

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS

APPLIED DEVELOPMENT FINANCE



THE PROGRAM

The [Global Development Network \(GDN\)](#) and the [European Investment Bank \(EIB\)](#) piloted a program of impact studies focused on private sector impact investments in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Under the program titled '[Applied Development Finance](#)', African researchers were provided with a practical opportunity to hone their impact assessment skills, by working on real-world projects funded by one of the world's leading financial institutions, under the guidance of top international experts in evaluation and impact assessment.

Objectives

- Explore how academic research can document the impacts of private sector impact investing
- Mobilize qualified young researchers from developing countries to conduct deep dive research studies
- Strengthen skills and capacity for impact assessment in the ACP region
- Refine the understanding of the development impact of private sector investments
- Contribute to development by producing knowledge that informs large public investment decision-making and advances the impact measurement agenda

PROGRAM

EIB-GDN Program on Applied
Development Finance

FUNDING

The European Investment Bank
€ 2.1 million
December 2016 - March 2021

IMPLEMENTATION

Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)
Countries

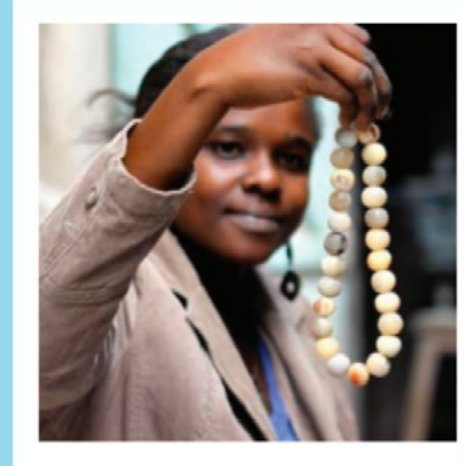
Objectives

Three cycles of studies, by competitively selected Fellows from developing countries with knowledge of the local context and direct access to the funded companies and their beneficiaries, evaluated the economic, social and associated impact of selected projects funded under the EIB's Impact Financing Envelope (IFE).

- M-BIRR: Mobile banking in Ethiopia (Yesuf Awel and Eleni Yitbarek)
- poa! Internet: Community internet in low-income areas of Kenya (Charles Yaw Okyere)
- Première Agence de Microfinance: Promoting financial inclusion in Côte d'Ivoire (Gloria Uwingabiye and Guylaine Nouwoue)
- Irrigation technology adoption and microfinance in rural Benin: RENACA's agricultural loan program (Mariam Sangare and Bassirou Sarr)
- Understanding the sustained impact of SOKO on artisans in Kenya: Empirical evidence from Kibera, Kenya (Soazic Elise Wang Sonne and Timothy Kinoti)
- Provision of Quality and Affordable Maternal Health Care in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Nest in Senegal (Gilles-Quentin Kane and Hamidou Jawara)
- Microfinance Loans, Women's Economic Empowerment, and Poverty: A Case Study of Baobab Microfinance Company (Edgar Cooke and Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah)
- The Impact of Customer Relationship Management Software on Firm Performance in Kenya (Abdi Yuya and Laura Barasa)
- Access to Finance and Growth-Oriented Investments in Ethiopia's Manufacturing Sector (Sied Hassen and Muhammed Usman)
- Development Bank of Jamaica (Jacob Novignon)
- The impact of microfinance on business investment and outcomes in Haiti (Boaz Anglade)
- The impact of digital distribution on the small retail sector in Nigeria: The case of the ShopTopUp platform (Jaison Chireshe and Matthew Townshend)
- The impact of Resource solar energy on merchant subscribers in selected Nigerian markets (Enoch Owusu-Sekyere and Esther Leah Achandi)

Expert Advisors

- François Bourguignon, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics and Professor of Economics, L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, France
- Shahrokh Fardoust, Research Professor at Global Research Institute at the College of William and Mary, United States
- Emmanuel (Manny) Jimenez, Senior Fellow of the International Initiative on Impact Evaluation (3ie)
- Arianna Legovini, Head of Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) group of the World Bank
- Alexandros Sarris Emeritus Professor in the Department of Economics of the National and Kapodistrian, University of Athens, Greece



LEARNING AND INNOVATION

Measuring the actual development impact of private sector investments and activities is imperative. These 'deep dives' from the EIB-GDN program on Applied Development Finance mobilize academic research in a private sector context, connecting research to action. They provide a much-needed proof of concept – it is possible to carry out research-based impact assessments that meet multiple stakeholders' interests and provide useful information about the nature of development impacts, at reasonable cost. They also build local evaluative research capacity, with scaling-up potential, and extend the culture of evaluative research to the private sector.

See more in the publication, ['Measuring Impacts - The experience of the EIB-GDN programme'](#), published by the EIB.