

# Acumen | Changing the way the world tackles poverty

## SUMMARY

Acumen is a global non-profit organisation that tackles poverty by investing in social enterprises serving low-income communities. It provides long-term patient capital alongside leadership development and ecosystem support to help entrepreneurs scale businesses that expand access to energy, agriculture, healthcare, education and dignified work.

## OVERVIEW

Markets often fail to provide affordable and reliable goods, services and economic opportunities to people living on low incomes.

Acumen seeks to address these market failures by deploying patient capital to early and growth-stage social enterprises while also providing technical assistance, governance support and impact measurement. Alongside investment, Acumen develops entrepreneurial leadership through Acumen Academy, equipping founders with the skills, networks and confidence needed to scale inclusive businesses and influence the broader systems in which they operate.

## OUTCOME

Through this integrated model, Acumen aims to strengthen market ecosystems so that they better serve low-income communities. By combining capital, leadership development and knowledge sharing, the organisation seeks to help entrepreneurs scale sustainably, attract follow-on investment and promote market practices that prioritise dignity, inclusion and long-term resilience.

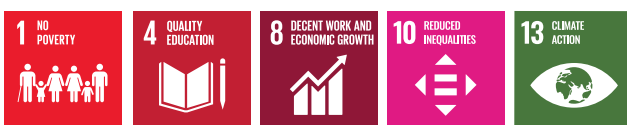


## IMPACT

With support from the Seneca Trust, Acumen has delivered the following results:

- Reached more than 719 million people globally through investments in social enterprises and related ecosystem initiatives.
- Trained 188 social entrepreneurs across eight regions through Acumen Academy. Its flagship fellowship program, known as 'The Foundry', forms part of a global alumni community of 1,998 leaders whose ventures collectively impact around 62 million lives.
- Disbursed \$1.1m to 25 Acumen Angels awardees in 2025 to support business scaling, job creation and follow-on investment.
- Invested \$9.5m in 2025 as part of a \$194m patient capital portfolio spanning 212 companies.
- Advanced programs in clean energy (including the Pioneer Energy Investment Initiative and Hard-to-Reach Energy), climate-resilient agriculture (Trellis), education, gender equity and dignified work.
- Strengthened sector knowledge through research publications, convenings and participation in international development forums.

## Sustainable development goals:



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