
Inclusive Innovation Business Models

Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require innovative ways of tackling tough development challenges and raising incomes of the poorest. Social enterprises – organizations that apply business methods and leverage market forces to achieve social impact—have stepped in to address these problems in a sustainable way. They are often cost-effective in reaching low-income beneficiaries, due to their strong presence and understanding of the local communities they serve.

The Inclusive Innovation Business Model series showcases the innovative and inclusive solutions that social enterprises have developed to tackle tough development challenges, particularly in service delivery to the poor. Each business model is based on the experiences of several social enterprises from across the globe that have developed similar approaches and strategies to delivery services to the poor or to improve their livelihoods.

While scaling up the impact of a social enterprise can come through the enterprises' own organizational growth, a broader growth strategy path would be the replication or adaptation of successful business models in new areas. With the business model series, government can learn about innovative development solutions and how they can better facilitate or collaborate with social enterprises. Donors and funders can systematically review social enterprise models and evidence on results and cost-effectiveness. And social entrepreneurs can draw upon potential proven models and implementation experiences.

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