

Transforming economies

Sustainable, responsible and inclusive growth is transforming economies and improving lives around the world.

By helping local businesses become investment ready and linking them with global value chains and access to finance, we facilitate their growth and expansion – creating more employment opportunities and reducing poverty.



7 steps to transformational growth

1.

Connecting with global markets

Small businesses in emerging economies can struggle to expand. We connect small businesses with global value chains, creating jobs and boosting incomes, as well as helping to establish sustainable local businesses that serve the needs of their communities. In Mozambique, we're supporting environmentally friendly agricultural practices and linking organic sugar growers and small poultry farmers with large international retailers, such as UK supermarket Tesco. We've unlocked more than US\$20M in private investment within the country.

2.

Attracting investment, supporting manufacturers

Investment is vital to growth, but manufacturing businesses in emerging markets often need help to access the right financial support. Special economic zones, industrial parks, and logistics and growth corridors can unlock finance, and we've worked with governments, investors and communities to establish these. In South Africa, the Rosslyn Automotive Supplier Park was established as a support centre to strengthen global competitiveness in the local automotive industry. We facilitated responsible and inclusive foreign and domestic investment through the roll-out of more than US\$19M worth of infrastructure.

3.

Access to finance

Limited access to finance is a barrier to growth, especially in Africa and Asia. As well as offering advice on infrastructure finance, we facilitate innovative access to finance solutions, particularly for sustainable economic growth focused on natural resources – green growth. Through our Solutions Lab service we work collaboratively with SMEs to identify their financial challenges and to find the best way to access finance. Involving financial institutions in these talks helps them understand the challenges and needs of SMEs. Branchless banking channels in remote areas and digital financial services enable SMEs to access finance.

4.

Building SMEs

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of any economy. By helping them become investment ready and linking them with global value chains and financiers, we facilitate their growth and expansion. We promote investment-readiness for SMEs, helping scale their business to the next level, with a focus on women-led businesses. In South Sudan, an agribusiness development programme is supporting 250 SMEs and farms. Gender equity is being promoted through the explicit inclusion of women on training courses and involving a local entrepreneurs association for women on the project steering committee.

5.

Technology and innovation

Technology and innovation drive economic expansion and boost productivity. We help build local capacity and use of new technologies in emerging markets. Building information modelling (BIM) brings vast benefits for the delivery of infrastructure. Data-rich 3D models allow for supreme optioneering which streamlines the delivery process and brings efficiency savings. We're working on the BIM pathfinder programme, aimed at growing BIM capability in Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru and Vietnam.

6.

Better business environments

All businesses, whatever their size or sector, need an environment that is conducive to growth. We work closely with governments and the private sector to improve the business environment. We help simplify the processes and policies surrounding business registration, local taxes, and accessing credit, making it easy for all to do business. After an earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, we helped small businesses survive and expand. Our post-disaster recovery programme included improved access to finance, training in planning and financial management, creating an enabling business environment and equipping firms to help the country to rebuild and prosper.

7.

Women's economic empowerment

Employment can also be empowering, giving women control over their finances and giving them more freedom to make life choices. In the coastal Char lands of Bangladesh, a region where women traditionally held no property rights, we helped secure equal land ownership rights for women, putting a wife's name first on land deeds to protect her if she's divorced, widowed or abandoned. The project won the International Fund for Agriculture Development Gender Award in 2017.



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Clean energy

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We believe in ethical, responsible business. We are a signatory of the UN Global Compact and we design and deliver our projects to maximise their contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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