore shares by the promoter group and 0.12 crore shares by others. The net proceeds of the fresh issue are proposed to be utilised for augmenting the company's capital base and for general corporate purposes.

Strong overall business performance: The company has displayed a strong performance despite going into CDR post the Andhra Pradesh (AP) loan crisis in 2010 and has successfully exited the CDR framework in Mar'17 with profits in all the years post FY14. According to ICRA Research, SSFL is one of the only two major MFIs to successfully exit from CDR post AP crisis. Further, post-demonetisation in Nov'16, SSFL has efficiently managed the situation and maintain industry leading portfolio quality with collection efficiency for FY17 at 97.1% on a standalone basis and at 99.3% and 99.7% in for FY18 and FY19, on a consolidated basis respectively.

Improvement in efficiencies resulted in high profitability: The company has improved their operational efficiencies by streamlined systems and procedures and scalable workforce deployment. As a result, SSFL's AUM per branch increased from ₹2.47 crore in FY17 to ₹4.80 crore in FY19 and the AUM per employee also improved from ₹0.45 crore to ₹1.26 crore, over the same period. This has helped in achieving lower operating costs and better profitability with RoE increasing to 16.5% in FY19 vs. 13.5% in FY18.

Healthy financials: During FY19 (over FY18-19), the net interest income, preprovisioning profit and net profit of the company grew at a robust pace of 87.5% to ₹640 crore, 109.8% to ₹519 crore and 66.0% to ₹312 crore, respectively. The high profitability was supported by a 560bps YoY decline in the cost-income ratio at 24.9%, thus resulting in return ratios of 6.3% RoA (vs. 5.0% in FY18) and 16.5% RoE (vs. 13.5% in FY18). The robust AUM growth was led by disbursements increasing ~29% during the year. Further, the company also maintained healthy asset quality with gross stage III (GS3) accounts at 0.1% and net stage III (NS3) at 0.01% along with a collection efficiency of 99.7%, as of 31 Mar'19.

Risk factors: 1) Regional concentration – over ~72% of AUM coming from top 5 states; 2) Socio-political issues in borrowing community; 3) Unsecured nature of loans may affect asset quality & profitability in case of defaults;

### **Financial Summary (consolidated)**

Y/E March (₹ Cr)	NII	YoY (%)	Net Profit	YoY (%)	Net NPA (%)	RoE (%)	RoA (%)	Adj. BV (₹/sh)^	P/BV (x)^
FY18	341	-	188	-	0.17	13.5	5.0	215	4.0
FY19	640	87.5	312	66.0	0.02	16.5	6.3	294	2.9

Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research, ^Note: Post-dilution basis at the higher end of the price band (₹856) has been considered

# Rating

		X

Issue Details	
Price Band (₹)	853 – 856
Face Value (₹)	10.00
Pre Issue no of Eq. share (Cr)	5.96
No. of Eq. Sh. Fresh Issue (Cr)	0.47
No. of Eq. Sh. Offer for sale (Cr)	0.94
Post Issue no of Eq. share (Cr)	6.43
Net Size of Issue (₹ Cr)	1,198 / 1,201
M. Cap. post issue (₹ Cr)	5,487 / 5,505
Minimum Lot Size	17 shares
Issue Opens	5 Aug'19
Issue Closes	7 Aug'19

### **Shareholding Pattern (%)**

	Pre Issue	Post Issue^
Promoters	81.2	62.6
Public + others	18.8	37.4
^ @Higher Band of ₹856		

#### Issue Structure (%)

	Portion (%)
QIB	50%
Non-Institutions	15%
Retail	35%

#### BRLM

Axis Capital Ltd
ICICI Securities Ltd
IIFL Securities Ltd
JM Financial Ltd
IndusInd Bank Ltd

YES Securities (India) Ltd
Source: Company RHP

Rating Scale	
★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆	Avoid
$\star$	Neutral
$\star\star\star \star$	Subscribe for long term
$\star\star\star\star$	Subscribe
$\star\star\star\star\star$	High conviction subscribe

Payal V. Pandya, AVP Research

#### About the company

Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd (SSFL) is a leading, rural focused NBFC-MFI with geographically diversified presence in India. The company offers income generating loans under the joint liability group (JLG) model, predominantly to women from low-income households in the rural areas. The company was incorporated as a public company in 2003 and registered as an NBFC with the RBI in 2004. Subsequently, SSFL registered as an NBFC-MFI in 2015. During 2005-10, the company grew their microfinance operations and were the second largest MFI in terms of AUM as on 31 Mar'10 (Source: ICRA Research).

In Oct'10, the MFI industry was severely impacted due to external regulatory action, as the government of the formerly unified Andhra Pradesh (AP) promulgated the *AP Microfinance Ordinance 2010*, which enforced several restrictions on the operations of MFIs, thus severely impacting SSFL's collections. As a result, the consequent cash-flow shortage impacted SSFL's ability to service their debt and in-turn impaired growth and profitability. The lenders of SSFL referred the company to the *corporate debt restructuring (CDR)* mechanism of the RBI to develop a plan to restructure their borrowings and revive the business. The company agreed on a CDR plan with the lenders, which allowed them to get cash-flow relaxations to enable them to continue the efforts towards portfolio diversification, process improvement and cost rationalization. With the help of these measures, the company turned profitable in the year FY14 and continued to make profits for the four consecutive years while operating under the CDR mechanism. The company exited CDR in Mar'17, post which they increased their lender base, diversified borrowings to new banks and NBFCs and issued NCDs in the capital markets (leading to a reduction in Average Effective Cost of Borrowing from 16.3% for FY17 to 14.7% for FY18 and the same declined further to 12.8% in FY19).

As of 31 Mar'19, the company was the fourth largest NBFC-MFI and the sixth largest amongst NBFC-MFIs and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India with Assets under Management (AUM) at ₹4,437 crore. (Source: ICRA Research) According to ICRA, SSFL's operating expense to average managed assets (AMA) ratio was better than the industry as a whole during FY19. Over FY18 and FY19, the disbursements increased by 87.3% and 28.8% (from ₹2,059 crore to ₹3,858 crore as of FY18 and to ₹4,969 crore as of 31 Mar'19) and the consolidated gross AUM grew from ₹3,167 crore as of 31 Mar'18 to ₹4,437 crore at the end of FY19. As of 31 Mar'19, SSFL has a healthy asset quality with gross stage III (GS3) accounts at 0.1% and net stage III (NS3) at 0.01% along with a collection efficiency of 99.7%.

Exhibit 1: Details of selling shareholders

	Pre-c	Pre-offer		Post-offer	
	Eq. Holding (in Cr.)	% of total Eq. Capital	(in Cr.)	Eq. Holding (in Cr.)	% of total Eq. Capital
Promoter Shareholding					
Kangchenjunga	3.53	59.1	0.60	2.93	45.6
Padmaja Gangireddy	1.17	19.6	0.14	1.02	15.9
Vijay Siva Rami Reddy Vendidandi	0.15	2.5	0.08	0.07	1.1
Total of Promoter Group	4.84	81.2	0.82	4.02	62.6
Non-Promoters					
Valiant Mauritius Partners FDI Ltd	0.46	7.8	0.08	0.38	6.0
Helion Venture Partners II LLC	0.08	1.3	0.01	0.07	1.0
Kedaara AIF 1	0.08	1.3	0.01	0.06	1.0
Helion Venture Partners LLC	0.07	1.2	0.01	0.06	0.9
Total of Non-Promoters	0.69	11.6	0.12	0.57	8.9
Total OFS	5.53	92.8	0.94	4.60	71.5

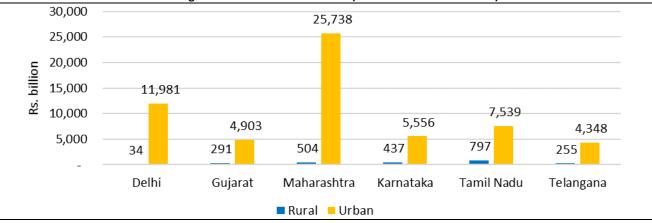
Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research

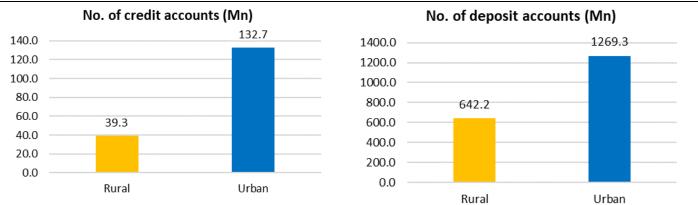
Note: The issue also consists of fresh issue of 0.47 crore shares (at the higher end of the price band of ₹856/share)

### **Industry Overview**

### Low penetration of banking credit in rural areas

Exhibit 2: State-wise Credit Outstanding - Rural and Urban - Dec'18 (Total credit > ₹4.0 trillion)





Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research

As of 31 Mar'18, there were only ~642 million deposit accounts and ~39 million credit accounts in rural India, which accounted for ~34% of the total deposit accounts and ~23% of the loan accounts in scheduled commercial banks despite rural India making up ~68% of the total population. The significant under-penetration of credit in rural areas offers strong potential for improvement. Given that microfinance institutions (MFIs) have relatively deeper reach, existing customer relationships and employee bases, they are well placed to address this demand which is currently being met by informal sources of funds such as local money lenders.

Key steps taken by government to boost financial inclusion

- 1. PSL Requirements: The priority sector lending (PSL) target set (40% of the adjusted net bank credit ANBC or credit equivalent amount of off-balance sheet exposure, whichever is higher) by the RBI for banks, are aimed at providing access to financial services to borrowers with modest credit profiles (including loans to farmers for agriculture and allied activities, poor people for housing, students for education, social infrastructure and renewable energy). The PSL status for NBFC-MFIs and allowing them to act as business correspondents for banks augurs well for funding profile of NBFC-MFIs.
- 2. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**: The scheme ensures access to basic financial services such as banking accounts, remittance, credit, insurance and pensions in an affordable manner.
- 3. **Small Finance Banks**: Of the approvals given to 10 applicants by RBI, 7 were NBFC MFIs. Such schemes are likely to increase financial inclusion as the new licensees have the ability to offer full range of services like deposits and a diversified asset mix as opposed to a singular primary credit product (for NBFC-MFIs).

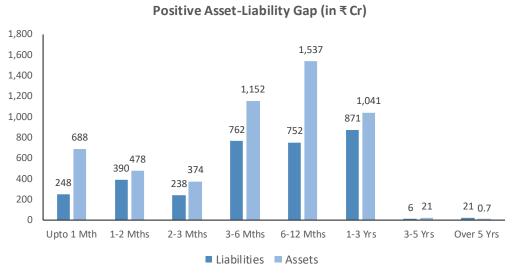
### **Key Competitive Strengths**

Seasoned business model with resilient performance through business cycles – SSFL has been able to leverage the inherent strength of their client centric business model, focus on internal controls, the expertise of the Individual Promoter and core management team to maintain SSFL's status as a leading NBFC-MFI. During the 2010 Andhra Pradesh (AP) crisis, while the company was under CDR, they continued operations outside AP in various states and focused on rebuilding profitable operations through portfolio diversification, cost rationalization, customer retention, and recovery from the AP portfolio. These measures helped SSFL to raise new debt from existing lenders and gain capital infusion from Kangchenjunga, the Corporate Promoter and Kedaara AIF 1, which helped the company to exit from CDR in Mar'17. According to ICRA Research, SSFL is one of the only two major MFIs to successfully exit from CDR post AP crisis.

Further post demonetisation, the company adopted practices that allowed borrowers to repay a portion of their instalments and also supported them with interim loans. SSFL also conducted meetings with clients, encouraging them to continue attending centre meetings. This allowed SSFL to manage the situation and maintain industry leading portfolio quality with collection efficiency for FY17 at 97.1% on a standalone basis and at 99.3% and 99.7% in for FY18 and FY19, on a consolidated basis respectively.

- ➤ Geographically diversified operations leading to risk containment and business resilience As of 30 Jun'19, SSFL was present in 74,749 villages in 269 districts in 16 states and 1 union territory across India through 929 branches. The company's operations are well-diversified at the branch, district and state levels. Such presence in widespread geographies in India offers the company a potential growth opportunity to further improve their business penetration in same areas and also reach out to more congruent geographies. To address geographic concentration risk, we have specified exposure caps at the state, district and branch levels
  - a) the gross loan portfolio (GLP) of each state must not exceed 22.5% of the total portfolio (for AP and Telangana the combined cap at 6% of GLP);
  - b) the GLP for each district must not exceed 2.5% of total portfolio and 7.5% of net worth;
- Focus on the high potential and under-served rural segment SSFL strategically focuses on clients in the rural areas which are a highly under-served market for formal banking services in terms of access, availability and suitability of products and services. According to ICRA Research, while rural India accounts for approximately 68% of India's population as of Mar'18, it accounted for only 34% of total deposit accounts and 23% of the loan accounts in scheduled commercial banks. The significant under penetration of credit in rural areas offers strong potential for improvement and that given the relatively deeper reach, existing client relationships and employee base, micro-finance institutions are well placed to address this demand, which is currently being met by informal sources such as local money lenders. Hence, SSFL has maintained its focus on the rural segment as of 31 Dec'18 with 88% of portfolio located in rural areas as compared with 61% for 33 NBFC-MFIs as a whole.

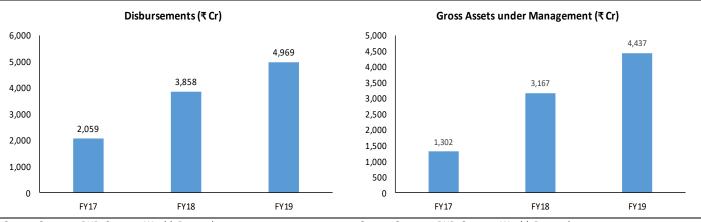
Exhibit 3: SSFL has positive ALM across all tenures



Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research

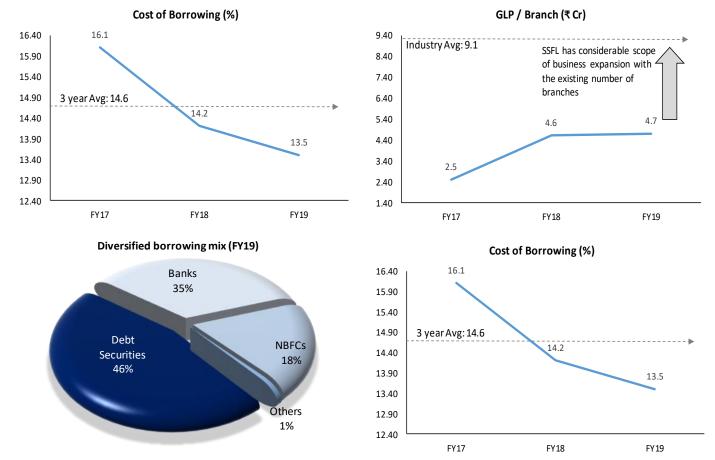
Exhibit 4: Disbursements grew 28.8% in FY19

Exhibit 5: Gross AUM grew 40.1% in FY19



Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research Note: FY17 nos. are on standalone basis (proforma) Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research Note: FY17 nos. are on standalone basis (proforma)

Exhibit 6: SSFL is improving operational efficiencies across parameters and has further scope with existing branches



Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research; Note: GLP = Gross Loan Portfolio, All data is as on 31 Mar'19 (as per company RHP), FY17 nos. are on standalone basis (proforma)

Exhibit 7: Strong performance over the past 2 years post exit from CDR

	Mar'17 (Exit from CDR)	Mar'19 (4 <sup>th</sup> largest NBFC-MFI in India)
Gross AUM (₹ Cr)	1,302	4,437
Networth (₹ Cr)	928	1,889
PAR 0+ (₹ Cr)	139	38
Profit Before Tax (₹ Cr)	46	474
Cost-Income Ratio (%)	41.8	24.9
No. of lenders (x)	3	28
Avg. Eff. Borrowing Cost (%)	16.3	12.8
Credit Rating	NA	A- (Stable)
Avg. Eff. Borrowing Cost (%)	16.3	12.8

Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research;

Note: PAR 0+ = Portfolio at Risk with 1 day onwards delay in paying

### **Peer Comparison**

**Exhibit 8: Relative Valuation** 

Company	M. Cap (₹ Cr)	Net Profit (₹ Cr)	Gross Loan Book (₹ Cr)	Net NPA (%)	RoE (%)	RoA (%)	Adj. BV (₹/sh)	P/Adj. BV (x)
Bandhan Bank	57,263	1,952	44,800	0.58	17.4	3.9	94	5.1
Bharat Financial Incl #	12,384	985	17,394	0.22	23.3	9.7	300	2.9
Spandana Sphoorty ^	5,505	312	4,437	0.01	16.5	6.3	294	2.9
Ujjivan Financial Serv.	3,487	150	11,049	0.30	8.0	1.7	157	1.8
Satin Creditcare*	1,392	202	7,068	1.60	17.5	3.1	237	1.1

Source: Bloomberg, Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research

Note: \* NPAs imply the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) as per FY19 PPT; # Bharat Financial Inclusion is suspended to be merged with IndusInd Bank, hence the M. Cap is calculated on the basis of the merger swap ratio;

All market prices of listed stocks are as on 1 Aug'19;

<sup>^</sup> Higher end of price band of ₹856 has been considered;

# **Financials - Consolidated**

### **Income Statement**

Y/E Mar (₹ Cr)	FY18	FY19
Interest Income	573	998
Finance Cost	232	358
Net interest income	341	640
Non-interest Income	14	51
Net total income	356	691
Operating Expenses	108	172
Pre-provisioning profit	247	519
Provisions / impairments	(35)	45
PBT	283	473
Tax	95	162
Net Profit	188	312

Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research

### **Balance Sheet**

Y/E Mar (₹ Cr)	FY18	FY19
Eq. Share Capital	298	596
Reserves/Other equity	13,609	18,298
Networth	13,906	18,894
Non-Controlling Interest	-	9
Total Debt	23,314	29,677
Other Financial liabilities	145	445
Current Tax Liabilities (net)	93	63
Provisions	4	4
Other Non-Financial liabilities	180	225
Total Liabilities	37,642	49,317
Cash & Bank Balance	2,078	3,518
Trade Receivables	25	35
Loan Portfolio	30,896	42,678
Investments	1	1
Current tax assets (net)	42	83
Deferred tax assets (net)	3,841	2,000
Fixed Assets	85	94
Goodwill	-	174
Other Assets	675	734
Total Assets	37,642	49,317

Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research

### **Key Ratios^**

	FY18	FY19
Growth (%)		
Net Interest Income	-	87.5
Pre-provisioning profit	-	109.8
Net profit	-	66.0
Loan book	-	38.1
Total debt	-	27.3
Profitability (%)		
RoE	13.5	16.5
RoA	5.0	6.3
Asset Quality		
Gross Stage III	2.27	0.1
Net Stage III	0.38	0.01
Valuations		
EPS (₹/share)	29.23	48.50
P/E (x)	29.3	17.6
BV (₹/share)	216	294
ABV (₹/share)	215	294
P/BV (x)	4.0	2.9
P/ABV (x)	4.0	2.9

^ Note: Calculations based on higher end of the price band – ₹856

Source: Company RHP, Centrum Wealth Research

Note: The financial statements mentioned above show the company's performance post its exit from the Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme in Mar'17.

#### **Appendix**

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