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**ASPEN NETWORK OF DEVELOPMENT ENTREPRENEURS AND PARTNERS RELEASE UGANDA ENTREPRENEURIAL  
ECOSYSTEM INITIATIVE INITIAL RESULTS**

*The report shares findings and offers recommendations to improve opportunities for entrepreneurs*

**Kampala, Uganda — September 13, 2018** — The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) with its partners the Centre for Development Alternatives and Enterprise Uganda today shared the initial findings of the Uganda Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative (UEEI)-Phase I.

This initial assessment identifies the binding constraints to accelerating ecosystem development in Uganda and recommends practical action to bolster entrepreneurial ecosystems in two specific regions: Gulu and Kampala. The constraints common to both of these entrepreneurial ecosystems include a lack of hands-on management and entrepreneurship education, limited entrepreneurial success stories—such as those that focus on female entrepreneurs—and a significant lack of finance targeted at small and growing businesses.

Leveraging a review of available data, proprietary surveys and stakeholder interviews, the project consortium has developed a set of proposed recommendations for stakeholders to strengthen entrepreneurship in Gulu and Kampala. These include providing practical entrepreneurship and management training at academic institutions; showcasing entrepreneur success stories from Uganda and similar markets; and attracting new funding institutions and promoting new tools to reduce the perceived risk of investing in small businesses.

“This is a special week for ANDE and our partners throughout emerging markets. We’re finally moving forward in a significant way to implementing an integrated approach to entrepreneurial ecosystem cultivation. With the UEEI Phase I work in Gulu and Kampala, we have taken a key step to changing the way entrepreneurship development is practiced in developing economies. With the forthcoming Phase II, we are excited to implement the recommendations developed in this first phase,” said ANDE’s Executive Director Randall Kempner.

“Yesterday’s UEEI session in Gulu was inspiring. I believe an entrepreneurial ecosystem approach makes great sense, and I am excited to be involved going forward,” said Moses Onono, Managing Director of Homa Farm LTD, a Gulu-based agricultural producer.

The project team will continue to collect feedback on pathways for action until Friday September 21, 2018. The final report will be released in October 2018. ANDE will continue to work with key partners to raise funding for UEEI Phase II, the implementation phase, that is expected to officially launch in

early 2019.

UEEI Phase I was implemented by a consortium led by the [Centre for Development Alternatives](#), a Uganda-based think-and-do-tank and consultancy. Other members of the consortium are Enterprise Uganda and [Koltai & Company](#).

Funding for the first phase of the Uganda Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative was provided by the [Argidius Foundation](#), the [Dutch Good Growth Fund](#), and the [Small Foundation](#). The second phase will be open to additional funders and implementing partners. If you are interested in partnering with ANDE, please contact [khatuchi.khasandi@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:khatuchi.khasandi@aspeninstitute.org).

**The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)** is a global network of more than 290 organizations from 150 countries that propel entrepreneurship in emerging markets. ANDE members provide critical financial, educational, and business support services to small and growing businesses (SGBs) based on the conviction that SGBs will create jobs, stimulate long-term economic growth, and produce environmental and social benefits. Ultimately, we believe that SGBs can help lift countries out of poverty. For more information about ANDE, please visit: <http://www.andeglobal.org>.

**The Argidius Foundation promotes** the growth of small and medium sized enterprises (SME) in order to improve the lives of the poor through increased income generation. Argidius helps build effective ecosystems that provide SMEs with the right services in all stages of their growth:

- By supporting growing SMEs to be investment ready and gain access to finance
- By providing tailored capacity development services that enable entrepreneurs to meet the challenges of growth, such as incubation, acceleration, training, coaching, mentoring and networking

**The Dutch Good Growth Fund** is a “fund of fund” investment initiative from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs that aims to improve financing for the “missing middle” – i.e. entrepreneurs who have outgrown micro-finance but do not yet have access to conventional capital markets. The Seed Capital and Business Development (SC&BD) facility is established to further the impact of the DGGF by providing Technical Assistance, Seed Capital and Business Support Services to intermediary funds and local SMEs. In addition, the program incorporates a knowledge development and sharing component that supports research, tests assumptions and shares insights on financing SMEs in developing countries and emerging markets - fostering industry-wide knowledge exchange.

**The Small Foundation** is working to end extreme poverty and chronic hunger in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. Small Foundation aims to do this by catalyzing the proliferation of sustainable income-generating opportunities for extremely poor people in rural areas, most of whom are smallholder farmers. To that end, Small Foundation supports finance and technical assistance providers that improve the business ecosystem for on-farm and off-farm micro, small and medium rural enterprises by expanding access to knowledge, finance, technology, and markets. Small Foundation supports highly-leveraged interventions that do this in ways that are effective, sustainable and scalable.