



Kenya's economic situation can be attributed to a few main factors. Currently, the richest ten percent of the Kenyan population controls almost half of the nation's wealth while the poorest ten percent hold less than one percent. In addition, economic growth continues to be low and is limited to a few sectors – tourism, manufacturing, horticulture, and services. The government's failure to radically improve the nation's investment and savings habits drastically threatens the economic situation, since substantial growth cannot occur without sufficient capital.

At the grassroots level, microfinance and micro-enterprise growth play a critical role in bringing capital, financial strategies, and economic opportunity to underserved communities throughout Kenya. FSD partners with organizations that provide savings and loans programs, marketing and business development assistance, and strategic advice to communities, groups, and individuals. These organizations reach underserved populations that the government and large banks have forgotten. Interns and volunteers conduct research and/or implement project work that directly addresses income generation and savings for a wide variety of populations. By working with FSD, you will gain hands-on experience with small business development at the grassroots level, empowering community members with the tools and resources needed to reduce poverty.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in micro-enterprise in Kenya include:

- Provide job and micro-enterprise skills training to rural community members for the promotion of small scale manufacturing trade and/or service enterprises. Assist in identifying appropriate clients, provide instruction on effective uses of micro-loans and savings methods, gather clients into loan groups, support loan distribution efforts, and meet with borrowers to discuss their progress and payment of their loans.
- Offer community members the business management and bookkeeping skills needed to parlay dairy cows into successful micro-enterprises.
- Research and support a microfinance organization's pursuit of international funding to expand credit and business training programs.
- Support vocational training initiatives for vulnerable youth. Courses are offered in masonry, carpentry, and tailoring. Technical aspects are combined with training in traditional design and business management/bookkeeping. Graduates move on to operate their own micro-enterprises.
- Research, design, and develop appropriate methods of financing economically sustainable micro-enterprises run by community members most affected by HIV/AIDS. Offer technical assistance, leadership skills, and business training to help mobilize families ravaged by HIV/AIDS.

For more opportunities in micro-enterprise in Kenya, visit our website or contact us directly.