



# ***Global Social Enterprise programme***

The British Council's Global Social Enterprise programme supports social enterprises to address social and environmental challenges and improve people's lives in our communities and societies.

It promotes positive social change, inclusive growth and sustainable development while also sharing learning and building trust between the UK and other countries.

# Support for social enterprise

Our programme provides support at global, regional and local levels and is delivered with a range of partners to ensure maximum impact.

We work closely with a range of UK stakeholders and create opportunities for them to deliver mentoring and training contracts, conduct research, explore franchising opportunities, build international networks and advise foreign policymakers. The programme focuses on four areas of activity:

## Policy and government engagement

Drawing on UK and international experience, we support governments and policy influencers to create an enabling environment for social enterprises to succeed.

## Education systems

We offer lesson plans and other free resources for pupils to gain hands-on experience of social enterprise and develop skills such as citizenship, critical thinking and innovation.

We work with higher education institutions to incorporate social enterprise in their curricula, engage with the social enterprise sector and collaborate on research.

## Capacity building

We provide social entrepreneurs with skills training, business mentoring and access to funding opportunities to help them enhance the beneficial impact they deliver.

## International development

We build evidence on the role that social enterprise approaches play in supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In partnership with the EU, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other organisations, we deliver international development projects that use social enterprise approaches in countries such as Ethiopia, Morocco and the Philippines.

*Our vision for the future is of a secure, inclusive and prosperous world where people have opportunities to broaden their horizons and build sustainable futures.*

# Our reach

## *Since 2009 the Global Social Enterprise programme has:*

- Trained **17,590** social entrepreneurs.
- Engaged more than **100,000** people face-to-face.
- Formed over **150** partnerships across government, civil society, business and academia.
- Achieved **1.5 billion** media mentions.

## *Our training helps social entrepreneurs to create real impact:*

- **90%** successfully establish a social enterprise.
- **75%** increase the number of beneficiaries they support.
- **73%** increase the quality of services and products.
- **54%** provide more employment opportunities.

In addition:

- **29%** of policymakers involved in our programme have made changes to policies to support social enterprises

**Source:** Independent programme evaluation conducted by abdi in 2014



# Examples of impact

## Policy and government engagement

- Our policy engagement in Vietnam supported the passage of the country's first law to define and promote social enterprise.
- We supported Ghana's Ministry of Trade and Industry in the formulation of the country's first Ghana Social Enterprise Strategy 2016–18.
- In Greece we are helping authorities to implement a national Social and Solidarity Economy strategy.
- We advise the European Commission's Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship and contributed to a European Action Plan for the Social Economy and Social Enterprises.
- We co-hosted the first Asia Policy Dialogue on social enterprise and investment that brought together senior officials and advisers from 14 countries in Asia, as well as representatives from the UN, OECD, ADB and World Bank.

## Capacity building

- In Kazakhstan, we partner with Chevron to equip social entrepreneurship pioneers with the skills, knowledge and support network to create sustainable solutions to problems in their communities.
- Our programme with Diageo in India aims to foster gender equality and economic empowerment by cascading training to 4,000 women social entrepreneurs.
- In Thailand and Indonesia, we brought in UK consultants to support social enterprises working in the creative industries. Our pilot Business and Investment Readiness programme (BIR) matched nine intermediary partners in the UK with counterparts in participating countries, who together provided consultancy services to strengthen the capacity and ability of social enterprises to bid for grant and investment funding.



## International development

- With the **EU** we launched a co-funded project in the **Philippines** to strengthen civil society participation in policy reforms and promote job creation, small and medium enterprise development and social stability via social enterprise.
- We also deliver EU-funded social enterprise actions in **Armenia, Greece, Kenya** and **Ethiopia**.
- We are delivering a social enterprise training programme in **Morocco** to support youth employment and address some of the root causes of instability leading to the exposure of young people to extremism.

## Social enterprise and education

- With Plymouth University we published a pioneering 12-country research study that examines how and why so many universities are collaborating with social enterprises.
- Our Social Enterprise in Schools programme includes a free, downloadable resource pack helping educators to deliver social enterprise lessons and schools to form partnerships.
- In **Mexico**, we are training 300 higher education students from 20 universities who will deliver social enterprise lessons in English in schools in the State of Mexico.
- We launched a **UK–Canada** overseas work-study programme called Students for Social Impact.

## Thought leadership

- We have published a survey of social enterprise in Bangladesh, Ghana, India and Pakistan as part of an ongoing effort to build a global baseline of social enterprise and mobilise support for the sector.
- In 2015, we, SEUK and the WorldBank published *Think Global, Trade Social* about the key role social enterprise and social investment can play in delivering more equitable development. It features a foreword by Professor Muhammad Yunus.
- We have produced a guide to social enterprise in the UK as well as research on UK social enterprises that export.
- We are conducting research across five countries on the role of social enterprise in supporting women's **empowerment**.

## Awareness raising

- In Vietnam, we collaborated with **Hanoi TV** on a 52-part television series about social enterprise.
- We sit on the organising committee of the **Social Enterprise World Forum** and promote and contribute extensively to this annual global conference.
- We produce extensive coverage of international social enterprise through our website, newsletter, Twitter account and other channels and through media partnerships with the UK's **Pioneers Post** and South Korea's **Chosun Ilbo**.

# Participating Countries

The programme is currently running in 29 countries and territories:

In the past, we have also held social enterprise events and/or programmes in Afghanistan, China, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and the USA.



*‘The Community Enterprise Challenge run by Diageo and the British Council has enhanced my passion for community empowerment and love for supporting others [...] With a better management, Pelangi Nusantara Centre is now able to empower 400 women and we hope to reach many more.’*

**Indonesian social entrepreneur Ibu Yanti**

*‘Through co-operation with the British Council, Thailand has been fortunate enough to have access to experts in this field who are sharing their knowledge, resources and experiences to help grow the social enterprise sector in Thailand.’*

**Former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva**



*‘Global sustainability and the nature of the economy will be shaped by entrepreneurship and the terms on which we create and do business with each other.’*

**Professor Muhammad Yunus, Nobel laureate and Grameen Bank founder, in the foreword to our *Think Global, Trade Social* report.**

# Collaboration for impact



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avpn



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