

# Acumen: Changing the Way the World Tackles Poverty



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# Purpose

The self-stated purpose of Acumen as an organization is to help eradicate poverty through investment in companies and change makers, rather than direct philanthropy

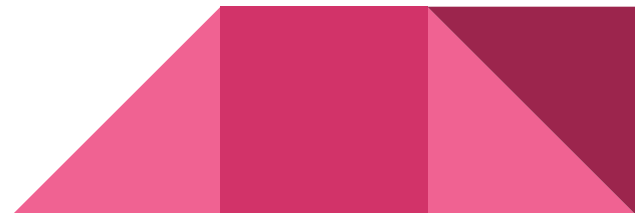
Their goal is to create equality for all through innovation, as opposed to throwing money at the problem



# Recent Activity

On November 18, Acumen India invested in S4S Technologies, which is a company that produces solar-powered drying machines that can help increase smallholder farmers' incomes while simultaneously reducing food waste.

On November 12, Acumen helped a global alliance of donors and investors to put a fund in action to support off-grid energy companies through the pandemic



# Performance Data

On its website, Acumen reports that it has invest \$126 million over the years, with 126 companies and organizations working with the non-profit, and they have brought solutions to poverty to fourteen different countries.

Their goal is to provide the poor with small grants to get them started with a business to build over time. As the business grows, Acumen stays connected and then helps poor customers of these businesses. The customers are given money for similar reasons, creating a type of cycle.




# Comparison Data

## **To Past Years:**

According to their released financial statements, Acumen has decreased by 27.2% between 2018 and 2019 in terms of philanthropic capital, and this number is continuing to decrease because for similar reasons on top of Covid-19.

## **To Other NPO's:**

Acumen is not as prominent as other NPO's fighting poverty. Simply put, they lack the funding they need to become one of the more impactful organizations, but their goal and mission statement is vital, which is why they need as much support as possible. A smaller donation is more important for them than for the much larger NPO's.



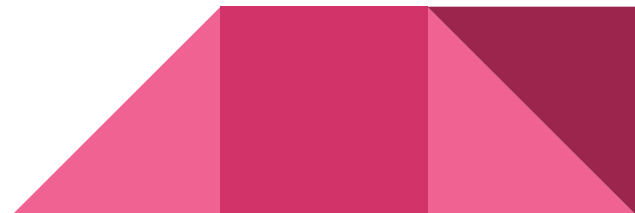
# Facts and Statistics

**Support:** Companies such as Facebook, American Express, Ikea, and many more support and help fund.

**Revenue:** In 2019 Acumen raised \$26.7 million.

**Admin Cost:** In 2018 Acumen spent \$1,372,090 million on administrative expenses. Each year they typically spend 15 percent on administrative costs.

**Population Served:** They have served more than 308 million people as of 2019.



# Diversity and Cultural Impact

**Diversity:** Acumen helps in countries across the world, for instance: Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the United States. They promote learning as well as investing in developing countries. They believe hearing diverse voices is essential in the 21st century.

**Cultural Impact:** Acumen is bringing financial and leadership ideas of developed countries to developing countries.



# Applicable Topic

With Covid-19 running rampant throughout 2020, people in poverty have been hit the hardest. Acumen has stated on their website “if there is ever a time to double down on Acumen’s commitment stand with the poor and vulnerable, it is now.”

Acumen is doing as much as they can currently to help those affected by Covid, and at the same time, they are withstanding the work they have already put into these impoverished areas. They doing all they can to help relieve the burden of poverty in the world which is very commendable





# Sources

<https://acumen.org/approach/>

<https://acumen.org/blog/new-investment-s4s-vegetable-dryers/>

<https://acumen.org/blog/acumen-and-green-climate-fund-boost-covid-19-relief-in-off-grid-energy-access/>

<https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=11774>

[Standing with the Poor Through the COVID-19 Crisis | by Acumen | Acumen: Ideas](#)

