Daraja Impact Fund Empowering entrepreneurs to create impact

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania



Project full name: Innovation for Social Change (ISC)

Priority: Improving Youth Livelihoods

Phase 1: 2022 - 2027

SDC contribution: USD 8'100'000

Total project budget: USD 12'230'000

Implementing Partners:

• SEAF (Small Enterprise Assistance Funds)

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 AlphaMundi Foundation

About Daraja Impact Fund

Daraja Impact Fund supports Tanzanian enterprises by providing investment capital and technical assistance, aiming to foster growth, resilience, and financial sustainability. This, in turn, promotes economic inclusion and empowers underprivileged communities. Daraja Impact Fund is funded by Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania and implemented by SEAF (Small Enterprise Assistance Funds) in partnership with AlphaMundi Foundation.

Approach

Daraja Impact Fund has a comprehensive approach that includes the provision of:

- 1. Capital through well-structured, flexible and impact-linked financial instruments to catalyze private sector funding.
- 2. Business support services that include investment readiness and impact management trainings.
- 3. Targeted post-investment technical assistance to investees.

Eligible Social Enterprises

Enterprises interested in expanding and embedding impact into company operations and business practices, with a particular focus on companies that empower women and youth.

Offer

- Trainings on the fundamentals of running a business.
- Services for entrepreneurs, managers, employees.
- Capital through well-structured, flexible and impact-linked financial instruments.
- Investment readiness, impact measurement and management.
- Coaching and mentorship from experienced business leaders.
- Post-investment technical assistance to investees.

Funder:

Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania

The Innovation for Social Change (ISC) programme seeks to contribute to an ecosystem in which thriving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) improve living standards of Tanzanians, especially poor youth and young women, as customers, suppliers or employees.

The programme has two components:

- i. A Catalytic Fund (Daraja Impact Fund) which invests in social enterprises with sustainable business models and impact, introducing the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-pioneered innovative Impact-Linked Financial instruments.
- ii.A conducive environment component to contribute towards a better operating environment for start-ups, SMEs and social impact investors.

Implementing Partners:

SEAF is an SEC-registered global impact investment management company located in Washington, D.C, with 15 offices in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. SEAF pursues high impact economic development through the investment of risk capital in entrepreneurs, coupled with active business partnership and the transfer of knowledge and networks developed over 30 years of operation. SEAF has managed 38 funds and 14 Centres for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED) across 33 countries. SEAF has made more than 400 risk capital investments in entrepreneurs whose products and services improve the lives of people in a financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner. SEAF requires that such investments generate returns as that forces for investors, efficiency, accountability, and sustainability of the process. SEAF has operated in Tanzania since 2015.

AlphaMundi Foundation provides structured blended finance products to SMEs operating in Africa and Latin America to help them scale their operations. The Foundation supports these companies to incorporate a gender lens and climate-smart practices into their operations, with a view to create attractive financial returns and positive social outcomes. Since commencing operations in 2018, AlphaMundi Foundation has managed 70 projects and supported 29 SMEs across 12 countries in Africa and Latin America.