

A

- **Agtech (Agricultural Technology):** The industry that applies modern technology to agriculture to increase yield, efficiency, and sustainability. This includes innovations like precision farming, drones, robotics, and biotechnology.
 - **Source:** [Industry Terminology / McKinsey](#)
- **Agriculture:** The industry is engaged in farming, cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock. It is the foundational sector for the global food supply.
- **Arts and Culture:** The industry centered on the creation, production, distribution, and preservation of creative and artistic works, including visual arts, performing arts, heritage sites, and cultural events
- **Artists & Creatives:** Individuals who possess the ability to express themselves and communicate ideas through various forms of creative expression.

B

- **Biodiversity:** The variety and variability of life on Earth, including the diversity of species, ecosystems, and genetic variations within species.
- **Blended Debt Fund:** A Blended Finance Fund built around debt instruments.
- **Blended Equity Fund:** A Blended Finance Fund built around equity instruments.
- **Blended Finance Instruments:** A structuring approach that allows organizations with different objectives (financial return, social impact, or a blend) to invest alongside each other. It uses catalytic capital to attract private sector investment into developing countries, leading to greater development impact.
 - **Source:** [Convergence \(Global Blended Finance Network\)](#)

C

- **Care Economy:** The sector of work, both paid and unpaid, focused on providing care and domestic services. It includes childcare, elder care, disability support, and early childhood education.
- **Catalytic Capital:** Investments (such as debt, equity, and guarantees) that accept disproportionate risk and/or concessionary (below-market) returns to generate positive impact and attract additional, third-party investment that would otherwise not be possible.
 - **Sources:** [MacArthur Foundation / Catalytic Capital Consortium \(C3\)](#) - [ESG at Wharton](#)
- **Circular Economy:** An economic model that is restorative and regenerative by design. It aims to redefine growth by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources by designing out waste, keeping products in use, and regenerating natural systems.
 - **Source:** [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)
- **Clean Tech:** A broad category of technology and business models that reduce or eliminate negative environmental impact. This includes energy efficiency, sustainable resources, and environmental protection activities.
- **Climate Action, Environment, and Conservation:** Efforts to address climate change and protect the environment.

- **Consumer Products and Services:** A broad category for businesses that sell goods (e.g., electronics, household items) and services (e.g., hospitality, personal care) directly to individual consumers for their own use.
- **Corporate/Financial Institutions:** Legal entity that conducts business with a profit-seeking motive. Includes businesses in all industries, such as technology, finance, energy, consumer goods and so forth.
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D

- **Debt:** An umbrella term for financing instruments that encompass the provision of capital to an individual/organisation, with an expectation that the individual/organisation returns the capital with interest.
- **Disability:** A physical, sensory, or mental impairment that limits an individual's ability to participate fully in society.

E

- **Early Stage (Series A):** A startup funding stage characterized by the successful completion of a first round of venture capital financing. This typically requires a minimum viable product (MVP), a substantial customer base, and consistent revenue.
 - **Source:** [Basel Area](#)
- **Educators:** Individuals who teach or instruct others, such as teachers, professors, or trainers.
- **Education and Training:** The sector is involved in the delivery of knowledge and skills. This includes formal schooling (K-12, higher ed), vocational training, corporate learning, and educational technology (EdTech).
 - **Source:** [UNESCO](#)
- **Energy:** The production of electricity, heat, and fuel.
- **Entrepreneurs and/or Social Entrepreneurs:** Individuals who start and operate businesses, often with a focus on social or environmental impact.
- **Environment:** A broad sector focused on activities that protect the natural world, including conservation, biodiversity, pollution control, and ecosystem restoration.
- **Equity:** An umbrella term for financing instruments that encompass ownership or a stake in a company or organisation that one is investing in.
- **Expansion Stage:** A stage where a business is profitable, self-sustaining, and often recognized as a "scaleup." The objective is continued expansion into new markets or product categories, sometimes through acquisitions.
 - **Source:** [Basel Area](#)
- **Exit Stage:** An optional final stage where a founder or investor leaves the business. Common exit strategies include selling shares, being acquired by another company, or conducting an Initial Public Offering (IPO).
 - **Source:** [Basel Area](#)

F

- **Fashion:** The industry encompassing the design, production, distribution, marketing, and retail of clothing, footwear, and accessories.

- **Femtech:** Technology, software, and products designed to address female health and wellness, including reproductive health, fertility, maternal care, and menopause.
 - **Source:** [Industry Terminology \(Coined by Ida Tin\) / Forbes](#)
- **Financial Support:** Providing monetary assistance or resources to individuals or organisations.
- **Fintech (Financial Technology):** The industry that uses technology to improve, automate, or innovate financial services, including mobile banking, digital payments, and cryptocurrency.
- **Food:** A broad sector that encompasses the entire value chain beyond the farm, including food processing, packaging, distribution, retail (supermarkets), and food service (restaurants).
- **Fundraising:** The process of raising money for a particular cause or organisation.
- **Future of Work:** A sector focused on innovations addressing the evolution of labor, including remote work technologies, automation, AI in the workplace, upskilling platforms, and the gig economy.
 - **Source:** [World Economic Forum \(WEF\)](#)

G

- **Grant:** Transfers made in cash, goods, or services for which no repayment is required.
- **Gender Lens Investing (GLI):** An investment strategy that intentionally seeks to advance gender equality. This can include investing in women-led businesses, companies promoting gender equity, or businesses with products that improve the lives of women and girls.
 - **Source:** [Criterion Institute](#)
- **Growth Stage:** The stage where a business has demonstrated market demand and an established customer base. The primary focus shifts to scaling the startup, securing Series B and C investments, and enlarging the team.
 - **Source:** [Basel Area](#)
- **Guarantees:** Commitments that provide risk mitigation for obligations due from a government or private entity to investors. They "de-risk" projects to attract commercial financing that would otherwise be unavailable.
- **Government & Public Service:** Organisations that provide services to the public, such as government agencies, non-profit organisations, and charities.
- **Government-related:** Associated with or connected to a government.
- **Grant/Donation:** A gift of money given to an individual or organisation.

H

- **Healthcare:** The industry providing medical services, manufacturing medical equipment or drugs, providing medical insurance, or otherwise facilitating health and well-being.
- **Housing:** The industry related to the provision of residential shelter, including real estate development, property management, construction, and affordable housing solutions.

I

- **ICT (Information and Communications Technology):** This sector includes telecommunications infrastructure, internet services, software development, hardware manufacturing, and data management systems.
- **International Non-Governmental Organisation:** An INGO is a non-profit organization that is independent of government involvement and operates on an international scope. They are typically mission-driven, focusing on humanitarian aid, environmental preservation, or human rights.
- **Intermediary:** An institution that acts as a middleman to facilitate transactions between two parties, such as lenders and borrowers. In development finance, intermediaries like commercial banks or private equity funds are used by larger institutions to "channel" funds to smaller local projects.
- **Impact-Financial Risk/Return Frontier:** A conceptual framework that plots investments based on their expected financial return and social/environmental impact. It helps investors articulate their strategy, from "finance-first" to "impact-first."
 - **Source:** [The Bridgespan Group](#)
- **Impact Investing:** Investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Its core characteristics are Intentionality, Expectation of Financial Return, and Impact Measurement.
 - **Source:** Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) - [Link](#)
- **Impact Measurement & Management (IMM):** The practice of monitoring, collecting data, and measuring the impact of programs (both positive and negative) to inform decision-making. Also known as M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation).
- **Impact Washing / Greenwashing:** The act of making unsubstantiated or misleading claims about the social or environmental impact of a business or investment to gain reputational benefits without delivering on the promise.
 - **Source:** [BlueMark \(Impact Verification\)](#)
- **Impact Fund:** A fund that invests in companies or organisations that have a positive social or environmental impact.
- **Impact Measurement and Management:** The process of assessing and managing the social or environmental impact of an initiative.
- **Infrastructure:** The fundamental physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society, such as transportation (roads, ports), energy grids, and telecommunications networks.
- **Incubator/Accelerator:** A programme that provides support and resources to help startups grow and succeed.

M

- **Manufacturing:** The industry involved in the processing of raw materials into finished goods on a large scale, using machinery and organized labor.
- **Market-Building Activities:** Foundational work done to create the conditions for an impact market to grow. This includes policy advocacy, developing industry standards, publishing research, and convening stakeholders.
- **Media and Entertainment:** The industry focused on the creation and distribution of content for information and entertainment, such as film, television, music, publishing, and video games.

N

- **Network:** A group or system of interconnected individuals or organisations that share information, resources, or support.
- **Non-Financial Support:** Providing assistance or resources that do not involve money to individuals or organisations.

O

- **Other:** A catch-all category used in forms and surveys to allow for an answer that is not included in the predefined list of options.

P

- **Private Equity/Venture Capital:** Investment funds that provide financing to private companies, often with the goal of enhancing their value and achieving high returns upon exit.
- **Patient Capital:** Long-term investments in early-stage businesses where investors prioritize long-term social impact through risk-taking and patience. Investors are willing to offer flexible terms and wait several years for returns, which may be below-market rates. Also known as *Impact-first Capital* or *Catalytic Capital*.
 - **Sources:** [Acumen](#) & [Business Development Bank of Canada](#)
- **Pre-Seed Stage:** The initial startup phase dedicated to ideation, market research, and validating that a product or service addresses a genuine problem, before seeking significant funding.
 - **Source:** [Basel Area](#)

R

- **Renewable Energy:** A sub-sector of Clean Tech focused on energy generated from naturally replenishing resources like sunlight (solar), wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat.
 - **Source:** [International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\)](#)
- **Results-Based Finance (RBF):** A funding approach where payments are made only after the achievement of predefined and verified results. This includes instruments like Impact-Linked Bonds or Output-Based Aid.
 - **Source:** [Global Partnership for Results-Based Approaches \(GPRBA\)](#)

S

- **SDGs:** Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.
- **Sector Agnostic:** An investment strategy, not a sector. It means a fund does not focus on any particular industry and is open to investing in a company from any sector based on its potential.
- **Securitization Structures:** The process of pooling non-liquid assets (like a group of small loans) and repackaging them into interest-bearing securities that can be sold to capital market investors.
 - **Source:** [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\) - Finance & Development](#)
- **STEM:** An acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, collectively referring to these fields of education and research.

- **Seed Stage:** The funding stage where a startup secures early financial backing to develop its idea into an operational business. It is often called the "prototype phase," where the business model is tested.
 - **Source:** [Basel Area](#)

T

- **Training:** Programmes that provide instruction or education to individuals on a particular topic.
- **Theory of Change (ToC):** A comprehensive description of how and why a desired change is expected to happen. It maps the logical sequence from inputs and activities to outputs, outcomes, and long-term impact.
 - **Source:** [Center for Theory of Change](#)

W

- **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene):** A development sector focused on providing universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, and hygiene education.
- **Women and Girls:** Females of all ages.
- **Workers:** Individuals who perform labour or services, often for wages.
- **Working Capital/Capex Loan:** A loan used to finance a company's day-to-day operations or capital expenditures.