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PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE KCB FOUNDATION ACUMEN FUND PARTNERSHIP

Nairobi, Kenya...The KCB Foundation is supporting Acumen Fund to launch a leadership training programme to develop the next generation of leaders in East Africa.

The initiative dubbed 'Acumen Fund East Africa Fellows Programme' will seek to identify 20 emerging leaders gathered from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Southern Sudan and Rwanda to receive high quality training in leadership and social change development.

"The objective of the programme is to build an entrepreneurial pool of talented leaders who have the financial and operational skills to build strong organizations and the moral imagination to create a more inclusive economy and social system", said Susan Omanga the KCB Foundation Chairman.

She was speaking on Wednesday during the KCB Acumen Fund Partnership agreement signing ceremony where the KCB Foundation pledged a Kshs 16 million grant to support the East Africa Fellows Programme.

With the launch, the application process is now on. Applicants can access forms at www.acumenfund.org/fellows

The second stage of the process will entail telephone interviews of short listed applicants starting April 17th, 2011. A selection conference will then be held on May 21st, 2011 ahead of the announcement of winners on May 31st, 2011.

The programme will kick off with the first seminar in July, 2011.

Speaking at the event Biju Mohandas, Acumen Fund Director for East Africa said each participant in the inaugural class of the East Africa Fellows Programme would have to be driving a project with large social impact either inside their organizations or as an enterprenuerial venture.

“The fellows will have a track record of leadership in business, government or non-profit sectors and are passionate about increasing their social impact. Fellows will have a demonstrated committment to social change in East Africa, have a project with large social impact they are leading”, He said.

Over the course of the programme, the fellows will attend five, three day seminars and design a five day regional trip and an innovation conference.

The curriculum will enable the fellows to develop strategies and practices for tapping into their passion and commitment to moral leadership and give them the tools to scale their projects.

“Through the Acumen Fund East Africa Fellows Program, KCB has committed to identify this next generation of leaders to accelerate the delivery of sustainable social intiatives in East Africa”, Omanga explained.

The KCB Acumen Fund partnership is a development of the Friends of KCB Foundation initiative that was launched in 2010. The objective of the fourm was to identify partners who demonstrated key strengths within the

five thematic areas supported by the KCB Foundation.

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NOTE TO THE EDITORS

About KCB Foundation

The KCB Foundation was launched in 2007 as a charitable trust with a mission to effectively facilitate the implementation of the bank's corporate social responsibility programmes in Kenya and the markets in which the KCB Group operates. Over the past four years, the KCB Foundation has disbursed Kshs 120million shillings funds to support corporate social responsibility initiatives based on five thematic areas namely: environment, education, enterprise development, health and humanitarian intervention. Our Vision is to be the most responsive and responsible provider of sustainable social investment support to all deserving communities.

Enterprise Development is the third CSR theme that the KCB Foundation supports with the intention of developing entrepreneurship into viable business through Nurturing business ideas, Business incubation, Funding of ideas and start ups, Business promotion and networking.

About Acumen Fund

The Acumen Fund is a pioneering non-profit venture fund that is changing how the world addresses poverty. The Acumen Fund invests patient capital in business models that deliver critical, affordable goods and services to the world's poor with the aim of improving millions of lives. Since its founding in 2001, the Acumen Fund has invested more than USD 40 Million in companies that provide access to Water, Health, Energy, Housing, and Agricultural inputs to low income consumers in South Asia and East Africa.

Each year, through its Global and Regional Fellows Programs, Acumen Fund trains a pool of talented leaders who have the financial and

operational skills to build strong organizations and the moral imagination to create a more inclusive economy and social system.

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