Why do we partner with UNCDF? Because it is very good at what it does. […] UNCDF’s strategy reflects a willingness to invest in new and promising institutions, and to test innovations that expand financial services to the poor. […] We have valued our partnership with UNCDF over these past 6 years, and we have been very pleased with the success of our projects together.

Ann Miles
Director, Financial Inclusion
Mastercard Foundation

The three main tenants of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are all prominent features of UNCDF’s mission and programming. As the only UN agency with a focus entirely on the LDCs, UNCDF is working in places where other sources of external finance are not available. By strengthening local government actors – especially at the sub-national level – to set up conducive framework conditions for private sector activities, UNCDF supports its partner countries to generate the resources, both financial and in terms of capacity building, needed to work towards the SDGs. And by leveraging private finance in both its local development finance and financial inclusion work, UNCDF can have a much larger impact than using public finance alone. […] For Switzerland, the core value of working with UNCDF is in the fact that it has been working in particular LDCs for decades, all the while preserving its capacity to innovate and adapt to changing circumstances.

UNCDF makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world’s 47 least developed countries (LDCs). With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers “last mile” finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF’s financing models work through two channels: financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives; and localized investments that show how fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development.

By strengthening how finance works for poor people at the household, small enterprise, and local infrastructure levels, UNCDF contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 17 on the means of implementation. By identifying those market segments where innovative financing models can have transformational impact in helping to reach the last mile and address exclusion and inequalities of access, UNCDF contributes to a number of different SDGs.

It is encouraging to see that UNCDF’s financing methods are keen to involve the private sector, which would be the key to success in the SDG implementation if they are replicated in greater number of countries in the world with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

As a small, focused agency with a clear mandate and comparative advantage, UNCDF is very good value for money, in a time when aid dollars are becoming increasingly scarce and financing that unlocks private and market resources is increasingly valuable.

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations
2017 Annual Session of the Executive Board
On LDC graduation, we welcome the four that have just graduated in Sweden’s new strategic framework. We are one of the countries that have been found eligible for graduation along with two others. Lending is increasing, especially because of the modest contributions from our bilateral development partners. But graduation, especially because of the modest contributions from our bilateral development partners. But graduation, especially because of the modest contributions from our bilateral development partners. But graduation, especially because of the modest contributions from our bilateral development partners. But graduation, especially because of the modest contributions from our bilateral development partners. But graduation, especially because of the modest contributions from our bilateral development partners. But graduation, especially because of the modest contributions from our bilateral development partners. 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