

Strengthening Economic Opportunities for Refugees and Host Communities

DREEM PROJECT

Context overview

- Overview of Turkana County and Kakuma refugee camp

- Turkana County remains economically, and socially marginalized from the main markets and population centers despite decades of development assistance.

Access to resources: Women do not have as much of access to resources and credit as men due to cultural barriers, including discrimination in property rights and financial rules and regulations by financial service providers.

Access to Business Development Services BDS training opportunities and lack of knowledge of grants and business management skills

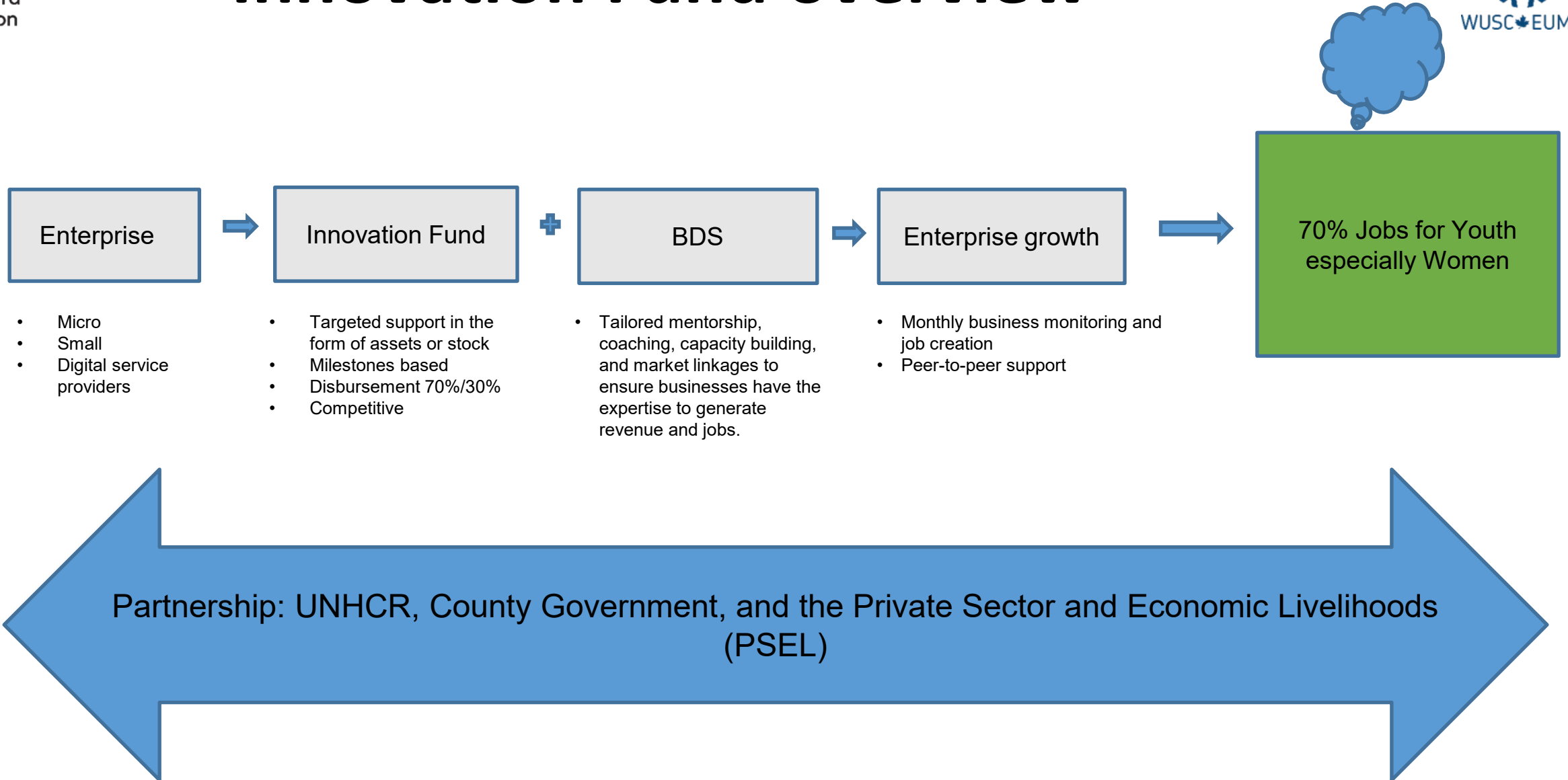
- About the fund: What is the Displaced and Refugee Youth Enabling Environment Mechanism (DREEM) Innovation Fund?

The fund is designed to support micro and small businesses with the potential to create employment among refugees and Kenyans in Kakuma, Kalobeyi and surrounding host communities. The fund works with businesses in all sectors to maximize their potential for business growth and dignified job creation and to provide refugee entrepreneurs, especially young women, with improved access to market-oriented business support services that will improve business and employment outcomes

- What are the objectives of the fund?

1. To stimulate innovation and growth of micro and small enterprises in refugee communities;
2. To enhance the capacity of businesses to create employment opportunities for those in their communities
3. To provide refugee entrepreneurs, especially young women, with improved access to market-oriented business support services that will improve business and employment outcomes in Kenya

Innovation Fund overview



Cohort 1 Overview: Micro-enterprises

By Gender

C. Sex of Business Owner:	Freq.	Percent
Male	34	54.84
Female	28	45.16
Total	62	100.00

By Status

Status of the owner (Refugee or host community)	Freq.	Percent
Host	16	25.81
Refugee	46	74.19
Total	62	100.00

By Business Sector/Nature

Nature of business	Freq.	Percent
Retail	15	24.19
Agribusiness	6	9.68
Beauty and Cosmentics	10	16.13
Digital services	8	12.90
Hotel and Restaurants	5	8.06
Production	4	6.45
Textile	8	12.90
Education	2	3.23
Spares and Repairs	2	3.23
Others (laundry, phone charging)	2	3.23
Total	62	100.00

Results

Micro-enterprises	BL (March 2023)	Aug-24	% Increase (Aug 2024)
Total paid jobs	167	331	98%
Paid jobs for women in the youth category	69	97	45%
Paid jobs for refugees	106	237	124%
Paid jobs for persons with disabilities	2	6	
Paid jobs for youth	153	311	103%

In conclusion....

- We currently have three active cohorts, comprising 195 enterprises that have provided 878 jobs—29% of which are held by women and 91% by youth.
- Credit Access Opportunity: This initiative has been prompted by reports from several enterprises about their limited knowledge of where and how to access credit facilities.
- Digital Marketing Success
- Supporting Women-Owned Businesses

Client Testimonial

*"The DREEM Innovation Fund has been my ray of hope. The entrepreneurship training has expanded my business knowledge and inspired me to explore new possibilities. I now have three revenue streams: a retail shop, a snack business, and a cell phone charging station. I am forever indebted," -
DREEM Fund Client*