



SEED Initiative

promoting entrepreneurship for sustainable development

Founding Partners



AFRICA WINNER 2014

Village Inc. Africa invests “macrocredits” – low-interest loans – and expertise in Village Companies (VCs) which generate social impact within their communities, such as education and healthcare, through for-profit businesses.



Village Inc. Africa, Tanzania

BUSINESS MODEL

Villages incorporate their own Village Company, a for-profit enterprise which is self-managed, scalable and self-fundable. It has three purposes: 1) Create and run for-profit businesses in their village, thus stimulating and developing a local economy. 2) Finance community-chosen social needs. 3) Repay the “macrocredit” used as working capital for the VC.

VCs are registered LLCs, with shares gradually transferred to the villagers. VCs are trained in governance and management under the key principles of business excellence, transparency and accountability.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS

Location	Babati
Year founded	2009
Sector	Finance
Product/Service	Macrocredit-financed Village Companies

Social impacts:

- Empowering whole village communities to take an active role in social enterprises that benefit their community.
- Reducing rural out-migration by enabling the creation of new livelihood opportunities.
- Fostering autonomy which can lead to future prosperity.

Environmental impacts:

- Providing solar cook stoves as part of a new affordable housing project.
- Distributing first-generation seeds that prosper on natural fertilisers.

Economic impacts:

- Creating new business opportunities through the provision of a “macrocredit”.
- Generating income through employment opportunities created through new VC-approved ventures.
- Sharing in the rewards of economic clusters of VCs, as villages combine their resources and talents in collaborative projects.

Contact

Mr. William Lightfoot

✉ wslightfoot@village-inc.org

🌐 www.village-inc.org

” The purpose of our enterprise is to improve the economic and social conditions of rural villages in Sub-Saharan Africa in the most effective, dignified and sustainable way.

Scaling up activities:

- Establish 17 Village Companies (VCs) in the surrounding villages.
- Undertake a new affordable housing business project that utilises resources from four surrounding VCs in the Babati area.
- Explore the option of training women to be certified accountants, thereby encouraging them to assume the role of Treasurer in VCs' management team.
- Investigate the possibilities of spreading the VC model to other villages in Tanzania.



” VCs provide rural villages autonomy and empower them to acquire and fine-tune distinct skills around sustainable clusters of economic activity.



Partnership

● **Village Inc. Africa** is the umbrella organisation of the Village Company (Macrocredit) Model in Africa. It continuously improves the concept and its implementation by sharing expertise and investing in the VCs and the VCLs.

● **VCI-Babati** is the Village Company Incubator in the Babati region. It provides support, including “macrocredits”, expertise and training, to Village Companies in their area.

● **Seloto Village Company** is one of the operating VCs and a key partner as it implements and contributes to the development of the model.



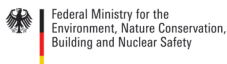
The 2014 SEED Awards in Ethiopia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda are largely supported by the European Union, which is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies.

About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs who while working towards a green economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these entrepreneurs with know-how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making. For more information please write to info@seedinit.org or visit:

www.seedinit.org

SEED Partners



SEED Corporate Partner



SEED Founding Partners



SEED Hosting Partner

