Innovations Against Poverty

Challenging companies to scale innovative products, services, and business models that offer improved livelihood opportunities to low-income communities as suppliers, distributors, retailers, or customers.

Project Description

Innovations Against Poverty (IAP) is a specialized fund that aims to drive positive social and economic change by supporting innovative and inclusive businesses in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Zambia. This 3-year initiative, managed by SNV and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), provides companies with grant funding and tailored technical assistance in an effort to enhance the livelihoods of people living in poverty (PLIP) through sustainable, market-based solutions.

Our Approach

Despite significant progress in poverty reduction, barriers such as lack of capital and limited business support continue to hinder the growth of inclusive businesses in developing markets. The Innovations Against Poverty programme works with businesses with commercially viable innovations that are ready to scale. These businesses engage PLIP as consumers, suppliers, and distributors, offering access to essential goods and services while creating income-generating opportunities.

The IAP fund serves as a risk-sharing mechanism to stimulate private sector development initiatives. By leveraging our in-country presence and extensive networks, IAP supports businesses in building the capacity needed to scale, with a strong emphasis on women's economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and financial inclusion.

innovations against poverty

Sweden Sverige

INCLUSIVE BUSINESS PARTNERS

bop inc

Our approach includes a streamlined, business-friendly application process, multi-faceted advisory support including go-to-market strategies, and extensive mentorship and investment readiness services.

IAP aims to drive systemic change, contributing to inclusive economic development while poverty reduction in target countries and fostering more supportive entrepreneurial ecosystems.

"*Vegetables give us a more stable, year-round income. Rice was always just a one-off payment, and it didn't bring in that much money.*"

-Hong Sruoy, horticulture farmer in Cambodia after working with East West Seed Company (IAP Round 2 grantee)

Results and Impact from Previous Funding Rounds

- Over 2M people living in poverty now have better access to essential goods and services, like clean energy, water, sanitation, financial services, and nutritious food
- Over 700K people living in poverty with increased income or costs savings due to products or services that IAP grantees offered to their customers
- Over 37K tonnes of GHG emissions avoided or reduced
- Over Euro 22.4M in increased sales revenue for the supported companies since the start of their involvement with the IAP fund
- Over Euro 32M in additional funding leveraged by supported companies
- 92% of customers served by supported companies reported improved quality of life, and 83% accessed a product or service for the first time

For Further Details:

Ignacio Blanco, Multi Country Programme Manager, iblanco@snv.org
www. innovationsagainstpoverty.org
www.snv.org/project/innovations-against-poverty-iap-3-challenge-fund

SNV Cambodia National Office
#120 Street51 (corner 228), 5th Floor, Sangkat Chaktomuk
Khan Daun Penh | Phnom Penh | Cambodia
Office Phone: +855 17 644 882
Email: cambodia@snv.org
Website: www.snv.org/country/Cambodia
Facebook: @SNVCambodia

SNV Impact that matters