



Miller Center

for Social Entrepreneurship

Social Enterprise Practicum -- Action Research Project in Rwanda 2017

Host organizations:

[African Entrepreneur Collective](#) and [PICO-International/Rwanda](#)

Webpages:

<http://www.africanentrepreneurcollective.org/#about>

<http://picointernational.org/rwanda/>

Headquarters: Kigali, Rwanda

Location(s) of research: Rwanda

Background: Rwanda is a land-locked country in Central Africa with few natural resources and very high population densities. Both of these host organizations have been working to provide economic opportunities for poor Rwandans, and this practicum project will create a partnership through action research to support social entrepreneurship in Rwanda. AEC supports the work of entrepreneurs to help them succeed; it has used [GSBI Boost](#) materials to this end. PICO-Rwanda is a community organizing network with strong ties to rural and urban poor communities. Both local organizations share a commitment to expanding entrepreneurial solutions to poverty.

The challenge: To develop a proposal that identifies social entrepreneurial opportunities at the intersection of interests and social networks of these two organizations. This will evaluate existing studies of drinking water, household energy products, livelihoods, and health needs in selected Rwandan communities. Field work will gather original data that maps the assets and needs of these organizations and their communities. This may result in a proposal like the [GSBF ASDENIC project of 2016](#).

Action research products needed:

1. An inventory of social assets and needs of these two organizations and the communities they serve.
2. A roadmap for accelerating collaborative social enterprise development by these two organizations.

Student skills needed: Cross-cultural communication; interviewing skills; flexibility and ingenuity; excellent writing skills.