

INFORMATION SUMMARY FOR THE PUBLIC
Maarifa Edu Holdings Limited

Host Country(ies):	Africa Regional
Name of Borrower(s):	Maarifa Edu Holdings Limited (“Maarifa”)
Project Description:	Maarifa will address capacity constraints in the Africa region’s higher education sector that faces increasing demand as a result of demographics and the region’s economic growth. It will acquire majority control of and provide performance enhancing growth capital for private universities and tertiary educational institutions, thereby increasing the quality and availability of higher education across an efficient, regionally-branded portfolio of universities.
Proposed OPIC Loan:	\$50 million with a 9.75 year tenor, including a 3.75-year interest only grace period
Total Project Costs:	\$110 million
U.S. Sponsor:	ECP Manager III LP, investment manager of ECP Africa Fund III PCC.
Foreign Sponsor:	N.A.
Policy Review	
U.S. Economic Impact:	This project concerns the establishment of the overall holding company. There is therefore no potential for an adverse impact on the U.S. economy at this time, and an industry analysis is not warranted. However, future downstream investments by Maarifa will be analyzed individually for their potential impacts on the U.S. economy in accordance with OPIC’s guidelines.
Developmental Effects:	Sub-Saharan Africa does not have the capacity to meet current demand for tertiary education in the region. Despite the fact that tertiary enrollments more than doubled from 2000 to 2010, total enrollment rates are only 7%, compared to 29% worldwide. ¹ Given the region’s high population growth rates, which has created a “youth bulge,” current university expansion efforts are expected to be outstripped by demographic trends during the next 15 years. ² Further, the quality of higher education in Africa is comparatively weak. Employers are dissatisfied with the lack of

¹ http://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/britishcouncil.uk2/files/graduate_employability_in_ssa_final-web.pdf

² Ibid.

	<p>basic technical and transferable skills held by graduates, and there is a high level of graduate unemployment.³</p> <p>Maarifa is expected to have significant development returns in Africa. The project will provide financing for improving the quality of education in tertiary educational institutions, while enhancing infrastructure and expanding course offerings. Maarifa plans to create the continent’s leading private university platform through a strategy that includes: optimizing current and new academic program offerings, capturing attractive geographic growth opportunities, coordinating branding and marketing strategy, and leveraging technology to maximize student access. In addition, Maarifa will seek to increase the employability of its students by establishing partnerships with private industry to match its graduates’ skills with the needs of the African economy. The project will yield development impacts both in terms of expanding the local economy and increasing the competitiveness of the host country economy.</p>
<p>Environment:</p>	<p>The capitalization of an educational holding company is screened as Category D for the purposes of environmental and social assessment. Although no further assessment is warranted at this stage of the transaction, downstream investments made by the Borrower will be screened at and subject to the full scope of OPIC’s environment and social assessment process, including public disclosure of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for Category A projects conditionality and monitoring, as is warranted by the nature and scope of the downstream investments.</p> <p>Emerging Capital Partners (“ECP”), Maarifa’s parent company, has established an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) System which is designed specifically to meet the requirements of P.S. 1. ECP’s ESG System will be applied to Maarifa and all portfolio universities. ECP’s ESG Officer will oversee the adoption and implementation of the ESG System at Maarifa, and will be involved in the portfolio universities adopting the system. Going forward each portfolio university will be responsible for their own ESG management with oversight from Maarifa. ECP will also continue to monitor ESG performance at Maarifa and the portfolio universities. OPIC will assess ESG management policies and procedures and</p>

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	<p>organizational capacity of each of the portfolio universities that fall under the OPIC project at the time of consent request. In addition, OPIC will require that Maarifa submit a formalized community grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances about Maarifa's environmental and social performance as a condition of first disbursement.</p>
<p>Worker Rights:</p>	<p>Each of the Project Company's OPIC-supported investments will be evaluated separately with respect to specifics of operation and compliance with OPIC Worker Rights and Human Rights Approval criteria. Standard and supplemental Worker Rights language will be required for each OPIC-supported investment, as appropriate.</p>
<p>Human Rights:</p>	<p>OPIC issued a Human Rights Clearance for this project on July 21, 2015.</p>