



In partnership with
Canada



INVESTING IN WOMEN IN SOUTH SUDAN (IIW-SS)

Programme Brief

Introduction

Investing in Women in South Sudan (IIW-SS) is a gender equality and economic inclusion programme implemented by The AECF with funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The programme aims to economically empower women in the agricultural sector through selected value chains.



Programme Duration

5 years: June 2021 to July 2026.



Programme Goal

The programme seeks to enhance women's economic empowerment in the honey, sorghum, sesame, shea nut and groundnut value chains in South Sudan to increase incomes, reduce climate risks, and transform livelihoods.



Programme Objectives

- Reduced gender-specific barriers to women's participation in agricultural value chains
- Increased adoption of gender-sensitive climate-smart agricultural practices
- Improved employment or livelihoods for women in agriculture and food systems



Target Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries are women in the agricultural value chains of focus. IIW-SS aims to directly benefit 6,000 smallholder farmer households (36,000 persons), 80% being women.



The beneficiaries are categorized into two levels:

Category I - Private sector businesses and women enterprise associations /groups/cooperatives will receive investment grants and technical assistance to implement innovative business models addressing development challenges while ensuring commercial viability.

Category II - Women benefiting from the private sector businesses and women enterprise associations/groups/cooperatives supported in category one above, as employees, product distributors or smallholder suppliers of agricultural raw materials.

Geographical Focus

The programme is being implemented in Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states. The states were selected based on identified opportunities for private sector investment, infrastructure and access to economic hubs – especially Juba and Torit.

Target Value Chains



Programme Approach

The AECF is the world's largest challenge fund and we have perfected this model to identify unique and innovative business ideas that have demonstrable social impact. We will use this challenge fund model to select investees that offer innovative solutions in the target value chains. The model selects investees through a competition process that provides fair and equal access to available funding.

A summary of the key steps is provided below.



Programme Support Mechanisms

The programme will support businesses through finance and technical support as detailed below.

- **Performance-based Grants** - funding will be provided through two windows as follows.
- **Window I** – Women-focused private sector companies – applying for investment grants of up to CAN \$ 975,000 with a matching requirement of at least 25 per cent in cash and in-kind.
 - **Window II** - Women's enterprise associations and groups – applying for investment grants of up to CAN \$ 130,000 with at least 10 per cent in-kind contribution.

- **Technical Assistance** - IIW-SS will deliver non-financial technical assistance on gender, human rights advocacy, early warning and response systems, climate-smart agriculture training, post-harvest handling and collective marketing. In addition, customised technical assistance will be provided through the AECF Advisory Studio and a pool of consultants.

Partnership and Collaboration

The programme will foster partnership and close coordination with multiple stakeholders. These include Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), Women's Rights Organisations (WROs), Financial Institutions (FIs) and Government Ministries including Agriculture, Gender, Environment, and Cooperative Development, among others.

Expected Programme Impact



Fund 8 private sector businesses and 8 women enterprises associations/groups or cooperatives.



Create at least 600 new jobs (80% women, 20% men, 10% youth)



Train 6,000 smallholder farmer households (80% women)

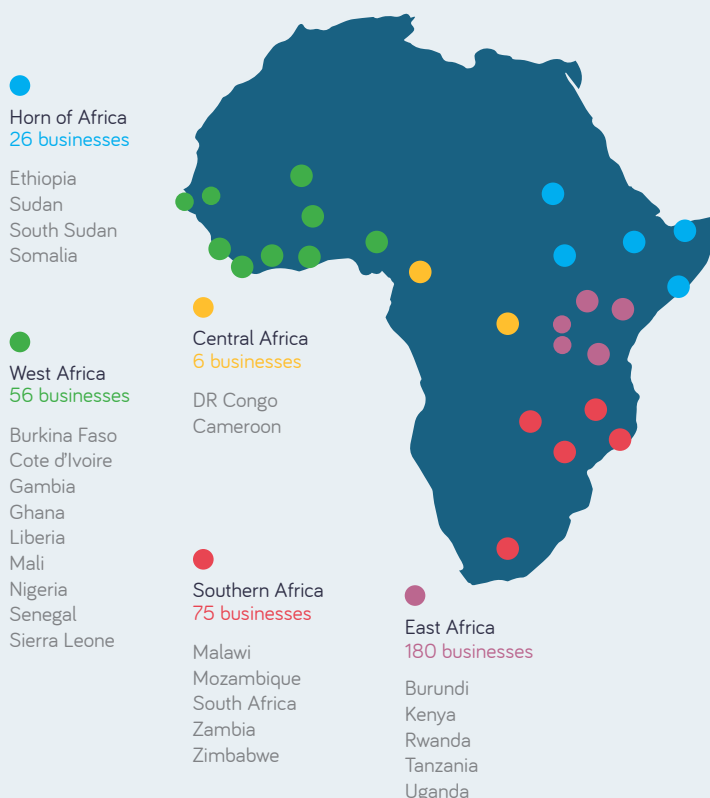


Reach and improve the lives of over 36,000 persons (80% women)

About AECF

The AECF is a development institution that supports businesses to innovate, create jobs, and leverage investments and markets to create resilience and sustainable incomes in rural and marginalized communities in Africa. To date, AECF has supported 375 businesses in more than 40 value chains and in 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In the agribusiness sector, it has supported businesses across different value chains from improving seed varieties to livestock vaccines and introducing new farming systems and agribusiness models. In the renewable energy and adaptive climate change sector, we have supported businesses across home solar systems, mini and micro-grids, biogas, financial services, and adaptive climate change technologies.

Our Geographical Footprint



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