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# USAID ENTERPRISE COMPETITIVENESS PROJECT

The USAID Enterprise Competitiveness Project is a five-year initiative that increases the income levels of Kyrgyzstani households through the creation of jobs and livelihood opportunities among small and medium enterprises (SMEs). By accelerating an inclusive, market-led growth the project increases Kyrgyz SME's competitiveness, facilitate their access to markets, catalyze investments, build opportunities for women and youth, and improve the business environment.

## MAJOR FOCUS AREAS

The USAID Enterprise Competitiveness Project works across the Kyrgyz Republic with a focus on regions with high poverty and unemployment rates. The project prioritizes sectors found to have the highest potential for growth, job creation, and the inclusion of women and youth. For example, this includes agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and technology.

**Task 1:** Under the *End-Market Linkages* task, the project maintains various partnerships with 70 market leaders and successful enterprises to co-invest into the expansion of SME market access.

**Task 2:** Through the *Expanding SMEs' Human and Social Capital* task the project works with business service providers to support small enterprises and start-ups, especially those that are owned or managed by women and youth.

**Task 3:** Under the *Expanding Financial Capital* task the Project works with financial institutions, especially non-bank financial institutions to improve SME's access to growth-oriented capital.

**Task 4:** The *Creating a More Enabling Business Environment* task facilitates a dialogue with agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic Government, business associations, and other institutions. This allows partners to assess and address bottlenecks that prevent SMEs to increase trade, grow, join the formal economy, and access capital.

## EXPECTED IMPACTS AND RESULTS

- 38,000 households increase their incomes
- 19,000 new jobs
- SMEs' sales increased by \$39 million
- 155 SMEs, of which 80 are women or youth-led, improve their managerial, technical, financial, and marketing capacities
- \$60 million of private capital mobilized as leverage contributions
- \$17 million invested in SMEs by non-bank financial institutions
- \$18 million in growth-oriented capital invested by four financial institutions
- At least 2,150 SMEs access financing
- 20 SMEs obtain a certificate of compliance to international standards
- 20 constraints to SME and trade growth addressed

**Duration:** August 15, 2018 – August 15, 2023

**Funding level:** \$22.7 million

**Implementing Partner:**  
ACDI/VOCA

**Key Partners:** Enclude, Village Capital, Nathan Associates

**Activity Locations:** countrywide

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