INVESTING IN COMPANIES

Acumen invests in early-stage companies tackling the problems of poverty. We seek out the world’s most innovative entrepreneurs who share our commitment to standing with the poor and give them the capital and tools to grow and scale their businesses into long-term, sustainable solutions.

OUR APPROACH

Unlike a traditional charity, we invest our donations instead of giving them away. By turning philanthropy into investment capital, we enable businesses—whose market-based approaches range from solar lanterns to waterless toilets for slums—to grow and scale sustainable solutions to poverty and reach as many people as possible.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Our aim in investing patient capital is to catalyze the growth of enterprises that improve the ability of the poor to transform their own lives. We’re focused on tackling four key problems of poverty:

+ How can we improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by integrating them into global agriculture supply chains?
+ How can we enhance the basic education, job readiness, and economic mobility of disadvantaged groups?
+ How can we improve access to clean, affordable, reliable energy for low-income “off grid” customers?
+ How can we improve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for low-income customers?

CONTACT

For more information:
Sachindra Rudra
Chief Investment Officer
srudra@acumen.org

ACUMEN
PATIENT CAPITAL THAT DARES TO GO WHERE MARKETS HAVE FAILED AND AID HASFallen SHORT

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

+ $110M INVESTED*  
+ 102 COMPANIES*  
+ 73 ACTIVE COMPANIES  
+ 13 COUNTRIES  
+ 8 SECTORS  
* SINCE 2001

INVESTMENTS BY SECTOR

Agriculture $33.6M  
Energy $20.8M  
Health $31.2M  
Education $6M  
Water & Sanitation $8.4M  
Housing $7.3M  
Other $1.9M

INVESTMENTS BY REGION

India $29.8M  
Pakistan $16M  
East Africa $28.5M  
West Africa $8.7M  
Latin America $4.4M  
Global $19.9M  
America $2M

AS OF 6/30/17  

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40 Worth Street, Suite 303 · New York, NY 10013, U.S.A.  · Phone: +1 (212) 566-8821  · Fax: +1 (212) 566-8817  
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OUR PORTFOLIO

As of 2016, we decided to prioritize investments in four sectors—agriculture, clean energy, education and healthcare. The below sectors represent active companies across all sectors.

INVESTMENTS BY SECTOR

AGRICULTURE

Acumen started investing in agriculture in 2008. We invest in companies with the capacity to improve smallholder farmers’ access to better agricultural inputs, markets for the sale of their goods and reliable sources of income.

EDUCATION

Acumen started investing in education in 2011 with a focus on basic education and job readiness for low-income customers. Our companies are helping close the gap in access to quality and affordable education and workforce development for millions.

ENERGY

Acumen started investing in energy in 2007. We have one of the largest portfolio of companies focused on bringing affordable, clean off-grid energy to the nearly 1.5 billion people currently living without access to electricity.

HEALTH

Health was Acumen’s first portfolio, launched in 2001. We invest in companies that range from affordable emergency ambulance services to low-cost maternal health clinics in order to bring previously-unavailable healthcare services to the poor.

HOUSING

One third of the world’s urban population lives in slums. Since 2002, Acumen has been investing in solutions that focus on both supply and financing for housing, and on broader financial innovations that bring the dignity of home ownership to low-income populations.

WATER AND SANITATION

Since 2003, our water and sanitation investments have spanned from safe drinking water kiosks, to water delivery services, to affordable pay-per-use toilets in slums.

OTHER

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