

PIDG Pathfinder

Summer 2020

Welcome to the PIDG newsletter

The COVID-19 crisis has had a devastating impact globally and both the immediate response and the longer-term recovery require a huge amount of support and innovation, something that is particularly pressing in some of the poorest countries in the world where PIDG operates.

As part of our response, PIDG formed a [COVID-19 response](#) task team in April, with representation from across the PIDG Group. The aim is to harvest and process ideas from PIDG companies on ways in which we can respond to the challenges created by COVID-19 through supporting existing and new investments.

It is great to see that, in three months, some of the initiatives related to our projects have achieved measurable outcomes of:

- total funds committed: USD1.538m
- 22 grants across 18 countries
- directly reaching more than 250,000 people

Through PIDG TA funding and the partnerships with our sponsors and project companies, we have been directly supporting:

- 28,000 workers to stay in work through the provision of safety equipment and procedures
- 10,000 people with access to water and handwashing facilities
- over 18,000 medical staff, 234 clinics, and 30 hospitals to respond or prepare to respond to the emergency with the right equipment, and we have been
- reaching nearly 100,000 people in remote locations with vital health messaging to stay safe and limit the spread of the virus

Read more about the [projects here](#).

In **Talking point**, Head of PIDG TA, Emilio Cattaneo, writes about how PIDG TA has evolved to become an important centrally directed catalyst within PIDG, often disbursed as a grant used to support and facilitate the development of a project or an initiative, acting as a powerful tool to improve the viability, affordability and impact of projects.

We recently published our [Annual Review](#), where you can read more about our commitment to the

SDGs and, in particular, our actions to address **climate change** and to improve **gender empowerment and equality**, as well as the exciting progress we have made in **safety culture and leadership**.

In **Taking action on climate change**, Marco Serena, PIDG Head of Development Impact, explains how PIDG has accelerated and deepened its commitments in this area and created a Climate Action Task Force with an ambitious remit aligned to the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In **Sharing knowledge**, Liz Hipwell, COO of InfraCo Africa, writes about the growth and transformation of the organisation that she has been a part of for six years. Liz takes us on a journey through the success of projects such as KIS in Uganda, where the introduction of a ferry service to the mainland has kick-started business growth and social infrastructure for the local community, to her own recent relocation to the Kenya office from London and the closer collaboration between PIDG companies and our network of offices.

I am sure you are all aware of the racially charged events which have taken place over the recent weeks, and like so many of you, I share the sorrow and anger being expressed around the world in response.

PIDG is an organisation with principles of equality and inclusion at its core, and we stand in solidarity and support with all those who have been personally affected by racism and discrimination in any form.

We have a responsibility and a duty to help, and so over the last few weeks, we have started conversations about what we should be doing at PIDG in response. We intend to keep learning, keep listening and to keep striving to get this right, and so I welcome any suggestions, lessons and feedback from you all.

Philippe Valahu, CEO, PIDG