



A Challenge Grant (\$90,000 over 3 years, 2014-2016) has been awarded to Indego Africa for an expansion of its program into Ghana.

Indego Africa is a non-profit social enterprise that creates jobs and sustainable livelihoods for female artisan entrepreneurs through market access and education. Indego Africa's cooperative artisan partners generate income through product sales to meet their families' basic needs and develop job skills through training programs that enhance their long-term earning potential.

Currently in Rwanda, Indego Africa works with over 800 female artisans in 22 cooperatives, who collectively have over 3,000 dependents. Indego Africa's artisan partners have seen dramatic improvements in earned income, food security, access to water, and access to schooling for themselves and their children.

In 2014, Indego Africa conducted research and diligence for the expansion in either Ethiopia or Ghana. In 2015, the decision was made to expand in Ghana. Reasons for endeavoring to expand into Ghana are high community need, good regulatory environment, and the ability to produce high-quality and on-trend products that sell well in the US. Ghana offers the availability of raw materials, good artisan's skills, welcome and support of like-minded NGOs, and adequate infrastructure, transportation, and security.

In 2015 and 2016, Indego Africa will be forming partnerships with high-potential artisan groups, determining and implementing the educational needs of the artisans, building local infrastructure and staff capacity, and executing on this planned expansion.