

Voxtra Foundation

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Year founded	2008
Sector focus	Livelihoods and impact investing
Geographical focus	India and East Africa
Size of fund	11 MUSD
Investment support	Core organisational funding or specific programme funding, with 'active minority owner' role.
Investment size	0.5-3 MUSD for 3-6 years

The name Voxtra is derived from an Old Norse word meaning 'growth'. Voxtra's objective is to contribute to the reduction of poverty by supporting organisations that empower people at the base of the pyramid to lift themselves out of poverty.

Investment approach

Voxtra invests in NGOs or social enterprises that have collected solid evidence on the effectiveness of their approach, reached a certain scale (typically within a range of USD3-10m in annual turnover), built high-quality systems for financial management and impact monitoring, attracted highly-skilled managers and built a track record of good cooperation with all relevant stakeholders. Enabling such high-impact organisations to grow is what Voxtra sees as the most effective way of putting its philanthropic capital to work.

As an investor, Voxtra works by the following principles:

- financing NGOs with grants, but also social enterprises with loans or equity. Voxtra always refers to its financial support as an investment – expected to generate high social returns;
- making sure that the investee is in the driver's seat in determining the use of funding from Voxtra;
- making investment decisions only after a thorough due diligence process, including inspection of financial data and impact documentation, telephone conferences to discuss approach and context, management interviews, stakeholder interviews, field visits and reference checks;
- being a flexible investor with reporting focused on key performance metrics – no long narrative reports. Voxtra follows the performance of its investments closely, and will engage in any way it can to contribute to their success;
- seeking to build a portfolio of a few carefully selected organisations, towards which Voxtra will concentrate its financial resources.