Kenya’s prospects for achieving economic growth depend on the ability to harness the potential of its agriculture, construction and emerging energy/extractives (oil, geothermal, titanium) sector.

Kenya needs to raise agricultural productivity, reduce barriers to trade, establish efficient value chains and mobilize private investment to support agribusiness – all critical to sector growth and food security.
MEDA’s Assessment

MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) aims to advance equitable growth in Kenya in economic sectors with strong potential to increase small supplier incomes, employment and achieve equitable distribution of new wealth created in high-poverty, food insecure locations.

This project will focus on promoting equitable economic growth by working with small and medium enterprises and small entrepreneurs in the agriculture, construction services and extractives. To maximize the project’s impact, activities will focus on locations with high levels of poverty and food insecurity along Kenya’s two economic transportation corridors, Mombasa to Uganda and Lamu to South Sudan.

Background

In Kenya, agriculture employs 60% of the population and accounts for 27% of its GDP. By promoting the growth of agricultural businesses, there is great potential to create jobs and increase food security. The construction sector, too, can generate jobs as it provides services to the country’s growing economy. Unemployment is a major issue in Kenya, especially among youth, which account for 70% of formal unemployment.

Raising agricultural productivity, reducing barriers to trade and establishing efficient value chains are critical to future growth and a sustainable path to food security. Kenya’s emerging extractives industry (oil, geothermal and titanium) is expected to contribute substantially to the growing economy. But for industry to flourish, substantial growth is needed in support sectors.

Outcome | 7 Year Project Budget

20,000 small entrepreneurs and 250 small and medium businesses experience:

- Increased incomes, profits and growth
- Improved access to competitive market opportunities by participating in business alliances
- Increased ability to implement enhanced gender equitable and environmentally sustainable business plans
- Improved supply of high-quality products through participation in supply chain initiatives

Population: 46 million
Official language: English
Agriculture: 27% of GDP

Agriculture: Employs 60% of population
Unemployment: 40% (est.)
Youth unemployment: 70%