

supported the financial viability, productivity and competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized private sector enterprises around the world, with a focus on those led by women. This resulted in increased employment opportunities for the poor.

World Renew helped 13,463 residents of Honduras, Mali, Bangladesh, Tanzania and Mozambique to organize themselves into 715 village-based saving and lending groups, and trained them to create income generation activities in their villages. Savings were used to purchase seeds, fertilizer and other agricultural inputs for small enterprises. Approximately 500 of these savings and lending groups have been linked with financial and government lending institutions.

Since 2012, the World University Service of Canada has helped 5,000 small- to medium-scale producers in the Caribbean access high-value markets for their produce.

In 2015-2016, with the assistance of SOCODEVI, rural producers, mostly from Bolivia, produced and sold over 520 metric tons of oregano (valued at US\$1.26 million). This resulted in a US\$323 increase in net family incomes.

The Municipal Partners for Economic Development project implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities delivered technical assistance to municipalities and local government associations in seven countries, including Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nicaragua and Vietnam. From 2011 to 2016, with the help of volunteer Canadian municipal experts, 45 local governments developed local economic development (LED) strategies, 29 local governments piloted new LED services and more than 700 local government staff acquired LED skills. LED training helped marginalized groups, especially women and youth, participate in land administration, tourism and agriculture.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

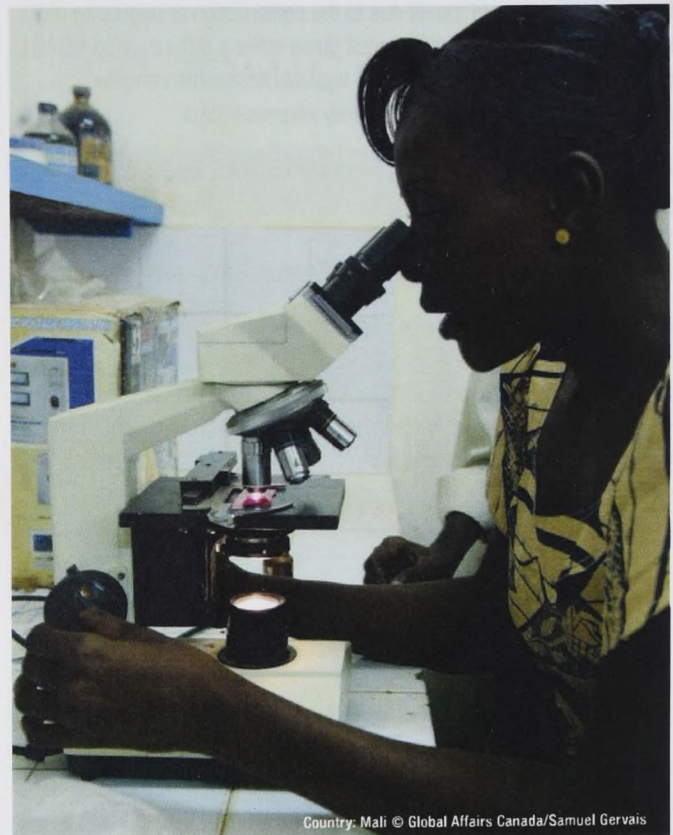
People are at the centre of sustainable economic growth and their ideas drive the economy. Governments help by investing in people through training and education, and by creating an enabling environment for better jobs.

Through this strategy, Canada supported entrepreneurship and vocational training for youth, particularly young women, to help them gain better jobs. For example, Canada's existing economic empowerment programming in Africa was expanded in 2015-2016 to include entrepreneurship, information and communications technology, innovative problem-solving, and empowerment and leadership skills development. With this assistance, approximately 200,000 youth have gained entrepreneurial skills and are now better equipped in the use of technology to increase their income and employment opportunities.

Many workers are ill-equipped to find meaningful formal employment or take on the risks of entrepreneurship. Since 2011, the Financial Literacy and Business Development for Women project implemented by the Kashf Foundation in Pakistan has trained over 900,000 women in basic financial literacy and financial education. Ninety-four percent of these women reported an increased ability to save money, and 59 percent reported an increased ability to work outside the home. To date, 19,657 women have graduated from the project's Business Incubation Lab and 14 percent of women entrepreneurs have grown their businesses from micro enterprises to small enterprises.

In 2015-2016, the Canadian Co-operative Association helped women and men smallholder farmers from 15 co-operatives in Rwanda to increase their crop yields. Thanks to the introduction of new seed varieties and training on sustainable production techniques, their production of aggregated maize increased by 1.3 tons (or 46 percent) and their production of aggregated rice also increased by 1.4 tons (or 25 percent).

In 2015, Canada launched the Strengthening Vocational Training for Better Youth Employability Project in Mali, which aims to increase the employability of vulnerable young Malians through technical and vocational training.



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