

## **UK Business as Champions for Development**

The UK Government recognises that the private sector is the engine of growth in developing countries. Successful businesses create jobs and pay the taxes that finance services – critical to achieving economic development that is **accessible to the poor** and **resilient** to future shocks. The British High Commission in Nairobi believes that **UK business** has a crucial role to play in Kenya’s development. 6 out of 10 of the top Kenyan taxpayers are British – including, for example, Finlays, Unilever, East African Breweries – and the UK is Kenya’s 3rd largest export market.

But ‘business as usual’ will not harness the private sector’s potential for poverty impact. The UK has a strong track record of pioneering responsible business practices, and DFID in particular seeks to up our engagement with UK business - to **invest more**, and **responsibly**, in poor countries as core business strategy. What’s more, improving the developmental quality of investments is good for business: it fosters local capacity and stability needed for long term business prosperity.

*We strongly encourage UK business in Kenya to:*

- **Apply strong ethical standards in their operations** – by joining responsible business networks, like [Business Fights Poverty](#); complying with voluntary global initiatives, like the [Ethical Trading Initiative](#), [UN Global Compact](#), and the [Global Reporting Initiative](#); and by strengthening systems in line with the [UK Bribery Act](#).
- **Support Kenyan businesses to strengthen their productivity and capabilities so they can compete in regional and global markets** – by offering channels for technology transfer and technical capacity building to local subsidiaries and partners, boosting productivity all round.
- **Exercise their innovative capacity to develop better solutions to development challenges** – investing in dynamic technological solutions for large scale impact, taking a lead from innovations like [MPesa](#), [MKopa](#) and [M-Shwari](#).
- **Support professional skills development for the poorest** – broadening career opportunities for the young Kenyan, for example by offering internships, mentoring schemes and young leader development programmes.
- **Maximise the use of local Kenyan content** – sourcing inputs from Kenyan firms, hiring local staff, and looking for opportunities for Kenyan business to move up the value chain, leading to more and better jobs for poor people.

**Taking these actions, UK business in Kenya will create the productive jobs and investment that will have lasting developmental impact!**

The [DFID Fund Finder](https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding) <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding> provides details of all the funds available to support this inclusive business agenda.

For more information on DFID’s responsible business initiatives in Kenya, please contact Adrian Green ([A-Green@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:A-Green@dfid.gov.uk)) or Anna Gibson ([A-Gibson@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:A-Gibson@dfid.gov.uk)), Sustainable Economic Development section, DFID Kenya.