

*This is, above all, a human crisis that calls for solidarity... Most fundamentally, we need to focus on people - the most vulnerable, low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises... We have a framework for action - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We must keep our promises for people and planet.*

- **United Nations Secretary General António Guterres**<sup>1</sup>

## **A MESSAGE FROM BAMBOO CAPITAL PARTNERS DURING THE COVID19 CRISIS**

All of us at Bamboo Capital Partners wish to extend our heartfelt thoughts and appreciation to our dedicated staff members, partner institutions, and investees worldwide who are working hard every day to serve low-income and vulnerable populations. We admire your commitment and we are more committed than ever to managing the disruption alongside you.

### **WE ARE INTERDEPENDENT**

As the ripple effects of COVID19 continue to expand around the globe, we are reminded of our vulnerability and – just as importantly – of our interdependence. International Monetary Fund calculations demonstrated that emerging markets today account for 60% of the world economy based on purchasing power, leading the New York Times to assert “a slowdown in developing countries is a slowdown for the planet.”

While much of the news coverage has focused our attention on lockdown measures and economic stimulus programs in OECD countries, we know from experience that developing countries, and particularly their most vulnerable citizens, will bear the brunt of the global health and economic crisis. Standard & Poor warned that Africa could be among the regions hardest hit by the epidemic, and as The Economist noted in its special coverage of COVID19, “throughout history, the poor have been hardest-hit by pandemics.”

### **WE ARE EXPERIENCED ASSET MANAGERS**

We are actively monitoring global, regional, and national regulatory and capital market developments and we are working tirelessly alongside our investee companies to manage rapidly changing circumstances. Our investment funds are private debt or private equity in nature, thus we are insulated to some degree from the volatility of global capital markets.

We are equipped to structure a range of instruments such as quasi-equity, mezzanine-debt, revenue-based loans, convertible debt, senior debt and pure equity. Our flexible approach helps our investee companies manage cash flow scenarios in an evolving environment, sustain operations through a global downturn, and prepare to access traditional capital as the global economy recovers.

We are taking every recommended precaution to ensure our colleagues' safety and, with robust digital platforms and remote working protocols in place for years, we are well positioned for the mandated transition to teleworking now underway in many countries where we operate.

### **THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW**

Small and medium enterprises in emerging markets are significant employers and engines of economic growth. As governments become consumed with combatting the pandemic and calls grow louder to jettison “business as usual” approaches that have served far too few for far too long, we have a historic opportunity to work with growing enterprises in emerging markets to adopt a new model that embraces social and environmental performance alongside financial performance.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/above-all-human-crisis-calls-solidarity>

The SDG500 was conceived and launched in Davos with this vision in mind and represents a groundbreaking example of how government aid and private philanthropy can join forces with private sector capital to stretch every dollar further. Our coalition of partners – including the International Fund for Agriculture Development, the UN Capital Development Fund, the International Trade Centre, CARE USA, Smart Africa, Stop TB Partnership – committed to financing the SDGs by mobilizing USD \$500 million in growth capital to hundreds of impactful small and medium enterprises in the agriculture, finance, energy, education, and healthcare sectors in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

We are encouraged by the vision and steadfast commitment of our partners and government sponsors. While emergency relief and coordinated responses measures are essential in the short-term, such efforts cannot come at the expense of shoring up small and medium enterprises, which are the real levers of wealth and job creation in emerging markets. We strongly believe there is a historic window of opportunity to finance small and medium enterprises on attractive terms while they weather the coming storm, thereby enabling them to contribute to longer-term sustainable solutions on which the global economic recovery will be based. In so doing, not only will we and our partners directly cushion the worst impacts of the health and economic crisis in emerging markets, but we will strengthen our collective ability to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals as well.

As COVID19 has shown us, we are interdependent.

As our partners and investees know, we are committed.

The time to act is now.