

The state of social enterprise in Kenya

Social enterprise activity in Kenya is growing. We set out to quantify social enterprise activity in Kenya. We surveyed 183 social enterprises and found that:

A young social enterprise scene:

Kenyan social enterprises are young and so are their leaders. 64% established since 1980 were set up in the last five years
Over half of leaders are aged under 35
37% run by young people aged between 25-34



Women and social enterprise:

Nearly half of social enterprises are run by women (44%). Since 2015, new social enterprises are more frequently female-led than male-led.

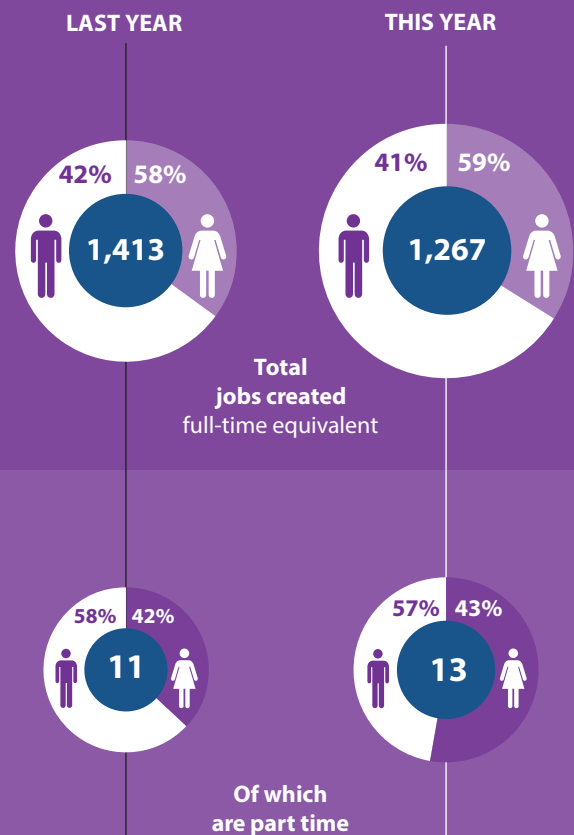
Growth is set to continue:

43% expect staff numbers to 'increase a little' next year
38% are expecting a substantial increase.

Kenyan social enterprises have wide-ranging growth plans – particularly through attracting new customers or clients or launching new products or services.

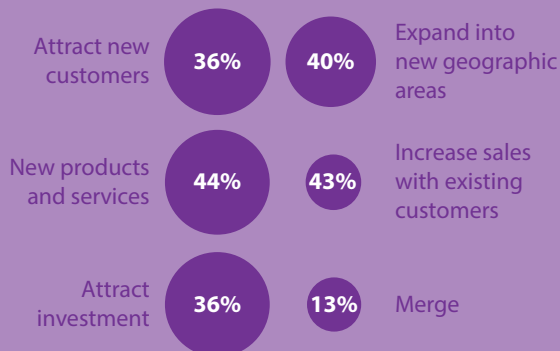
Social enterprise is a viable business model:

Kenyan social enterprises have an average of 4 full-time equivalent staff. Almost half reported making a profit.

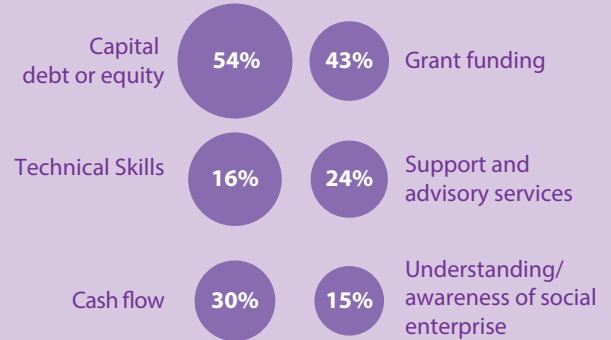


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GROWTH PLANS



BARRIERS



OBJECTIVES

Many social enterprises in Kenya exist to create employment opportunities. Job creation is often a primary focus.

Based on the very small unrepresentative sampling process, there may be as many as 43,933 social enterprises currently operating in Kenya, with growth expected.

TOP



MID



LOWER



40,000

social enterprises
in Kenya

Lack of access to capital and grants

Lack of access to capital is seen as the biggest barrier to growth (54%), followed by access to grant funding (45%).

Finance and funding

Donations and grants are the most common sources of funding. 1 in 5 social enterprises have secured loans or issued equity. Lack of access to investors is seen as the primary financing constraint.

Policy, fiscal and regulatory environment

With specific regard to social enterprise in Kenya is the very early stage of development. This policy landscape may evolve in future to offer greater explicit recognition to social enterprises and their impact on communities.

See full report at www.britishcouncil.co.ke