**About the African University Social Venture Fund Development Program**

The African University Social Venture Fund Development Program is an initiative by Impact@Africa and the African Center for the Study of the United States (University of the Witwatersrand) along with multiple partners in Africa and the United States. Impact investing is essentially business and entrepreneurial approaches with social-economic benefits to society in addition to financial benefits. The initiative will provide MBA students on the continent with hands-on experience in developing and managing social venture funds as part of their academic work and studies. The students will be introduced to impact investing aspects including fund design, fundraising, fund management, pipeline development, technical assistance to investee companies, impact measurement, and facilitation of investment, among others. The initiative is being rolled out as an academia-industry program on a continental scale.

**Project Goals and Objectives**

1. The goal of the project is to strengthen skills, knowledge, and practices of impact investment in Africa.
2. To produce young professionals who are well prepared to join existing funds and/or positioned to become managers of their own funds.

**Project Activities and Timelines**

July -August 2021

1. A one day workshop for the research associates on the program and impact investments during the week of the fifth of July.
2. Research associates will conduct research on impact investment sector among MBA programs in African universities and produce a report or reports by mid of July. Details to be fleshed out.
3. Research associates to produce a comprehensive and detailed concept note and strategy (The strategy should include fundraising, targeted funders and partners, possible activities,). Timeline for this must be mid-August.
4. End of August, all necessary documentation for recruitment of partners and initiate fundraising must be in place.
5. End of August, the research associates must publish a thought leadership article on social investments each as a build up to the launch of the program.
6. At the beginning of August, the recruitment for funding and strategic (mentors and hosting companies) begin.

September – December 2021

1. Launch of the program (the research associates’ task will be to plan and execute the launch of the program in conjunction with the ACSUS team.)
2. After the launch, the recruitment of the MBA students across Africa begins.
3. The research associates must submit articles to a peer reviewed journal a paper impact investment in Africa.

January 2022

1. The start of all MBAs students
2. Each research associate will have a certain number of students that they will manage, that is training, relationship with mentors and companies etc. till the graduation of those students.

**Project Method and Design**

Our project methodology and design will follow our six pillars that informs most of the work that ACSUS.

**Research and Publication**

We will conduct research and publish:

1. Thought leadership articles.
2. Peer reviewed articles
3. Book chapters

**Teaching**

1. Support development of MBA courses that focus on impact investing.
2. Supporting faculties for mentorship and guidance in the implementation of the project.
3. Develop executive courses.

**Outreach & Exchanges**

1. Host virtual meetings for the students that will be participating in the programme to build networks among each other and to share experiences.

**Public Engagement**

1. Hostt symposiums symposium after every research effort.

**Key Personnel**

1. ACSUS Team
2. Research Associates – Research Associates will:
3. Conduct research on impact investing.
4. Manage the cohorts of students assigned to them.
5. Assist with the administrative aspects of the project when required.
6. Contribute to the overall economic and trade program.

**Project Partners and Stakeholders**

• Leading Business Schools in Africa

• American Chamber of Commerce

• Impact@Africa