March 31, 2025

Muthoot Microfin Limited: Provisional [ICRA]AA-(SO) assigned to PTC Series A1 issued by Mario Trust 2024, backed by a pool of microfinance loan receivables

Summary of rating action

Trust Name	Instrument*	Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
Mario Trust 2024	PTC Series A1	163.09	Provisional [ICRA]AA-(SO); Assigned

Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rating in the absence of pending actions/documents	No rating would have been assigned as it would not be meaningful

Rationale

The pass-through certificates (PTCs) are backed by a pool of microfinance loan receivables originated by Muthoot Microfin Limited (MML) with an aggregate principal outstanding of Rs. 181.21 crore (pool receivables of Rs. 218.37 crore). MML would be acting as the servicer for the transaction.

The provisional rating is based on the strength of the cash flows from the selected pool of contracts, the credit enhancement available in the structure as well as the integrity of the legal structure. The provisional rating is subject to the fulfilment of all the conditions under the structure and ICRA's review of the documentation pertaining to the transaction.

Transaction structure

As per the transaction structure, the monthly cash flow schedule comprises the promised interest payout. The principal is expected to be paid on a monthly basis (100% of the pool principal billed) but is promised on the final maturity date. The residual cash flows from the pool, after meeting the promised and expected payouts, will be flow back to the originator on a monthly basis. Any prepayment in the pool would be used for the prepayment of the PTC Series A1 principal. The transaction has certain trigger events defined, on occurrence of which the residual cash flows would be passed on to PTC Series A1 investors.

The credit enhancement available in the structure is in the form of (i) a cash collateral (CC) of 5.0% of the initial pool principal, amounting to Rs. 9.06 crore, to be provided by the Originator, (ii) principal subordination of 10.0% of the initial pool principal for PTC Series A1, and (iii) the excess interest spread (EIS) of 14.49% of the initial pool principal for PTC Series A1.

Key rating drivers and their description

Credit strengths

Granular pool supported by presence of credit enhancement – The pool is granular, consisting of 37,781 obligors, with no contract exceeding 0.01% of the pool principal, thereby reducing the exposure to any single borrower. Further, the credit enhancement available in the form of the CC, subordination and EIS would absorb a part of the losses in the pool and provide support in meeting the PTC payouts.

No overdue contracts in the pool – The pool has been filtered in such a manner that there were no overdue contracts as on the cut-off date.

Seasoned contracts in the pool – The pool had amortised by almost 18% as on the cut-off date with no delinquencies seen in any of the contracts, post loan disbursement, reflecting the borrowers' relatively better credit profile.

Credit challenges

High geographical concentration – The pool has high geographical concentration with the top 3 states, viz. Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, contributing ~70% to the initial pool principal amount. The pool's performance would thus be exposed to any state-wide disruption that may occur due to natural calamities, political events, etc. Nonetheless, the contracts are well-diversified across multiple districts with the top 10 districts constituting around 27% of the initial pool amount, which alleviates the concentration risk to some extent.

Risks associated with lending business – The pool's performance would remain exposed to macro-economic shocks, business disruptions and natural calamities that may impact the income-generating capability of the borrowers and their ability to make timely repayments of their loans. The performance of microfinance loans would also be exposed to political and communal risks.

Increasing delinquencies in microfinance sector – The microfinance sector has seen a decline in collections and a consequent rise in delinquencies in the current fiscal on account of multiple factors like heat waves, general elections, borrower overleveraging and attrition in collection teams. The sustained impact, if any, of these factors on the pool's collections would be a monitorable.

Key rating assumptions

ICRA's cash flow modelling for rating securitisation transactions involves the simulation of potential losses, delinquencies and prepayments in the pool. The losses and prepayments are assumed to follow a log-normal distribution. The assumptions for the losses and the coefficient of variation are considered on the basis of the values observed from the analysis of the past performance of the Originator's loan portfolio as well as the characteristics of the specific pool being evaluated. The resulting collections from the pool, after incorporating the impact of the losses and prepayments, are accounted for in ICRA's cash flow model, in accordance with the cash flow waterfall of the transaction.

For the current pool, ICRA has estimated the shortfall in the pool principal collection during its tenure at 4.25% of the pool principal with certain variability around it. The average prepayment rate for the underlying pool is modelled in the range of 3% to 9% per annum. Various possible scenarios have been simulated at stressed loss levels and prepayment rates and the incidences of default to the investor as well as the extent of losses are measured after factoring in the credit enhancement to arrive at the final rating for the instrument.

Liquidity position: Strong

The liquidity for PTC Series A1 is strong after factoring in the credit enhancement available to meet the promised payouts to the investor. The total credit enhancement would be ~5.50 times the estimated loss in the pool.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – The sustained strong collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts (monthly collection efficiency >95%), leading to lower-than-expected delinquency levels, and an increase in the cover available for future investor payouts from the credit enhancement would result in a rating upgrade.

Negative factors – The sustained weak collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts (monthly collection efficiency <90%), leading to higher-than-expected delinquency levels and higher credit enhancement utilisation levels, would result in a rating downgrade. Weakening in the credit profile of the servicer (MML) could also exert pressure on the rating.

Analytical approach

The rating action is based on the analysis of the performance of MML's microfinance loan portfolio till December 2024, the key characteristics and composition of the current pool, the performance expected over the balance tenure of the pool, and the credit enhancement cover available in the transaction.

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Rating Methodology for Securitisation Transactions
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not Applicable

Pending actions/documents required to be completed for conversion of the provisional rating into final

The assigned rating is provisional and would be converted into a final rating upon the execution of:

1. Trust deed
2. Assignment agreement
3. Legal opinion
4. Trustee letter
5. Chartered Accountant's know your customer (KYC) certificate
6. Any other documents executed for the transaction

Validity of the provisional rating

The trust is expected to complete the pending actions/execute the pending documents in the near term. However, in case of continued pendency of the actions/documents beyond one year of this publication, the provisional rating would be withdrawn for the transaction even if the instrument has been issued.

Risks associated with the provisional rating

In case the issuance is completed, but the pending actions/documents are not completed for the transaction within one year (validity period) from the assignment of the rating, the provisional rating will be withdrawn in accordance with ICRA's Policy on Provisional Ratings available at www.icra.in.

About the originator

Muthoot Microfin Limited (MML) is a part of the Muthoot Pappachan Group. The Group is highly diversified with a presence in financial services, insurance & broking services, precious metals, automotive, hospitality, real estate, information technology (IT) infrastructure, alternate energy, healthcare and IT. The company entered the microfinance business in 2010 as a division of Muthoot Fincorp Ltd with a product named Muthoot Mahila Mitra. MML's first branch was opened in Choolaimedu (Chennai), Tamil Nadu in March 2010. The company operates under the concept of joint liability groups (JLGs) or group guarantee. In the past few years, MML has grown its presence on a pan-India level with operations in 19 states.

Key financial indicators

MML	FY2023 (Audited)	FY2024 (Audited)	9MFY2025 (Unaudited)
Total income	1,446.3	2,285.5	2,008.2
Profit after tax	163.9	449.6	178.6
Assets under management	9,088.0	12,193	12,405
Gross stage 3	3.0%	2.3%	3.0%
CRAR	21.9%	29.0%	30.5%

Source: Company, ICRA Research; All ratios as per ICRA's calculations; Amount in Rs. crore

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

S. No.	Trust Name	Current Rating (FY2025)			Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years		
		Instrument	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating in FY2025	Date & Rating in FY2024	Date & Rating in FY2023	Date & Rating in FY2022
				March 31, 2025	-	-	-
1	**Mario Trust 2024**	PTC Series A1	163.09	**Provisional [ICRA]AA-(SO)**	-	-	-

Complexity level of the rated instrument

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
PTC Series A1	Moderately Complex

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: Click Here

Annexure I: Instrument details

ISIN	Trust Name	Instrument	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate (p.a.p.m.)	Maturity Date	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating
NA	Mario Trust 2024	PTC Series A1	March 26, 2025	8.75%	December 13, 2026	163.09	Provisional [ICRA]AA-(SO)

Source: Company

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Not applicable

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ABOUT ICRA LIMITED

ICRA Limited was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies as an independent and professional investment Information and Credit Rating Agency.

Today, ICRA and its subsidiaries together form the ICRA Group of Companies (Group ICRA). ICRA is a Public Limited Company, with its shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

For more information, visit www.icra.in

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