At Global Communities, we are focused on people. We believe in the promise of our partner communities and are committed to investing in their success. All of our work is designed to give our partner communities the tools they need to drive the development of their lives and livelihoods. We are committed to assisting the sectors needed for economic growth, such as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, but we also believe that investment is measured in both financial and human progress. We take our slogan “Partners for Good” seriously – both doing good and creating real and permanent, positive change.

Utilizing a pro-poor value chain approach, we work with micro, small and medium enterprises to leverage opportunities for growth through improvement in production and quality control, business management, and facilitation of new market linkages. We build the capacity of new and growing entrepreneurs with technical skills development, management training, access to finance, cooperative development, and access to market information – leading to increased sales, employment and incomes.

Examples of Enterprise Development Programs

ANDA – Colombia
As part of the ANDA (“Go Forward”) program funded by BHP Billiton Sustainable Communities, Global Communities is working with internally displaced persons and other vulnerable people to develop entrepreneurship opportunities in the cities of Cartagena and Monteria. ANDA takes a comprehensive approach, providing participants with psycho-social support and helping them develop life plans, in addition to training in sales, business management and market assessment.

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs – Liberia
In partnership with the Goldman Sachs Women’s Entrepreneurship and Leadership Certificate Program, Global Communities is working with women entrepreneurs to ensure they gain access to credit in the short term, while building support networks to provide skills and training that will give them access to formal credit facilities over the long term. To date, over 245 women have completed the 150-hour training, with graduates’ revenues increasing by 20%.

Trash to Treasure – India
Municipal solid waste is an ever-growing problem in India, one that will grow worse with the expansion of cities. In Bangalore alone, informal waste collectors recycle an estimated 600 tons per day, saving money for the local government and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But they are marginalized and harassed, explored to hazardous working conditions and have little access to government services. For the past three years, Global Communities has run the Trash to Treasure program in Bangalore, a decentralized waste management approach that increases the amount of waste being recycled, creates jobs and income, and integrate informal sector workers into these activities. Through this program, Global Communities has helped advance Bangalore towards a more sustainable solid waste management system that is more inclusive of the informal sector.
Global Communities is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself. Please visit our website at www.globalcommunities.org for more information.

MENA-YES – Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen
In early 2013, Global Communities and the Caterpillar Foundation launched the $4.4 million, three-year MENA Youth Empowerment Strategy program (MENA-YES) to prepare youth in Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen for the labor market and job placement. In addition to helping nearly 2,000 youth receiving training and find jobs, MENA-YES is working with more than 1,000 additional youth with training in financing, market development and business management to help them develop entrepreneurial skills.

EMIRGE – Rwanda and Mongolia
The Enabling Market Integration through Rural Group Empowerment (EMIRGE) project aims to improve the incomes of small-scale farmers by enabling small agricultural groups to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. By utilizing a market-based approach, EMIRGE links these groups to an existing demand to help drive their growth, increase production quality and raise incomes and quality of life for small holders and their families.

Jordan Loan Guarantee Facility – Jordan
Despite the crucial role SMEs play in the MENA region’s economies, they often have great difficulty accessing the financing needed for start-up and growth. The Jordan Loan Guarantee Facility (JLGF), established through support from OPIC, USAID and Global Communities, facilitates SME lending by providing partial loan guarantees for SMEs that are creditworthy, but cannot provide the collateral and/or information required by the banks. The JLGF also regularly conducts financial management workshops tailored to the unique needs and challenges of local women business owners. The women entrepreneurs JLGF has helped represent key sectors of the Jordanian economy, including pharmaceuticals, garments, packaging, handcrafts, auto services and food processing.