Gender Lens Investing for Rural Prosperity

Integrated | Inclusive | Insightful
AECF works where others will not; investing in emerging, post-conflict and transitioning states to create new markets and funding businesses to scale their operations for underserved and hard to reach populations. However, this cannot be achieved alone. AECF forges strategic partnerships with investees and key stakeholders to leverage knowledge and resources to create jobs and improve lives in rural Africa.

What support does AECF provide?

AECF provides between US$ 100,000 and US$ 1.5 million in funding to businesses allocated through competitions in priority sectors in Africa. The support provided is in form of:

Grants:
Businesses are provided with non-repayable investments in staged payments against contractually agreed targets and matching funds.

Concessional loans:
Businesses are provided with interest-free loans against agreed targets and matching funds with an obligation of repayment.

Technical Assistance:
Technical and Business advisory support services for all investees.

Linkages to follow-on investors:
AECF Connect provides financial advisory and match-making for follow-on financing and facilitate connections with potential investors.
Why invest with a gender lens?

Worldwide, women face a US$ 300 billion short-fall in access to credit, yet the female economy is the world’s largest emerging market with the potential of adding US$ 12 trillion to the global GDP by 2025.

Investing in women pays dividends since women invest 90% of their earnings on food, health and education for the household. Despite this, there exist structural inequities in the systems of finance that create barriers for women to access finance, markets, paid employment and technical assistance to create sustainable and prosperous livelihoods. Within Africa, AECF takes a leadership role in applying a gender lens in partnership with key stakeholders. By providing catalytic financing to businesses and institutions advancing gender equality, AECF aspires to demonstrate the opportunities available by valuing markets in which women thrive to create gender equitable markets for all.

AECF’s commitment to gender equality is in line with all of the six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that we support but is specifically a response to the aims of SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. AECF will advance gender equality by increasing the value of women on the African continent through a strategy that is integrated, inclusive and insightful.
Our measure of success

- At least 50% of development impact accruing to women across the investment portfolio
- 35% of portfolio companies being women-led
- 40% of jobs created in these companies held by women
Investing with a gender lens,
AECF 3i Approach

**Integrated:**
AECF seeks to accelerate solutions that are intended to ensure the full and equal participation between men and women in the value chains in which it invests.

**Inclusive:**
AECF promotes the advancement of investment strategies and processes that result in both direct investments into gender inclusive businesses, women owned/led businesses and enterprises that have the potential to shift markets in a way that is more inclusive or requires less adaptation by women to participate.

**Insightful:**
AECF shares insights on its experiences on gender mainstreaming to its funders, partners and investees. AECF shall increase its voice within the field of gender lens investing in Africa and globally, taking a leadership role in the regions where it invests in.
Gender Lens Investing for Rural Prosperity

Integrated | Inclusive | Insightful

Investing with a gender lens, AECF 3i Approach

Inclusive: AECF promotes the advancement of investment strategies and processes that result in both direct investments into gender inclusive businesses, women owned/led businesses and enterprises that have the potential to shift markets in a way that is more inclusive or requires less adaptation by women to participate.

Insightful: AECF shares insights on its experiences on gender mainstreaming to its funders, partners and investees. AECF shall increase its voice within the field of gender lens investing in Africa and globally, taking a leadership role in the regions where it invests in.

P.O. Box West End Towers, Kanjata Road | Off Muthangari Drive / Waiyaki Way | Tel: +254 703 033 394 | Email: info@aecfafrica.org | Web: wwwaecfafrica.org