



# DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

DirectAid believes in raising the level of employment within the neediest African communities through viable solutions to promote people-driven development. One may ask, why development projects in Africa? That is because 60% of the world's poorest populations lives there . More specifically, 490 million people in Africa live below the poverty line ; USD 1.9 USD is the daily income for about half of the continent's population . In such circumstances, conflicts over resources are bound to happen.

## DirectAid's vision

DirectAid has been focusing on executing development projects that suit African communities, in line with their strong cultural-identity and heritage, to ameliorate the lives of poor families by assisting them, on various levels, to become income-generating. Such projects support Africa 2063's and the United Nations' sustainable development goals of transforming the economy, empowering citizens, elevating hunger and the per-capita incomes, to ensure they all live in prosperity, peace, and security . This will contributing in making Africa, as a continent, strong and an influential global player. Below are some of the development projects DirectAid has focused on in the past couple of years.



## 1. Animal-based production

Animal-based production projects within Africa are amongst the fastest income generators. Owning one livestock has the potential to cover the expenses of an entire family and be a great source of food. DirectAid provides poor families with a cow and its calf (either imported or hybrid), or provides five goats (for a family of 5 members). This lessens malnutrition and hunger in local communities.

Furthermore, establishing chicken farms through consecutive production cycles to produce eggs and chicken meat can be very beneficial as it generates income and provides people with viable sources of protein. For example, these sustainable people-driven projects can feed orphans sponsored by DirectAid, and those within nearby poor villages. In addition, they provide job opportunities for the youth and mothers of orphans, allowing them to secure an adequate source of income.



## 2. Farms

Due to the availability of fertile lands in Africa, and its viability to employ a large number of workers (70% of Africa's population works in agriculture), DirectAid has a particular interest in supporting agricultural projects. These projects include the cultivation of grains, fruits, and vegetables. The crops are then provided to poor and remote villages with discounted prices to achieve self-sufficiency to DirectAid's orphanages, create job opportunities for young women and men, and provide food products to lower the numbers of malnutrition-related diseases (proliferating in the African continent).



## 3. Grain mills and banks

Grain products are purchased when their prices are lower. They are then stored and distributed to beneficiaries when prices are higher and grains are scarce. Storage centres, which create several job opportunities to local populations, are established within orphanages and poor villages







to supply grains throughout the year. This is important for orphans and poor farmers, considering that these grains constitute their staple food.

But it is important to note that poor families in villages cannot grind grains easily since they use simple instruments. Thus, modern mills operating through electricity, fuel or solar power, are established. This provides them with fresh flour in an efficient way, minimizing the flour wasted during manual grinding.

## 4. Orchard farming

Orchard farming projects are supported not merely to produce fruits crops, but also to offer shadowed areas for people to use as shelters when temperatures are high in Africa, especially in the sub-Saharan region. Moreover, they also ameliorate aesthetics within orphanages, allowing orphans to live in peaceful and comfortable environment, ameliorating their mental health. Most importantly, such projects also provide individuals with fresh fruits and vegetables and several job opportunities, reducing the incidence of hunger and conflict.

## 5. Bakeries

Bakery projects are sustainable food-generating projects. They produce fresh bread containing important nutrients needed for orphans and the greater population. This is the case as they are sold at discounted prices to the poor within nearby villages. Moreover, they provide job opportunities that generate continuous incomes, and minimize the cost of providing bread to orphanages and others, allowing DirectAid and other organizations to spend their funds on another areas that will contribute to Africa's prosperity and strength.

## 6. Vocational training centres and computer labs

DirectAid establishes various vocational training centres and computer labs for youth to keep up-to-date with computer skills needed in the job market. The main goal is to develop vocational

capabilities and skills within nearby villages to train the youth so they can find suitable job opportunities, ultimately reducing unemployment rates, and increasing productivity in the business sector. In the long run, this will help the African continent in achieving its goal of becoming a people-driven economy.

## 7. Tailoring centres

Training centres for tailoring for girls, mothers of orphans, and divorced women are established to enabling them to practice a sustainable craft/vocation that allows them to express their heritage and culture. The training aims to be a source of income to improve the living standards of individuals and their families, minimizing hunger and malnutrition associated diseases.

## 8. Soap factories

DirectAid establishes and manages factories that produce natural soap from plant-based oils to meet the needs of orphanages. In addition, the factories train and employ widows and mothers of orphans. Such initiatives minimizes the cost of soaps, while maximizing their quality, meeting the constant demand for soap throughout the year.

# Development projects in numbers

**As of today, DirectAid has executed 20,000 development projects in Africa, benefitting 700,000 individuals. Such numbers are in line with the Africa's 2063 of providing job opportunities in at least one in four individuals looking for work and promoting a strong sustainable economy.**

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