

The Global Development Incubator

Mandate: The Global Development Incubator (GDI) is a non-profit organization that builds start-ups, incubates partnerships, and strengthens existing organizations for social impact around the world.

We provide structured pathways over 2-3 years to support the achievement of critical step-changes necessary for ideas and organizations to move to the next level. GDI goes beyond traditional consulting models, capacity builders, and bureaucratic platforms to do hands-on implementation in addition to strategic and networking support. Our standard incubation services provide support across strategic, programmatic and administrative areas. We take initiative to address real-world barriers to growth, offer a critical and independent perspective, and partner with innovators to deliver social impact at scale.

Scale: GDI has 25+ core staff members and many more project based staff working on specific GDI interventions. GDI runs projects around the world and partners with organisations working at the local, regional, national and global levels. GDI has offices in US, China, Hong Kong and Kenya and projects across Africa, the US and China.

Headquarters: GDI has an office in Nairobi. Our headquarters are in the US.

Initiation: GDI's officially set up our office in Kenya in 2017. Before then, GDI ran projects from Kenya including the Rural & Agriculture Learning Lab and others.

Graduation work: In 2018, GDI has supported the Partnership for Economic Inclusion on the preparation phase for a major grant application (from December 2017 to August 2018) and is currently acting as the trustee for the Village Enterprise Development Impact Bond (DIB). Prior to 2018, GDI has provided strategic advisory support to a number of implementers and the global community of practice.

Future plans: GDI will continue to provide support to organisations seeking to accelerate the adoption of the graduation approach via direct and government implementation at the local, national and global levels. GDI is currently providing support to an NGO implementing the graduation approach in Kenya.

Where, as an organisation, would you like to be in 5 or 10 years?

It is GDI's hope that over the next five years, the graduation approach will be embedded into social protection systems at national and county levels in Kenya and that government data management and monitoring systems are able to effectively target the country's poorest households and accurately monitor the impact of interventions.