Since 1952, CHF International has served as a catalyst for sustainable and transformational development in communities and institutions in over 80 countries worldwide. With a portfolio of over $325 million in economic programming, CHF drives sustainable growth by strengthening the capacity and integration of people involved in economic activities, enabling them to effectively pursue market-based opportunities. We engage youth, conflict-affected populations, rural and urban poor, the food-insecure and other vulnerable groups, as well as the private and public sectors to generate increased incomes and employment opportunities.

In the agriculture sector, CHF utilizes a value chain – or market systems – approach to facilitate sustainable results, including job creation, access to financial products and services, improvements in quality, linkages to local and international markets, and increased incomes and sales. Our approach relies on comprehensive assessment, local capacity building, market facilitation, and sustainable solutions implemented by local agricultural producers and agribusinesses. CHF works with innovative and influential farmers and businesses to facilitate activities that lead to growth throughout the value chain, with a particular focus on job creation for smaller producers and micro-entrepreneurs. By working with leading local firms to facilitate improvements in production, quality, standardization, and access to markets, CHF ensures that results are market driven and sustainable.
Examples of CHF’s Value Chain Programming

Colombia

In Colombia, the USAID-funded $32 million RESPONDE program utilizes the value chain approach to help citizens develop livelihoods through licit activities in the agriculture sector. Utilizing CHF’s Industry Selection tool and a local partner, the program identified 5 sub-sectors that had the greatest potential for job growth amongst the target population, identified lead firms, and through an analysis of constraints and opportunities, identified program interventions. In the first year, interventions in the honey value chain included a branding initiative and investments in equipment for improved quality and increased quantities with 10 associations representing 250 beekeepers. In the cacao value chain, 200 farmers have been linked with two major buyers and have participated in capacity building for Integrated Pest Management and Good Agricultural Practices, in addition to benefitting from improved nurseries and seed distribution. 175 cassava producers have improved production and been linked to a new buyer for the upcoming August harvest.

Ghana

In Ghana, the YES (Youth Engagement in Service Delivery) program, a $4.5 million Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation initiative, aims to increase sustainable youth employment by building organizational capacity for local youth organizations with an innovative application of the value chain approach to the solid waste management sector. The solid waste management value chain analysis revealed opportunities in the sub-sector of compost, where market potential existed in the agricultural sector but end markets and suppliers were virtually non-existent. In order to develop both supply and demand of this untapped sub-sector, CHF developed three compost facilities, a network on organic waste collectors, and a behavior change program to promote source separation. Today, 46 youth are employed in the compost sector, collecting waste from 3,570 households at least twice a week, and providing organic waste to the composting facilities which sell the final product to 2 lead farming groups.
In Mongolia, the USAID and USDA-funded Growing Enterprises Rapidly (GER) initiative and the Mongolian Agribusiness Support Program (MASP) expanded economic opportunities for poor, peri-urban populations in Mongolia’s four largest cities through microenterprise and value chain support, association development, credit facilitation, market linkages and employment matching. CHF integrated peri-urban businesses into the urban economy through the mining, farming, animal production and food processing value chains, including the pork and dairy sub sectors. The programs facilitated market linkages, provided training and technical assistance to existing and prospective agricultural micro-enterprises, cooperatives, and associations, facilitated credit, and enhanced marketing techniques for small to medium enterprises (SMEs). The development of a local service provider resulted in Development Solutions, which is now providing fee-based business support and brokerage services to MSMEs. During the life of the program, created 1,115 new micro and small enterprises, expanded or improved 4,264 existing micro and small enterprises; matched over 6,550 unemployed peri-urban residents to long term jobs; and generated nearly 5,341 long term jobs.

Also in Mongolia, CHF’s $3.5 million USAID funded cooperative development program, EMIRGE, continues the work of the GER program by providing additional support to dairy cooperatives in technical areas identified as constraints and opportunities in the value chain analysis. Specifically, EMIRGE has facilitated the development of improved feed, animal shelter, with the aim to strengthen five producer groups and their 50 members by reducing costs, improving efficiencies, encouraging innovation and facilitating vertical linkages.

In addition to the above, CHF has conducted the following value chain activities:

- **South Sudan**: agricultural value chain sub-sector analyses
- **Rwanda**: strengthening green bean and pineapple value chains to improve the economic circumstances of vulnerable households
- **West Bank**: sub-sector selection within the handicrafts sector, and value chain analysis of the handmade baby clothing industry
- **Kosovo**: building materials value chain analysis and technical assistance to the Kosovo Private Enterprise Program
- **Indonesia**: agricultural sub-sector selection, and analysis of beef cattle value chain
- **Haiti**: construction value chain analysis

Founded in 1952, CHF International currently operates in more than 20 countries and territories. CHF’s mission is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low- and moderate-income communities around the world, helping them improve their social, economic and environmental conditions. Please visit our website at [www.chfinternational.org](http://www.chfinternational.org) for more information.