

In Haiti, DFATD worked through the Trade Facilitation Office of Canada to increase export activity by developing and promoting Haitian artisans' craftwork in the home décor and gift sectors. In 2013 the project benefited more than 1,400 individuals by establishing international buyer contacts with leading department store retailers, including the Hudson's Bay Company. As a result, individual artisans within four targeted Haitian communities are reporting an increase in income of more than 26 percent since the project began in 2011.



GROWING BUSINESSES

The private sector is the driving force behind sustainable economic growth, yet in the developing world, many people—women in particular—face constraints in establishing and growing their businesses and fully contributing to the economy. Sustainable, productive and competitive businesses are the centre of poverty-reduction strategies because they stimulate economic growth.

In 2013–2014, Canada made progress in promoting more sustainable and competitive enterprises, especially those that are microbusinesses, and small and medium-sized businesses, and also those led by women. Canada also worked to increase access to capital and financial resources. For example, in Ukraine, DFATD is supporting improved competitiveness of the dairy sector. The project assists 3,300 smallholder families and medium-sized private dairy farmers to improve their production of milk. The project also works with dairy processors in each region to market their milk and improve quality control standards. In 2013 dairy farmers' incomes increased by 65 percent, average milk output per cow increased by 35 percent, and 16 new cooperatives were created since the inception of the project.

Business start-ups have been a springboard out of poverty for millions. Since 2009 the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has funded the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, which helps governments understand the needs of entrepreneurs to create a supportive environment for private sector development. This year, the work expanded to include the countries of francophone Africa with the Institut de recherche sur les PME (research institute for small and medium enterprises) at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, linking Canadian and African researchers studying entrepreneurial dynamics in four countries.

In the Philippines, Canada's support to improve the investment climate contributed to streamlined business registration in seven target cities. Estimated private sector savings arising from reduced time and cost to comply with business regulations was \$14.2 million in 2013. Canada's support also contributed to an increased number of public-private partnership projects in infrastructure.

The Government of Canada encourages multistakeholder partnerships with the Canadian private sector, developing-country governments and civil society that support Canada's international assistance priority areas. This approach supports innovations that generate game-changing solutions to international development challenges. An example of such a partnership is with Développement international Desjardins (DID), the international arm of the Desjardins Group. DID has been a key partner of the Government of Canada since 1970, and specializes in technical support and investment for the financial sector in developing and emerging countries. Canada's partnership with DID, managed through DFATD, helped to operationalize four entrepreneur financial centres in Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda and Panama in 2013–2014. These centres reached more than 28,000 clients (38 percent of them women) and have assets of nearly \$51 million, comprising \$42 million in loans and \$9 million in savings. The four centres have provided their services to companies in 28 locations and created 500 jobs.

Another key partner for the Government of Canada in 2013–2014 was the Mennonite Economic Development Associates of Canada (MEDA), which provides technical expertise in microfinance, production and marketing, investment fund development and community economic development. As of March 2014, through Canada's International Youth Internship Program, MEDA coordinated 33 internships in seven countries. The interns worked on private sector development initiatives to increase the impact of value chain development efforts. In working with MEDA and the private sector, through the Impact Investment in Frontier Markets project, which began in 2013, Canada is also helping to reduce poverty by supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, which play a vital role in creating jobs and generating wealth in developing-country markets.