



Private Sector Partnership Forum

Innovative Solutions to Challenges in Slums & Informal Settlements in Africa
24 to 26 June 2020, eConference

INVESTOR ROUNDTABLE: Investing in Transformational Development Ventures
Friday, 26 June 2020, 1415-1515h

Themes Explored

1. Doing Business in the New Normal: Challenges and Opportunities in the COVID-19 Context
2. Impact Investment in a Global Financial Crisis: A Trend Analysis
3. Raising Investment Capital for Complex Markets (Informal Settlements)
4. Strategies for Reducing Barriers to Investment: Advice for Developing Country Governments
5. Gender-Smart Investing: Leaving No One Behind
6. Transformational Incubation and Business Acceleration: Opportunities for Growth
7. Recommendations and Way Forward

Moderator

Moderator – Dyfed Aubrey, Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat

Panel Discussions

1. Amina Kandil, Partner, McKinsey
2. Wadzi Katsidzira, Senior Manager, Global Development Incubator
3. Mercy Mutua, Head of Investment Advisory Services, AECF
4. Adedana Ashebir, Regional Manager – Africa, Village Capital
5. Neil Wood, Associate Partner, Open Capital Advisors
6. Wilfred Njagi, CEO, Villgro Africa
7. Debra Erb, Managing Director of Housing Real Estate Project Finance, US International Development Finance Corporation
8. Abel Boreto, Investment Associate, Novastar Ventures

About the Private Sector Partnership Forum

The three-day Private Sector Partnership Forum has been organized in recognition of the critical roles played by the private sector in innovating and piloting novel solutions to development challenges, and the public sector in scaling up successful innovations. To this end, the Forum seeks to facilitate partnership between national governments and municipalities with private sector companies, specifically investors and innovators with low-cost innovative solutions to development challenges.

Description of the Session

With the chronic lack of access to basic infrastructure and services, numerous opportunities for investment exist in Africa. However, many African countries struggle to attract investment into key sectors due to legal, political and economic barriers that have remained unresolved for decades. COVID-19 has resulted in production and supply chain disruptions, causing significant negative impacts across all economic sectors globally, moreso in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In response to this crisis, governments are implementing fiscal and monetary measures to mitigate the impacts of the virus on their economies including capping interest rates and injecting liquidity into financial institutions. Whilst the pandemic presents a significant challenge to economic growth, the new normal also offers numerous opportunities for innovation, investment and policy reform in key sectors that have lagged behind the sustainable development agenda.

The session panellists will discuss the challenges facing mSME and investors in terms of financing and barriers to entry

Guiding Questions

- ✓ What is the market potential in key sectors (financing, housing, water, sanitation, waste management, health, education, clean energy) in Africa?
- ✓ What are some of the challenges facing mSME seeking to venture into low-income markets in Africa?
- ✓ What are the prevailing barriers to investment in key sectors in Africa? What are some of the actions that governments have taken and need to take to eliminate these barriers?
- ✓ What are some of the opportunities (financing, incubation, business acceleration) available to mSME interested in venturing into low-income markets in Africa?
- ✓ What are some of the partnerships or innovative financing models in Africa that have been successful in raising capital and need replicating?
- ✓ What measures can governments implement to incentivize or reduce the risks to investors willing to venture into the low-income markets to provide low-cost development solutions to the BOP? What measures can governments implement to address the predominant informality in critical sectors?
- ✓ What are some of the key sector reforms that would accelerate private sector investment in the SDG? What has been the impact of recent policy reforms, and government plans and strategies on private sector investment in your country?
- ✓ What are some of the key considerations that impact investors make before deciding which venture to fund? What strategies, competencies, business models and experiences do impact investors look for in a social enterprise worthy of commercial investment?
- ✓ What does a conducive economic climate look like for the investors considering investment in Africa? What leverage are impact investors looking for from governments before investing in low-income markets in Africa?
- ✓ What is needed to successfully address the financing challenge for start-ups, seed and early-stage ventures interested in venturing into low-income markets?
- ✓ What critical role can communities living in informal settlements play in the realization of the SDG?

Expected Outcomes

The Forum is among a series of events organized by UN-Habitat to strengthen partnership with the business community to support sustainable and inclusive urban development and the New Urban Agenda. It provides a platform for matching the needs of informal settlements residents and demands of cities with innovative private sector solutions. The session is expected to have:

1. Demonstrated the business potential and identified opportunities to develop and deploy low-cost innovative housing and construction solutions in informal settlements
2. Identified opportunities for partnership and matched governments and investors with investable innovative solutions and models are explored
3. Identified bankable and investment-ready projects to be piloted in slums and informal settlements.