

Public Information Summary

Host Country:	Uganda
Name of Borrower:	Akola PBC, a Texas public benefit corporation
Project Description:	Akola is an impact jewelry manufacturer that employs women in rural Uganda. Akola is seeking a \$5,000,000 OPIC loan to fund new factory expansion and working capital needs, including hiring additional women in Uganda, and to refinance outstanding short term debt
Proposed OPIC Loan:	\$5,000,000
Total Project Costs:	\$6,500,000
Policy Review	
U.S. Economic Impact:	The Project is not expected to have a negative impact on the U.S. economy. While the Project will export its products to the U.S., the total amount of sales is not significant relative to U.S. imports. Moreover, the Project Company has a specific social mission to bring economic opportunities for women in Uganda, a product that could not be matched by U.S. production. U.S. procurement associated with the Project is expected to have a positive impact on U.S. employment, but with exports to the U.S., the Project is expected to have a negative five-year U.S. trade balance impact.
Developmental Effects:	This Project is expected to have a highly developmental impact through the expansion of a jewelry manufacturer in Uganda. The fundamental mission of the Project is to bring skills, training, and employment to women and their families that are at or near extreme levels of poverty and unable to provide basic needs for their family. The Project Company accomplishes this mission by employing women as jewelry craftmakers, paired with vocational and soft skills training. The Project is aimed at assisting the movement of women out of extreme poverty into a sustainable long term path towards self-sufficiency. The mission and focus of the Project to uplift and empower women align with OPIC's 2X initiative.
Environment:	Screening: The Project has been reviewed against OPIC's categorical prohibitions and has been determined to be categorically eligible. Projects involving investments in small-scale manufacturing of retail products are generally screened as Category B projects under OPIC's environmental and social guidelines because impacts are site-specific and readily mitigated. The primary environmental issues associated with the Project include the need for adequate health and safety,

	<p>waste management, and life and fire safety to ensure the Project is developed, implemented, and managed in accordance with the IFC’s 2012 Performance Standards and Good Industry Practice.</p> <p>Applicable: Under OPIC’s Environmental and Social Policies, the Borrower is required to comply with applicable national laws and regulations related to environmental and social performance. OPIC’s environmental due diligence indicates the Project will have impacts which must be managed in a manner consistent with the following International Finance Corporation’s Performance Standards (PS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts • PS 2: Labor and Working Conditions • PS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention • PS 4: Community Health, Safety, and Security <p>A desk-review due diligence assessment indicates the Project involves existing small-scale manufacturing of jewelry in Jinja and Nabukosi, Uganda. The Project site is not located in or near any protected area or sensitive ecosystem and adverse impacts on biodiversity are not anticipated. Therefore P.S. 6 is not triggered at this time.</p> <p>The Project will be required to meet applicable provisions of the IFC Environmental Health and Safety General Guidelines (2007).</p> <p>Environmental and Social Risks and Mitigation: The Borrower has an Environmental and Social Policy representing its commitment to identify and manage the environmental risks associated with its operations. The Borrower has an Industrial Safety Manual - Horn and Bone Workshop which includes its Health and Safety Policy statement, goals, and adequate procedures for new employee orientation, safety and training including the use of Personal Protective Equipment. The Borrower has an adequate Emergency Action Plan including training, proper evacuation procedures, how and where to locate exits, and adequate fire extinguishers onsite.</p>
<p>Social Assessment:</p>	<p>The Project will be required to operate in a manner consistent with the International Finance Corporation’s Performance Standards, OPIC’s Environmental and Social Policy Statement and applicable local laws.</p> <p>OPIC’s statutorily required language will be supplemented with provisions concerning the rights of association, organization and collective bargaining, minimum age of employment, prohibition</p>

	<p>against the use of forced labor, non-discrimination, hours of work, the timely payment of wages, and hazardous working conditions. Standard and supplemental contract language will be applied to all workers of the Project, including contracted workers.</p> <p>The Project is to support expansion of an existing small-scale jewelry manufacturing enterprise in Uganda. The Project has in place basic social provisions and is in the process of updating its internal policies and procedures for labor management, social management and grievance redressal. The key social issues related to the Project include the need for strong human resources management and supply chain due diligence. OPIC will require the Project to update its internal policies and procedures for labor management and grievance redressal as well as to develop due diligence procedures for its supply chain.</p> <p>This review covers the commensurate human rights risks associated with manufacturing in Uganda.</p>
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