

11th EDF intra-ACP Private Sector Development Programmes: **implementation, results, impact.**

2021



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Annex I: One-page Presentation per Programme

List of Acronyms

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
ABC Fund	Agri-Business Capital Fund
AEZO	Africa Economic Zones Organisation
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AfDB	African Development Bank
Afdi	Agriculteurs français et développement international
AfIF	Africa Investment Facility
AMDC	African Minerals Development Centre
AMV	Africa Mining Vision
APIX	Agence de Promotion de l'Investissement et des Grands Travaux
ASMEs	artisanal and small-scale mining enterprises
AUC	African Union Commission
B2B	Business to Business
BAIP	Boost Africa Investment Platform
BC	British Council
BCEAO	Central Bank of West African States
BCP	Bamboo Capital Partners
BER	Business Environment Reforms
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BRD	Development Bank of Rwanda
BSCI	Business Social Compliance Initiative
CAIPA	Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies
CARIFORUM	The Caribbean Forum
CENACOM	National Centre for Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation
CICC	Cocoa and Coffee Interprofessional Council
CLAC	Coordinadora Latinoamericana y del Caribe de productores de Comercio Justo
CNIEP	Conseiller national aux initiatives économiques des OP
COP26	26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties
CSR	corporate social responsibility
CTOP	Coordination Togolaise des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles
DBS	Development Bank of Samoa
DFIs	development financial institutions
DFS	Digital Financial Services
DIPS	Digital Investment Profiling Systems
E4D	Employment and Skills for Development in Africa
EABC	East African Business Council
EAFF	East African Farmers Federation
EBK	Equity Bank Kenya
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EF	Expertise France

EFSD+	European Fund for Sustainable Development plus
EIB	European Investment Bank
EiR	Entrepreneurs in Residence
ELab	Entrepreneurship Laboratory
ENNOVA	Entrepreneurship and Innovation
ESOs	Enterprise Support Organisations
EU	European Union
EUROPHYT	European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FAPA	Fund for African Private Sector Assistance
FAPESL	Federation for Agricultural Produce Exporters of Sierra Leone
FARM	Foundation for World Agriculture and Rurality
FCMB	First City Monument Bank
FDI	foreign direct investment
FFM	Fit For Market
FinTechs	Financial technology
FIs	financial institutions
FLE	farmer-led enterprises
FO	farmers' organisation
FO4ACP	Farmers' Organisations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Programme
FRAC	Fungicide Resistance Action Committee
GAP	good agricultural practice
GAP III	Gender Action Plan III
GFSI	Global Food Safety Initiative
GIPC	Ghana Investment Promotion Centre
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GVC	Global Value Chains
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HR	human resources
IA	implementing agency
ICR	Investment Climate Reform
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDES	Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development – Eastern Africa
IOPs	Investment Opportunity Profiles
IPAs	Investment Promotion Agencies
IPIs	Investment Promotion Institutions
IRAC	Insecticide Resistance Action Committee
ITC	International Trade Center
JUI	Janela Unica do Investimento
KCCI	Kiribati Chamber of Commerce & Industry
KGA	Kastom Garden Association
KM	knowledge management

KPI	key performance indicators
LGFs	Local Guarantee Funds
LOA	Letter of Agreement
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MIIC	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
MoU	memorandum of understanding
MRL	maximum residue limit
MSME	micro, small & medium enterprise
MTR	mid-term review
NGO	non-governmental organisation
OA	output area
OACPS	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PAFO	Pan-Africa Farmers' Organization
PFIs	Partner Financial Institutions
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIFON	Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PMU	programme management unit
PROPAC	Plateforme Sous-régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
PSD	private sector development
QI	quality infrastructure
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
REC	Regional Economic Community
RFA	Requests for Applications
RFO	regional farmer organisation
RFP	Request for Proposal
RFPs	Regional Focal Points
RIAFPI	International network of French-speaking investment promotion agencies
ROPFA	Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
RRW	Rapid Response Window
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SADC	South African Development Community
SAE	self-assessment evaluation
SAFEEM	Swiss Association for Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets
SCM	steering committee meeting
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of the Government of the Swiss Confederation
SECOOP	Secretaria de Estado de cooperativas
SFOAP	Support to Farmers' Organisations in Africa Programme
SGBC	Société Générale Cameroun
SGCI	Société Générale Côte d'Ivoire

SIDA	Swedish development agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
SNV	Stichting Nederlandse Ontwikkelingsorganisatie
SO	specific objective
SPS	sanitary and phytosanitary
SPVCA	Sweet Potato Value Chain Association of Ghana
TA	technical assistance
TEF	Tony Elumelu Foundation
TFC	Tanzanian Federation of Co-operatives
TSF	Technical Support Function
UBA	United Bank of Africa
UMNAGRI	Maghrebian and North African Farmers Union
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	UN Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	UN Economic Commission for Africa
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UPADI	Union de Producteurs Agricole du Quebec Développement International
VC	value chain
VC	venture capital
WB	World Bank
WE4A	Women Entrepreneurship for Africa
WHO	World Health Organisation
WP	Work Program
YE	year end

I. Introduction

ACP strategy for the development of the private sector

The 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Intra-ACP Strategy paper was adopted in November 2015. In its multiannual indicative programme on private sector development (PSD) and investment, its main objectives^[1] were to:

1. Support business-friendly and inclusive national and regional policies and strengthen productive capacities and value chains;
2. Increase financial inclusion;
3. Strengthen access to finance for enterprises, in particular, SMEs;
4. Promote ACP-EU PSD knowledge management.



In pursuit of the implementation of the ACP strategy for private sector development (PSD) and of the Joint ACP-EU Private Sector Development Cooperation Framework, EUR 600M were allocated, through the 11th European Development Fund, to finance some 20 intra-ACP programmes. Those interventions, jointly programmed by the EU and the OACPS, were designed in coherence and complementarity with both the national and regional levels PSD programmes.

The “ACP-EU Private Sector Development (PSD) Knowledge Management Technical Support Function/ Light PSD Structure” (henceforth Business ACP) is implemented under pillar 4, promoting ACP-EU knowledge management, dedicated to enable greater coordination and coherence in the implementation of the ACP Strategy for Private Sector Development and the Joint ACP-EU Private Sector Development Cooperation Framework (henceforth “the Joint Framework”). Business ACP provides technical and administrative support to the OACPS Secretariat to implement the EU-ACP PSD platform, with emphasis on support to coordinate the dialogue between the OACPS and the EU as well as the OACPS and the ACP Regional Organisations. As part of its mandate, Business ACP is also responsible for monitoring all the intra-ACP private sector development programmes financed by 11th EDF.

[1] Also frequently referred to as "the 4 pillars".

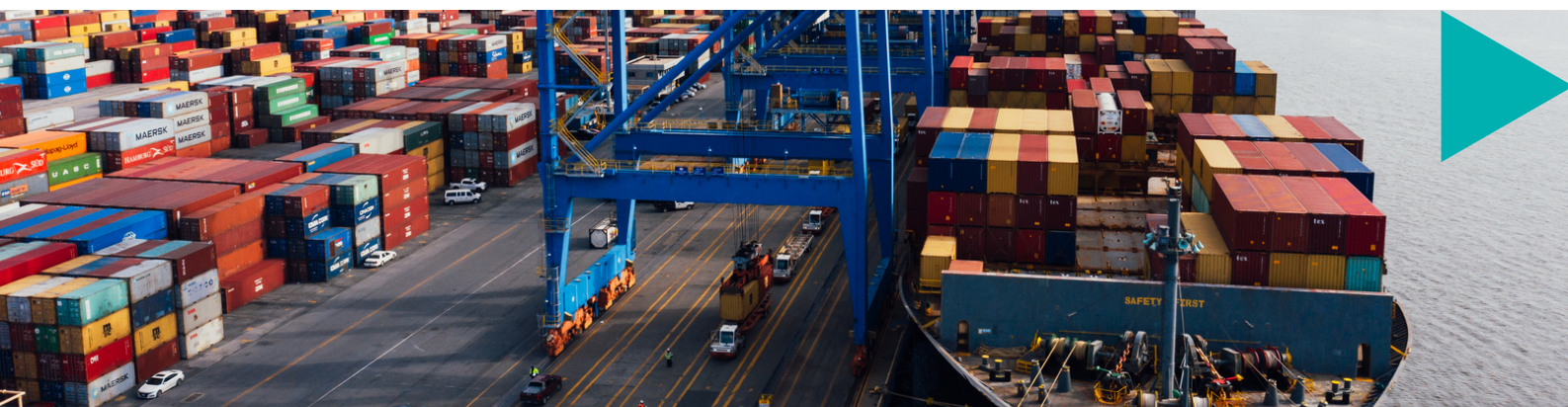
Objectives of monitoring

All ongoing intra-ACP PSD programmes submit progress reports on a regular basis to the European Union and the OACPS Secretariat. The present report complements the detailed progress reports of implementing agencies by bringing together in one publication the main features and achievements of the different programmes. The report thus provides a broad overall snapshot or overview of the implementation of the portfolio of intra-ACP PSD programmes, through the lense of the Joint Framework. It illustrates the use of the EDF resources and additional mobilised ones, allocated to PSD at intra-ACP level through a range of projects/activities, providing insights into their impact, including on specific ACP regions and countries, and on a number of select indicators. Information therein is derived from a monitoring system recently developed by Business ACP, based on data and other inputs provided formally by implementing agencies through their own annual reports[2], briefs or proceedings of meetings, including of steering committee and pipeline review meetings.

The breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 has clearly hindered implementation. The report, therefore, also documents some of the mitigation measures taken towards recovery. The main targets of the report are the OACPS Secretariat and the EC, the OACPS private and public PSD organisations, implementing agencies and, in a revised format, private sector stakeholders such as MSMEs, Cooperatives, Woman's, youth professional organisations, etc. It covers mainly the period January to December 2021, while also providing cumulative data when available.

Structure of the Report

The present report is organised as follows. After this introductory chapter, the next one outlines the main results for each of the ongoing 13 intra-ACP PSD programmes funded under 11th EDF. Chapter 3 highlights a selection of achievements by region and countries where interventions took place, while chapter 4 attempts to bring out some of the major impact of the programmes through a select set of indicators. Chapter 5 assesses the communication and visibility activities of the various intra-ACP PSD programmes, and chapter 6 concludes the report.



[2] In the absence of an annual report for 2021 from an implementing agency, the latest available and published report is used. The report dates are indicated in chapter 2 of the report.

2. Results by Programme

2.1 Programmes in Support of Business-Friendly Policies, Productive Capacities and Value Chains

2.1.1 Fit for Market: Strengthening Competitiveness and Sustainability of the ACP Horticultural Sector (FFM)

Context

The African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) horticultural sector has significant export potential. However, entry into EU and international markets is conditional upon compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) norms and standards, as well as other market requirements. Those requirements pose a capacity challenge to many ACP producers.

Key information

The FFM programme, implemented by COLEACP, has been conceived to address this challenge. Endowed with an EU contribution of EUR 20.30M and a French contribution of EUR 5M through the French Development Agency (Afd) for a total project cost of EUR 25.30M, the programme was launched in May 2016 and lasted until December 2021. It covers all ACP countries and direct partner beneficiaries are mainly smallholders, farmer groups and organisations as well as Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) active in the horticultural sector.

Start/end date: 16/05/2016 – 31/12/2021 (duration 67,5 months).

Implementation stage: While the FFM programme per se ended in December 2021, its main activities have been continued under the FFM SPS programme and are now incorporated into the FFM+ programme launched in 2022.

The intervention logic harnesses the specificities of COLEACP as a private sector not-for-profit organisation working the private and public sectors throughout ACP countries, to foster adherence to SPS standards and market requirements in a sustainable framework through approaches that combine technical assistance (TA) with training of trainers, e-tools and participatory approaches among others. The programme, which is demand-driven, operates in all ACP regions with a particular focus on West Africa and East Africa.



Description of the programme

The overall objective of the FFM programme is to reduce poverty, improve food security and food safety, and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the agri-food export sector in ACP countries. More specifically, the programme was designed to enable smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and MSMEs to access international and domestic horticultural markets by complying with SPS issues and market requirements, in a sustainable framework.

Project components

Activities were designed and organised to attain five expected results as under:

- R1: Capacities of smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs to access local and international markets are strengthened by complying with SPS measures and other market requirements;
- R2: Smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs have the business skills and tools to be efficient, profitable and inclusive;
- R3: Linkages between smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs are reinforced.
- R4: Conditions for market access and competitiveness in ACP horticultural value chains are monitored and ACP interests are represented.
- R5: Competent authorities have an enhanced capacity to support the horticultural sector, ensuring management and enforcement of SPS standards

Important outputs / Results

During this last period of implementation [3], 61 applications for support were registered under the FFM programme. Most applications received from 1 January 2021 onwards have been registered under the FFM SPS programme. In total, since the start of the FFM programme, 883 applications for support have been received as of 31 December 2021. Out of these requests, 746 have been converted into development projects (MOUs) with individual action plans. This represents a higher volume of applications for support and development projects than initially planned at the start of the programme.

In the midst of the pandemic, the new requests received from companies focused on themes related to internal organisation, HR management, restructuring, diversification (e.g. products, markets, distribution channels, logistics, etc.), the development of an adaptation strategy and market access.

[3] Period covered: 1/07/2020 - 31/12/2021

Under Result 1, the main achievements for the period under review for the FFM programme are outlined below:

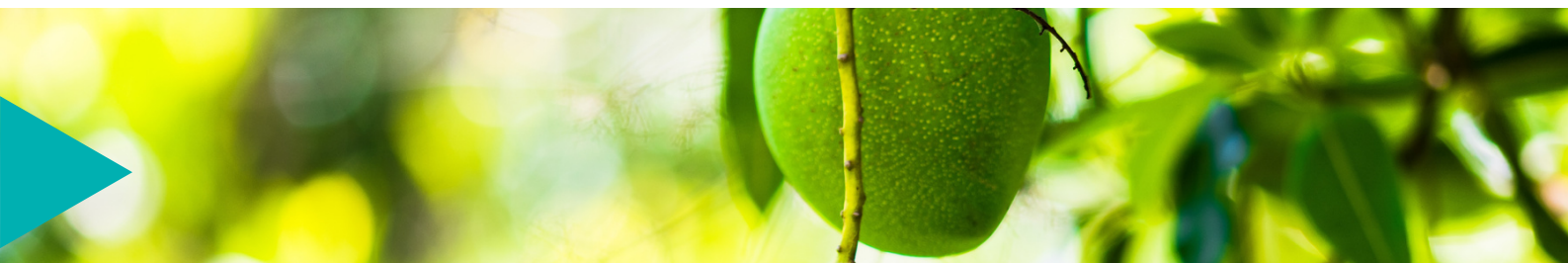
In terms of sanitary and phytosanitary compliance and the implementation of sustainable practices from an environmental and social point of view, a total of 104 technical assistance actions and 139 training sessions (86 of which were collective) totalling 1,335 participants were organised over the period.

For MSMEs, more than half of the specific actions (74 actions) are related to the implementation of a food safety management system, in particular with a view to GLOBAL G.A.P, BRC certification, risk analysis (and HACCP plans) or internal audit. A dozen of these actions concern support to help enterprises integrate COVID-19 measures into their existing food safety management systems. 18 actions specifically concern support for the implementation of organic production practices and certification. 18 actions concern sustainability aspects related to social practices and environmental management. The rest of specific actions focused on: production methods and mainly methods for the control and treatment of pests and diseases (integrated pest management, safe use of pesticides, etc.) and also post-harvest; the establishment of an internal training system.

E-GAP online database: The project developed a Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) database which allows users to select a crop and an active substance to obtain information on GAPs that ensure compliance with the European Union (EU) Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) and the Codex Alimentarius MRL. Additional information such as the type of pesticide, the EU status of the active substance, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended classification and the resistance group (FRAC code for fungicides; IRAC classification for insecticides) can also be obtained.

More specifically, in the area of environmental management, technical assistance and specific training missions mainly concerned waste management and valorisation, sustainable soil management, and improved water use practices. In terms of social practices, companies do not always know which standard is best suited to their needs and the expectations of their customers. In this case, and as a complement to the Sustainability Self-Assessment (SAS) exercise developed by COLEACP under the FFM programme, it is proposed to companies to carry out a general assessment of their practices and to define with them the most appropriate standard. This assessment integrates the technical and financial aspects in order to provide the company with all the elements that will enable it to make the most appropriate choice.

Towards Sustainability Self-Assessment System v.2.0: the last year of the programme was marked by the completion of the update of the tool (SAS 2.0) in order to be able to initiate a second round of exercises with partner-beneficiary MSMEs that had completed and/or sufficiently advanced in the implementation of their action plans before the closure of the programme. 57 second SAS iterations were finally carried out during the period, which is less than initially planned (200), mainly due to changes in company priorities caused by the pandemic and the adaptation of COLEACP's modus operandi during the last two years of the FFM programme. A total of 459 SAS have been carried out since 2016 among the programme's partner-beneficiary (MSMEs and farmer groups) over the lifetime of the programme.



In order to cover all these dimensions, the programme has consolidated the expertise that can be mobilised throughout the ACP countries via training of trainers' sessions and the implementation of collective training packages covering the social and environmental dimensions, amongst which for universities, smallholder support structures, business membership organisation and private service providers.

Since the start of the FFM programme in 2016, a total of 316 technical assistance missions (90% of which were aimed at smallholders, farmer groups and organisations and MSMEs), 210 specific training sessions (on-site) and 181 collective training sessions, involving a total of 3,099 participants, have been implemented. Overall and cumulated over each period, this represents a volume of activities higher than what had been initially programmed, despite disruptions provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

In pursuit of Result 2, training support to smallholders, horticultural MSMEs, FOs and other support structures was provided through 64 technical assistance missions (excluding SAS exercises) and 44 training sessions (29 of which were collective, with a total of 302 participants) were organised during the period. The support mainly consisted in (i) the formulation of business plans as part of efforts at accessing finance; (ii) analysing organisational structure with a view to increase efficiency; and (iii) facilitating access to markets.

Over the period, COLEACP's online training platform has been continually updated with new content and learning methods in order to support all the programme's partner-beneficiaries in their learning journeys on all topics covered by the programme (food safety, social, environment, business, etc.).

	Year III FFM	Year IV FFM	Year V FFM 18 months
The number of sessions or visits (ACP and non-ACP)	18 684	32 464	185 664
The number of visitors (ACP and non-ACP)	6 120	9 647	38 517
Total page views	223 524	452 525	2 381 085
The number of accesses created	603	963	4 949
Total number of users	2 860	3 868	9 070

Since the start of the FFM programme, and in order to contribute to the achievement of expected result 2, a total of 139 technical assistance missions (of which more than 90% were aimed at the target operators), 50 specific training sessions (on-site) and 84 collective training sessions, involving a total of 1448 participants, have been implemented.

Under Result 3, the programme has been fostering intra-value chain linkages by supporting initiatives that favour the integration of small producers in export-oriented production schemes, as well as by the implementation of support projects for groups and organisations of farmers. Such schemes typically call for certification to meet some privately set standards or production that can qualify as organic farming. From June 2020 to December 2021, some 34 interventions in those areas benefited to 231 participants.

During the period under review, the strengthening of linkages also involved consolidating the capacity of partner farmer organisations [such as East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), Pan-Africa Farmers' Organisation (PAFO), Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations of Central Africa (PROPAC), Network of Farmers' Organisations and Producers in West Africa (ROPPA), the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) or Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON)] in the areas of advocacy, negotiations or HR development. Along the same lines, COLEACP's own links with those organisations have been fortified.

Since the start of the FFM programme, and in order to contribute to the achievement of expected result 3, a total of 108 technical assistance missions, 50 specific training sessions (on site) and 20 collective training sessions have been implemented, involving a total of 433 participants.

Under Result 4, the programme has been identifying and monitoring policies, decisions and trends that can potentially impact on ACP competitiveness and/or on their access to specific markets, with special attention to the EU markets. While focusing on EU regulations and evolution in international standards, COLEACP also monitors private standards, buyers' practices and the donor environment. Over the period under review, COLEACP has been monitoring SPS measures at the level of the EU and in particular legislation UE 2016/2031 that came into force in 2019. It closely followed the introduction of the new Organic Agriculture Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and the implementing regulations laying down the rules for its application, which came into force from 1 January 2022. COLEACP also closely followed the evolution of the rules for access to the British market, following Brexit. It took part in several meetings, including with private EU and international buyers, as part of this mandate.

The monitoring activity has given rise to several technical documents that have been produced and disseminated over the period. For example, a technical paper has been published explaining the main changes brought about by the new organic regulation. As of 2020 COLEACP began to publish a series of guidelines in response to the new Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. They provide a framework to guide the process and outline the various elements for a national approach to manage the pests concerned. They also identify the possible information to be provided, and actions to be taken, at all stages from production to export, by both public and private sectors.

Finally, in the area of market information: the European market study for horticultural products of ACP origin has been updated, and two complementary studies for the Caribbean and Pacific regions have been carried out. These studies provide an opportunity to identify trends, market opportunities and consequently analyse certain competitiveness factors of the ACP horticultural sectors. They specifically allow the identification of the most promising segments of these markets for ACP products. In parallel, COLEACP's market insight department was also involved in the framework of the FFM in providing an ad-hoc response to requests expressed by the programme's partner-beneficiary MSMEs. Examples include the launch and/or publication of several market profiles in year V of the FFM programme, notably on tomato processing (Senegal), mango (Côte d'Ivoire), frozen tropical fruit puree (Madagascar), mango juice and dried mango (Mali), and off-season fruits and vegetables, including processed fruits (Mali). More generally, quantitative data on the evolution of fruit and vegetable markets are disseminated digitally via the COLEACP website as well as via the country websites.



Under Result 5, the main activities aimed to strengthen the role of competent authorities of ACP countries in developing and enforcing regulations and certification for horticultural value chains. Given the full use of budgetary resources allocated under FFM to support the competent authorities, activities previously conducted under this result were instead supported by the FFM SPS programme which started in January 2019.

At the end of year V of the FFM programme, 53 requests for support¹ were received under the FFM SPS programme from competent authorities (CA) and public/private discussion platforms in 33 ACP countries, 23 (20 directly from CAs) of which were finalised in the form of a memorandum of understanding after internal review and, if relevant, the organisation of a national workshop to identify and prioritise SPS needs.

Since the start of the FFM programme, and in order to contribute to the achievement of expected result 5, a total of 32 technical assistance missions, 2 specific training sessions (on site) and 4 collective training sessions have been implemented, bringing together a total of 87 participants. Since the start of the FFM SPS programme (January 2019), a total of 165 technical assistance missions have been organised and 77 training sessions have been held, 47 of which were collective (in cumulative terms, under FFM and FFM SPS, which is slightly higher than the cumulative programming: 108 technical assistance missions, 56 specific training sessions and 45 collective training sessions).

The main challenge that beset the programme was the restrictions stemming from the pandemic. The programme successfully overcame this challenge by shifting to online operations, including e-learning for its training activities. Similarly, increased importance was given to digital tools and to virtual interactions. Among other, since the start of the pandemic, professional support was enlisted from the University of Lausanne to enable this shift to digital solutions.

Main results achieved by FFM from May 2016 to December 2021 (non-exhaustive list of indicators)

Overall objective: Reduce poverty, improve food security and food safety and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the agri-food export sector in ACP countries.

Job creation (N° of employees) in targeted value chain, disaggregated by gender, among programme beneficiaries:	25% more than at start of programme (50.50 % women)
Market share (value) of exported horticultural products to the EU from all ACP countries is maintained or increased. (2021 figures, excluding bananas):	4.02%
Market share (volume) of exported horticultural products to the EU from all ACP countries is maintained or increased. (2021 figures, excluding bananas):	4.05%

Specific objective: Enable smallholders, farmers' organisations and MSMEs to access local and international horticultural markets, by complying with SPS issues and market requirements, in a sustainable framework.

Volume of horticultural products supplied to export markets and (formal) local markets by programme beneficiaries (in Tons):	1 278 104 tons (412 661 tons to EU/UK markets)
Number of small producers accessing formal markets through MSMEs and beneficiary farmer groups/cooperatives:	253 297
Total number of small-scale producers supported and impacted by the programme (approximation):	3 500 000
Total number of EU EUROPHYT-TRACES/RASFF interceptions from ACP countries:	RASFF 2021 = 35 / TRACES 2021 = 692

Result 1: Export capacities of smallholders, farmers' organisations and horticultural MSMEs are strengthened by complying with SPS measures and other market requirements

Percentage of beneficiary MSMEs or farmer groups adopting good production practices:	58%
Percentage of beneficiary MSMEs or farmer groups providing decent work (adhere to HR Management and Fundamental Labour Rights):	92%
Percentage of women employed in targeted value chains supported by the programme (and in managerial positions)	39%
Number of service providers trained to provide SPS and other market requirement support to MSMEs and farmers:	302

Result 2: Horticultural MSMEs, smallholders and FO's have the business skills and tools to be efficient, profitable and inclusive

Percentage of farmer groups and horticultural MSMEs supported by the programme, in a better position to access value chain-related finance: **44%**

Number of service providers trained by the programme to provide business-related support to MSMEs and farmers groups: **70**

Percentage of farmer groups and horticultural MSMEs supported by the programme, having made a value chain-related investment: **78%**

Result 3: Linkages between smallholders, FO's and horticultural MSMEs are reinforced

Percentage of small-scale farmers supplying beneficiary MSMEs and farmer groups operating through contracting schemes (65% at end of June 2020): **Over 80%**

Number of multi-stakeholder alliances applying and following up the application of the COLEACP Charter: **8**

Result 4: Conditions for market access and competitiveness in ACP horticultural chains are monitored and ACP interest are represented

Number of local, regional or global buyers in the retail and agri-food sector with whom COLEACP is engaged: **> 15**

System for information and alerts to inform stakeholders of market access related problems or changes is operational: **In place**

Number of National/Regional Technical Working Groups representing ACP interests and supported by the programme that are active: **7**

Result 5: Competent authorities have an enhanced capacity to support the horticultural sector, ensuring management and enforcement of SPS standards.

FVO recommendations are followed-up by the competent authorities supported by the Programme (value of indicator = systematically)

Number of functional and sustainable platforms responding to the call to solve possible emerging or recurring sanitary and phytosanitary problems: **8**

2.1.2 Fit for Market SPS: Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems of the ACP Horticultural Sector (FFM SPS)

Context

FFM SPS was designed as an intensification of the initial FFM programme. The latter was meant to end in May 2021 but was finally extended to December 2021. FFM SPS continued to implement interventions similar to those of the FFM programme. However, during the first two years, support focused on ACP countries' Competent Authorities in the area of plant protection.

Actual implementation was also influenced by, among other, the following major contextual factors:

- The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- United Kingdom (UK) withdrawal from the EU's customs union and single market;
- More stringent EU plant health rules and; New Organic Regulations (EU 2018/848); EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategy

Key factors

During the first two years, the main focus was on supporting ACP countries' Competent Authorities with regards to new EU plant health regulations which entered into force in December 2019 (Expected results 5&6).

In the period under review (Jan to Dec 2021), interventions in support of the private sector (MSMEs, producer groups, support services, professional associations, experts and trainers) also started (i.e. Expected results 1-R3). The focus has been on i) reducing the negative impact of COVID 19 on the production and marketing of horticultural products in ACP countries and ii) seize and use this major macroeconomic constraint as an opportunity to participate positively in the necessary paradigm shift in the agri-food system in ACP countries.

The Intra-ACP 11th EDF financing contribution amount to EUR 15M. The programme had an overall duration of 4 years (01/012019 to 31/12/2022), but has been extended until December 2023, and its geographical coverage extends to all ACP regions. It is implemented by the COLEACP and is in its 3rd year of activity.

The mid-term evaluation of the FFM and FFM SPS programmes recommended in particular the continuation of the implementation of new programmes similar to the FFM and FFM SPS programmes by COLEACP in order to ensure continuity of intervention. The recommendation was endorsed and the OACPS Secretariat and the EC have agreed for the FFM SPS (and FFM) programmes to be continued through the FFM + programme (started in January 2022).

Description of the programme

The **overall objective** of the programme is to reduce poverty, improve food security and food safety, while ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the agri-food export sector in ACP countries. **More specifically**, FFM SPS seeks to enable smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs to access local and international markets, by complying with SPS issues and market requirements, in a sustainable framework.

Programme interventions are geared to attain the following six results:

- Result 1: Capacities of smallholders, farmer's organisations and horticultural MSMEs are strengthened by complying with SPS measures and other market requirements.
- Result 2: Smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs have the business skills and tools to be efficient, profitable and inclusive.
- Result 3: Linkages between smallholders, farmer groups and organisations and horticultural MSMEs are reinforced.
- Result 4: Conditions for market access and competitiveness in ACP horticultural chains are monitored and ACP interest are represented.
- Result 5: Competent authorities have an enhanced capacity to support the horticultural sector, ensuring management and enforcement of SPS standards.
- Result 6: Technical innovation and research brokerage generate the knowledge and technologies needed to supply safe and quality horticultural produces in line with regulations and standards.

Significant activities & results achieved

Overall performance in terms of outputs foreseen were below planned according to the Report, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the FFM programme in December: by the end of year 3, the budget execution rate stood at 53% (i.e. at 75% of programme duration) compared to 29% at end of year 2.

- Result 1: 21 capacity building activities (v/s 42 planned) targeting ACP horticultural producers and producer support structures were organised, including 6 technical assistance missions, 6 on-site training sessions and 9 collective training sessions with a total of 117 participants. The majority of these actions concerned the implementation of a health quality management system (in particular with a view to GLOBALG.A.P. certification), or risk analysis Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans. The technical support concerned in particular a mango production unit in Malawi, collective training followed by individual coaching sessions for coconut producers in Côte d'Ivoire and Training of Trainers for experts in Guinea-Bissau.

- **Result 2**, about 25% of the planned activities [excluding self-assessment evaluation (SAE) missions] were actually implemented, with 4 technical assistance missions and 6 collective training sessions, totaling 56 participants. This low rate of activity is partly explained by the impossibility for the experts of the team and the regional experts to carry out field missions due to pandemic. Among the activities carried out through collective trainings, for example:
 - Preparation of beneficiary partners for participation in trade fairs, Facilitation of a digital training module on trade negotiation,
 - Training in “market requirements” for mango production/processing companies and support structures in Senegal [in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)].
 - It should also be noted that a specific partnership agreement with the ABC Fund (Agri-Business Capital) was formalised in September 2020 (sharing of business plans at the request of beneficiaries).

- **Result 3**: Half of the actions initially planned for year 3 of FFM SPS were implemented: 6 technical assistance missions and 1 on-site training session. Among the activities carried out:
 - With the support of COLEACP, Foundation for World Agriculture and Rurality (FARM) set up a working group on contracting with French and African companies and development practitioners.
 - Signing of a support project for PROPAC (Sub-Regional Platform of Farmer Organisations of Central Africa). The activities relate to the development of an operational plan and the establishment of four programme sheets.
 - Coaching of staff during internal inspections and audits according to option 2 of GLOBALG.A.P. in Ghana.
 - In the context of the pandemic, support for the improvement of the website of the Network of Farmer Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPWA).

- **Result 4**: Activities under this result focus on identifying, monitoring and influencing decisions, policies and trends that could have an impact on ACP suppliers' competitiveness or ability to access markets. It covers regulations (food safety, plant health, environment, social) and the business environment (international standards, regulations, private standards, buyer practices). The activities contribute to: (a) directing programme support to ensure that it remains in line with changing market demands; (b) triggering preventive or "troubleshooting" actions in cases of non-compliance (including SPS prioritization methodologies); (c) ensuring that ACP interests are represented by challenging unnecessary or unfair SPS demands, practices or barriers; (d) strengthening of ACP capacity for lobbying and advocacy; and (e) monitoring the impact of the programme on poverty reduction and economic growth. Over the period under review, activities implemented under this result include, among other:
 - COLEACP is permanently represented in two technical committees of the main private standardisation organisations: Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and GLOBALG.A.P.
 - COLEACP participates in the regular meetings of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee of the WTO as an observer, as a delegate representing the OACPS.

- Information and Alert system in place via monthly monitoring of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and the European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions (EUROPHYT) notifications and market information platforms.
 - Support to 7 national technical working groups (Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania).
- **Result 5:** As for the competent authorities, , the majority of applications for support received in the third year concerned phytosanitary issues related to the new requirements under the new EU plant health regulation EU 2016/2031 (and the current EC directive 2000/29), which includes increased requirements on inspection services and national plant protection organisations in ACP countries, as well as the loss of plant protection products (PPPs) as a result of the changing regulatory framework (EC 1107/2009). 62 actions were carried out in the framework of support for the implementation of support projects for the competent authorities, in line with targets for year 3. In total, since the start of the programme, 53 requests for interventions from competent authorities in ACP countries have been received under the FFM SPS programme, representing 33 ACP countries. Requests have come mainly from National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) but also from public extension services, national food safety agencies and plant protection product registration bodies. Moreover, experts trained in the previous period started to accompany the development of the Good Practice Guides from the beginning of 2021 to ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory/voluntary requirements, including notifications and traceability.

18 experts accompanied the use of the Rapid SPS Assessment Tool (R-SAT) [4] manual in the following 6 pilot countries: Cameroon (Mango); Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda (Capsicum); Madagascar (Leguminous); Suriname (Aubergine); Zimbabwe (citrus).

- **Result 6:** In year 3, the activities carried out correspond globally to the programming for the period. Moreover, the majority of the logical framework indicators are already achieved at this stage under result 6. The following research and innovation brokering activities have been carried out since the beginning of the FFM SPS:
 - 34 plant protection products (PPPs) tested in field trials, most of which are bio-control products;
 - 4 "residue" trials;
 - 2 trials on hot water treatment (with and without post-treatment cooling);
 - 1 trial including 2 new trapping technologies to monitor mango pit weevil;
 - 1 trial on compost for disinfestation of mango waste in Guinea;
 - 1 Proof of Concept (POC) on block chain for the mango supply chain in Côte d'Ivoire;
 - 3 technical itineraries updated and 11 under revision;
 - 15 technical brochures developed and/or revised;
 - 7 technical guides prepared to help ACP operators comply with the new EU phytosanitary rules;
 - 1 updated database on good agricultural practices;
 - 4 interactive online scoreboards to monitor SPS compliance and EU regulations
 - Responses given to over 100 technical enquiries since January 2019.

[4] The Rapid SPS Assessment Tool (or R-SAT) has been designed to assist competent authorities in assessing the current status and functioning of their SPS systems. The main objective is to develop a priority action plan to strengthen national SPS systems, and to ensure their alignment with international standards and regulations.

Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

The activities carried out during the period under review, especially for activities foreseen under expected results 1, 2, 3 are below the activities planned for year 3. This lower than expected implementation rate is explained by the fact that:

- The Technical Assistance Department was particularly involved in the technical and administrative closure of the FFM programme, which was an opportunity to take stock of the development projects signed under FFM and to exchange with the partner beneficiaries on their interest in pursuing the remaining activities under FFM-SPS (transfer of the MOUs from the FFM programme to the FFM-SPS programme);
- Some actions initially planned under FFM-SPS were finally implemented (and therefore accounted for) under FFM in order to optimise available financial resources;
- In the context of COVID-19, the support priorities of some partner-beneficiaries evolved;
- COLEACP has adapted by accelerating the digitalisation of its activities – which began before the pandemic started. This digitalisation, which was essential for the continuation of support activities to the ACP horticultural sector, has required an investment from all COLEACP departments, in the development of tools, training of experts, implementation of new communication strategies towards partners, etc;
- The field missions of the COLEACP team, which are privileged moments to exchange in depth with the partner beneficiaries on the activities carried out and to be carried out, only resumed at the end of year 3 of the FFM SPS programme;
- In the same way, most of the missions of the regional technical experts could not be carried out and all the support activities, especially in conditions where the internet network is rather weak (e.g. Guinea) cannot be carried out in digital format. These activities had to be postponed to year 4.

2.1.3 ACP Business-friendly: Support to business friendly and inclusive national and regional policies and strengthen productive capacities and value chains

Key factors

The “Support to business friendly and inclusive national and regional policies and strengthen productive capacities and value chains” programme – for short, ACP Business-friendly – is an Intra-ACP action funded by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) through an initial envelope of EUR 34.7M contribution, between 2019 and 2023. A top-up was awarded to UNIDO in October 2020, with an additional budget of EUR 7M and an extended implementation period until September 2025. The total budget has therefore been increased to EUR 41.7M.

The programme is jointly implemented by the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), and the International Trade Center (ITC). Coordination and collaboration between the three implementing agencies is ensured at both country and regional level through regular coordination meetings.

Description of the programme

a) Adopting and implementing business-friendly, inclusive and responsible national policies and legal frameworks.

b) Strengthening productive, processing, promoting and marketing capabilities and value chains. The programme follows a holistic three-level approach to ensure sustainable growth.

At the **macro level**, the WB seeks to facilitate improvements to policy, regulatory, and administrative environments for private sector initiatives, as well as improvements to policy environments for foreign direct investment (FDI) linkages addressing key market failures.

At the **meso level**, UNIDO aims to leverage intermediary organisations, with a specific focus on Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and Investment Promotion Institutions (IPIs), and business membership networks. The aim is to strengthen investment promotion, marketing, monitoring capabilities, and business support programmes and partnerships.

At the micro level, ITC provides firm-level support to formal and informal businesses through value chain alliances, capacity building and training in order to strengthen and diversify productive and value addition capabilities.

Due to the pandemic, the inception period covered a longer period than initially planned, and actual implementation only started as from January 2021

Results achieved

Macro-level intervention

In the first year of implementation, the WB:

- Supported IPAs in 5 countries on investment retention and aftercare services (Angola, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Madagascar and Zambia).
- Strengthened the competition legal framework and the legal and regulatory framework for investment across 5 countries (Angola, Gabon, Madagascar, Senegal, and Zambia).
- Conducted strategic planning support and training on quality infrastructure (QI) ecosystem and standards framework and licensing and inspections within priority sectors in 6 countries (Cabo Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Madagascar, Senegal, and Zambia).
- Provided support in 3 countries in the areas of nearshoring and Global Value Chains (GVC) reconfiguration and on corporate insolvency (Dominican Republic, Cabo Verde and Senegal).

The Country Engagement Window of the programme was successful in delivering on key output indicators:

- active engagement with 32 country-level counterparts;
- 7 recommendations on strategies/policies and laws or codes to be amended;
- delivery of 14 diagnostics and policies;
- 21 workshops, training, events or conferences were held.

The WB aims to achieve 20 investment climate reforms throughout programme lifecycle.

Since it allows for on-time support for urgent demands, the World Bank's Rapid Response Window (RRW) has contributed to COVID-19 recovery, with a special emphasis on mitigating the economic risks stemming from the outbreak through addressing investment climate challenges. For instance,

- 7 projects were launched, of which 5 (based in Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Uganda) have completed their activities.
- 2 projects (in OECS [6] and Liberia) are expected to be concluded soon, while 2 others (in Haiti and Burundi) are in the implementation phase.

Another important tool is the Regional Engagement Window, which aims to facilitate peer-to-peer learning across ACP countries to foster knowledge exchange around investment climate reforms. This window represents a channel to disseminate knowledge and experience acquired through the Country Engagement and Rapid Response Windows, to the other OACPS countries. A good example of this is the engagement with the South African Development Community (SADC) through the Investment Climate Scorecard focused on identifying regulatory restrictions on the entry of FDI in SADC member countries.

[5] Results achieved (January to December 2021)

[6] Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Meso-level intervention

UNIDO is working with investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and other investment promotion institutions from the public and private sector, to improve existing investment monitoring as well as investment promotion activities. In its eight (8) intervention countries, UNIDO's technical support to IPAs on investment monitoring focuses on assessing the impact of existing foreign direct investment (FDI) in host economies through enhanced investment facilitation and investor after care services. Investment promotion support involves the identification and formulation of investment opportunities, undertaking digital marketing of investment projects and mobilize potential investor interest.

Work on digital solutions and methodologies, as part of the UNIDO investment promotion toolkit, continued throughout 2021. These tools serve to augment the efficiency and regional-level scalability enabling IPAs/IPIs to do networking and to digitally manage the entire workflow of investment monitoring and opportunity profiling and promotion. With its Digital investment promotion tools - a back-end digital investment profiling system (DIPS) and the front-end Invest in ACP portal - UNIDO aims to provide a holistic support to investment promotion efforts in the ACP regions.

Under Workstream 1.1: Collecting and analyzing firm-level data on FDI structure, performance, impact and perceptions, during 2021, a total of 74 sessions have been held among IPA teams in the 8 intervention countries. The business directory reviews completed in the ambit of WS 1.1 served to support IPAs with best-practice approach how to systematically and periodically update their databases. The IPA staff have improved in skills for selection of critical variables in FDI data and increased data processing know-how for better FDI data management methods. Capacity building activities also served to enhance the skills of IPA staff in prioritization according to their national development policies and objectives in strategic economic sectors. In general, training sessions have seen an impressive level of women participation. 36 IPA staff were actively using DIPS in 2021 and they have received continued technical support in doing so effectively. On aggregate, UNIDO supported IPAs to verify and updated respective FDI Business Registries comprising of more than 7,000 firm entries.

Under Workstream 1.2 Investment promotion strategy development, work progressed in terms of formulating recommendations according to institutional investment promotion needs and challenges. Work in progress under the different Workstreams is unearthing the need for collaborative agreements to be instituted between IPAs and other organizations in the host country including, private sector associations, EU investor representative bodies, Statistics Offices, etc. UNIDO is supporting IPAs and IPIs in the formulation and discussion of such collaborative agreements.

Under Workstream 2.1: Investment facilitation, aftercare and FDI-SME linkages, work with IPAs progressed and provided intelligence on which to eventually draw process improvement recommendations reinforcing post COVID-19 efforts at bolstering aftercare service support. Work progressed resulting in (i) the preparation of concept notes listing capacity building and technical interventions needs for the further development of programme interventions under the Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange (SPX) Programme; and (ii) draft plans to link SPX service companies with ongoing investment opportunity profiling work at national and regional level.

Under Workstream 2.2 Investment opportunity development and targeting, during 2021, Following an extensive country sensitization and outreach effort (8 IPAs and 54 IPIs engaged), 381 investment opportunities have been identified and uploaded on DIPS from which 296 investment opportunity summary sheets have been published on the Investment Promotion Portal, now public under www.invest-in-acp.org. By the end of 2021, 28 investment opportunity profiling campaigns had been launched in the 8 intervention countries and other ACP regions. The broadening of the network of investment profiling contributors in the intervention countries will result in a more systematic and methodological approach to investment opportunity profiling among IPAs and IPIs benefiting respective countries and regions. Some 60 trained DIPS users from IPAs and IPIs currently implement investment opportunity profiling work.

The Rapid Response Window (RRW) is yet to be activated, with an emphasis on mainstreaming the RRW into ongoing work, continue to adopt a flexible approach to utilise the RRW funds for expansion of activities.

The **Micro-level intervention** activities include:

- enhancing competitiveness in global markets;
- increasing collaboration between value chain actors;
- promoting regional partnerships;
- building domestic and regional markets;
- building product demand.

Among the results achieved at the end of 2021, we can highlight in particular:

- 11 new value chains and cluster alliances registers have been established;
- 19 letters of intent / memorandum of understanding (MOUs) were signed with support institutions partners of the Alliances
- 4.814 family farmers are included in the value chain (VC) alliances
- 6.536 farmers, agro-entrepreneurs and MSMEs have access to capacity building support
- 3.111 family farmers, agro-entrepreneurs, MSMEs have improved awareness of market opportunities

The infographics below illustrates priority value chains for the ACP Business-friendly's micro-level intervention.





Cocoa value chains in the Caribbean | Countries: Dominican Republic and Jamaica



23 cocoa agro-processors identified and assessed in terms of market potential, branding and potential barriers to access external markets.



363 Caribbean stakeholders trained on how to engage B2B buyers through right messaging, how to overcome commercial barriers and how to grow business through smart marketing



10 processors selected for **collaboration with celebrity pastry chef Michael Laiskonis** to grow value addition and market connections for local and global markets.



4 small firms attended **Salon du Chocolat** in Paris to showcase products and network.



Several alliances formed between farmer organizations and major international buyers.



Coffee and associated crops in Africa | Countries: Cameroon, DRC, Ghana and Liberia



More than 3'963 farmers profiled to benefit from the activities.



120 women and youth from Cameroon and Liberia attended gender and mainstreaming focus groups and national workshops. Result: 2 roadmaps on how women and youth can improve their participation in coffee and cooperative management.



More than 1'000 participants from Cameroon and DRC trained virtually on B2B marketing, sustainability, and quality improvement.



More than 1'000 coffee farmers trained on harvesting, post-harvest management, good agricultural practices and value addition at farm level.



217 MSMEs coached on how to participate in international trade fairs and product presentation and packaging. Regional Training of Trainers workshop held in Gabon on coffee tasting, cupping, and profiling.

15 public institutions supporting project implementation.



Cotton and Fashion in Africa | Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Zambia



830 women beneficiaries in Benin and Burkina Faso to build capacities on spinning and weaving.



More than 60 women community leaders in Benin and Burkina Faso trained in cooperative management including pricing, marketing, and visibility of products.



More than 330 women in Benin and Burkina Faso trained on Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) code of conduct and value chain operations.



19 Masterclasses and advisory services for 3 selected design houses in Kenya.

57 Farmers and other stakeholders in Zambia trained on the **doubling of yields trial**, including climate and income smart approaches.

397 field demonstration farmers to be reached in 2022.



Coconuts and Kava in the Pacific | Countries: Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu



Assessment report on coconut sector.

Webinar coaching series co-developed with the **International Coconut Community** on Product development and value addition of Coconut Products.

Recommendations report on **building the Kava sector in Vanuatu** ITC, SPC and Basque Culinary Center collaboration to develop Vanuatu's gastronomy sector around Kava.

Pacific Regional Conference on Kava held virtually on 27-29 October 2021, under the theme of A United Approach to Kava "Wan Ples, Wan Kava".

Source: Annual Progress Report 01 January – 31 December 2021, Support to Business Friendly and Inclusive National and Regional Policies, and Strengthening Productive Capabilities and Value Chain, the World Bank, ITC, UNIDO

Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

Some challenges have been reported **at the macro level**, mainly due to COVID-19; slow start to implementation due to capacity constraints and limited client bandwidth; shifting government priorities and political uncertainties and changes in government counterparts and institutions. This was mitigated by the adaptive approach to policy dialogue when responding to shifting governments' demands. Agile programme management will certainly remain an operating principle for the implementing agency.

At **the meso level**, the programme has to face constraints besetting many ACP Investment Promotion Agencies, notably: unclear policy contexts; internal organisational problems; weak strategic vision; lack of methodology/ focus regarding their mandates and in their implementation of activities; frequent under-funding and human resource capacity constraints. Except for the support provided by UNIDO to mitigate specific weaknesses and the fact that the programme has showed its adaption capacity to COVID-19, UNIDO operations under the regional Window needed to be implemented.

At the **micro-level**, one of the main challenges is the lack of access to accurate, consistent and reliable sector level data/information. This was addressed by the creation of a standard information gathering template that can be utilised by the regional coordinators in discussions with the MSMEs, cooperative managers, government officials and exporters in an effort to establish a baseline of critical data. Another weakness is the systemic issues at the producer level in terms of proper preparation, labelling and shipment. Detailed instructions on print as well as video are being developed to improve the capacity of producer organisations address this critical step, related to harvest and post-harvest.

Budget allocations per country are also relatively modest. This is being addressed by generating efficiencies through partnerships that support the project with in-kind contributions at the technical as well as the operational levels.



2.1.4 Farmers' Organisations for ACP (FO4ACP)

Context

Farmers' organisations (FOs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have a dual role. Firstly, they promote the recognition of family farming and smallholder' interests and rights; secondly, they provide services to their members enabling them to engage on better terms with other economic players in agricultural value chains.

During the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), FOs actively engaged and voiced their concerns, to raise awareness and call for action to fight the climate crisis, which is affecting smallholder farmers and their organisations since years in every part of the world, and is increasingly hampering food security.

The Farmers' Organisations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Programme (FO4ACP) builds on lessons learnt from: i) the implementation of the Support to Farmers' Organisations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) (2013–2018), as well as ii) the experience farmers' organisations acquired over the last decades. FO4ACP is also the result of the joint effort and consultations among all stakeholders and is built on the results achieved through the SFOAP, on the analysis of the most challenging factors highlighted during implementation and on the related lessons learned.

Key factors

FO4ACP is a EUR 52.5M (EC and IFAD contributions) capacity-building programme aimed at increasing income and improving livelihood, food, nutrition security and safety of family farming in the targeted geographical areas, through greater integration of family farms in the value chains.

The programme has been co-designed with FOs and their direct technical partners in the AgriCord [7] network. FO4ACP recognises that FOs, from the local to national and regional levels- and for Africa at continental level through the Pan-African platform of farmers organisations constituted by regional FOs, PAFO - are the main implementing partners and beneficiaries of the programme.

The programme has an overall duration of 5 years (2019–2024), hence is at implementation stage. In 2021, It has received a top-up of EUR 10M, i.e. up to total EUR 50M, to further strengthen the COVID-19 response and the way forward with a strong focus on improved access to finance, digitalisation and strengthening the resilience and the response mechanisms of the FOs.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is the supervising entity. It has the role of coordinating and supervising the implementation of the programme. IFAD entered into ten grant agreements with the regional networks of farmers' organisations, members of PAFO, PAFO itself, the regional network of farmers' organisations in the Pacific region (PIFON), AgriCord and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean.

[7] AgriCord is the global alliance of agri-agencies, mandated by farmers' organisations.

Description of the programme

The overall objective of the programme is to increase income and to improve livelihood, food and nutrition security and safety of organised smallholder and family farmers in the target areas of ACP countries. In turn, the final beneficiaries are farmers' organisations in ACP regions.

The programme's specific objectives (SO) are:

SO # 1: FOs and farmer-led enterprises improve technical and economic services to their members along the value chains;

SO # 2: FOs influence policies and business environments for the transformation of family farming and the development of sustainable, adaptive economic initiatives and farmer-led enterprises;

SO # 3: FOs are accountable organisations able to effectively perform their institutional functions.

The programme comprises five major components around which activities are organised:

Component 1: Delivery of economic services along priority value chains.

It supports FOs to improve their capacity to provide economic and technical services to their female and male members in order to support their business ambitions, ensure their profitable engagement in markets and integration into value chains based on the social and environmental sustainability and resilience of the method of production and transformation.

Component 2: Enabling the business environment.

It helps to draw the attention of sector stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, governments and donors, on smallholder needs, especially in areas that are key to ensuring a conducive business environment for women and men smallholder farmers. These include support of agriculture policies that favour smallholder farming, creation of new green jobs, issues surrounding land tenure and agricultural credit and trade policies.

Component 3: Institutional development of FOs.

Resources under component 3 target activities that contribute to structuring organisations by setting up major building blocks required for their institutional development [strategies, tools, monitoring and evaluation (M&E)]. This will strengthen them as qualified organisations and increase their effectiveness in serving their members while expecting from their members a citizen engagement in their movement to promote a vivid organised rural civil society.

Component 4: Communication and Visibility.

Under component 4, resources are allocated for activities related to the communication and visibility of FO4ACP to improve the overall programme communication of positive results of the partnership and the impact of the action's results.

Component 5: IFAD programme coordination and M&E.

IFAD ensure the overall coordination and day to day management of the programme including supervision, implementation support, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management.

The programme is implemented in all three (3) regions: Africa, Caribbean and Pacific.

African region: 5 Regional FOs (RFOs) members of PAFO: EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and Maghrebian and North African Farmers Union (UMNAGRI), PAFO and AgriCord.

Pacific region: Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON).

Caribbean region: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Regional Office for Caribbean and Latin America (in collaboration with PROCASUR) and AgriCord with the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Fair Trade Small Producers and Workers (CLAC).

Significant results achieved as at 1 November 2021 [8]

The analysis below provides a summary of the most relevant progress of logframe indicators towards targets, both behind and on track/excess of them. The indicators in line with targets are not described.

Outcome

FOs and farmer-led enterprises improve technical and economic services along the value chains:

- SO.1: Number of individual producers benefiting from FOs/FLEs (farmer-led enterprises) economic initiatives (M/F/Y per value chain) stands at 234.1 or 59% of 400 [mid-term review target (MTR)] and 37% of 625 (End Target), on track to targets.

Output 1.1

Improved capacity of FOs/FLEs to deliver economic services:

- Number of FOs/FLEs providing at least 2 economic services to their members stands at 233 or 40% of 580 (MTR) and 23% of 1 000 (End target), slightly behind targets;
- Number of supported economically matured FOs/FLEs that have increased business volume in a viable way stands at 135 or 75% of 180 (MTR) and 38% of 360 (end target), on track to targets.

Output 1.2

Improved capacity of FOs to connect their members to market:

- Volume of marketed products (by value chain) by FOs/FLEs members (in tons), respectively standing at 420 000 or 79% of 530 000 (MTR) and 68% of 620 000 (target) very close to targets;
- value of marketed products (all value chains) by FO/FLEs members (in EUR), standing at EUR 43.6M vs. EUR 6.6M (MTR) and EUR 11.3M (target) significantly in excess of targets.

Output 1.3

FOs/FLEs improved access to supplementary financial sources (leverage effect):

- Amount of private sector/other sources investments mobilised through bankable business plans (total amount) stands at EUR 3.6M or 69% of EUR 5.2M (MTR) and 51% of EUR 7.1M (end target) well on track to achieve targets.

[8] Source: FO4ACP annual progress report (reporting period 01 Nov 2020 – 1 Nov 2021). The information included in progress report was a summary of key activities and outcomes collected from the 2021 supervision mission reports and the 2020 annual reports submitted by the recipients.

Outcome 2

FOs influence policies and business environments for the transformation of family farming and the development of sustainable, inclusive economic initiatives and farmer-led enterprises:

- SO2: Number of sector policies and programmes influenced by FOs stands at 90 or 110% vs. 80 (MTR) and 43% of 210 (end target), respectively in excess of and on track to targets.

Output 2.2

FOs contribute to the strengthening of interprofession / consultation platforms:

- No. of value chains coordination platforms and inter-professions involving members FOs (by value chain) stands at 121 or 55% of 220 (MTR) and 29% of 415 (end target), on track to targets.

Output 3.1

FOs strengthened members' representativity in their governance bodies:

- Number of farmers/ members attending statutory meetings (disaggregated by sex and youth) stands at 9.4 or 3x of 3.2 (MTR) and 1.2x of 7.8 (end target), in excess of targets.
- No. of women stands at 5 000 or 5x vs. 900 (MTR) and almost 2x vs. 2 300 (end target) significantly in excess of targets.
- No. of youth stands at 1 900 or 3.7x vs. 500 (MTR) and 1x vs. 1 800 (end target), in excess of targets.
- Number of W / Y in leadership positions stands at 336 or 3.7x vs. 90 (MTR) and 2.2x vs. 150 (end target), in excess of targets.

Output 3.4

Enhanced knowledge management and dissemination among peers for replication and scaling-up:

- No. of good practices, lessons learnt and experiences documented and shared, stands at 86 or 57% of 150 and 26% of 560 (end target), respectively on track and almost on track to targets;
- No. of peer-to-peer visits/exchanges/events (region, global), stands at 57 or only 29% of 200 (MTR) and only 13% of 440 (end target), due to COVID-19 travel restrictions; expected to recover in 2022.

Outcome 4 (Enhanced Visibility of FO4ACP): the actual number of public references quoting the programme/FOs: 706 in 2020, but not all organisations reported on social media references.



Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

The pandemic has led to a re-scheduling of activities and slowed down the overall pace of implementation. The majority of countries in the regions have experienced restrictions resulting in a series of challenges for small-scale farmers, for instance with regard to input supply as well as harvest marketing.

Several consultations took place early 2020 with the objective of agreeing on concerted action among all partners. These consultations resulted in the FO4ACP Continuity Plan which allowed flexibility and re-purposing without changing the programme objectives and general consistency and coherence.

The FO4ACP Continuity plans are fully part of the FO4ACP Programme. They enabled the FOs to adapt their plan of work to the changing circumstances, keeping alignment with the programme's objective. SAFE 2020 is a complementary programme, for which specific resources were mobilized from IFAD to complement the development action of FO4ACP with more emergency oriented specific activities.

Recipients were thereby able to react faster and better with an emergency response from the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. The FOs demonstrated a tremendous capacity of adaptation and innovation to face the crisis, transforming significantly their way of working and entering a mainly digital way of operating.

IFAD initiated consultations involving all programme stakeholders and resulting in the elaboration of the FO4ACP COVID-19 Mitigation Action. The action was the basis of the top-up and has been fully integrated into the ongoing FO4ACP programme framework across the existing five components and relies on the implementation arrangements already established.

In 2021, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic remained vivid and, consequently, the adaptive approach adopted in 2020 continued throughout 2021. The restrictions and the various waves of contagion led to challenging situations and interrupted activities of the smallholders and their organisations. The main deviations observed are related to the rescheduling of activities, namely the postponement of all those that required physical presence such as assemblies, meetings, missions and events.

New unplanned activities were also integrated in the programme, in line with the COVID-19 impact studies and advocacy actions started in 2020. These included the intensification of digitalisation of processes, the distribution of emergency aid kits, and the set-up of new information and monitoring systems to enable better-informed and quicker action.



[13] This has been complemented in 2020 by SAFE 2020, (IFAD funding, USD 1.5M) to finance specifically emergency and recovery activities, which are outside the scope of FO4ACP, jointly developed by PAFO, and the agri-agencies, members of Agricord.

FO4ACP Continuity Plan

Priorities

- To avoid any risks that can emerge from the programme activities.
- To use programme resources effectively and efficiently

Key Elements

PLANNING – RESTRUCTURING

- **Slowing down** the implementation of activities (in particular all activities involving physical meetings and travel)
- More **flexibility** for the re-planning of activities: encourage the purchase of basic protective equipment and medical devices for FOs staff and awareness raising campaigns among all farmers organisations involved
- The activities need to be **technically upgraded** to provide a response to the new challenges and the post-COVID-19 scenario
- **Information and policy engagement:** consultations and studies on the COVID-19 impact in the three ACP regions on the agricultural sectors, family farmers and selected food value chains will be included in the plan of work

- IFAD organising **remote supervision missions**

TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE

- Organisation of **virtual meetings and webinars**
- Support to improve **connectivity** and basic **telework** devices
- **Virtual events** in collaboration with programme partners

MONITORING AND REPORTING

- In order to accelerate learning from experience, there is need **to monitor, report and track activities.**

Principles

- Mutual support among FO4ACP partners in terms of knowledge exchange
- Coordination between different initiatives will be necessary to avoid duplication and seek complementarities and synergies

2.1.5 ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme Phase II (Development Minerals)

Context

The Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining sector encompasses individual miners working informally to glean a subsistence livelihood as well as small-scale formal commercial mining entities. Nearly two-thirds of the 79 ACP States are either mining countries or have mining potential which could contribute to inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development.

Key factors

The ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme (phase II) is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and has a budget of EUR 11.1M. The Intra-ACP 11th EDF financing EU contribution amount to EUR 10M. The UNDP contribution is EUR 1.1M. The programme has an overall duration of 48 months: November 2019 to November 2023. The Programme is designed to be implemented largely at country level (Cameroun, Guinea, Uganda, Zambia, Fiji and Jamaica), with a limited number of activities at the regional level. A call for Expressions of Interest has been launched for the selection of additional Programme countries and four additional countries have been pre-selected (Surinam, Tanzania, DRC and Burkina Faso). The formal approval from the Steering committee is under way.

In the context of the request for a no-cost extension, a revised logframe has been prepared by UNDP with some minor changes in the description of indicators and an adjustment of some targets that have been scaled down.

Description of the programme

This second phase of the **ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme** helps Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Enterprises (ASMEs) engaged in Development Minerals value chains to improve livelihoods, generate higher employment and incomes. In particular, the programme aims to increase economic opportunities for women participating in ASMEs throughout the Development Minerals value chains. Examples of Development Minerals value chains range from those linked to the construction sector (e.g. sand, clay, dimension stone, gravel for road building) to industry (limestones, glass), or consumer goods (jewels, ceramics, semi-precious stones, ornamental objects etc).

The Programme seeks to achieve its objectives by:

- 1)improving the business environment and formalising the operations of ASMEs;
 - 2)enhancing the entrepreneurial skills among ASMEs and their access to finance, technologies andmarkets;
 - 3)strengthening social and environmental safeguards in mining and quarrying;
 - 4)enhancing gender inclusion and support to women miners; and
- facilitating inter-ACP knowledge exchange on development minerals

Significant results achieved

Programme results are achieved through a combination of small grants, provision of equipment (including anti- COVID-19 protective gear), training, studies and knowledge management activities and products. For the period under review [9], achievements with respect to the above objectives can be summarised hereunder:

OUTPUT 1: Improved Business Environment:

- 2 countries out of a target of 8 benefitted from assistance to improve mining-related legislation.
- 4 countries were provided with geo-data maps or inventories and related training in geo-data collection and digitalisation (including 36 young geologists trained just in Guinea).
- As regards formalisation of operations, 8 cooperatives regrouping some 80 ASMEs were formed and 4 of them got mining licenses in Zambia, while 295 miners got their mining cards in Cameroon.



OUTPUT 2: Enhanced Entrepreneurial Skills and Increased Access of ASMEs to Finance, Technology, Markets

- Over 1 200 operators in ASM received training aimed at improving their productivity, raising their incomes, increasing jobs and gaining access to markets and financing.
- 222 ASMEs/Cooperatives were trained in entrepreneurial management and related technical skills.
- 104 ASMEs/Coops supported by programme secured access to grants, credit or other financial products, against an initial target of 60.

OUTPUT 3: Strengthened Social and Environmental Safeguards

- 73 ASMEs received training in mine and quarry management including on environmental management, occupational health & safety and gender inclusion.
- Training programmes relevant to development minerals started in two universities, while the target is to enlist 42 training entities by end of programme.

OUTPUT 4: Enhancing gender inclusion and support to women miners

- 145 women-led ASMEs or cooperatives have received support to enhance their technical and managerial skills.
- Staff members of regulatory agencies, local government institutions, financial institutions and other value chain actors will also be trained in gender equality and women empowerment with specific reference to the circumstances of the development minerals sector in the next periods.



OUTPUT 5: Knowledge Sharing

- 1 469 stakeholders took part in an array of knowledge sharing activities related to the sector including through South-South exchanges, partly informed by 8 research studies commissioned by the programme.
- 16 knowledge products, such as assessments and reports, strategy documents, guidelines and toolkits and training materials were produced.
- Six regional WhatsApp Groups have been established with more than 500 participants representing artisanal and small-scale miners and ASM associations.
- Six virtual Zoom Forums have been held with 345 participants from 27 countries (53% Female).

OUTPUT 6: Institutional strengthening of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC)

- Staffing: The Programme initiated the recruitment of five staff who will temporarily be based in Addis-Ababa before moving to Guinea. The activities of the Centre will start in May 2022.
- The support to the AUC (African Union Commission) for AMDC through the Programme was concretised through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between UNDP and AUC in May 2021. The LOA envisages provision of programmatic and operational support to strengthen the institutional capacity of AMDC.
- Contribution to the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), integrating minerals in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) strategy: The programme is supporting the revision of the Action Plan of the AMV.
- The Second African Forum on Mining is under preparation

Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Overall, the implementation of the Programme has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in targets not being achieved. The Programme had submitted a request for no cost-extension until November 2023 to address the slow-down in implementation and to ensure accelerated delivery in the remaining period. Under its “COVID-19 business continuity window”, the programme has provided small grants aggregating to USD 474 000 to some 6 000 direct beneficiaries and an estimated 14 900 indirect beneficiaries [10]. These grants have been extended while international supply chain breakdowns due to the pandemic have especially affected the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Pacific and the Caribbean, resulting in shortages of construction materials, hiking up their cost. Substitution of imports by local products have also benefitted the sector across regions.

[10] Source: ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme Brief, December 2021

2.1.6 Investment Climate Reform Facility (ICR Facility): Technical Assistance Facility for Improving the Business Environment and Wider Investment Climate through a Structured Dialogue

Context

The ICR Facility (www.icr-facility.eu) focuses on supporting ACP partner countries, i.e. private and public stakeholders and regional institutions, to improve their investment climate and business environment by facilitating public private dialogue, among other actions.

In a post pandemic context, the ICR Facility adjusted its offers. It provides technical assistance on cushioning the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis via remote support and via online webinars. There has also been an increased focus on women entrepreneurs as women are particularly affected by the crisis. This is due either to affected sectors of work, or to the fact that women take on additional care responsibilities or have more vulnerable position both in the labour market and as business women. Complementing the European Fund for Sustainable Development plus (EFSD+) financial instruments, the European Union continues to support countries in the efforts to promote a conducive business environment and investment climate that allows the private sector to thrive. The ICR Facility is part of this effort.

Key factors

The programme benefits from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) contribution of EUR 1.5M implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), British Council (BC) contribution of EUR 125 000 implemented by the British Council.

Apart from the BMZ and BC contributions, the Intra-ACP 11th EDF financing EU contribution amount to EUR 10M of which (initial budget 2019-2022):

- EUR 6 1M managed by GIZ,
- EUR 1 7M by BC, and
- EUR 2 1M by Expertise France (EF).

The total budget amounts to up to EUR 11 62M.

Final Budget 2019-2025 (including extension):

- EUR 20M by EC-ACP Contribution.
- EUR 250k by BC, and
- EUR 2 5M by BMZ

The total budget amounts to up to EUR 22 75M

The programme has an overall duration of 3 years (2019-2022), hence at final implementation stage. It is being extended through a top-up of EUR 10M, up until 2025. This will focus on “Promoting Women’s Organisations into Public-Private Dialogue to foster women’s economic empowerment in ACP countries”.

The implementation of the Action is entrusted by the EU via indirect management to GIZ GmbH, BC and EF. Netherlands Development Organisation

Description of the programme

The specific objective of the programme is to support ACP countries and regional institutions in their private sector structured dialogue process to create a more conducive business environment and investment climate.

The final beneficiaries are ACP policy makers at regional and national level, ACP private sector intermediaries, ACP national and regional development financial institutions (DFIs).

The Action is implemented through three output areas:

-Output Area 1: Business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives resulting from the formal and informal public private dialogue process are supported, with special focus on strategic ACP value chains.

-Output Area 2: ACP regional and national development financial institutions are strengthened in their capacities to participate in the identification, preparation and implementation of investment pipelines through traditional as well as blended finance instruments.

-Output Area 3: Effective and innovative instruments, lessons learned, and best practices are compiled, mainstreamed and shared with national and regional ACP partners.

While Output Area 1 and 3 are under the joint implementation of GIZ, BC, EF and SNV, Output Area 2 is implemented by GIZ and EF.



Significant results achieved as of June 30, 2022 [II]

The programme overall is on track in delivering results as per set objectives (see: Logframe [12]).

The report below provides a summary of progress towards planned objectives and outputs. It is worth outlining the following key results that attained or exceeded set targets:

- Indicator 1.2: Number of participants in local, regional and in-country seminars, workshops and training in the field of business environment and investment climate: 2.078 Participants (out of which 608 women) out of 800 target (target met in excess of 196).
- Indicator 2.2: Number of procedures, best practices, manuals and/or training materials shared: 15 Procedures/Manuals out of 15 target (target already met).
- Indicator 2.3: Number of national and (sub-)regional development financial institutions benefitting from capacity building: 54 DFIs for Capacity B. out of 25 target (target met in excess of 29).
- Indicator 3.1: Number of knowledge products on innovative instruments and lessons learned published by the ICR Facility: 138 Knowledge products against 63 planned (target met in excess more than twice).

The programme management unit (PMU) is now addressing the following results areas, and plan to achieve them by the completion date:

- Indicator 2 (specific objective): Number of structured dialogues supported and strengthened: 9 Dialogue out of 10 targeted, to be performed in next 12 months.
- Indicator 1.1: Number of public and private sector engagement processes / structured dialogues supported and strengthened: 24 Public Private Sector Dialogue out of 30 targeted,
- Indicator 2.1: Number of workshops implemented for ACP development financial institutions: 26 workshops out of 30 targeted.
- Indicator 3.2: Number of stakeholders who access better information in the form of knowledge and communication products on adapted sustainable economic development approaches: 7 878 (94%) participants (access of info) out of 8 360 targeted.

Finally, the following topics are mainstreamed throughout the programme and particular emphasis is placed on supporting interventions focused on these topics:

- a) Rights-based approach and governance
- b) Environment: to ensure sustainable and long-term growth.
- c) Gender and youth: the ICR Facility actively worked with requesting entities to identify opportunities for gender sensitive or even transformative Business Environment Reform (interventions in Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia and Benin). Examples of support include advisory to the Government of Ghana on their Green Jobs strategy and support to an Industrial Park in Mozambique in becoming an Eco-Industrial Park.
- d) Inclusive growth with interventions in Jamaica, Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana particularly focused on strengthening the social economy through policy reform and better representation.
- e) Digitalisation.
- f) Fragility: The ICR Facility pays specific attention to fragile situations. An ICR report on how to conduct Business Environment Reforms (BER) in situations of fragility and conflict was published in 2021, along with a related webinar.

[11] Source: ICR 2nd annual progress report (reporting period 01 September 2020 – 31 August 2021) and SCM on 30 June 2022

[12] The Logical Framework has been updated with regards to baseline and target values as well as sources and means of verification as compared to the version presented in the Inception Report.

TYPE OF BENEFICIARIES OF ICR INTERVENTIONS			
10	10	11	1
Government Agency	Regional Organisation	Business Membership Organization	Other

HOW WE WORK WITH OUR DFI PARTNERS					
					
BRD	DBZ	DBS	CDB	EBID/BIDC	BDEAC
Rwanda	Zambia	Samoa	Caribbean	ECOWAS Region	Central Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring & Evaluation • Green Climate Fund accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment products and approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative SME finance • Climate finance • Credit risk management • Customer relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study on structuring an investment fund • Feasibility study for a new Supply Chain and Trade Finance Facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management trainings • Procurement • HR and skill development • Project evaluation • Trade Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Finance

Source: ICR Annual Report, September 2020 – August 2021

Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

The PMU reported the following challenges encountered in the implementation of the programme:

- Impact of COVID-19 on implementation: most of interventions delivered remotely or through hybrid models with local consultants. Depending on the local situation implementation had to be postponed in some cases.
- Specification of personnel and expert input: due to demand-driven interventions, changes to the (internal and external) staff involved in delivering the Facility was necessary
- Geographic distribution: it was originally envisaged to limit the number of interventions per country rather strictly to enable a wide geographical distribution of support. A more flexible approach is being applied for the next 12 months.
- To reflect the increased number of DFIs supported through tailor-made capacity building (six instead of four as foreseen in the Description of Action) and to extend the support provided to each of the six DFIs, to each of the six DFIs, the PMU suggested to reallocate some funding from OA1 to OA2. the PMU suggested to reallocate some funding from OA1 to OA2.
- The concept for OA3 was adjusted to match the demand for knowledge products better. More emphasis will be given to interactive formats enabling peer-learning and networking between ACP partners.
- In addition, the second knowledge agenda has provided enhanced focus on the subject of Women's Economic Empowerment.

2.2 Programmes in Support of Increased Access to Finance

2.2.1 Boost Africa

Context

Boost Africa focuses on covering the whole venture segment, from seed funds, accelerators' follow-on funds, business' angel funds to VC growth funds. The final beneficiaries are start-ups (defined as nascent companies designed to scale very quickly) and high-growth innovative MSMEs that use novel tech and/or business processes in a disruptive way, and thereby have a fast growth and job creation potential. By targeting these final beneficiaries, Boost Africa is complementary to and avoid overlapping with other 11th EDF Intra-ACP and EU/AfDB (African Development Bank) private sector initiatives and programmes. Within high growth sectors, Boost Africa prioritises investments into businesses seeking to adapt (through transfer) or develop technologies promoting an inclusive green economy, with preference for green job creation. Boost Africa targets innovative investments in any sector, with special focus on those that have a high potential for economic impact.

Key factors

Apart from the Implementing Partners contributions (budget of EUR 120M), the Intra-ACP 11th EDF financing EU contribution amount to EUR 60M. The allocation to components and DFIs is as follows:

- AfDB risk capital EUR 20M (Boost Africa Investment Platform)
- EIB (European Investment Bank) risk capital EUR 30M (Boost Africa Investment Platform)
- ELab (TA) EUR 4M (Entrepreneurship Laboratory)
- Communication & Audit EUR 700 000 (AfDB)
- TA pool (& fees) linked to EIB tranche EUR 5.3M.

The programme has an overall duration of 17 years, thereof a period of 2019-2028 for the risk capital component and as needed for the Technical Assistance.

AfDB and EIB are implementing partners, whereas all African countries constitutes the geographical coverage, on a demand-driven basis.

The programme is at implementation stage.

Description of the programme

Boost Africa is a joint initiative between the EIB and the AfDB to enable and enhance entrepreneurship and innovation across Africa in a commercially viable way through a blending mechanism with the European Union under the Africa Investment Facility (AfIF). The priority objective of the initiative is to tackle the root causes of migration in targeted countries, in line with EU strategy.

Four components:

- i. The Boost Africa Investment Platform (BAIP);
- ii. The AfDB Boost Africa Investment Envelope;
- iii. The Entrepreneurship Lab (ELab);
- iv. The Technical Assistance pool (TA Pool or TAP).

Boost Africa has the following main objectives:

- Tangible private sector development (PSD) and sustainable development outcomes & results:
 - Help create and grow 1 500 innovative businesses
 - Business advisory services and transfer of skills for early stage young entrepreneurs to help them grow
 - Create 25 000 direct jobs and 70 000 indirect jobs,
 - Improve environmental, social and governance practices in African SMEs.
- Financial institutions (FI) and PSD intermediary capacity development outcomes:
 - Innovative, additional and long-term financial capacities in Africa
 - Strengthen local fund managers targeting early-stage SMEs and young entrepreneurs
 - Capacity of enterprise support organisations (such as incubators and accelerators)
 - Improvement of knowledge, information and networks regarding entrepreneurship and SME development in Africa.



Significant results achieved

Risk capital

EIB Senior and Junior Tranche^[13]

The senior tranche is almost fully deployed. Within the senior tranche, a total of 4 signed investments can be reported for a total of EUR 48M, with another signing expected by Q4/2021 of EUR 11.9M (USD 12.5M equivalent).

Approved operations within the pipeline amount to a total of EUR 29.5M. This means that the full amount of the senior tranche is already committed and no new investments can be considered.

Within the signed investments benefitting from the senior tranche, but not from the junior one, EIB highlighted the Partech Africa Venture Capital Fund. It is the first sizeable VC fund in Africa and is expected to create up to 3 000 jobs; as well as the AfricInvest Venture Capital Fund. The investments under the Boost Africa programme had a catalytic effect on crowding in further capital, helping the fund reach the minimum viable fund size of EUR 38M (USD 40M equivalent) in 2019, from both DFIs/IFIs and high net worth individuals.

The junior tranche is deployed at roughly two thirds. In the junior tranche, one investment of EUR 10M has been signed, with another signing of EUR 10M expected by Q4/2021. This leaves about EUR 10M headroom.

AfDB Senior and Junior Tranche

In general, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a revised focus, towards assisting African Governments to cope with the negative effects of the pandemic. This has resulted in a reduced headroom for AfDB's private sector operations, including for its equity funds' headroom.

As of Q1/2022, AfDB has signed a total of three (3) investments (Janngo, Cathay AfricInvest, and Partech Africa) totaling to EUR 27.3M. The senior tranche totaled EUR21M and the junior tranche was EUR 6.3M. A further up to three operations of EUR 31.5M may be approved between Q4/2022 to Q1/2023

Regarding signed investments, the performance of TLCom Tide Africa and the Partech Africa Venture Capital Fund is to be noted. The Partech Fund already reported first successful exits and success stories, including e.g. the "unicorn" start-up Wave, which is valued above EUR 1BN. Wave offers a digital payment service for remittances and serves to decrease costs for financial transfers across the African continent.

[13] Junior tranche is equity stake into the Fund that ranks at the bottom of the priority ladder when it comes to dividend payments, liquidation and bankruptcy repayment. Conversely, senior tranches are paid before junior tranches as on dividends and in the event of bankruptcy or liquidation.

Technical Assistance Pool by EIB

EIB is implementing a TA pool of EUR 5.6M, within the programme aiming to support both fund managers and investee companies. Implementation has commenced and an inception report including a needs assessment has been delivered in 2021. Main findings include: i) funds benefitting from Boost Africa senior tranche are operated by more experienced fund managers, ii) funds in the pipeline have fund managers with more limited track record. This implies a need for stronger TA support. Identified intervention areas for capacity building focus on regulatory compliance, risk management and investment skills. Many fund managers and investee companies are private sector players who previously had little experience in working with DFI/IFIs – building trust and relationships takes time.

With the growing brand name recognition of the programme, EIB was approached by UNICEF to explore a potential cooperation. Opportunities may include joint efforts in the education tech space, the health sector, digital public goods and the UNICEF entrepreneurship lab.

ELab

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Lab (eLab) aims to facilitate access to finance for innovative enterprises or start-ups that are not yet bankable, building on support from experienced business mentors both on the African continent and in the diaspora.

ELab made good progress and did mobilise around EUR 8M through i) the Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) which approved a grant of USD 982 000 in June 2018 for the setup of the Lab. ii) The team was able to raise additional EUR 2.85M from Switzerland and iii) the EC contribution; to build stronger entrepreneurship ecosystems and reach more African Enterprise Support Organisations (ESOs) by 2024. The lab managed to mobilise 4 000 mentors during the pandemic, created a curriculum together with the Frankfurt School of Finance and supports specific ventures through incubation, grant funding and business development coaching. Besides the EU contribution, the ELab is also supported by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of the Government of the Swiss Confederation (SECO) and its impacts are monitored across the Boost Africa key performance indicators (KPI).

ELab launched its activities in 6 countries (3 out of 6 in West Africa): Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa & Egypt. Technical support extended to more than 567 ESOs through the development of toolkits for incubators, accelerators and fund managers with several partners. 4 toolkits were developed to support and capacitate ESOs. Training benefited 3 267 start-up owners from 32 countries. ELab launched with success, amidst COVID-19 pandemic, the #AfricaVsVirus Challenge. Inspired by the concept of the "hackathon", the AfDB developed the "#AfricaVsVirus Challenge" concept to help young people generate innovative solutions to problems they face in their communities due to COVID-19. The #AfricaVsVirus Challenge has attracted +25 000 registrants (ESOs and entrepreneurs), identified +3 000 challenges and which has brought in over 120 partners and +4 000 mentors and Moderators across 128 countries (including African Diaspora). 750 Solutions were identified as a way to address the pandemic. During the Phase2 of AfricavsVirus, the ELab did develop an online and already live platform, named ENNOVA (Entrepreneur ship and Innovation).

Apart from ELab, the geographic distribution of Boost Africa programme is mostly linked to the VC Funds investment portfolios. Those are still at inception phase, given the initial stage of fund raising. Both Implementing Partners focus on geographic diversification, including fragile states. Many of the targeted geographies are already within the fragile economies' definition by the OECD, including e.g. Côte d'Ivoire.

Forecast Pipeline 2022

EIB Senior and Junior Tranche

The pipeline contains proposals including the Gemini Fund that will focus on fragile and post-conflict economies; as well as the Atlantica Fund, which aims at the Fintech sector. The commitment of the Boost Africa junior tranche is key to de-risk investments. Given the termination of the ACP Investment Facility, EIB can only invest EUR 10M as junior tranche in Gemini. Therefore, uncertainty about the fundraising capacity for the Fund's first closure might be higher.

AfDB Senior and Junior Tranche

The short term pipeline consists of operations including Seedstars (EUR 7M senior tranche, possibly EUR 3.5M EU tranche), Tide TCom II (EUR 7M senior tranche, possibly EUR 3M EU tranche) and Atlantica Ventures (EUR 7M senior tranche, possibly EUR 3.5M EU tranche), that aim at investing in tech enabling startups (mainly at pre-seed/seed+ stages) that are partly or fully women owned/led, fragile and / or post-conflict states. All the pipeline Funds boasts of Founders that have extensive investment experience, nurturing and managing startup, extensive business relationships, broad venture capital related networks and rich African market intelligence and industry/market knowledge.

Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

Both EIB and AfDB encountered issues in reporting on the logical framework matrix (logframe) of the contribution agreement. Future progress reports shall clearly report progresses versus logframe's indicators and results. This can be done by including updated version of the logframe in each progress report. EIB and AfDB agreed with steering committee meeting (SCM) members held in October 2021 to improve the level of reporting in the next 2022 progress report. The reports submitted by both EIB and AfDB are expected also to contain information on the impacts on gender and youth.

Both DFIs initially approached investments with prudence, also due to the pandemic. It is expected that they will overcome initial difficulties and move forward, increasing their risk appetite. This applies to investments in high-risk environments like fragile states (e.g. Sierra Leone and Liberia) and post conflict zones. The banks will include information on operations in such fragile countries in the next progress report.



COMMITMENTS/PIPELINE BY EIB & AfDB - BOOST AFRICA (as of Oct 2021)

	EIB	EIB Details			AfDB	AfDB Details
Senior Tranche				Senior Tranche		
Total N.4 Investments Signed	EUR 48.7M	Patech AVC EUR 10M out of total EUR 124.3M/TL Com Tide Africa USD 10M out of total USD 70.6M/ Africinvest VC EUR 15M out of EUR 22M / Janngo Capital EUR 15M out of EUR 30M		Total No.3 investments Signed	EUR 21M	Total EUR 21 million was committed to financial intermediaries: Partech EUR 7M out of total EUR125M, Janngo EUR 7M out of total EUR60M, Cathay-AfricInvest EUR 7M out of total EUR 110M
Total N.3 Approved not yet signed	EUR 29.5M			Total No.3 investments under processing not yet signed	EUR 21.5M	
				No. 2 Investments expected for approval	EUR 14.5M	Q4 2022
Sub-Total	EUR 78.2M			Sub-Total	EUR 42.5M	
EC-OACPS Junior Tranche:				EC-OACPS Junior Tranche:		
N.1 investment signed	EUR 10M			No. 2 Non-Objection granted	EUR 6.3M	
				No. 1 Investments expected	EUR 3.5M	Q1-2023
				No. 2 non-objection expected	EUR 6.5M	Q4 2022
				No. 2 non-objection others	EUR 4M	Q4 2023
Sub-Total	EUR 10M			Sub-Total	EUR 20M	
Grand Total	EUR 88.2M			Grand Total	EUR 62.5M	

Pipeline:				Pipeline:		
Atlantica Fund	USD 12.5M	Senior Tranche out of total USD 50M target closing		Constant Ventures	EUR 8M	Senior Tranche approval by 2023 out of total EUR 100M
Atlantica Fund	EUR 10M	EC-OACPS Junior Tranche		Constant Ventures	EUR 2M	EC-OACPS Junior tranche
Gemini Cap	EUR 10M	Senior Tranche out of total EUR 30M target closing		Lateral Frontiers	EUR 8M	Senior Tranche approval by 2023 out of total EUR 100M
Africa Technology Ventures (approved but abandoned)	USD 10M	Out of USD 30M		Constant Ventures	EUR 2M	EC-OACPS Junior tranche
Sub-Total	EUR 39.3M			Sub-Total	EUR 20M	

2.2.2 EURIZ Guarantee and TA Facility ^[14]

Context

EURIZ's MSMEs segment focus is particularly relevant since it targets green, agricultural, women-owned, MSMEs owned by youth, start-ups and MSMEs operating in the health sector. These are significantly financially under-served in ACP countries. The final beneficiaries, through the Local Financial Institutions, are guaranteed and technically assisted by the blended finance programme. In addition, there are also some ACP countries, such as fragile states, where EURIZ is the suitable instrument to address the very high risk profile of their MSMEs.

Key factors

Total initial budget of the Programme amounted to: EUR 829.8M, of which:

- Intra-ACP/EDF: € 25.8M (TA EUR 6.8M + Guarantee EUR 19 million)
- Lead EFI (European financial institution): EUR 150M (AFD)
- Other EFI (European financial institution): EUR 31M (SIDA)
- Other contributions: EUR 623M (private; Guarantee: 100 M, Loans: 418M; Equity: 103M).

The programme has an overall duration of 12 years, thereof a period of 2019 – 2030 for the guarantee component (including both implementation and repayment) and of 2019-2022 for the Technical Assistance. The French Development Agency Group (AFD and PROPARCO) and SIDA ("Swedish development agency") are implementing partners, whereas all African, Caribbean and Pacific countries constitutes the geographical coverage. The programme is at implementation stage.

Description of the programme

EURIZ is a risk-sharing facility consisting of a two-fold approach: i) MSMEs in fragile states where there is a lack of financing for all sectors and no guarantee; ii) financially under-served MSMEs in both fragile and non-fragile countries.

The Action has two different components:

- Component 1: Guarantee scheme (EUR 19M);
- Component 2: TA (EUR 6.8M).

EURIZ has the following main objectives:

- Access to finance and job creation: incentives to financial institutions to improve access to credit for financially under-served MSMEs. Promotion of job creation, growth and improvement of access to financial services. Some specific operations will address cross-sector objectives, notably across health, education, agriculture, green projects or social business sectors.
- Strengthening the collaboration between development agencies and the demonstration effect: EURIZ will be based upon, and promote, a strengthened collaboration between AFD and SIDA. Catalytic effect: EURIZ will play a catalytic role, in incentivising and mobilising significant amounts from financial institutions.

[14] Reporting period: 01.01-2021 / 31.12.2021. Progress Report received on 15.02.2022 and source of data and information.

Significant results achieved

Financial Guarantees

Both Guarantees granted by AFD Group (AFD GR) and Guarantee agreements signed by AFD GR / Beneficiaries increased respectively by EUR 50M and EUR 57M (cumulative EUR 92M and EUR 90M) with upward trend toward the expected results, explained by 2020 COVID-19 slowdown of activities (see below comparison with reported previously available data as of 2019YE).

Leveraged maximum financing (by Partner Financial Institutions) amounts were respectively EUR 72M and EUR 84M (cumulative EUR 135M and EUR 133M).

AFD GR states that: “around EUR 181M of EURIZ sub-participations are to be issued to Partner Financial Institutions (PFIs) and/or to Local Guarantee Funds (LGFs) over the years 2019 to 2024 in the ACP regions”. However, the estimation does not match the log-frame (see table below), which reports “New financing made available to financial intermediaries” amounting to EUR 418M. Taking into account the cumulative amount EUR 135M and adding EUR 181M, there seems to a gap of EUR 102M. AFD GR will review the figures, following the SCM held on 21 March, 2022 and update them in the next progress report (see also paragraph 5).

Technical Assistance

TA component progresses at slower pace due to still early stage of PFIs guarantee contract signed. Out of EU contribution of EUR 6.8M, there have been EUR 800 000 signed and EUR 2M under Due Diligence. AFD GR plans to regain traction in 2022 and deliver at least one third of total TA budget.

Overall Portfolio Achievements 2021YE vs. 2019YE^[15]

EURIZ 9 portfolio guarantees and 3 individual guarantees newly granted in 2021, representing EUR 57.4M; back on track after 2020 slow-down due to pandemic. The guarantee signed amounted to EUR 57M (vs. EUR 20M in 2019), with two guarantees implemented in fragile states (Mali, Guinea), among them, the most relevant:

- 6 portfolio guarantees totalling EUR 48.7M and 2 individual guarantees totalling EUR 1.3M were approved for a total of EUR 50M granted (vs. EUR 14M in 2020).
- The largest projects (total EUR 66M) are major banking groups (tier 1 banks) in Tanzania (CRDB EUR 18.5M), Kenya (Equity B. EUR 19.5M), Nigeria (Access B. /UBA /FCMB).
- EUR 14M out of EUR 57.4M (or 25%) are Société Générale subsidiaries (Guinea, Senegal, Cameroun, Mozambique, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo B.).

To date, the total amount of guarantees signed or granted to be signed is EUR 91.7M. These guarantees cover a total of EUR 134.9M new financing made available to MSMEs (see above results by component). Since 2019 cumulatively EURIZ allowed the financing of 526 MSMEs (vs. Expected result in logframe of 6 281), for a total amount of EUR 21.4M (average loan granted to MSMEs of EUR 41 000 – EUR 982 000 for individual guarantees and EUR 26 000 for portfolio guarantees).

^[15] The 2019YE are the last available figures and information, since EURIZ 2020 Progress Report has not been delivered due to COVID-19.

Overall Geographic and Sectors Breakdown of Results

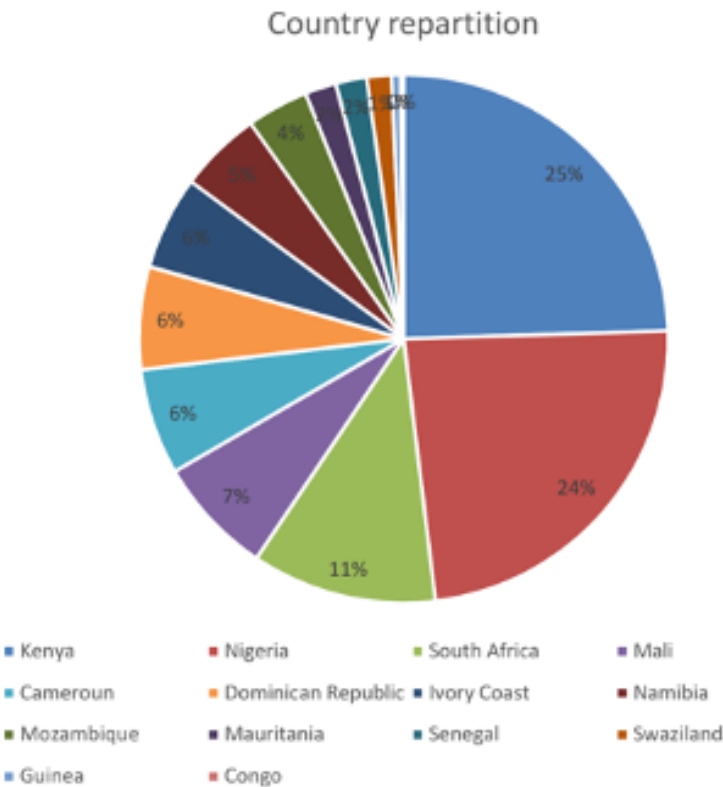
The key sector of focus has been agri-industry with 28% of the loan amounts and 23.6% of the MSMEs. MSMEs women-owned or led (51% of shareholding or 20% of shareholding and general manager are women) totalled 159 MSMEs, 30.2% of the final beneficiaries (and 13.4% of the loan amounts).

Health MSMEs are important in terms of loan amounts (the majority of individual guarantees signed are in the health sector) and being 9 MSMEs (1.7%) they represent 22.8% of the loans.

There were 16 social/inclusive businesses or 7.4% of portfolio, and 19 education MSMEs or 8% of the portfolio. In addition, portfolio included 6 green MSMEs, 6 youth MSMEs, 30 start-ups and 1 digital MSME.

Services sector (e.g. intellectual property, technology etc.) is not covered as yet, despite this being a priority for OACPS, specially for its island members.

Figure A - Geographic Breakdown of Guarantees Signed/Approved



Source: EURIZ Guarantee and TA Facility, Progress Report Number 3, 01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021, AFD & PROPARCO

There is high regional concentration by guarantee amount in West-Africa[16] (40% of total) and EastAfrica (37% of total), thereof fragile countries are 7%, i.e. Mali and Guinea (total EUR 7.5M). In the Caribbean region, Banfondesa signed portfolio guarantee for a total of EUR 5M.

Additional log-frame indicators results achieved

The output data provided by PFIs are not aligned with the Progress Reporting date, therefore in the new cycle AFD GR will provide a more updated version of them.

Actual indicators vs. log-frame expected results are recovering from very slow pace in 2020 and show achievement ratio between 30% and 2% in 2021, among them, the most significant for monitoring of financing impact (see Log-frame and table A for full details):

- New financing made available to financial intermediaries: EUR 133M in last 3 years (vs. expected result EUR 418M) and EUR 285M to be achieved in next 3 years – i.e. EUR 95M average per year. The average new financing to be made available all along the 6 years (2018-2024) has been EUR 44M, i.e. 64% of the average p.a. (i.e. EUR 70M p.a. to be kept year over year).
- Access to finance indicator: Amount of Outstanding Loans and other sources of financing to relevant target group: EUR 166M in last 3 years (vs. expected result EUR 523M) and EUR 357M to be achieved in next 3 years – i.e. EUR 119M average per year. This is an achieved percentage of 63% in terms of Actual Annualised Amount vs. Annualised Expected Result, having delivered EUR 55M p.a. vs. EUR 87M
- Leverage: at 14x vs. expected result of 24x, expected to be revised upward by AFD GR in the next Progress Report.
- Number of jobs created or sustained: 1 420 vs. 25 125 expected result (11% achieved toward the annual expected result, i.e. 4 188)
- MSMEs served in the fragile states: actual cumulative 4 vs. expected 1 201
- Number of high impact MSMEs served: actual cumulative 355 vs. expected 5 080



[16] WA: Western Africa; EA: Eastern Africa; CA: Central Africa.

Table A – Log-frame and Achievement Analysis

Indicators	Units	2021	Actual Cumulative (2018-21)	Expected Results 2018-2024	% of Actual Annualised Achieved vs. Annualised Exp. Result *	%Achieved vs. Expected Result **
New financing made available to financial intermediaries	MEUR equivalent	84.1	132.9	418	64% (70)	0,32
Access to finance: number of units served among relevant target group : number of MSMEs served	#	162	355	6 281	11% (1 047)	0,06
Access to finance: Amount of Outstanding Loans and other sources of financing to relevant target group	MEUR equivalent	105.1	166.1	523	63% (87)	0,32
Number of jobs created or sustained (resulting from the project)	#	648	1 420	25 125	11% (4 188)	0,06
MSMEs served in the fragile states	#	4	4	1 201	0,01	0,01
Number of high impact MSMEs served	#	162	355	5 080	0,14	0,07
Total number of beneficiaries	#	648	1 420	25 125	0,11	0,06
Leverage effect	ratio	14	14	24	0,58	0,58

* It measures the % of the achieved actual annualised (calculated on the cumulative amount to date i.e. divided by 3 years 2019-20-21) vs. the annualised expected result (i.e. divided by 6 years, in the brackets).

** It measures the %gap of the actual cumulative indicator vs. expected result.

Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

AFD GR has encountered difficulties in collecting timely and comprehensive data for the programme log-frame from the PFIs. The output data provided by PFIs are not aligned with the Progress Reporting date, therefore in the new cycle AFD GR will provide a more updated version of them in the Progress report.

Annex I Main achievements and results

Project monitoring indicators	2019 (last available data)			2021			Cumulative (2019 to 2021)		
	Prospection, guarantee projects								
Specifics indicators		Portfolio and individual guarantees amount M€	Maximum new financing amount guaranteed M€	#	Portfolio and individual guarantees amount M€	Maximum new financing amount guaranteed M€	#	Portfolio and individual guarantees amount M€	Maximum new financing amount guaranteed M€
Guarantees granted by AFD GR	11	49	74	8	50.0	71.5	26	91.7	134.9
Guarantee agreements signed by AFD GR and Beneficiaries	5	20	31	12	57.4	84.1	22	90.4	132.9
	TA projects								
	#	Indicative amount of the TA project M€		#	Indicative amount of the TA project M€		#	Indicative amount of the TA project M€	
Number of diligences carried out for TA projects (went through the first stage of appraisal internally)	1	0.850		4	1.0		6	1.98	
Number of TA agreements signed with PFIs and/or LGFs	0	0		1	0.55		2	0.8	
	Communication								
Number of press outcomes	3			6			11		
Number presentation at events	3			1			5		

2.2.3 Agribusiness Capital Fund (ABC Fund)

Context

The ABC Fund seeks to address the financing gap facing smallholder farmers and Agri-SMEs which is estimated at USD 170BN as of 2020. It aims at helping SMEs strengthen their capacity, improve their productivity, secure their access to markets and sustain their incomes and livelihoods. By supporting smallholder farmers, the Fund aims to contribute to food security, help sustain and create rural jobs especially for women and young people, and drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the countries where it operates. Empowering women and youth within rural communities is essential to fighting hunger and poverty and to achieving sustainability in agriculture.

Key factors

Out of total budget EUR 237M, the Intra-ACP 11th EDF financing EU contribution amount to EUR 45.75M [Financial instrument: EUR 40M (20M disbursed); TA: EUR 3.65M]. The other contributions are from Implementing Partners IFAD (direct costs and technical assistance) EUR 4.72M and AGRA EUR 4.8M as well as other donors and investors: Luxembourg Govt. EUR 5.0M, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation EUR 8.7M (through IFAD), other prospective investors EUR 168M.

The Fund is an evergreen (1st phase, starting date 2019), however taking into account the programme duration linked to the TA will last 5 years (2019-2024).

Bamboo Capital and Injaro are respectively the Fund Manager and the financial advisor. Technical Assistance is provided by Agriterro in partnership with Advance Consulting, AgriCord and Rabobank.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, as well as Latin America countries constitute the geographical coverage.

The Fund is at investment stage.



Description of the programme

ABC Fund, a blended capital impact investment vehicle, lends to beneficiaries in: i) sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and agribusiness; ii) underserved segments of the agricultural value chains in developing low- and middle-income countries, namely, farmer organisations, rural SMEs, women and youth.

Investments are in EUR, USD and local currency and exit strategy via debt repayment.

The ABC Fund has identified four underlying themes having a strong potential for transforming agricultural value chains and improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods:

- Enhancing market participation and integration of Agri-SMEs and smallholder farmers;
- Addressing bottlenecks in the value chain, such as fragmented market structures, low yields and labour productivity, lack of logistical and storage infrastructure;
- Creating value by expanding certification, traceability, local transformation and value addition for export;
- Promoting climate-smart agricultural technologies and innovation that benefit smallholder farmers by helping them improve their environmental performance and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The types of investment are the following:

a) Direct investment (working capital / term-loans/ sub-debt / equity):

- in strategically positioned/unique business model SMEs, with scaling potential;
- in farmer groups/organisations, aggregators and value chain actors.

b) Indirect investment (debt / equity):

- traditional financial institutions [Agri banks, SME banks and micro finance institutions (MFIs)];
- co-funded risk and reward sharing agri-portfolios with select financial institutions;
- alternative lenders servicing the target groups.

The exposure limits to any one investee group will be the greater of (i) five per cent (5%) of the total paid-in capital or (ii) EUR 8M [17].

[17] Data provided as per Investment Strategy monitored by the Fund Governance. It concerns the mitigation of portfolio concentration, which is a significant risk factor, since the Fund invests only into Agri-business sector.

Significant results achieved ^[18]

Improving access to finance in the agriculture sector

EUR 20.1M (vs. EUR 7.4M in 2020) of financing invested as at 2021-year end (YE):

- EUR 5.9M (4.4M in 2020) to agri-SMEs and farmer organisations;
- EUR 14.2M (3M in 2020) to financial intermediaries providing financial services to smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs.

EUR 1.9M price premiums generated by sustainability certification (EUR 2.3M in 2020)

Targeted ticket size of investments: from EUR 200,000 to 800,000 for farmer organizations and agri-SMEs. From EUR 1 to 4 million for financial intermediaries.

Average ticket size:

- EUR 1.8M for farmer organisations (vs. 0.8M in 2020) and EUR 0.5M for agri-SMEs (vs. 0.6M in 2020) [exceptional cases of EUR 2M direct loans in 2021 approved by the Board]
- EUR 2M for financial intermediaries (vs. 1.5M in 2020).

Supporting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers

As of 2021YE, 3 cooperatives, 8 Agri-SMEs and 10 financial intermediaries financed (vs. respectively 3, 3 and 2 in 2020)

Cumulatively 349 308 smallholder farmers supported by ABC Fund's investees.

Cumulatively 171 309 (vs. 17 992 in 2020) smallholder farmers directly impacted by ABC financing; thereof 41% (vs. 17% in 2020) women farmers and 20% young farmers (vs. 15% in 2020)

Sustaining and creating rural employment

2 773 permanent employees within ABC Fund's investees (vs. 2 352 in 2020), including 820 women (vs. 1 830 in 2020) and 860 youth (vs. 503 in 2020).

14 new permanent jobs and 550 temporary jobs created within investees (vs. total 644 in 2020).

Strengthening business performance in agricultural value chains

147 145 (vs. 39 000 in 2020) hectares of agricultural area, 90 296 (vs. 35 200 in 2020) metric tons of agricultural production and no data on impact of investments on food crops (vs. EUR 3.1M of investments impacting food crops in 2020).

4

Significant results achieved by Technical Assistance

New Division of TA by target beneficiary as follows: Agriterro (manager and TA cooperatives), Advance consulting (TA to SMEs), Rabo Partnership (TA to FI), Agricord (TA to FOs).

[18] Figures from Impact Report 2020 and FYE 2021 Pro-forma by Fund Manager.

Significant results achieved ^[18]

Table 1: Current Status TA Own Contribution

Name organisation	Own contribution (euro)	Percentage own contribution of total TA budget (%)
Dragon Farming Limited	3,050.00	10
Maphlix Trust Ghana Limited (pre-TA)	923.00	15
Gie Mali Engrais	5,193.75	15
Maphlix trust Ghana Limited	7,384.65	15
Anatrans SA	5,310.00	20
Insotec	13,650.00	70
Maviva Investment Company Limited	3,464.00	5
Socak Katana	1,534.70	10
Ecookim	4,856.40	15
Total	45,365.75	

Source: TAF End of Year Report, 2021

Own contribution received as of 2021YE, total EUR 45.4M. TA service delivery focuses on de-risking of the loan and developing of the organisation TA support to be agreed with: Investee, TAF manager and Fund manager.

Table 2: Overall TA status year 2021:

	SME	Cooperative	FI	Total
Number (of repeated) DDS carried out	14	3	9	26
Number of investments approved by IC	6	2	8	16
Number of disbursements in 2021	6	2	1	9

Source: TAF End of Year Report, 2021

Number of post-investment TA trajectories started: 5 (0 FIs, 2 Coop, 3 SMEs), vs. 5 in 2020 (1, 2 and 3). Number of pre-investment TA trajectories started: 3 SME.

[18] Figures from Impact Report 2020 and FYE 2021 Pro-forma by Fund Manager.

Overall Portfolio Achievements 2021 [19]

Growing trend of all portfolio key figures vs. 2020YE (i.e. Asset-Under-Management, signed, approved and Due Diligence phase).

In 2021 6 new approvals (~ EUR 9.3M) and 5 disbursements (~ EUR 9M).

Country expansion in Eastern Africa and Latin America and 24 transactions covering 9 countries. 2021YE expected Incomes: EUR 822 700 interest (vs. 100 000 in 2020) and EUR 151 800 fees (vs. 15 000 in 2022).

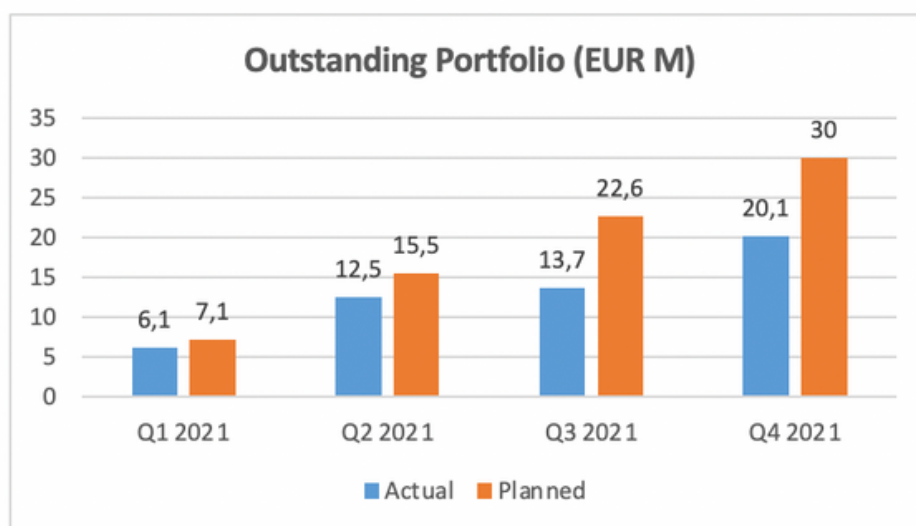
More in details:

- n. 24 (vs. 15 in 2020) transactions were signed for EUR 30.89M (EUR 14.4M) and disbursed n. 6 transactions of EUR 9M (EUR 8.3M), thereof Direct loans EUR 11.5M (EUR 3M).
- n. 5 (1) transactions (direct loans) are fully repaid and completed.
- n. 19 (10) transactions are outstanding of EUR 24M (EUR 9.3M)
- Exposure to Mali EUR 3.45M and Burkina Faso EUR 500 000 (EUR 200 000 and EUR 1.2M in 2020).

EUR 670 000 Loss Exposure (n. 3 loans at stage 3 or 100% loss, out of total EUR 23.4M outstanding. EUR 486 000 to Kaworo farming (Burkina Faso) estimated high Expected Credit Loss 28% (remaining exposures below 5% ECL).

As of 2021YE, loss amounts to EUR 670 000 (3 loans at stage 3, Yaffa/ Rocfed / Maphlix) [20]

Total loans outstanding in Burkina Faso and Mali amount to EUR 3.9M (thereof: Nyesigiso-Mali EUR 2.44M disbursed in last quarter 2021).



Source: ABC Fund, Quarterly Status Report Q4 2021, BCP

[19] FYE 2021 Pro-forma by Fund Manager.

[20] Figures are provided to EU-OACPS, since those are part of reporting as per Fund Management Governance and required by CSSF (Lux Regulators).

Forecast Pipeline 2022

Fund's performance may be challenged in 2022 by loan loss provisions on Borrowers in Mali/Burkina Faso. A clearer growth trajectory and improved liquidity, subject to BoA subscription completion would also act as a powerful signal effect to encourage others to follow suit. ABC Fund Manager seeks for even partial release of 2nd tranche EU-OCPS (EUR 20M) by the 1Q22, to keep up with its rally towards scale and profitability.

2022 Outlook:

- Fund Manager assumes Islamic Development B. /EC second tranche funding projecting total outstanding commitment exceeding EUR 40M by 1Q22.
- Heighted political risk and market turbulence (Mali, Burkina Faso) and uncertainty COVID-19 pandemic in Africa.
- Fund to ease local currency loans provision and reduce transaction costs for client repayments (two African banks).

Pipeline Details – Pre-Due Diligence (DD):

- Kenya 21% of total pipeline
- High concentration in West Africa 45% of total direct/indirect pipeline and 65% of direct on total direct lending pipeline.
- Increase of high risk countries Burkina F. and Mali total EUR 14.5M (vs. 12mln 3Q21), thereof EUR 9M direct lending (see planned Budget Provisions 2022).

Pipeline – Due Diligence: same as per Pre DD – Higher concentration on WA region direct lending 87% of total DD direct lending pipeline.

Pipeline – Pre-Disbursement: same as per DD – Higher concentration on WA region direct lending 88% of total Pre-Disb. direct lending. [21]

Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

Technical Assistance presented several challenges:

- Few TA started due to slowness in processing from Due Diligence to when TA starts.
- Payment own contribution challenge: ABC funding is needed for payments and not possible to pay for own contribution (often start TA at repayment stage, not full use of TA at start of loan).
- Cooperative investees: Only 3 cooperatives have been supported through ABC loan, possibly less attractive loan as relatively high interest rate and conditions.

Some Action envisaged by Fund Manager to mitigate the challenges:

- i) pre-investment TA to overcome some of the challenges with the conversion of pipeline into investments (support can be provided to organisations which fulfil at least two criteria, such as direct investee, no Access-to-Finance investee, food crops business, women and youth focus, climate smart agriculture business, cooperative organisation);
- ii) option to start (limited) TA trajectory after approval;
- iii) exceptional external circumstances possible to start TA trajectory and payment own contribution afterwards.

2.3 Programmes to Increase Financial Inclusion

2.3.1 Digital Finance for Resilience: Leveraging Digital Finance to Increase Resilience of ACP Countries (DFS4RES) [22]

Context

The Digital Finance for Resilience in ACP countries programme (DFS4RES) was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme works with public and private sector actors in deploying digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to reduce poverty by deepening financial inclusion, accelerating economic recovery from COVID-19 and increasing resilience of societies.

The digital revolution offers great opportunities in addressing and fast-tracking the sustainable development agenda in ACP countries. DFS4RES programme supports ACP countries to address specific market constraints that could help them draw the benefits from digital financial solutions. Individuals and governments could be better prepared to respond to the current crisis and create market-driven solutions that accelerate economic recovery and resilience. As the inclusive digital ecosystem develops, people will have better access to services which ultimately contribute to improved resilience and poverty reduction.

The Intra-ACP 11th EDF financing EU contribution amount to EUR 15M.

Key factors

The programme has an overall duration of 4 years, from January 2021 to December 2024.

Countries covered in Africa (Gabon, Niger, Malawi and Ethiopia), in Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago and Eastern Caribbean States) and in the Pacific region (Vanuatu, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga and Fiji). Beneficiaries: Regulators, policy makers, regional bodies, financial services providers [including banks, microfinance institutions (MFIs), financial technology (FinTechs), mobile network operators (MNOs), MSMEs] and people living in poverty in particular women and youth.

Ultimate beneficiaries: At least 600 000 low-income customers have access to appropriate digital financial solutions including women, youth and entrepreneurs in the 18 targeted ACP countries. The programme is at first year of implementation stage.

[22] Reporting period: 08.12.2020 / 31.12.2021. Annual Report dated March, 2022 provided by UNCDF, received in March 2022 and source of data and information, jointly with SCM minutes held on 31.03.2022.

Description of the programme

The programme aims at deploying digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to deepen financial inclusion, and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19, in order to make economies and societies more resilient to external shocks. The specific objectives include:

- Specific Objective 1) - improvement of digital finance policies and regulations to provide early response to emergencies and create an enabling environment to economic recovery
- Specific Objective 2) - creation and strengthening of digital finance ecosystems that support low-income individuals in particular women and youth; and MSMEs to mitigate immediate shocks of emergencies and seize economic opportunities.

The main expected results of the programme are the following:

Result 1) Policies and regulations are adopted that enable wider access and usage of inclusive digital financial services.

Result 2) Digital financial services are developed and deployed by government and private sector providers, using payment services and digital solutions that are accessible, affordable, responsible, reliable, and appropriate.

The programme will use a market systems development approach to promote financial inclusion via enabling regulations and digital financial services. The programming approach improves the capability of the system to “perform” more effectively and sustainably, everageng relationships, practices, and incentives of all market actors.

It will leverage the existing presence of UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) digital finance team to work in ACP countries with local partners including Central Banks, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Ministries of Finance as well as mobile network operators, banks, payment service providers and Fintechs.



Significant results achieved as of January 2021

The UNCDF 2021 Progress Report presents the results on the basis of key areas of work and by countries. At the request of SCM members, from the next progress report onwards, the implementing agency will have to report by objectives and results instead.

Since the programme is at its first year of implementation no data have been reported in the log-frame. In addition, UNCDF has requested some changes (i.e. replacements and deletions of some indicators) in the original log-frame. The updated log-frame has been included in the monitoring tables.

Area of work: Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard (IDES)

Using the information from the DFS4RES Country Assessment reports that were done in 2021, the country leads have developed IDES scorecards for each of the respective countries. These were first done internally to set a baseline for discussion and engagement with the government and other stakeholders. Ongoing engagements with government partners in various countries include identifying an “anchor” ministry or department to ensure ownership and use of the tool within the government.

Exchange visits are being planned for government officials from Malawi and Ethiopia to Uganda and Rwanda for peer learning.

Area of work: DFS4RES Working Group

Ongoing scoping in each programme country for the set-up of a DFS4RES Working Group to facilitate public-private dialogue. In certain countries there are platforms that have already been created to facilitate this, such as in most Pacific countries where there are National Financial Inclusion Taskforces with working groups.

Area of work: DFS4RES Agent Networks and Distribution

Requests for Applications (RFA) have been launched in Malawi, Ethiopia, Pacific, Niger and Gabon to source for private sector programming partners that work on DFS4RES. First projects have already been launched, such as in Timor-Leste where a grant of USD 130 000 was given to Secretary of State for Cooperatives (SECOOP), a government agency that oversees the work from small credit cooperatives. The project seeks to digitise the disbursements and collections of micro-loans from these credit cooperatives using mobile money.

Other grant agreements that have recently been signed are for projects in Ethiopia and Malawi. In Ethiopia this is with a DFS4RES master agent called Highlight Trading, to develop a digital solution to improve the management of their agent network. In Malawi the project is with FINCA, a microfinance institution that has partnered with Kuunda, a Fintech company, and with Airtel, a MNO to develop an agent liquidity solution. The budget for this last project is USD 300 000.

A similar approach using an RFA to source for new partners is taken in Niger, Gabon and the Pacific, where new partners will be selected in 2022..

Request for Proposal (RFP) launched to seek consultants to support with a diagnostic study on central banks' data architecture. This will involve looking into how they collect and use the data on DFS4RES from their markets that in turn can inform and support the respective central banks in their policy making and regulation. Countries in scope are Ethiopia, Malawi, Gabon and Pacific.

In Niger, the programme is supporting the regional central bank Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) through a similar initiative that was already ongoing and supported by UNCDF. Together with BCEAO, recruiting consultants is ongoing to work on the development of a data architecture solution.

Significant results achieved by country



Ethiopia

DFS4RES Market Assessment

Desk research (including interviews with key public/private stakeholders) Completed

IDES

The first cycle of IDES data collected and the first version of the IDES for Ethiopia shared with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, who committed to be the anchor partner on the wider engagement with other government agencies.

RFA Innovative Distribution Models for DFS4RES Agent Networks

RFA has been issued to source implementation partners to pilot and scale innovative DFS4RES agent distribution models targeting women, youth and other vulnerable groups. 11 eligible applicants and one Ethiopian company with a background in DFS4RES distribution selected for their plans to digitise their agent management operations. This project expected to start in Q2 of 2022

Other Activities

DFS4RES Working Group: The inaugural meeting has been conducted in the presence of representatives from the National Bank of Ethiopia while the meeting attracted over 70 individuals from the private sector out of the total over 100 registrations.



Gabon

DFS4RES Market Assessment

Desk review (including consultations with country public/private stakeholders) Completed

IDES

Various engagements with government stakeholders such as the Ministry of Economy and Recovery, the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy have been initiated to introduce IDES

RFA Innovative Distribution Models for DFS Agent Networks

Planned in 2022



Malawi

DFS4RES Market Assessment

Desk review (including interviews with key country public/private stakeholders) Completed

IDES

Government stakeholders (Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of Malawi) were engaged on the Inclusive Digital Economy scorecard (IDES) to present how it can support Malawi in better understanding and monitoring the status of their digital transformation, with a view to helping them make it more inclusive.

RFA Innovative Distribution Models for DFS4RES Agent Networks

RFA launched (including panel with EU Delegations). The project implementation is expected to begin Q2 2022.



Niger

DFS4RES Market Assessment

Desk review (including interviews with key stakeholders in the digital finance ecosystem) Completed
Diagnostic supported by members of UNCDF's Policy Accelerator team.

IDES

Sep 2021 the first meeting held with Ministry of Finance. and presented the IDES (Inclusive Digital Economy Scorecard) for Niger as a policy tool to identify and focus on priorities for the development of an inclusive digital economy.

RFA Innovative Distribution Models for DFS4RES Agent Networks

RFA launched. The different submissions were reviewed, and 2 candidates have been pre- selected for implementation. The project implementation is expected to begin Q2 2022.

Caribbean

DFS4RES Market Assessment

Desk review for Trinidad and Tobago circulated to country key public/private stakeholders pending feedback. Desk review started for the Eastern Caribbean States.

IDES

Early stage (not yet started)

RFA Innovative Distribution Models for DFS4RES Agent Networks Early

Early stage (planned in 2022)

Pacific

DFS4RES Market Assessment

Desk Review across all five of the supported countries (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Timor Leste) ongoing. Draft reports and key findings presented to EU delegations.

IDES N/A

RFA Innovative Distribution Models for DFS4RES Agent Networks

RFA launched in October 2021. (calling for applications to support the deployment, expansion and/or improvement of innovative DFS4RES agent models to expand DF usage amongst segments currently left behind, such as women, youth and low-income groups). Applications are currently being reviewed for final selection.

Other activities

Digitisation of payments of credit unions in Timor-Leste: on August 2021, UNCDF launched 'Leveraging digital finance and payments of credit unions to increase resilience of its members in Timor-Leste'. The project, which is managed by SECoop, aims to support credit unions with access to the mobile payments platform from Telemor Fintech to channel disbursements for loans and collections for savings and loan repayments safely and conveniently to its members.



Difficulties encountered and ways to overcome them

UNCDF indicates as significant the risk that change in management at the partner level diminishes interest in the projects; as a mitigation measure, it plans to incentivise partner co-financing to secure continuous engagement. When the partner is international, the Programme will invest in relationships at group level.

Programme team maintains relationships at top as well as mid-level management of their partners. This ensures more stable and sustainable connections with the overall partner organisation.

In addition, UNCDF reports also on risks of poor uptake by customers of new digital solutions that are introduced as part of the programme. The methodology used should assist in mitigating the risk; partners first develop a prototype, then pilot it and scale it up. Throughout those phases, the programme supports the partners to learn and identify obstacles for take-up of the newly developed solutions.

Finally, the limited demonstration effect at the regional and sub-regional levels, will be mitigated via selection of countries with different market maturity levels so that similar countries in the region can relate to those markets. It will work to ensure harmonisation of approaches and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned at regional and sub-regional levels. UNCDF secured relationships with Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development – Eastern Africa (IGAD). During the implementation, it will leverage these relationships for regional demonstration effects.



2.3.2 Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (WE4A)

Context

Women face major obstacles to succeed as entrepreneurs. Challenges include lack of training leading to lack of technical skills, lack of information with regards to sources of financing and technical support, high competition in the market, marginalisation and lack of knowledge of marketing strategies. However, the most serious challenge is access to finance. African women entrepreneurs struggle especially in accessing finance for starting or growing a business. The Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (WE4A) programme seeks to address those obstacles.

Key factors

Co-funded by the EU and the OACPS (EUR 20 million) together with the BMZ (EUR 0.6M), this programme is implemented by the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (Employment and Skills for Development in Africa, E4D programme) over the period February 1st 2021, until September 30th 2023. The Swiss Association for Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets (SAFEEM) runs the growth and acceleration programmes of WE4A.

The beneficiaries are women entrepreneurs who have been supported by the Entrepreneurship Flagship Programme of the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

Objectives & Implementation

The overall objective of WE4A is to promote the economic inclusion and empowerment of African women. Its expected outcome is an increased number of African women entrepreneurs with enhanced business capacities and access to formal financial Services, and who are integrated into local and regional value chains, thereby contributing to employment creation in their communities. Implementation involves three components.

- Component 1 provides gender sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed capital for African women entrepreneurs. 2 420 African women entrepreneurs will be thus prepared to navigate their businesses through the start-up and early growth phase.
- Component 2 links African women entrepreneurs (TEF alumni) to private sector initiatives and provides necessary technical assistance to build commercial bridges with larger lead businesses and integrating their supply chains.
- Component 3 supports African women entrepreneurs with an accelerator and growth programme including capital. The aim is to secure second stage financing as a major stepping-stone to be becoming fully bankable and capitalising on the employment potential of their businesses

Targets

The main specific targets are:

- to create at least 2 700 jobs,
- to secure 5 300 existing jobs in women owned enterprises,
- to enhance the business capacities of 2 200 enterprises, and
- to ensure that 100 enterprises receive 2nd stage financing (to meet financing needs after the start-up phase).

The virtual Acceleration Programme, implemented by the Swiss Association for Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets (SAFEEM), seeks to provide 100 female entrepreneurs from the TEF alumni network, with access to EUR 10 000 in grant funding that will be paired with 3 months of technical support. In addition, 30 growth-oriented women entrepreneurs are supported through a Growth Programme that includes additional technical support and grant funding of up to EUR 50 000.

Achievements over the reporting period ^[23]

Component 1: Gender sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed capital for African women entrepreneurs.

Through the annual TEF entrepreneurship programme, 2 420 women entrepreneurs received training and 2 016 (v/s target of 2 420) of them received seed capital of USD 5 000 within the reporting period.

Component 2: Support to link African women entrepreneurs to private sector networks and providing necessary technical assistance

Component 2 aims at connecting female TEF alumni with established E4D partners and networks. The component builds on experiences of the E4D programme in enterprise development and taps into its established cooperation with relevant partners and networks. These networks include, inter alia, African and European companies, business support organisations, governmental and nongovernmental institutions.

Overall, 91 entrepreneurs have gained new access to potential business partners within the reporting period. In Ghana and Uganda, 79 entrepreneurs have been provided with information on specific financing opportunities; the target for the overall period is to reach 250 entrepreneurs with such information on access to finance.

C2 is currently being implemented in 5 countries, namely a) Uganda, b) Ghana, c) Kenya, d) Mozambique and e) Tanzania.

Activities are developed on the basis of an initial needs-assessment that involves interviewing potential beneficiaries (TEF alumni) in the country of operation. The survey also provides insights into the spatial and sectoral distribution of companies, their source of funding (mainly self-investment and from family and friends), age and nature of main constraints (supply or demand side).

[23] Reporting period: The latest Annual Report of the programme covers the period 1.02.2021 to 31.01.2022

Component 3: Acceleration and Growth programme including second stage financing for African women entrepreneurs

SAFEEM received a total of 838 applications for the WE4A Acceleration Programme. After application reviews, 100 female entrepreneurs from the TEF alumni network were selected. The selected companies underwent an initial needs assessment as well as light due diligence prior to the launch of the programme on 6th January 2022. 99 entrepreneurs from across 15 African countries were following the programme as at 31st January 2022.

Activities included (All workshops and events have been conducted online):

- 10 capacity building workshops,
- 2 co-building days,
- 6 Entrepreneurs in Residence (EiR) peer-to-peer coaching sessions,
- 2 hot topic workshops and networking events.

The average attendance rate for the sessions stood at 72.2%. In addition to the workshops and online training, 65 mentors, of whom 29 women, were assigned to support the entrepreneurs on a one-to-one basis. Cumulative 459 hours of individualised mentoring were delivered to the companies, averaging 4.5 hours per entrepreneur.

98 entrepreneurs who are actively participating in the programme received the first grant disbursements of EUR 5 000 within the reporting period; this amounted to EUR 490 000 being disbursed in total. The best performing entrepreneurs will receive additional funding of up to EUR 50 000 in total per entrepreneur. The target is that financing is approved for at least 100 TEF alumni.



Challenges Met & Mitigation Measures Taken

Challenges met under Component 1 include:

- Slow response of beneficiaries with respect to bank documentation to receive seed money, specially where United Bank of Africa (UBA) has no network
- The pandemic reduced the opportunities for in person mentoring and networking and on-site monitoring.

Mitigation measures (recourse to e-platform TEFConnect) had limited impact in some countries due to internet penetration and technology gaps.

For Component 2, which was implemented in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda, it was reported that the engagement of some women entrepreneurs decreased despite the use of different communication channels. This was exacerbated by the lack of internet connectivity in some remote areas. Mitigation measures included the increase of physical networking events, personal provision of business services and participation in B2B activities as soon as Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

Specifically, in Mozambique, the small number of TEF alumni posed a particular challenge to efficient implementation of the programme. Together with the funding partners, it was agreed to include members of the wider TEF network in order to reach a sufficient number of women entrepreneurs.

A few issues may impact negatively on results for Component 3. The low digital and overall business literacy of many of the early-stage entrepreneurs has slowed implementation of Acceleration Programme. Furthermore, the companies of the Acceleration Programme may not meet the criteria required by many investors, potentially affecting their access to follow-on financing. Unstable internet connectivity of some of the entrepreneurs participating in the programme, causes additional challenges.

Mitigation Measures:

- The original acceleration programme's curriculum was amended to provide more relevant content for early stage SMEs
- Weekly follow-up to training workshops were made optional for many entrepreneurs who were struggling with the pace of the programme.

Nevertheless, 22 start-ups have already increased their staff as a result of the programme; they have employed 69 additional full-time staff (of whom 53 are women and 51 are youth).

2.4 Knowledge Management

2.4.1 ACP –EU Private Sector Development (PSD)

Knowledge Management Technical Support Function / Light PSD Structure (TSF) (Business ACP)

Context

The ACP-EU Technical Support Function/PSD Light Structure project, (TSF/PSD Light Structure), also known as Business ACP, is dedicated to facilitating greater coordination and coherence in the implementation of the ACP Strategy for Private Sector Development, and the Joint ACP-EU Private Sector Development Cooperation Framework.

Key factors

The Intra-ACP 11th EDF financing contribution amount to EUR 9M.

Business ACP started its operations in February 2018, for an initial duration of 4 years. At the end of 2020, considering the changing context and needs, the OACPS and the EC decided to extend the duration and financing of Business ACP by two years, up to February 2024.

Beneficiaries of this technical support function are the OACPS Secretariat and its Regional Focal Points (RFPs) in the 6 ACP regions and ACP private sector development stakeholders.



Description of the Technical Support Function

The main outcome of this second phase of Business ACP is to ensure that “The ACP private sector and its representative organisations, at national, regional and all ACP levels, are regularly informed of the progress and results of Intra-ACP programmes, take ownership of the PSD Knowledge management platform and contribute to the dissemination – replication of best practices and learning tools.”

The expected results of the revised logical framework following the top-up are:

Result 1: Under the common PSD framework being implemented, the OACPS Secretariat and the EC are regularly informed of the progress and results obtained by intra-ACP programmes; the ACP private sector takes ownership of the results of the programmes and contributes to their sustainability and dissemination / replication.

Result 2: Best practices are identified, and lessons learned shared.

Result 3: Peer-to-peer learning between ACP countries and regions dynamised and promoted.

Result 4: Collaboration and learning between public and private sector stakeholders are strengthened through the constitution of thematic networks of ACP and EU contributors who interact.

Result 5: The ACP national private and public sectors and its representative regional organisations take ownership of the knowledge system and use and feed the IT platform.

Result 6: The visibility of the OACPS and the ACP-EU PSD platform is enhanced.

Result 7: Monitoring and closure of the 7 grants of TradeCom II programme is successfully carried out.

Result 8: RFPs' involvement capacities in relation to the post-Cotonou transition are strengthened.



Activities conceived for the 2021-22 Work Programme (WP) reflect the “Top-Up” Terms of Reference and seek to attain the adjusted programme results which are regrouped under four components as under:

Component 1: Joint ACP – EU PSD management – Monitoring and reporting;

Component 2: Collaboration, Dialogue, Learning;

Component 3: PSD Knowledge management system;

Component 4: Visibility.

Significant results achieved

Main achievements as at end of February 2022 are summarised as under:

Component 1: PSD management – Monitoring and reporting

§ An improved Monitoring and Reporting system is now in place.

§ The first annual PSD intra-ACP PSD programme monitoring report has been produced.

§ The Mapping/state of play of intra-ACP PSD programmes has been completed and is updated on a regular basis.

§ Good progress has been achieved in the implementation of the six grants inherited from the TradeCom II programme: three grants are expected to be completed by the end of the first semester, and three others by year end.

Component 2: Collaboration, Dialogue, Learning;

§ A Library of over 1 000 resources has been constituted.

§ 8 Best practices identified and uploaded on the IT platform.

§ 5 peer-to-peer learning workshops (within regional events + Business Summit) / 500 participants +136/276 participants (WSD) have been held.

§ Support was provided to OACPS-EIB Learning event on Regional Development Banks.

Component 3: PSD Knowledge Management

§ The PSD Knowledge Management Platform is fully implemented,

§ Main users, including 4 OACPS staff members, have been trained in its use.

§ 6 regional Focal Points received a first introduction to the IT platform and are using video tutorials to contribute to the enrichment of the platform.

§ 39 knowledge resources have been captured.

Component 4: Visibility

Outputs aimed at enhancing PSD Platform visibility include:

- Coverage of some 20 events.
- Production of 47 videos.
- Distribution of 6 sets of visibility materials (info folders, pens, usb sticks, notebooks, roll ups + backdrop).
- Build-up of events photo library of ±4 000 items.
- Circulation of 9 newsletters to a list now amounting to 2 000 direct recipients.
- Activation of two social media channels (Twitter and YouTube) resulting in over 95 Tweet and WhatsApp posts.

The foregoing achievements contributed to the attainment of programme expected results and have laid the ground for a successful implementation of the Facility's first year Work Plan.



2.5 Programmes under other resources (11th EDF)

2.5.1 Digital connectivity and EU-ACP digital solutions for building resilience of education, health and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) systems to covid-19 in ACP countries”- DIRECCT “Digital Response Connecting CiTizens”

Key Factors

“The Digital connectivity and EU-ACP digital solutions for building resilience of education, health and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) systems to covid-19 in ACP countries”, for short, DIRECCT (Digital Response Connecting CiTizens), is an intra-ACP action funded by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). With a budget of 15.5M from 11th EDF intra-ACP reserves, it covers the period from May 2021 to December 2023. The DIRECCT programme is part of the global EU Digital Response which aims to leverage digital solutions to fight the pandemic and to mitigate its social and economic impacts.

The programme is implemented jointly by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Belgian Cooperation Agency, ENABEL, and helps to make digital technology accessible to all by supporting around ten innovative projects affecting several tens of thousands of people in weakened areas: health, education and the economy.

Interventions take place on three levels: connectivity to improve access to networks; support for the development of relevant and useful digital services for end users; training to enable all the actors concerned to be able to provide these services during the project and beyond.

Description of the programme

DIRECCT’s specific objectives are:

- To improve connectivity services of target beneficiaries to strengthen their capacity delivering services pending crisis such as the covid-19 crisis
- To foster the continuity and the quality of education and health services
- To enhance the digital transition of the MSME

Results achieved

The period under review relates to the inception phase, which covered May 2021 to September 2021.

DIRECCT is being deployed in more than 50 ACP countries through local or regional partners.

In each of its concentration sectors, the DIRECCT programme intervenes to achieved the set results in the quoted countries:

Improved connectivity services for target beneficiaries to enhance their capacity to deliver services during the crisis covid-19

- In the Caribbean and Pacific: a grant was given to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PHHSN) to strengthen surveillance and response capacity for epidemic diseases. The grant is being used to conduct a needs assessment of the existing information management system and connectivity, and to provide support in the form of connectivity services or equipment to those members who require these services in order to participate fully in the regional networks. As regard CARPHA, the intervention is expanding the availability and use of the laboratory information management system and the tourism health information system.
- In West Africa: the grant to WACREN (Regional Research and Education Network for West and Central Africa) aimed to provide a reliable and secure broadband network infrastructure to the research and education community, independent of the commercial internet, to improve connectivity in the research and higher education community. 2 partner universities –in Benin and Burkina Faso– have been selected and short term 4G subscriptions are to be provided to students and teachers while working on sustainable connectivity infrastructure in collaboration with the National Research and Educational Network (NREN), including the installation of fibre.
- In Vanuatu: a grant was awarded to the University of Vanuatu to fund priority connectivity infrastructure for teachers and students, following a comprehensive assessment of connectivity needs for teachers for each curriculum in relation to the development of new programmes, to ensure adequate Internet access for students.
- In Senegal: additional funding was granted to OXFAM to finance connectivity infrastructure (communication, equipment, energy) to some thirty local health services and economic interest groups to accompany the approach to support collective savings and loans set up by the INEDIT initiative ("Digital Inclusion, Digital Savings and Technological Innovations"). This ongoing initiative led by OXFAM in Senegal supports digital and financial inclusion and economic empowerment of rural populations, particularly women, through mobile finance. In addition, ENABEL provides internet connectivity (financing of cables, networking) to 11 selected health infrastructures in the urban and rural areas of Kaffrine, Fatick and Kaolack in Senegal. Enabel is also actively involved in the exchange of good practices and capitalization activities that will be carried out under this component.

Support for strengthening digital services to improve the continuity and quality of education and health services

The following activities carried out in the health sector include:

• In the Caribbean, setting up by CARPHA of a unified system for collecting and managing public health data in the countries of the Caribbean community. The objective is to standardize, store and make available to the States, health data whose current heterogeneity prevents a global and relevant analysis of the evolution of pandemics and the implementation of a coordinated response by the Caribbean States.

- In Senegal, Oxfam strengthens access to digital networks for health centres, especially those located in areas far from cities, whose lack of communication with decision-making centres has a strong impact on supply and information exchange. In Senegal, ENABEL also strengthens the capacities of the health staff in these centres.

•11 [24] African fablabs in Benin, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo, will be equipped with digital realization machines and consumables to manufacture on the spot the devices of protection, prevention and detection for covid-19 as well as will be trained in the use of the machines. The project leader, RBS (Réseau Bretagne Solidaire) is working with its French-speaking partners and, through its intervention, the organization promotes open and free access to health tools, as well as their design close to their recipients, particularly hospitals in the South.

In the Pacific, 22 Member States of the Pacific Community are expected to receive project support to strengthen their technical and human capacities. The project is being implemented by the Pacific Network for Public Health Surveillance (PNHS), a regional organization that acts as a "watchdog" for the development of epidemics and is carrying out a project that will enable it to strengthen its essential surveillance role.

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Activities in Education

- The project is supporting the National University of Vanuatu in developing its digital offer to prevent future health or environmental crises, in particular by setting up digital infrastructures and developing e-learning course offerings. Moreover, the region is made up of many islands and, although the universities of the English-speaking South Pacific and French-speaking New Caledonia have pooled their resources, there is a lack of distance learning courses and training that will enable students to avoid major migrations.
- In Burkina Faso and Benin, innovative e-learning courses are being set up in partnership with the virtual university of Burkina Faso and the digital agency of Benin. This training operation, led by the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), aims to test an economic model for the production of e-learning that could be disseminated in other sub-Saharan countries.
- In Haiti, the main objective of the project is to facilitate access to culture, education and information for those who are far from it. Intervening in Haiti after the social, economic and environmental crises that the country has recently experienced, the project leader, Bibliothèque Sans Frontières (BSF) trains and equips local partners through the provision of libraries and access to educational networks.
- In 12 ACP countries and Belgian cooperation partners, the Wehubit (Enabel) programme has already been launched.

Supporting the digital transformation of MSMEs to support business continuity during pandemics

- In Senegal, the Oxfam-led project works in rural areas, particularly with organisations run by women's groups. The aim is to set up several market access and payment systems as well as financing methods to enable these groups to continue their activities.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo and Ghana, as well as in the 15 States of the Caribbean Community, DIRECCT's intervention consists in supporting the digital transformation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to favour the continuity of their activities during pandemics or other shocks.
- In Senegal, ENABEL is expected to support 200 SMEs active in the green economy (agriculture, waste recycling, etc.) to follow a training programme on digital transformation.

3. Activities and Results by Region

In this part of the report, the presentation starts with those programmes that prioritised their activities at the regional or multi-country level and continues with indicative illustrations of programmes' activities on a country by country basis, covering all the OACPS regions: Africa (Central, East, Southern, West), Caribbean and the Pacific. This chapter covers most of the interventions undertaken at the regional and country level. Multi-regional interventions are not covered in this chapter.

3.1 Central Africa

Support to the region took different forms ranging from training to capacity building of producer organisations, portfolio guarantees to promoting access to finance or sectoral assessments towards business environment reform. Several sectors and actors benefited from the implementation of intra-ACP PSD programmes in the Central Africa region. Thus, under the ACP Business-friendly Programme, young Cameroonians were supported in their quest to export specialty coffee, while the FFM and FFM SPS programme provided support to the horticultural sector. In the Minerals sector, start-ups secured programme assistance.

Programmes also operating at regional level include FO4ACP, WE4A and ICR Facility. More specifically until November 2021, FO4ACP financed, 32 business plans up to the level of operationalisation throughout the region. It also supported the strengthening of the technical and commercial capacities for a total of 620 local entrepreneurs in 32 organisations of local farmers, through specific training programmes. Towards the same goal and through WE4A, training in business management has been tailored and offered to women entrepreneurs. The ICR Facility, together with the Development Bank of Central African States developed a joint workplan, focused on enhancing the bank's capacities to engage in Trade Finance.

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Cameroon

Several intra-ACP programmes covering various aspects of private sector development are active in Cameroon. Training of 3 267 start-up owners from 32 countries, including Cameroon, were delivered through the **Boost Africa**.

Following a workshop organised in 2020 by **FFM** and RHORTICAM for the main producers in the pineapple sector, technical assistance was provided to set up a self-assessment system to ensure the sanitary quality and phytosanitary measures for pineapples traded for export markets. Support was also provided by FFM for the implementation of the optimisation plan following the strategic diagnosis and operational audit for the benefit of the GIC TFE (GIC Tropical Fruit Export is a Common Initiative Group specialised in the collection and production of pineapples for the local market and for export).

Through **FFM SPS**, support was provided to the Penja pepper exportation sector and a SPS Good Practices Guide on Penja pepper has been completed. Support was also provided to comply with SPS measures to enable Mango exports to the EU. Cameroon – and more specifically the mango value chain – has also been identified to pilot the roll-out of the Rapid SPS Assessment Tool developed by COLEACP through the **FFM SPS** programme. This has allowed competent authorities to assess the overall status and functioning of their respective SPS systems, in close coordination with the private sector. Staff from the Direction de la Protection des Végétaux et du Conditionnement followed training on the implementation of official controls, as part of the different training sessions organised by the FFM SPS programme on SPS-related topics.

Under the impetus of **FO4ACP**, PROPAC organised an advocacy encounter with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and a partnership convention was signed. This convention should, among other increase the involvement of farmers' organisations in Government's programmes in the agricultural sector.

ACP Business-friendly programme worked extensively in the areas of Gender and Youth of the coffee sector in Cameroon. Activities included the setting up of a gender platform in the coffee value chain, while 120 stakeholders took part in the gender profiling on women and youth participation in the coffee value chain, leading to the design of a gender action plan and monitoring framework. Moreover, field meetings were held with 200 "New Generation" young coffee members who have as objective to penetrate the French Speciality Coffee market. In this regard, French Roasters (French Coffee Committee) visited the coffee farms owned by some members of the New Generation in November 2021. The French delegation agreed to work with ACP Business-friendly, CICC [25] and New Generation to improve the production and processing of high-quality coffee. Already, 300 farmers have been trained in setting up modern nurseries and plantations, which are showing promising potential under the New Generation programme.

UNIDO issued a service subcontract to IPA Cameroon for compilation and updating of a Business Directory. 5 technical advisory meetings and capacity building sessions were delivered to 6 IPA staff members (2 women) to support the institution in terms of enhancing investment monitoring systems and concerning the UNIDO FDI Data Management Toolkit, as well as sessions on cluster prioritization and module selection processes in preparation of the business directory update and compilation processes, including a training session dedicated to present the digital investment profiling system to IPA Cameroon. Diagnostic assessments on the investment promotion practices and mandate vis-à-vis investment facilitation and aftercare services were undertaken for identification of capacity building gaps within IPA Cameroon as well as supporting needs to establish collaboration with other investment promotion entities such as GICAM and EBO Cameroon.

From the 8 IPLs sensitized about the BF project, 5 IPLs were engaged through diagnostic assessments, coordination meetings for potential collaboration and participation in the training of staff in UNIDO's Investment Opportunity Profiling Methodology and the use of DIPS for data collection and uploading of investment project opportunities., four (4) Cameroonian investment promotion institutions responded submitting technical and financial proposals. After a selection process for work on investment opportunity profiling, the Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises of Cameroon was awarded a service subcontract with a commitment to deliver 50 investment opportunity profiles.

The **Development Minerals programme** supported the development of the National Strategy on Formalisation and Business Acceleration. The recommendations of the Strategy on Formalisation and Business Acceleration, as well as best practices implemented by the Programme in Cameroon, helped inform the National Programme on Development Minerals and Extractive Industries initiated in 2021. Within the context of the programme a training and business incubation programme supported 37 start-ups, of which 21 ASMEs were newly created and formalised. Overall, 695 artisanal miners participated; 38% of Cameroon trainees in 2020 and 2021 were women. The programme supported production of six maps in the North, Littoral and East Regions of Cameroon in 2021 through field work and enriching the national geo-database, with the resource estimate revealing economically viable deposits of sand, granite and clay. Moreover, 24 grants were issued for a total of EUR 74 000 for 756 direct and indirect beneficiaries. In-depth interventions to support 37 ASMEs which provide an estimated 695 (of which 348 women) jobs in Cameroon operating in development minerals such as sand, clay, pozzolana, gravel, dimension stones and semi-precious stone.

PROPARCO and Société Générale Cameroun (SGBC) signed a EURIZ portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 5M. The portfolio guarantee is a multisector one targeting high developmental impact MSMEs defined in the EURIZ agreement increasing the PFI capacity to finance the economy. In addition, EUR 161 000 individual guarantee was granted for a private owned public transportation company between cities.



Chad

FO4ACP supported the National Council of Rural Producers to build advocacy bridges in the conflict between peasants and producers and to follow up on the process of revising the land code and the adoption of the agri-silvo-pastoral law and the law on fisheries. Training of 3 267 start-up owners from 32 countries, including Chad, were delivered through the Boost Africa.



Congo (Brazzaville)

With the support of FO4ACP, successful economic initiatives are implemented by the CNOP-Congo (Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes du Congo), such as Santé Nature for the transformation and commercialization of moringa, Kiessé for the transformation and commercialization of improved manioc flour, candy and dry fruits and the “Saucissier du Congo” for the production and the sale of sausages.

Under its mandate to strengthen the capacity of its member organisations to provide economic services for priority value chains, FO4ACP supported the implementation of five business plans and the creation of links between farmers and financial institutions to access credit. FO4ACP also supported COPACO-PRP who advocated and obtained the revision of DR Congo's national public budget through negotiations with the Government, following the Peasant March organized by COPACO-PRP in Kinshasa. This advocacy action enabled COPACO-PRP to become part of the Government's Covid-19 response programme. In addition, COPACO-PRP has been approved to act as agri-multiplier for the Ministry of Agriculture of DRC.



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

ICR Facility supported the capacitation of the National Centre for Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation (CENACOM), to facilitate the resolution of legal disputes between companies (August 2021). ICR Facility provided support to CENACOM in the following areas: Adaptation of its rules and regulations in accordance with the Uniform Act of the Organisation for the harmonisation of business law in Africa, training of 81 arbitrators on arbitration rules and processes, reform of the CENACOM pricing system, and development of a communication strategy for CENACOM.

Boost Africa training to start-up owners was also active in the country.

Through **FFM SPS**, horticulture stakeholders are supported on demand to meet market requirements and improve their overall sustainability performance: support includes food safety, environmental management, social compliance and business management. The main types of support are related to the implementation of management systems (on social, environmental, quality issues) that meet the requirements of international certification standards required by customers (GLOBALG.A.P., HACCP, Rainforest Alliance, SMETA, etc.).

Through **FFM SPS**, a development project has been initiated with COPACO (“La Confédération Paysanne du Congo COPACO-PRP”). One of the first actions planned was to improve the organisation's current training system in order :

- To better identify the training needs of COPACO's supervisors and members and develop a programme accordingly;
- To formalise these needs through training sessions;
- To schedule training sessions taking into account the production flows and profiles of the different members.

ACP Business-friendly programme (micro level) focus is to improve productive capacities, market linkage of producers and contribute to value addition in the coffee value chain. Project implementation in DRC has been slow, due to the country's specific administrative difficulties, however field activities started in the middle of the year with ONAPAC and Nespresso/Olam. Five hundred participants attended the technical webinars on B2B marketing, sustainability, and quality improvement. Four participants from DRC participated in a training held Gabon on coffee tasting, cupping, and profiling. Those four are expected to train more people in DRC.



Gabon

Through **DFS** for Resilience programme, digital finance market assessments were conducted, consisting of in-depth diagnostics of each market to identify gaps and priorities and determine appropriate engagement approaches.

ACP Business-friendly aims to support the Government of Gabon in implementing investment climate reforms to assist post-COVID-19 economic recovery while addressing constraints that hinder private sector-led sustainable growth and diversification. The main programme counterparts are: the National Agency of Investments' Promotion; the High Council for Investment; the Ministry of Investment Promotion; the Standardization Agency (AGANOR); the Ministry of Agriculture; the Ministry of Forestry and the Competition Enforcement Body (DGCC). The programme also improving Gabon's business regulatory restrictiveness in high priority sectors currently characterized by complex regulatory procedures and barriers throughout the lifecycle of a business and lifting legal barriers to women's employment and entrepreneurship.



Sao Tome and Principe

Under the **ACP Business-friendly**, interventions in the country assessed and addressed the constraints to attract and retain tourism investment, which was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: cumbersome and unclear regulations and investment approval processes, lack of coordination among government institutions, and weak institutional capacity of the Tourism Authority and the IPA.





3.2 East Africa

Various intra-ACP programmes activities were undertaken at regional and national level in East Africa. Activities are reported in at least eleven out of fourteen countries of the region. From training of start-up owners and women entrepreneurs in business management, to supporting the exportation process of horticultural products and financing targeted agri-SMEs, the intra-ACP programmes are playing a key role in private sector development in the region.

The Farmers' Organisation (**FO4ACP**) was active at the regional level.

Thus, the East African Farmers Federation adopted a new Strategic Plan 2021-2028 and rolled out a regional COVID-19 sensitisation campaign supported by **FO4ACP** programme. Two regional policy studies - for dairy and maize value chains - were conducted aiming at improving business environment. In this context, two business to business (B2B) meetings for the above value chains were organised, and MoUs were signed. Under its Component 2, that seeks to prompt linkages between African women entrepreneurs and private sector networks, WE4A activities covered 3 Eastern Africa countries, namely Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Training in business management has been tailored in accordance with the level of maturity of the benefited entrepreneurs: (1) Start-up/beginners, (2) Innovator/intermediate and (3) Advanced/disruptor.

FFM SPS supported the horticultural sector of a substantial number of countries of the region in complying with SPS measures in export markets, also enabling them to adjust to new EU regulations in the area. Main beneficiaries were competent authorities and horticultural MSMEs from Burundi, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. As part of the programme, COLEACP and EAC officialised a partnership to jointly work on different elements to support the development and strengthening of fruit and vegetables value chains. Exchanges between the EAC and COLEACP were the subject of a specific presentation in November 2021 at the "1st Meeting of the EAC Region Platform on Fruits and Vegetables on the Future of processing and trade in Fruits and Vegetables: Building Resiliencies past the Pandemic".

Boost Africa training to start-up owners covered the following countries in the region: Burundi, Mauritius, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.



Burundi

FFM organised a digital training on "Commercial Negotiation" for the benefit of the economic supervisors of the Support for Integral Development and Solidarity on the Hills association. The latter is a Burundian support structure that works with around 9 000 producers, including 2 700 fruit and vegetable producers grouped into around thirty agricultural cooperatives.



Djibouti

The Agro-Pastoral Association, with **FO4ACP** support, has initiated various advocacy actions targeting the Government and the United Nations to help the rural population address the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Ethiopia

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted Ethiopia's investment park operations, thereby jeopardising the government's job creation agenda. There was a need to complement the government's investment retention efforts, targeting strategic investors. The **ACP Business-friendly** was mobilised in this regard to support the Bole Lemi II and Kilinto industrial parks. The programme supported retention of investments by creating incentives for investors to both restart and maintain maximum possible operations throughout this period, and to launch a proactive investment generation campaign.

A service subcontract was issued to Ethiopia Investment Commission (EIC) for the compilation and updating of its FDI Business Directory. At the same time, the programme capacitated 6 staff (1 woman) of the investment commission in 11 technical advisory and capacity building support sessions, focusing on enhancing investment monitoring practices and aftercare services, enabling the development of the Business Directory and the design of investors' surveys. The activities led to the analysis of a database consisting of 5 632 enterprises from which 1 050 prioritized FDI companies were selected on basis of specific criteria and a technical hands-on training for conducting interviews and updating data of investor companies in the Digital Investment Profiling System (DIPS).

Initial assessments and listing of process improvement recommendations to current EIC after care service and data analysis functions, identifying information and follow-up mechanism gaps, was undertaken to determine baselines for UNIDO's technical support to EIC in terms of aftercare service improvement and recommendations. Capacity building support to the EIC and Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Industrial Development Institute (FBPIDI) was undertaken to start using UNIDO Digital Investment Profiling System as a means for project data collection and eventual uploading of investment project opportunities on meanwhile launched Invest-in-ACP-Portal.

Training by Entrepreneurship Lab for start-up owners, through **Boost Africa**, was also available in the country.

ICR provided support to the Social Enterprise Association of Ethiopia. Social Enterprise Ethiopia was supported to develop a more sustainable business environment, especially for social enterprises. The **ICR Facility** also supported the EU Business Forum Ethiopia in its ability to conduct public-private dialogues based on validated information and evidence, and to attract new members.

Digital finance market assessments were conducted through **DFS** for Resilience programme, consisting of in-depth diagnostics of each market to identify gaps and priorities and determine appropriate engagement approaches.

As an illustration of the support provided by the **FFM** programme to the private sector in Ethiopia, the programme trained the staff of Koga Veg Agricultural Development PLC, an Ethiopian company that produces vegetables for domestic and international markets, in composting methods and waste management.

Multiple agents from the Plant Regulatory Agricultural Authority of Ethiopia also participated in training sessions organised by the **FFM SPS** programme on organisation and execution of official controls, pest surveillance and pest free country status.



Kenya

The Entrepreneurship Lab, through **Boost Africa**, was piloted in 2019 in country with Palladium/Mapping of ESOs. No specific training was done in the country.

As an illustration of the support provided by the **FFM** programme to the private sector in Kenya, FFM provided support in the implementation of SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit) requirements for INSTAVEG, a Kenyan exporter of fine vegetables. Support was also provided in improving production processes and managing the flow of goods for Fair Trade Enterprises, a Kenyan fruit export company. Flamingo Ltd, a large producer with various production sites (vegetables and flowers benefitted from an FFM business skills training for extension staff.

Since June 2020, COLEACP has partnered with the African Management Institute (AMI) to create a series of Business Survival Bootcamps aimed at supporting entrepreneurs in the horticultural sector. The bootcamps, open to entrepreneurs/CEOs and finance managers, provided practical tools for businesses to plan for and cope with the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on financial projections and cost management in the context of the economic downturn. Specific sessions were held for Kenyan operators.

To contribute to strengthening the capacities of the KenInvest, 33 staff members (of whom 15 female), were trained through the ACP Business-friendly. A service subcontract was issued to KenInvest for the compilation and updating of the FDI Business Directory, followed by capacity building and technical advisory sessions for a technical team of 12 staff (5 women) on data processing methodology for the updating of KenInvest's business directory database. An initially identified FDI database of 3,355 enterprises has been further streamlined to 896 companies. 3 practical sessions were done with KenInvest, including the introduction to UNIDO's Digital Investment Profiling System (DIPS).

Stakeholder sensitization continued and request for proposals tenable to investment opportunity profiling work issued in August 2021. KenInvest was the successful bidder awarded the subcontract for investment opportunity profiling work. Capacity building activities on UNIDO's Investment Opportunity Profiling Methodology and the use of DIPS for data collection and uploading of investment project opportunities were held with 26 KenInvest officers (14 women) on DIPS and set up the launch date for the start of the IOP campaign tenable to the delivery of 40 investment opportunity.

At the macro-level, the World Bank's support in Kenya is focused on improving the investment incentives regime to attract additional foreign and domestic investment. This is being achieved by mapping the current national and sub-national taxes, subsidies, levies, and fees in selected value chains and assessing the national tax incentive regime. The project is also helping to strengthen implementation of and compliance with Kenya's Competition Law to protect against anticompetitive behavior and identify as well as support the government with the reform of anticompetitive policies and regulations in key markets, with a focus at the subnational level.

The Cooperative Alliance of Kenya, with the support of FO4ACP, has conducted two B2B meetings on dairy sector resulting in an agreement on quality feeds supply with Farm Tech Ventures and an update of the existing MoU, to ensure prompt farmers' payment.

The ICR Facility supported the Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK) in strengthening and improving the existing Public-Private Dialogue mechanism through an analysis of existing gaps, key issues for discussion with relevant working groups, and innovative ways to stimulate business environment reforms in the clean cooking sector.

The ABC Fund financed smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs via local financial intermediaries. FACTS Advance BV, that provides short-term supply chain financing solutions for SMEs, agribusinesses and entrepreneurs, has been backed with a credit facility of USD 2M. Yehu microfinance institution that provides financial services to the rural poor, has been financed with EUR 1M. Yehu plans to establish partnerships to support youth and women in agriculture. Another EUR 2M loan was given to Premier Credit Kenya that provides credit locally to individuals and SMEs. The ABC Fund loan will allow Premier to extend a further 10 000 loans to agricultural clients almost half of which will go to women smallholder farmers or women agribusiness owners.

EURIZ: PROPARCO and Equity Bank Kenya (EBK) signed a EURIZ portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 19.5M. A complete package was offered to EBK with a combination of an EURIZ guarantee on high developmental impact MSMEs with a specific focus on health MSMEs and a TA project to support the development of the Equity Afia clinics network. The overall project will help small clinics to be developed in regions lacking health infrastructure.



Madagascar

The Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar, with the support of FO4ACP, has developed a proposal with the objective of supporting 500 households in the agriculture and forestry sectors, to enhance resilience to climate change. In that context, 183 farmers were trained in improved production of maize. FIFATA association, focused on the professionalisation of the "gassy" chicken breeders, trained 207 chicken breeders; 52 relay farmers benefited from refresher training on their role, and they now ensure the follow up of 162 farmers. 25 chicken breeders were trained in marketing and production management and 24 in chicken feed storages improvement.

Among other activities through the FFM programme, videos were produced on good hygiene practices and good social practices (lychee sector) for the benefit of the company FRUID'ILES, exporter of fresh lychees.

ACP Business-friendly (macro level) is helping to improve Madagascar's competitiveness in promoting and retaining domestic and foreign investment to spur business-led growth and job creation. The programme supports reform efforts around two workstreams: i) Removing barriers to investment and market entry; and ii) Enhancing the effective implementation of reforms. The World Bank engagement in Madagascar is supporting the removal of barriers to investment and market entries and targeting enhanced effectiveness of reform implementation. The project is supporting efforts to update the current investment legal framework, strengthen the Economic Development Board of Madagascar's (EDBM) ability to coordinate and implement investment climate reforms, and provide institutional support to establish a Systematic Investor Response Mechanism (SIRM). The project's support is also focused on streamlining the digitization of key Government-to-Business (G2B) services at the national level (for essential oils export licenses) and at the subnational level (for construction permits in Nosy Be).

The ICR Facility supported the Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar (GEM) and the Economic Development Board of (EDBM) to revise the 2013 Private Sector White Paper in order to present a shared vision for the future of the private sector.



Mauritius

Proxifresh Co. Ltd is a Mauritian company specialising in the import, export and distribution of fruits and vegetables. A technical assistance mission was organised by FFM to help the company identify appropriate methods to increase the shelf life and stability of its processed products and to identify ways to recover waste from its various activities.



Rwanda

FO4ACP, in cooperation with Ingabo Syndicate (cassava value chain), elaborated the cassava seed business strategy, established the Cassava Centre of Excellence, developed the e-cassava market application and organised the Cassava Week event that brought together all the cassava value chain stakeholders.

ICR Facility supported the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) to become an accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund. The support included revision of BRD's policies and procedures, elaboration of a gender policy and of an on-granting manual for climate finance. The BRD received advisory services for the improvement of its monitoring and evaluation system, in order to enable the bank to track its developmental impact.

Among activities from the FFM programme, support was given to Spices Rwanda Ltd, a whole dried chilli business, in two different phases. Phase one support aimed at reviewing the current Spices Rwanda Ltd HACCP plan and identifying and documenting corrective actions that need to be taken for future HACCP system certification. Phase two support involved training of Spices Rwanda Ltd staff on the general principles of food hygiene. Since receiving technical support from the FFM programme, Spices Rwanda Ltd has invested further into HACCP system implementation toward certification secured early in 2022.



Malawi

Digital finance market assessments were conducted, through **DFS** for Resilience programme, consisting of in-depth diagnostics of each market to identify gaps and priorities and determine appropriate engagement approaches.



Somalia

FFM organised training on health quality management and crop protection as well as capacity building on training and communication techniques for the staff of the Jubba Agro company (mainly banana producer).



Tanzania

The Tanzanian Federation of Co-operatives (TFC), with the support of **FO4ACP**, developed a mapping of stakeholders along the maize value chain and organised B2B meetings resulting in nine maize supply contracts being signed between farmers' organisations and buyers. TFC developed an agribusiness strategy as well. The Agricultural Council of Tanzania focused its action on System of Rice Intensification training and its adoption in the rice value chain with the training of 60 lead farmers and the sharing of knowledge with 1 465 smallholder farmers through learning plots. B2B meetings were organised for 80 participants on input management and 80 participants on mechanisation services.

A training on avocado production for GBRI extension officers in the context of smallholder production was conducted by a Zimbabwean expert from **FFM**. GBRI is one of the Tanzania leading agribusiness companies that produces avocados in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. FFM is also collaborating with the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), and the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg), for the establishment of the "Practical/Vocational Training Programme in Horticulture". The four partnership members are working together to run a market-driven skills development programme that will bridge the wide skills gap of agricultural (and specifically horticultural) graduates and practitioners in Tanzania, which has been a barrier to realising the untapped full potential of the horticulture industry for the country.

WE4A outreach activities have commenced, and a detailed operational plan is being developed with activities starting in Q2 of 2022. There are currently 56 female TEF alumni who are eligible to participate in activities implemented under component 2 of the WE4A programme in Tanzania.



Uganda

The Formalisation and Business Development Acceleration Strategy for the **Development Minerals** Sector in Uganda was developed and finalised in 2021; a 5-year roadmap towards achieving a formalised development minerals sector was also formulated. The programme conducted dedicated training sessions for ASMEs in all regions of Uganda to familiarise them with the Strategy and the regulatory framework. The programme is supporting geo-data mapping and reserve estimation of four development minerals, identified as priority minerals in the Market Study and Value Chain Analysis of the sector: sand, dimension stone, stone aggregate and clay. The Programme provided equipment (plotter) to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to generate and provide geodata maps to interested stakeholders. Some 17 grants issued for a total of EUR 82 000 to ASM associations in development minerals, community-based organisations and local governments, benefitting 1 677 people directly and 2 483 people indirectly. In addition, small grants were designed to include interventions that increase inclusion of women and youth; as a result, the grantees had built-in activities such as promoting women's savings' groups and making women's work easier. The programme, together with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, collaborated with the Spotlight Initiative to organise a national dialogue on addressing gender-based violence in the mining sector.

The **ABC Fund** financed smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs via local financial intermediaries. FACTS Advance BV, that provides short-term supply chain financing solutions for SMEs, agribusinesses and entrepreneurs, has been supported with a credit facility of USD 2M. Moreover, EBO savings and credit cooperative, servicing clients engaged primarily in agriculture activities, was financed by ABC Fund. The ABC Fund's financing would enable 2 166 new agri-loans to be disbursed over the life of the facility. 32% of EBO's clients are women and they constitute 55% of active borrowers.

The Ugandan Association of Fruit and Vegetable Exporters and Producers benefited from the technical assistance of FFM for the establishment of a 5-year strategic action plan. Jakana Foods Ltd produces conventional and organic dried fruits (banana, jackfruit, mango, pineapple, papaya). The company benefited from the support of FFM to improve its purchasing management system in order to be able to meet market demand. The Avocado Association Uganda is an inter-professional association with 50 members, mainly small avocado producers. The objective of the association is to enable its members to access international and national horticultural markets by complying with good agricultural practices, SPS requirements and market requirements. FFM provided support to work on its governance structure and the development of a strategic plan. FFM SPS updated its Technical Brochure on the management of false codling moth (FCM, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*), for use in training sessions with Ugandan growers of pepper (*Capsicum* spp.). The main enhancement is an updated table of plant protection products (PPPs) potentially effective against FCM that are currently registered for use in Uganda (2021). The information includes the active ingredients and concentrations, the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) mode of action classification, the World Health Organization (WHO) classification, and the EU maximum residue level (MRL) for *Capsicum*.

In 2021, a needs assessment of the WE4A beneficiaries (TEF alumni) was conducted in Uganda. The overall objective was to ascertain the specific entrepreneurial needs of the programme's target beneficiaries. This in-depth enquiry has been an important step in ensuring a responsive development of programme activities.

3.3 Southern Africa

Across the Southern Africa region, the intra-ACP programmes have covered a wide range of private sector development aspects. **ACP Business-friendly** regional-level initiative to develop a SADC Investment Climate Scorecard, that assesses foreign direct investment regulatory restrictiveness in the region, is progressing well with full support and engagement of the relevant authorities. In May 2021, the project was officially launched during the latest SADC Investment Sub-Committee meeting.

FO4ACP supported SACAU activities focused on facilitating access to markets and the marketing of agricultural produce, provision of technical training and business to business meetings as well as the development of project proposals and business plans. SACAU membership reached 4 233 M in 2021.

The **WE4A** offers various entrepreneurship support measures in Southern Africa. The TEF entrepreneurship programme, currently focuses on training, coaching and seed capital provision, tailored business management courses are being delivered on TEConnect (The Digital Networking Platform for African Entrepreneurs) in English, French, Arabic and Portuguese, while Boost Africa is active through Entrepreneurship Lab (ELAB) providing training to start-ups in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The ICR Facility supported the SADC Business Council (SADC BC), a recently established apex body of national and regional business associations, in the development of its first strategy and action plan.



Angola

Compliance with SPS requirements is supported in the country through FFM SPS programme.

Under the **ACP Business-friendly**, the WB undertook extensive consultations across public and private sector stakeholders prior to delivering capacity building and strategic planning support on investment retention and aftercare services, investment grievance mechanisms, and licensing and inspection support. Programme support also covers the strengthening of the legal and regulatory frameworks for investment and competition. The programme is assisting the country's IPA AIPLEX in implementing its investment vision while support is also being extended on FDI entry reforms and recommendations for the development of the Janela Unica do Investimento (JUI, Angola's One Stop Shop). Under its Competition Policy workstream, the programme is providing technical assistance to the recently established competition authority. This will contribute to capacitate the authority in delivering on its mandate, including on the phasing out of price regulations.



Mozambique

An assessment of a first group of 31 female entrepreneurs was conducted by WE4A.

EURIZ: PROPARCO and Société Générale Mozambique signed a EURIZ portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 3M. The portfolio guarantee is a multisector one targeting the High developmental impact MSMEs defined in the EURIZ agreement with a focus on MSMEs owned by women or operating in the agriculture sector.

The **ICR Facility** supported the Beluluane Industrial Park, a public-private partnership by the Mozambican Government Agency for Investment & Export (APIEX) and private investors, to improve the park's environmental sustainability.



Namibia

EURIZ: PROPARCO and First National Bank Namibia signed a EURIZ portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 4M. The portfolio guarantee is a multisector one targeting the high developmental impact MSMEs defined in the EURIZ agreement.



South Africa

EURIZ: PROPARCO and Standard Bank signed a EURIZ portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 9M. Like in Namibia, the portfolio guarantee is a multisector one targeting the high developmental impact MSMEs defined in the EURIZ agreement allowing the PFI to expand its SME lending activities into high impact sectors.



Zambia

FFM SPS supported the compilation of plant health dossiers for capsicum, and the implementation of measures set out in order to enable pepper exports to the EU.

In Zambia, one component of the **ACP Business-friendly** (implemented by the WB), is helping enhance the delivery of investor services by the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and supporting the strengthening the legal framework governing foreign investment. The project is also supporting the adoption of guidelines for a cross-governmental system of risk-based regulation and supporting the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) in rolling out an e-Registry to cover local authority licenses. Additionally, the World Bank is involved in assisting the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) to improve standards development and the delivery of conformity assessments in national quality infrastructure related testing areas. Another component of ACP Business-friendly (implemented by UNIDO), focused on improving Zambia Development Agency investment retention and attraction services and investment opportunity development and promotion. A service subcontract was issued to ZDA for the compilation and updating of its FDI Business Directory, complementing training support in implementing UNIDO's investment monitoring methodology and use of the Digital Investment Profiling System (DIPS). Ten (10) capacity building and technical sessions were delivered to an average of 5 ZDA staff (2 women) covering sector prioritization, business directory development, data processing and an additional ISIC training screening survey and verification approach, reviewing of ongoing business directory update work on the initially identified FDI database of 4 969 enterprises reduced to 1 100 on the basis of investor prioritization selection. Work on investment opportunity profiling was started with both ZDA and the Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM), following training and advisory support provided to technical teams from the respective organizations, comprising respective teams of technical staff. Similarly, UNIDO and ITC are complementing efforts in sensitising the investment promotion actors in the country about the need as well as opportunities for promoting domestic and foreign investment mobilisation in the cotton sector.

Development Minerals provided funding to Government agencies to undertake outreach programmes and build the capacities of ASM associations for formalisation. In 2020, the Programme undertook field formalisation campaigns, reaching out to 500 artisanal and small-scale miners. In 2021, from among the participating artisanal miners, 8 cooperatives in development minerals were formed, and 4 of them received mining licenses. The programme helped develop a geo-database system in 2020, and further upgraded it in 2021. This included support to conducting geo-data fieldwork to assess the mineral potential and the economic value of development minerals in 6 provinces of Zambia. The programme also procured equipment to upgrade the geodatabase server room for the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development. The programme financed 8 grants for a total of EUR 40 000 to 8 ASM associations and non-governmental organisations in development minerals with 5 891 direct and indirect beneficiaries. The programme supported women by providing small grants to women-owned and operated ASMEs/ cooperatives and including women in training sessions. Overall, women constituted 49% of participants in training activities in Zambia in 2020 and 2021. Last but not least the programme, in partnership with the University of Zambia - School of Mines, trained 23 artisanal and small-scale miners, community members and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the preparation and implementation of Environmental Project Briefs.



Zimbabwe

FFM SPS, supported the agricultural sector in complying with market requirements. Support covered the areas of food safety and environmental management, social compliance and overall business management.

The Zimbabwe Farmers' Union is a private sector organisation that positions itself as the largest farmers' interest organisation in the country, representing over one million farming households. Thanks to the support of **FFM**, a training programme has been developed and implemented in the following areas: crop protection and the safe use of plant protection products, good food hygiene and traceability practices, sanitary quality management, regulations and private standards, and training in pedagogical skills.

The **FFM** programme continued its training support for the project – Rusitu Fruit Growers and Marketing Trust which, in collaboration with Zimtrade, aims to relaunch the organic pineapple production and certification project. The latter was abruptly stopped in 2019 following the passage of Cyclone Idai. Usitu Valley Fruit Growers and Marketing Trust (RVFGMT), received a major boost when they achieved organic certification of their pineapples by Ecocert partially thanks to the support received by the FFM programme.



3.4 West Africa

Countries of the region have received support from at least one intra-ACP programme at the national level, while also benefiting from programmes' activities covering the entire region. Thus, Boost Africa, through JANNGO VC Fund focuses on equity/quasi-equity investments across the region; ABC Fund finances targeted companies and cooperatives. EURIZ portfolio guarantee is available to MSMEs in the region through major banks. Training on business management through the WE4A programme was delivered on TEConnect, throughout the region.

By assisting adherence to SPS measures, the FFM SPS programme has supported the export activities of the mango, pepper, eggplant, and curry leaves sectors of the following countries to the EU: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. In anticipation of the start of the 2021 mango export campaign in several West African countries – Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea and Mali – FFM SPS partnered with the competent authorities in each country to organise workshops for discussion and exchange. The workshops took place between the end of March 2021 and mid-April 2021, and brought together private sector operators and the competent authorities of each country, with an underlying focus on the mango dossier submitted to the European Union under the new phytosanitary rules that came into force in December 2019 (EU2016/2031).

FFM has organised numerous collective training sessions for the benefit of horticultural companies in West Africa: By way of example, mention may be made in particular of: Food processing training and coaching sessions. A total of 17 beneficiary companies from West Africa attended the training and 12 were individually coached. FFM also provided practical training in waste assessment, reduction and recovery for companies in the Mango sector in West Africa.

ICR Facility supported ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development to create a tailor-made capacity building programme. A tailored workplan has been developed outlining the topics to be covered and activities to be implemented. The ICR Facility supported ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development to build a tailored capacity building programme for its staff and management. The workplan, to be implemented until September 2022, includes works on a learning management system and specialized training. The ICR Facility supported the private sector section of the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) to develop a partnership between the public and the private sector in the Sahel region and to thus improve the business and investment climate. The ICR Facility supported FEWACCI (Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry) on the promotion of business law harmonisation in ECOWAS Member States.

FO4ACP supported ROPPA and their technical support staff called CNIEP (Conseiller national aux initiatives économiques des OP) in consolidating three priority value chains (potato, sweet potato, poultry). Moreover, nineteen women and youth cooperatives were selected and benefited from capacity building support by the CNIEP. Three farmers' organisations networks (APESS, RBM, ROPPA) have set up a Surveillance and Action Committee which is intended to be a space for encouraging and structuring cooperation between all the networks of farmers' organisations and CSOs in the face of COVID-19 crises. The Women and Youth platform of ROPPA also organised consultations among its members.

Boost Africa: The JANNGO VC Fund focuses on Francophone Western African countries (targeting 65% of the total investments in Francophone Africa), including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali, Niger and Benin. The fund will also have a limited focus on Anglophone W. Africa (Nigeria and Ghana). Training through ELAB were available for new entrepreneurs in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.



Benin

ABC Fund provided USD 1.8M to UNACREP, specialised in microfinance for farmers and cooperatives. Under ITC's Ethical Fashion Initiative, the ACP Business-friendly programme is promoting production of fashion-oriented organic cotton-based products in Benin and Burkina Faso. Cotton is produced and spun in Benin and then exported to Burkina Faso for dyeing and weaving. Design is the result of co-creation involving Burkinabe Designers and European Brands. 830 women artisans have received training in production (spinning and weaving) and 60 women community leaders on cooperatives management (pricing, marketing, visibility of products). Moreover, 330 women in Benin and Burkina Faso have been trained on operations of the value chain and on the Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) code of conduct.

Under **FO4ACP**, a local certified seed value chain for maize and soybean seeds was developed with support from French Farmers and International Development (Afdi). Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, FO4ACP facilitated the setting up of two access to agricultural finance mechanisms in Benin, as well as the production and sales of 23 tons of certified seeds. A market study on products processed by women (cassava and gari) was also undertaken.

FFM SPS supported the constitution of a Technical Working Group and Steering Committee with stakeholders active in the pineapple sector in October 2021. FFM SPS support for the stakeholder-driven process aims at validating and finalising the Good Practice Guide (GPC) on Pineapple in Benin.

The technical assistance to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Benin, delivered by the **ICR Facility** aimed at increasing the capacity of CCI Benin staff who provide business support to enterprises in Benin and the creation of a cluster of the beekeeping sector.



Burkina Faso

ABC Fund financed Anatrans (raw cashew nuts processor temporarily employing almost 2 400 people of whom 80% are women during the cashew season) with EUR 800 000. It provided a loan of EUR 450 000 to Kaworo that produces grains and seeds for local sale. The loan is expected to enable the company to increase the number of farmers it works with, providing additional income to over hundred new farmers. The scheme currently has 525 out-growers of whom 28% are women and 40% are youth.

FFM provided support for the implementation of a sustainable soil management plan for SANLE SECHAGE EXPORT, producer and exporter of fresh and dried mango.

Similarly to Benin, the **ACP Business-friendly** is promoting production of fashion-oriented organic cotton-based products made by women artisans. The artisans have benefiting from training in production (spinning and weaving) while working in cooperatives linked to ethical fashion markets nationally, regionally, and globally. In addition, several cooperatives were registered formally and their leadership trained in cooperative governance and service delivery. This training and formalization process is going to be extended to other countries of the region (Liberia, Ghana and DRC) in 2022.

Under **FO4ACP**, training on agro-ecology was organized for 22 youth, while 224 farmers were trained in entrepreneurship and 90 on business management. Furthermore, a consultation meeting was held with dairy value chain stakeholders and communal leaders on the development needs of the local dairy sector.



Cape Verde

At macro level, **ACP Business-friendly** supports to TradeInvest and relevant Ministries to: i) develop a national investment strategy and an investor-centric, action-oriented investment strategy for the IPA that will be underpinned by newly created investor services (aftercare and outreach); ii) develop and implement competition policy enforcement approaches to reduce risks related to concentration of market power and potential collusion, and iii) improve Cape Verde's business regulatory restrictiveness in high priority sectors currently characterized by complex regulatory procedures and barriers.

In Cabo Verde the ICR Facility supported the European Union Delegation and the government in assessing the current status of public-private dialogue in the country.



EURIZ: Société Générale Côte d'Ivoire (SGCI): This individual EURIZ guarantee will cover a loan extended by SGCI to a company working in medical imaging and radiology. **SGBC:** This individual EURIZ guarantee will cover a leasing loan extended by SGBC to a local privately-owned public transportation company.

FFM provided technical assistance in the form of a sociological study for the establishment of a contract farming programme with 3 links and CSR adapted for SODIPEX (company active in the marketing of mangoes and coconuts) and its producers. FFM SPS supported a study on mango hot water treatment.

Côte d'Ivoire is one of the countries chosen to pilot the Rapid SPS Assessment Tool (R-SAT) developed by COLEACP as part of the **FFM SPS** programme. The main objective is to develop a priority action plan to strengthen national sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) systems, and to ensure the alignment of these systems with international standards and regulations. During the launch meeting of this pilot in Abidjan, the competent authorities chose to apply the tool to the Capsicum sector, both for the local market and for the export market to the EU.

As part of the **FFM** programme, a group training session was organised in Abidjan for coconut producing and exporting companies. This training aimed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of production managers on good production and post-harvest practices of coconut cultivation.

ABC Fund has provided working capital financing to three cocoa cooperatives. Socak Katana is a cocoa cooperative that engages over 3 000 members from three West Ivorian regions. It sources raw cocoa from its members, and it then processes, transports, and stores the value-added products before selling to local and international buyers. The financing of EUR 750 000 provided to Socak Katana in 2019 by the ABC Fund aimed at helping its cocoa farmers secure revenue and access to market, by ensuring that the cooperative has the funds needed to pre-finance their seasonal production. The Cooperative Kimbe ("Ecookim"), also funded by ABC Fund, is a union of cooperatives composed of 30 cooperatives located in rural communities across 12 different provinces. CABF is among the cocoa cooperatives financed by the programme, with almost 3 000 farmer members. ABC Fund funded Bio Amandes with EUR 800 000. That shea butter processor and exporter, producing organic certified shea butter, adds value to the sector by employing a local workforce and sourcing raw materials directly from 7 300 women (out of whom 6 450 youth).



Ghana

ICR Facility supported public private dialogue at the sector and subnational levels focused on identifying the obstacles to create and develop green jobs in the country. The analysis of the business environment for green jobs allowed the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations to understand the current challenges and opportunities of green jobs; and identify all relevant players and collect critical input to finalise and adopt the strategy. The intervention also resulted in a stakeholder map with a comprehensive list of actors relevant to green jobs across the country.

The World Bank's support in Ghana aims to enhance national investment attraction and retention strategies, support institutional coordination on key reform initiatives, and aid the development and implementation of an Investor Grievance Mechanism (IGM). The project is also supporting the implementation of cross-cutting business regulatory reforms through the delivery of an institutional assessment of key stakeholders, capacity-building and organizational support for a new investment climate reform coordinating body and related stakeholders, and piloting of a new model in selected areas. The World Bank is also supporting efforts aimed to improve the standard development service delivery of Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) by developing a strategic plan for the institution.

General sensitization sessions were held with the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), with the support of ACP Business-friendly covering the scope of FDI Business directory compilation, including 2 technical advisory meetings to support GIPC in terms of enhancing investment monitoring systems based on UNIDO's FDI Data Management Toolkit. A service subcontract was issued to GIPC for the compilation and updating of a Business Directory. 14 GIPC staff members (8 women) were trained on data processing and questionnaire module selection, cluster identification and prioritization and an introduction to the hands on training on DIPS, to enable them to carry out Business Directory update processes and investors' survey activities.

Synergies were established with ITC's work with the Coffee Federation of Ghana (CFG) concerning the ongoing value chain baseline assessment and identification of investment needs among operators. UNIDO held discussions with the EU-funded, GrEEN (SNV) programme for potential complementarity of actions, especially in the identification of investments as a need for SMEs. UNIDO participated in investment summits to leverage collaboration through the ACP-BF incl. the 2021 SDGs Investment Fair, the Cocoa Value Chain Investment event, the Ghana Diaspora Investment Summit, the AGI Investor Forum etc.

A total of 42 women entrepreneurs have been enrolled in the WE4A project in Ghana. A diagnostics study was conducted with 36 out of the 42 beneficiaries. Their businesses were analysed to identify their specific needs and how this could be addressed by the support structure of the programme.

ABC Fund's loan of EUR 395 653 to Maphlix, that produces and processes tubers and vegetables, is aiming at expanding the production of sweet potatoes. As at December 2020, it helped secure revenues for 58 sweet potato farmers. The programme also lent EUR 800 000 to Dragon Farming that processes raw soya beans into soya bean meal, full fat soya and soya oil for local feed millers, poultry farmers, tilapia feed producers and input suppliers.

The loan assists the company to scale up its operations to meet customer demand and increase the volume of soya beans purchased from farmer-based organisations. Maphlix also benefits from the synergies between the ABC Fund and the FFM / FFM SPS programmes, through the support received by COLEACP's managed interventions, which were coordinated with the ABC Fund to avoid any potential risk of duplication. Training of Entrepreneurship Lab for start-up owners, through Boost Africa, were also available in the country. FFM facilitated the development of the governance system and managerial effectiveness of the SPVCA

- Sweet Potato Value Chain Association of Ghana. SPVCA is a national platform whose mission is to bring innovation among actors in the sweet potato supply chain and to stimulate cooperation between actors. Two professional organisations, VEPEAG and SPEG, have also received support from FFM to facilitate the linking of producers in their networks with buyers. An online market platform has been created to facilitate exchanges between VEPEAG and SPEG producers and potential buyers.

A Field Training Workshop for the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) aimed to develop participants' capacity to transmit good practices in hygiene, traceability, crop protection and the safe use of pesticides to workers and/or small producers, as part of the FFM programme. Held in March 2021, the workshop was designed for producers and extension staff. GSA was also supported by the FFM programme through the organisation of a dedicated training in cost/benefit analysis for micro/small scale producers.



Guinea

PROPARCO and Société Générale Guinée signed a **EURIZ** portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 5M. The portfolio guarantee targets MSMEs and with a 50% coverage, it is the second portfolio guarantee signed in a fragile state.

Country-wide stakeholder consultation is underway to support the Government of Guinea in developing a National Strategy for Participatory Formalisation and Accelerated Business Development in the Development Minerals Sector. The programme has been working with the Ministry of Mines and Geology to strengthen the operational capacities of its sub-national level offices with increased field-level monitoring capacities of ASM activities. Moreover, the programme supported Boké School of Mines to deliver in-the-field training on digitisation and mapping of geological data and reserve estimation in 2021 with 36 participants. Development Minerals issued 30 grants or a total of EUR 136 000 to 30 ASM cooperatives working in sand quarrying, mining of semi-precious stones such as ruby, and making of clay bricks (with 8 581 direct and indirect beneficiaries). In the second round of small grants issued by the programme to 9 cooperatives in Guinea, 384 women benefited, using these grants to increase their outputs, strengthen their involvement in different stages of mining.

FFM provided support for the establishment of pineapple and mango production following organic farming for the benefit of the company "TROPICAUX", specialised in fruit processing, in particular, dried mango and pineapple.

A national consultation workshop for stakeholders in the Guinean potato sector was held in Mamou in July 2021, as part of the development of the Good Practice Guide (GPG) for the value chain of this commodity by the FFM SPS programme. This workshop brought together more than 20 participants from the main farmers' organisations in the sector), the private sector, partner projects (the Belgian development agency, ENABEL), representatives of national NGOs (ECOR), Bareng Agricultural Research Centre and the National Directorate for Plant Protection and Stored Foods. Stakeholders stressed that this GPG will help the different actors working in potato production to produce them using appropriate SPS measures and achieving an optimal commercial quality of the product by harmonising the current specifications with international standards and commercial quality criteria adopted by the markets.



Liberia

By December 2021, **ACP Business-friendly** was working extensively with Gender and Youth in Liberia. Activities attracted the participation of 130 farmers (data for both Cameroun & Liberia), coffee traders and roasters.



Mali

PROPARCO and Banque Atlantique du Mali signed a EUR 760 000 EURIZ portfolio guarantee on January 28th 2021 dedicated to all MSMEs and with a 50% coverage. It is the first portfolio guarantee signed in a fragile state. The signing of this agreement is part of the implementation of the financing programme called “Women’s Entrepreneurship, Banque Atlantique is Committed”, launched in March 2020.

ABC Fund financed with EUR 800 000 Mali Shi, a shea processing company producing unrefined shea butter. The company sources its raw materials locally from a network of cooperatives and traders. Financing Mali Shi help secure the revenues of shea collectors (61 570 smallholder farmers, including 21 570 women (35%)) and contribute to local employment.

SCS International, a Malian company exporting fresh mango, received support from FFM to build the capacity of its technical staff responsible for 2 different certification programmes (the GRASP module of GLOBALG.A.P and BSCI). [26]

A market profile of dried mango and mango juice from Mali looking at the local, regional and European markets to identify potential opportunities for product diversification was developed by the FFM programme. With the large quantity of mangoes available in Mali and the positive global consumption trends the market segment for dried mango and mango juice is very promising.



Mauritania

Several economic sectors have been hard hit by the pandemic and this is likely to lead to a high number of insolvent businesses. Travel restrictions and social distancing heavily impacted firms in the tourism, restaurant, services, and transport sectors, resulting in an increasing number of expected insolvency cases. A well-functioning insolvency system can facilitate recovery as a channel for resolving debt-overhang and preserving employment. **ACP Business-friendly**, at macro-level, assisted in the revision of the insolvency framework; the RRW engaged in a key follow-on assistance to accompany the policy reform. It was crucial to communicate widely, raise awareness, and provide specific training to key stakeholders on the revised framework to build capacity of the judicial system to use the reformed system efficiently and effectively. Key areas of support included (a) conducting workshops for Mauritania's commercial courts' judges and clerks in key insolvency concepts by experts and (b) designing and implementing a communications strategy on the revised insolvency law.

With the support of FO4ACP, Federation of Farmers and Breeders of Mauritania, selected to work with the Thide women agro-pastoral cooperative, that focusses on vegetables and small livestock. The cooperative conducted a value chain study on the fodder value chain and developed an action plan for 2021-2022, as well as a draft advocacy plan. In June 2021, a training session on administration and financial management was organised.



Niger

Digital finance market assessments were conducted (**DFS for Resilience programme**). In line with the UNCDF approach, this consisted of in-depth diagnostics of each market to identify gaps and priorities, and determine appropriate engagement approaches.

FO4ACP supported two units of transformation of milk in buying equipment. Through this intervention 80 **milk** producers (50 of whom women) benefitted directly.



Nigeria

PROPARCO and First City Monument Bank (FCMB) signed a **EURIZ** portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 10M. A complete package was offered to FCMB with a combination of a EUR 50M credit line, a EURIZ guarantee on -high developmental impact MSMEs and a TA project currently in appraisal stage, targeting MSME training and mentorship (with a focus on women-owned MSMEs). At the end of January 2021, FFM facilitated training on crop protection, safe use of pesticides and the Field Training Workshop method for Dangote Farms Limited in Nigeria. The company grows tomatoes with over 5,000 smallholders in the area around Kano, processing the crop into tomato paste for the domestic market. The extension staff who took part in the training are planning to make use of the skills they acquired to impact both junior staff during in-company training, and Dangote Farms' 5000+ smallholder outgrowers.



In 2021, **FFM SPS** helped develop a practical guide for the production of compost for companies active in the processing of mangoes in the Casamance region. A “Market profile on processed tomatoes in Senegal” was also published through FFM. This market profile outlines the processed tomato sector in Senegal in terms of its commercial opportunities on local West African and European markets.

FFM and FFM SPS worked with mango producers and processors in Senegal focusing on recovering and quantifying mango waste, with composting as one of the identified solutions. Although this solution is relatively simple, implementing it on a large-scale production site requires specific theoretical and practical knowledge. Through FFM SPS programme, training, and consultancy for mango production/processing companies in Casamance was provided.

FFM has begun its first sessions of pilot training on implementing a commercial service within a professional organisation. This training, carried out in collaboration with the National Agency for Agricultural and Rural Consultancy – Niayes Area Directorate (ANCAR Thiès), is aimed at producers in the market gardening sector operating on the local informal market. The sessions focused on the realisation of grouped sales, commercial negotiation, marketing contracts as well as monitoring and recording of operations.

PROPARCO and Société Générale Sénégal signed a EURIZ portfolio guarantee agreement of EUR 1.5M. The portfolio guarantee is a multisector one targeting the high developmental impact MSMEs defined in the EURIZ agreement. The risk-sharing scheme proposed by PROPARCO will enable the bank to step up its SME financing activity. The guarantees enable the PFI to share the risk of financing very small, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), thus increasing their capacity to finance the economy.

In strengthening the capacities of the Agence de Promotion de l'Investissement et des Grands Travaux (APIX) [27], 4 staff members (women), were trained in 3 capacity building sessions through ACP Business-friendly programme to carry out FDI business directory update and compilation work. A service subcontract and accompanying capacity building was provided to APIX technical team with focus on planning future round of FDI surveys among enterprises operating in the agro-industry, manufacturing, tourism and transport sectors.

During the year, stakeholder sensitisation was undertaken with a number of investment promotion institutions from the public and private sector on UNIDO's Investment Opportunity Profiling Methodology, dovetailing into direct capacity building engagement with APIX as well as the Agency for the Development and Supervision of Small and Medium Enterprises and the Bureau de Mise à Niveau (ADEPME).

Under the QI component of the Meso-level pillar, a study on the development of the National Laboratory Policy based on the UNIDO Guide for the Development of Regional and National Quality Policies was undertaken throughout 2021. This Policy represents a guidance document which should make it possible to better articulate and coordinate the mobilization of the resources necessary for the development of a national laboratory infrastructure recognized both regionally and internationally for the sustainable preservation of population health, economic, social and environmental development of Senegal.

In parallel, the World Bank's work in Senegal is providing inputs to the Government as it is revising the national investment code and incentives regime and support investment promotion efforts. The project is also supporting the simplification of licensing in two priority sectors, the modernization of construction permitting procedures, and the improvement of the Senegalese Quality Infrastructure ecosystem and standards framework.



Sierra-Leone

In March 2021, the Federation for Agricultural Produce Exporters of Sierra Leone (FAPESL) has facilitated a workshop, organized with support from the World Bank and COLEACP. The objective of this workshop was to introduce the FAPESL project for an Export Facility built according to International standards at Lungi Airport and to present it in detail to public and private horticultural stakeholders. This project would boost exports of fresh and processed produce and allow exporters to be more competitive while respecting regulations and international standards. The FFM programme supported the FAPESL with several expert missions to provide support on the technical, organizational and budgetary aspects of the project.



Togo

FO4ACP supported the Togolese Coordination of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers (CTOP Togo) to get access to agricultural finance mechanisms. CTOP Togo trained 26 warehouse workers from member farmers' organisation on the warehouse management and worked on the mapping of the warehouses using the SIM AGRI platform. CTOP Togo also prepared a COVID-19 response plan with a strong focus on providing the necessary support to the economic activities of the most vulnerable rural families.

On 7 May, in collaboration with the Direction de la Protection des Végétaux du Togo (DPV), a virtual workshop was organised for the start of the 2021 mango campaign through **FFM SPS**. The workshop brought together 24 participants from horticultural companies and organisations (including the DPV, Direction des Filières Végétales, GIZ/ProDRA, Interprofession mango), aiming to remind exporters of the main points of the mango dossier before the start of the 2021 campaign in Togo. Discussions focused on the key points of the dossier, in particular the implementation of integrated management measures (national surveillance, surveillance of orchards and stations, sanitation); the inspection and certification system (organisation, state of play, management of notifications); and protective measures.

A training course on Health Quality Management was organised from 26 to 29 October 2021 for supervisors of the Institute for Technical Advice and Support (ICAT). The training, which took place face-to-face in Lomé, was jointly organised through the STDF project and **FFM SPS** programme to strengthen Togo's SPS system. It involved 15 participants and focused on product traceability, good hygiene practices, risk analysis, the principles of self-checking, regulatory requirements, and document management.



3.5 Caribbean

Both at regional and national level, the Caribbean region was mainly supported by four intra-ACP projects, namely the ICR Facility, **FO4APC**, ACP Business-friendly and DFS. Development Minerals and FFM SPS were active in Jamaica, as well as in the Dominican Republic.

ICR Facility supported the Caribbean Export Development Agency in an analysis of the credit reporting infrastructure in fifteen CARIFORUM countries. The intervention provided an in-depth assessment of credit bureaus and collateral registries in the region, and highlighted opportunities for reform at the regional level. In addition, the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies received support to analyse the insolvency frameworks around the region. The **ICR Facility** provided advisory services to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to assess how CDB could structure its private sector lending and in assessing the feasibility of a supply chain and trade finance facility for the Caribbean region.

At the regional level, delivery to its members of economic services in priority value chains stands as a major component for FO4ACP. Mapping and the systematisation of information regarding farmers' organisations is a flagship activity of that component. After a survey, FAO compiled a list of 150 FOs in five countries (including Haiti, Guyana and Saint Lucia) and brought together information on the agricultural value chains of each country. In addition, the mapping exercise provides information regarding the legislation and institutional rules that regulate the establishment of farmers' organisation, unions or associations in the different countries. In collaboration with PROCASUR, an online interactive platform and application was developed. The objective was to create an innovative learning environment for the training programme. Participants would thus be able to share experiences, knowledge and good practices directly on this platform and navigate through the experiences from their peers.

FFM and the Caribbean Agribusiness Association have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting and strengthening the development of agribusiness in the Caribbean, improving competitiveness through increased capacity to produce better quality food and more secure, better market access and strong business and management skills.

COLEACP, through **FFM** and **FFM SPS**, in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, has launched the Caribbean Agrifood Business Series to support a more resilient and greener agricultural and agrifood business sector in the Caribbean. This Caribbean Agrifood Business Series aims at (i) exchanging ideas and best practices on selected priority issues; (ii) showcasing successes of smallholders, businesses and micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs); (iii) promoting and documenting forthcoming innovations and technologies benefiting smallholders and MSMEs; (iv) promoting networking amongst various stakeholders in the food chain; and (v) disseminating research findings. Topics will range from improved production, trade and competitiveness, food safety and quality, rebuilding tourism with increased linkages to agriculture, bioeconomy and green businesses to regional logistics and efficiency in trade. Each session will feature businesses and MSMEs across the region, especially targeting local and regional markets, and will bring views from experts in finance, technology, policy, research.



Antigua and Barbuda

ICR Facility supported the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority to improve its capacities to attract and retain foreign investment, while also contributing to an enhanced business environment.



Dominican Republic

FFM SPS supported the compilation of dossiers, and implementation of measures set out in order to enable mango exports to the EU. The country, being among the ten ACP countries most subject to notifications and/or interceptions by the EU under its food-feed safety requirements and plant health regulations, also benefited greatly from the monitoring activities funded under the FFM SPS programmes.

FFM, in collaboration with the Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana, organised a series of webinars on market access for processed products in the pineapple, mango and avocado sectors. Following on from those webinars, training organised in March 2021 focused on commercial negotiation, and in April 2021 group training focused on “Market access: How to make an informed business decision regarding the market to target in the Caribbean”.

As part of the macro-level intervention of the **Business Friendly Programme**, the World Bank is supporting the country's investment policy on strategic FDI promotion with a focus on addressing nearshoring, as well as the design of efficient and transparent investment incentives, and the promotion of linkages between SMEs and MNEs by assessing demand in priority sectors and strengthening IT tools to classify SMEs. The project is also reviewing and complementing work initiated by the government to improve the approval of companies in special economic zones (SEZs) and industrial parks (IPs) and supporting the diagnostics of the regulatory framework on business and project establishment in two special regimes.

As part of the meso-level intervention of the **Business Friendly Programme**, UNIDO supported ProDominicana in the compilation and updating of its FDI Business Directory as a first step towards strengthening the organization's FDI intelligence capacity. 27 staff members (13 women) participated in 7 technical advisory meetings focusing on enhancing investment monitoring systems through the UNIDO FDI Data Management Toolkit, including a follow-up on FDI database cluster selection and to conclude screening/cleaning of data relative to 658 foreign enterprises in ProDominicana's database.

Following the 3 technical advisory meetings aimed to sensitize ProDominicana on investment opportunity development, 26 ProDominicana officers (14 women) were trained in UNIDO's IOP Methodology and the use of DIPS for data collection and uploading of investment project opportunities. Following a competitive bidding process, ProDominicana was awarded a service subcontract with a commitment to deliver 50 investment opportunity profiles by June 2022.

A virtual COMFAR (Computer Model For Feasibility Analysis and Reporting) Basic Training spread over 5 weeks started in September 2021 for ProDominicana and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) staff, 18 staff members (10 women) and 11 staff (6 women) completed and achieved the certification on COMFAR Basic training. A 2nd COMFAR training was held in Santo Domingo December 2021, comprising 15 participants (5 women), representing 9 institutions from the public and private sector, all participants received certification for the use of the COMFAR tool in feasibility analysis of investment project opportunities. In the ambit of the programme implementation, UNIDO supported the participation of a representative from ProDominicana in the ILO WAIPA UNIDO Online Course 'Investment facilitation, sustainable development and building back better', held in the period June 7th and July 2nd.

FO4ACP supported the delivery of economic services in priority value chains through activities coordinated by CLAC, Trias and Acodea. Trias provides training on women and youth entrepreneurial leadership and supports annual planning and evaluation workshops. Organisational capacity assessments, with a gender focus, are conducted as well.



Guyana

Under the **FO4ACP** programme, FAO and PROCASUR undertook the mapping of 30 farmers' organisations whose membership range in size from 7 to 700 producers. The activity was part of the programme component to strengthen FOs' delivery of economic services to their members in priority value chains.



Haiti

FO4ACP supported the delivery of economic services in priority value chains through activities coordinated by FAO and Afdi. FAO mapped 48 farmers' organisations of small agricultural producers (including 3 of women), 3 agricultural cooperatives and 42 mixed organisations. The number of members of farmers' organisations varies from 38 to 5 000. Afdi carries out training for farmers' organisations and members of the Chambers of Agriculture in small business administration, credit and project management. Afdi also supports agro-ecological training and the implementation of good agro-ecological practices. Furthermore, Afdi coaches cooperative managers in developing business plans and help them access micro-credits. The project activities supported by the Canadian Agricultural Producers' Union (UPADI), focused on strengthening collective marketing and capacity building as well as facilitating access to finance through training such as development of business plans or contracts negotiation. In the field of policy engagement, peer to peer exchanges between farmers' organisations are organised to train members and share experiences about value chains. UPADI carries out training on advocacy, project management, non-violent communication and conflict resolution. Afdi also contributes to strengthening the administrative and financial capacities of the farmers' organisations.



Jamaica

ICR Facility supported the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) in developing a legislative framework as well as marketing and resource mobilisation plans for the social enterprise sector. MIIC and PIOJ also organised seminars and workshops in the field of business environment and investment climate.

The reformed National Mineral Policy has important implications for facilitating formalisation and upgrading of artisanal and small-scale miners and processors, therefore improving business enabling environment. Development Minerals programme supported the improvement of geological systems with Development Minerals geo-data. While enhancing entrepreneurial skills and access to finance, technology, markets and market information, the programme issued 23 grants for a total of EUR 122 000 – for 731 direct and indirect beneficiaries. Those grants help ASMEs to improve the efficiency of their business processes, improving sanitation and sanitisation in the workplace and making mining operations more environmentally friendly. The programme conducted 3 island-wide training for SMEs to calculate the valuation and reserve estimation of mineral deposits licensed. the SMEs can now use reserve estimation to apply for loans.

At micro level, **ACP Business-friendly** focuses on cocoa value chains. Jamaican fine flavor cocoa maintains a good reputation in global markets but has seen its cocoa production decline over the last 40 years, mainly affected by climate phenomena and frosty pod disease. Programme activities supported improvement of existing value addition efforts through product development and food safety support to local cocoa agro-processors. The companies now benefit from a personalized training programme to address the identified gaps to increase value addition, product development, management, food safety and market connections.



Saint Lucia

FO4ACP assessed 4 organisations based in rural, farming communities. They all depend in some degree on government support, for either input or marketing support. They are currently struggling to attain their objectives, as they are beset by technical capacity issues in terms of business development skills, marketing skills, governance, and identification of a long-term plan for the organisations.



3.6 Pacific

At the regional level, Pacific has benefited mainly benefited from the **FO4ACP**, **ICR Facility** and **DFS for Resilience programmes**. At the national level the region is covered at 50% (8 out of 16 countries) by intra-ACP projects. Support varies from training and capacity building of MSMEs and organisations, to value chain studies and funding of operations of farmers' organisations and enterprises. As for previous sections, this regional outline starts with those programmes that prioritised their activities at the regional or multi- country level, and continues with a country by country detailed activities' description.

FO4ACP supported the delivery of economic services in regional priority value chains, with PIFON undertaking some 194 activities. Those included the elaboration of viable business models for farmers' organisations around 25 identified value chains. A total of 14 039 producers (6 381 males / 7 656 females / 4 115 youths) organised in 18 framers' organisations directly benefited from the programme's activities. To contribute to improving the business environment, PIFON undertook 62 activities with 1 110 participants of whom 668 men, 442 women and 324 youths. FOs from the region participated in 32 policy consultations, committees and task forces, thereby significantly increasing their political engagement. 83 activities of institutional development have been undertaken by PIFON, with 1 056 participants, of whom 589 men; 467 women and 252 youths. An important activity that contributes to the institutional strengthening of FOs is the "Farmers Organisation Growth Tool". This tool facilitates a self-reflection process for FOs to prioritise their own capacity development needs and enables the identification and analysis of strengths and weaknesses of Pacific FOs.

ICR Facility organised one roundtable on Credit Risk Management with 5 Pacific DFIs and a training series for Pacific DFIs in the field of Climate Finance so as to build capacity regarding the role of national DFIs in this area, familiarise DFIs with conditions and modalities of Green Climate Fund accreditation and build synergies between DFIs and other national agencies.

Digital finance market assessments were conducted, consisting of in-depth diagnostics of each market to identify gaps and priorities and determine appropriate engagement approaches, in Fiji, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu through **DFS for Resilience programme**.

Since June 2020, COLEACP has partnered with the African Management Institute (AMI) to create a series of Business Survival Bootcamps aimed at supporting entrepreneurs in the horticultural sector. The bootcamps, open to entrepreneurs/CEOs and finance managers, provided practical tools for businesses to plan for and cope with the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on financial projections and cost management in the context of the economic downturn. A specific session was organised for operators in the Pacific region, with an adapted suitable case study.

FFM and **FFM SPS** programmes have also organised multiple training sessions at regional level. In July 2021, technical staff of horticultural companies (quality managers, packhouse managers and internal auditors) took part in digital training on Food Safety and Quality Management Systems. The four-week training series covered topics such as regulatory requirements and standards, packhouse organisation, self-assessment principles, risk analysis and hazard identification, and traceability systems.

In August-September 2021, management and sales staff of MSMEs and exporters' associations participated in virtual training on Commercial Negotiation. Businesses currently facing challenges learned how to prepare a commercial negotiation; develop a negotiation strategy; master communication during a negotiation, including in an international context; bring buyers to an agreement within a contractual framework; and establish lasting business relationships.



Cook Islands

FO4ACP supported TeTango Enea in conducting a value chain and business profitability study on breadfruit exports.



Fiji

Development Minerals supported an independent analysis of river gravel and sand extraction operations, which covered their environmental impacts, as well as measures to address informal and illegal operations. The analysis provided insights into current gaps of regulations and monitoring practices and provided recommendations, informing the revision of the Guideline on River Gravel and Sand Extraction. The programme issued two grants for a total of EUR 20 000 to two artisanal groups of salt makers and clay pottery makers with a total of 598 beneficiaries (ASMEs and NGO Fiji Arts Council). In addition, the programme provided small grants to Fiji Arts Council targeted at traditional salt makers and clay potters, who are mostly artisanal craftswomen in five traditional village settings. Overall, 68% (31 out of 45 licensed crafts people) of the targeted group members for these small grants are women.

Development Minerals partnered with the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute, UNESCO, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Fiji Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, and Fiji National University to initiate the "Stone for Development Work-Integrated Learning Programme".

At the request of ZONAH UNITED, a Fijian horticultural company producing fresh and processed vegetables and spices, FFM carried out a diagnosis of its sanitary quality management system based on the HACCP standard and an action plan was established.

FO4ACP, supported several priority value chains of the country:

PAPAYA: Through Nature's Way Cooperative technical support was provided to papaya producers on agro-techniques to improve seeds production and marketing.

POULTRY: The Tutu Rural Training Center put in place three model poultry farms to train smallholders in sustainable soil-regenerative agricultural techniques.

LIVESTOCK: The Fiji Livestock Council worked on access to finance and the development of bankable business plans with 16 farmers' organisations.

HORTICULTURE: The South Sea Orchids floriculture group in Fiji trained 300 people, and extended their membership significantly over the course of 2021.

FO4ACP also supported Bula Agro to set up the Tel-a-Woman programme for women to ensure food security and nutrition in particular for those who had their income affected by the pandemic. Fifteen trainers of trainers and a total of four hundred (400) women were trained through a coaching programme focused on backyard gardening, nutritious plants, seed conservation and transformation.



Kiribati

ICR Facility provided assistance to the Kiribati Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) with capacity building for climate finance. There are several sources of external climate finance available – including international funds and private equity funds. The ICR Facility supported KCCI in learning how to identify and access those tools. The intervention also resulted in the development of a roadmap for climate finance opportunities for KCCI and its 80 members.



Papua New Guinea

ACP Business-friendly supported the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA PNG) by capacitating 17 designated staff members (including 8 women) in successive capacity building and hand-holding sessions enabling them to carry out an extension FDI business registry contact update process, as a first step to start undertaking targeted FDI investor surveys in the country. UNIDO's technical support involved capacity building based on investment monitoring methodology and processes but also the use of a Digital Investment Profiling System (DIPS) which is now being used by 17 staff members (4 women) from IPA PNG. Work on investment opportunity profiling was started with both IPA PNG and the Small Medium Enterprise Corporation (SMEC), following training and advisory support provided to technical teams from the respective organizations, comprising 2 trainings (x3 sessions) delivered for 18 IPA PNG officers (5 women) and 10 SMEC staff members (5 women) on UNIDO's Investment Opportunity Profiling Methodology and the use of DIPS for data collection and uploading of investment project opportunities. UNIDO also provided sensitization support to EUD and IPA in the preparation and promotion of the second EU-PNG Business, Trade and Investment conference, held on the 11th and 12th October 2021. At the macro-level, the World Bank's support relate to the challenges and opportunities to implement a market linkages programme between domestic SME suppliers and large investors. This support will include a diagnostic phase with an in-depth supply-demand gap assessment on key market failures affecting these linkages. Based on the findings of the assessment, the project will develop a sectoral case study with the client to test potential interventions and assess the potential for a larger scale supplier development program leading to specific policy recommendations.

Through the support of FO4ACP the Government provided land to the Women in Agriculture Development Foundation to pursue sustainable income generation for their members. The women are now negotiating for Government's investment in a central seed storage and a cooler facility.



Samoa

Within the context of FO4ACP, PIFON supported Women in Business Development Inc, in launching a virtual market in May 2021 as a new initiative for increasing farmers' income.

ICR Facility offered technical assistance to the Development Bank of Samoa (DBS), to enhance its credit risk management system. This included a review of the DBS credit risk policy and recommendations for improving the application of the policy in the everyday work of the bank.



Solomon Islands

FO4ACP supported farmers' groups, through Kastom Garden Association (KGA), to establish economic honey production units. The same organisation also collaborated with the Christian Care Centre for the provision of three training sessions on nursery practices, advisory of activity monitoring and provision of 400 packets of seeds directed to women and children affected by gender-based violence. KGA developed a survey on COVID-19 impacts with specific focus on food security education and livelihoods.



Timor Leste

Through the support of **FO4ACP**, ANAPROFIKO has engaged a series of consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that resulted in the commitment of the Government to both cease importation of seeds and to purchase them from the farmers' organisations instead.

DFS for Resilience programme team launched a new project called 'Leveraging digital finance and payments of credit unions to increase resilience of its members in Timor-Leste'. The project, managed by the Secretary of State for Cooperatives (SECoop), aims to support credit unions with access to the mobile payments platform from Telemor Fintech to channel disbursements for loans and collections for savings and loan repayments safely and conveniently to its members.



Tonga

FO4ACP supported Growers Federation in tomato production through the construction of a plant nursery. The assistance was part of the programme component geared at improving the capacity of FOs to deliver economic services to their members, especially in priority value chains.



Vanuatu

ACP Business-friendly interventions in Vanuatu focus on the Kava value chain. In Vanuatu, Kava is by far the biggest export commodity. More than half of rural Households are involved with kava farming. However, market fluctuations and the current COVID-19 crisis have created some challenges and the value chain must be strengthened. A study on the Kava sector in Vanuatu completed by the programme in 2021 highlighted main challenges the sector is facing. Some of the issues at the production level include lack of adequate equipment and non-standardized quality and molding. Financial assistance for the ordinary farmers to start up or to expand kava planting operations is virtually nonexistent. Green kava is very poorly packaged, which leads to molding problems during shipping and storage in marketplace. Targeting international markets is a big challenge due to import bans implemented by certain countries.

4. Communication and Visibility

Communication and EU visibility is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. Communication and Visibility strategies and action plans are drawn up at the start of implementation, and expected to be in-line with the related Article of the Delegation Agreement between the EU and the Implementing Agencies, as well as the “Communication and Visibility Requirements for EU External Actions – 2018” (https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/comm-visibility-requirements_en). Programmes implemented under the joint ACP-EU PSD platform are also strongly invited to highlight the intra-ACP’s contribution for the country or region concerned, and the outcomes and impact of that support.

Regardless specifics, communication & visibility activities developed by IAs usually aim to:

- Contribute to raise the awareness of specific or general audiences of the reasons for the “Action” and the EU and the OACPS support for the Action in the countries concerned, as well as the results and the impact of this support;
- Communicate the positive results of the partnership between the EU, the OACPS and the implementing agencies, showcasing the beneficiary countries, region and stakeholders themselves;
- Build wide-spread support for the project’s activities among the beneficiaries;
- Improve programme's knowledge management and intra-ACP case study and lessons sharing.

Except for Boost Africa and EURIZ, Business ACP has received Communication & Visibility strategies and detailed action plans from most intra-ACP PSD programmes presented in the present annual report.

The general assessment is that implementing agencies “play by the rules” by ensuring a fairly good visibility to the EU and the OACPS, and developing a series of communication products around the activities implemented by each programme. However, despite several reminders from both the EC and the OACPS, some implementing partners still tend to focus first on their own organization, rather than highlighting the OACPS-EU cooperation.

COLEACP: FFM and FFM SPS

Globally effective communication and visibility component which represents 12% of the total budget of FFM.

The visibility of the contribution of the EU and the OACPS (as well as AFD) has been ensured by the production of technical guides, information, communication and training tools and resources displaying the logos of the donors and implementing partners. During the last year of implementation as well as previous years, events and webinars organised by COLEACP have also highlighted the cooperation between the EU, AFD and the OACPS. A strong communication and visibility has also been ensured by newsletters, videos, photographs, websites (COLEACP, FFM and FFM SPS) and social media.

ACP Business-friendly

Several communication and visibility activities were undertaken in 2021: “ACP Update” (internal newsletter aimed at all ACP Business-friendly project teams and relevant WB departments as well as for external stakeholders; meso-level brochure, roll-ups, banners, press releases, videos, news pieces on the websites of each agencies as well as on Business ACP’s website and social media; webinars, webinar series and participation in online events.

Despite all the above products, we lament the lack of visibility of the “ACP Business-Friendly” brand covering ONE and only ONE programme. In other words, the joint action and coordination between the 3 Implementing agencies (WB, UNIDO, ITC) remain an issue; each implementing partner tends to prioritize its own brand. In this context, the overall impression is that the EU and the OACPS are still not enough recognized.

However, the “ACP Business-friendly Communications & Visibility Working group” created at the end of 2021 by the 3 IAs, with support of Business ACP should contribute to address this issue concerning the overall visibility of the programme as well as the intra-ACP cooperation. A 2022 calendar of “C&V deliverables” has been developed to ensure a better coordination between joint and individual agency level activities.

FO4ACP

The 2021 progress report mentions several examples of visibility materials such as brochures, banners, tshirts, pens, as well as communications products and activities –videos, knowledge products, radio and television shows, news pieces, etc. As a general remark, the FO4ACP programme increased its visibility through strengthened social media presence, in particular social accounts from the regional and national farmers’ organizations as well as AgriCord, agri-agencies and PAFO, with several references to the programme.

The visibility of the EU and the OACPS is mainly addressed: in the programme’s web page and brochure; during virtual events; as well as through a video prepared to present FO4ACP in a video campaign launched in June 2021 on Business ACP website and social media.

ICR Facility

The ICR Facility has focused on establishing a strong online presence, with the setting up of a website (<https://www.icr-facility.eu/>) as a communication hub to provide general project information on the ICR Facility and its offer. Information is also disseminated on social media, in particular the LinkedIn page. The good cooperation of the PMU with donors and partners is also to be commended. The programme contributes to the Sustainable Business for Africa newsletter targeted at EU Delegations; on a regular basis, information and knowledge products are promoted on the Business ACP website and social media to target public and private stakeholders in OACPS countries. Constant efforts to ensure the visibility of the OACPS and the EU, in particular during workshops or webinars series, is also a strong achievement to put to the credit of the PMU.

Development Minerals

In 2021, media and partners have frequently profiled the programme and its activities in most of the six focus countries. The ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme also facilitated production of blogs and articles by UNDP country offices (in particular in Cameroon and Jamaica, but also in Fiji and Uganda). Some good stories and social posts were published around the programme and its beneficiaries. Apart from these ad hoc initiatives at country level, so far no systematic implementation of the communications & visibility strategy has yet started: the current website (front office) still showcases activities undertaken during the first Phase. A communication expert is being recruited to update the website and work on a series of other communication products such as photos, videos, news pieces to be shared on social media and through the “Minerals” Bulletin. Business ACP will also support the team in building awareness for the programme’s activities among beneficiaries and ensure a good visibility of the donors.

Boost Africa

No communication & visibility strategy was provided by the implementing agencies. The 2021 progress report [28], mentions: “Communication activities will be financed through an EU contribution of EUR 400 000.” Business ACP was not able to find information about a communication strategy or action plan of the whole programme and/or the funds. A good communication strategy could partly help to overcome the challenges encountered in attracting investors.

EURIZ

A web page dedicated to Proparco’s partnership with the European Union has been created in 2021 in which among other Facilities, EURIZ programme is presented, using the EU, OACPS and Proparco logos. Press releases and digital communication have been elaborated for EURIZ signatures during the period under review. Press releases are published on Proparco’s website and shared through social medias. Despite several reminders, no interaction/engagement has been initiated so far with OACPS/Business ACP social networks through the @PressACP and @BusinessACP handles. An institutional video presenting EURIZ was produced and promoted in the video campaign launched in 2021 by Business ACP to promote all intra-ACP PSD programmes (<https://businessacp.com/en/programshighlights/#euriz>).

ABC Fund (based on the 2020 Communication Plan)

In 2020, the ABC Fund focused on the following objectives: continue to raise awareness about the Fund; support fundraising efforts; disseminate information to potential investees in countries; promote the Fund as a successful joint public-private effort; ensure the visibility of the various stakeholders. Communication activities focused on showing how investments were benefitting rural populations. A specific emphasis was also put on communication at national and regional levels to reach out to potential investees and build the pipeline. Bamboo Capital Partners (BCP) jointly with Injaro issued a series of press releases including quotes from stakeholders and partners. BCP and Agriterro also prepared and posted a video on ABC Fund on IFAD and its partners’ websites and social media (short version: <https://youtu.be/a3eUSjOGBiU>)

WE4A

The name of the programme has been changed from Women Economic Empowerment to Women Entrepreneurship for Africa (WE4A). A WE4A visual identity was also developed that includes a signature design and layout for all communications and visibility materials.

The main objective of the joint communications strategy is to inform target audiences about why WE4A is needed; how the partners (EU, OACPS, BMZ, TEF and GIZ) utilize it to support female entrepreneurs in Africa; and what the outcomes of WE4A are. The strategy is based on three guiding principles – accountability, promotion and knowledge sharing– translated into a set of activities and communication channels.

Initially, it was planned to contract a full-service communication and marketing agency supporting and implementing the communication of the project. Finally, since the “tender did not result into appropriate, high-quality offers”, according to the Implementing team, it was decided to engage dedicated internal communication and to define smaller work packages for external contracting. A two-page WE4A factsheet used as a source of information for local and international partners and beneficiaries was developed. Digital media campaigns, newsletters, photographs, banners, selected videos of female entrepreneurs and other materials were disseminated for targeted purposes.

In terms of event, one notable activity has been the organisation of the High-Level Event “Women Economic Empowerment in Africa through Public-Private Partnerships” in the context of the 7th EUAfrica Business Forum. The participation of representatives of the Commission and the OACPs as well as BMZ proved to be very effective in terms of visibility. The event was also widely promoted by BACP on Twitter, WhatsApp and the website.

DFS

After the “official launch” of the programme on 27 May 2021 by high representatives of the EC, the OACPS and UNCDF, the first year was mainly dedicated to programme countries launch (online or hybrid) events, organized in close collaboration with local government partners and the EU Delegations. The implementing agency has ensured a good visibility of the EU and the OACPS during these events (all relevant links to publications and media coverage have been provided). At country level, key audiences have been identified as well as the channels through which to reach these target audiences. UNCDF has now started producing more specific/focused communications materials, to showcase the first programme’s results (website, social media, news and blogs, press release).

DIRECCT

A Communication strategy was developed and presented for validation during the first Steering Committee meeting of the Programme held on 31 September 2021. Implementing partners of the DIRECCT programme indicated that a special attention will be given to Communication and Capitalisation. Storytelling is expected to be produced from concrete stories of the project, highlighting the personal journeys of final beneficiaries and how digitalisation is benefiting them. In terms of capitalisation, the programme is expected to organise workshops, seminars, national and regional events to promote, for example, the regional reference system and the exchange of practices on better access to connectivity.

A website was also developed for DIRECCT: <https://direcct.eu/en/>



5. Conclusions

The previous chapters of this first annual report focused on the presentation and current results of the Intra-ACP programmes implemented by the OACPs and the EU within the framework of the joint ACP-EU cooperation strategy for the development of the ACP private sector. The overall picture presented in the previous chapters of this synthetic annual report is based on facts and figures, as well as more qualitative appreciations, provided by implementing agencies in their own annual reports and other publications. These data and information have been fed into the Monitoring system recently developed by Business ACP and which hinges on the programmes log-frames as a central tool for measuring progress.

This final chapter offers an appreciation of the status of progress with regards to the four Pillars of the 2014 Strategic Framework for ACP Private Sector Development.

In its PSD Strategy, the ACP reiterated its recognition of the crucial role of the private sector in development and in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. Acknowledging that the nascent ACP private sector needs support to fulfill this mandate, a sizeable share of the 11th EDF resources was allocated to further its development. Support focused on what had been participatorily identified as the main obstacles: unfriendly business regulations and policies; weak and poorly integrated value chains; difficult access to finance and limited financial inclusion, especially for young and women entrepreneurs. Endowed with a EUR 600M budget, the intra-ACP PSD portfolio of programmes ambitioned to overcome those obstacles and to implement the priorities spelt out in the 2014 ACP Strategy and the Joint Cooperation Framework.

Pillar 1: Business-friendly and inclusive national and regional policies are supported, and productive capacities and value chains are strengthened;

Of the six programmes currently implemented under Pillar 1 [29], all have an all ACP coverage and a majority address both expected outcomes. Most of these programmes are broadly on track to achieve set targets expressed in their respective log-frames, considering the logistical constraints imposed by the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

With regard to the reforms of the legal framework and the implementation of inclusive national policies, the implementing agencies adapt continuously to the changing political and economic context of the countries in which they operate. Flexibility has also been demonstrated in addressing challenges such as underfunding and limited human resources faced by public and private sector organisations.

[29] described in section 2.1. of the report.

Promoting synergies and collaborations with regional and national support programmes for the ACP private sector is an important aspect of the PSD strategy. The best way to ensure good synergy with regional and national programmes is to strengthen coordination and dialogue between IAs and EU Delegations, a feature that has been improving since the onset of the programmes.

Pillar 2: Access to finance for enterprises, in particular SMEs:

Three programmes[30] focusing on improving access to finance through blending mechanisms are currently being implemented under the 11th EDF Intra-ACP envelope. These 3 programmes are complementary, not only in terms of the financial instruments deployed, but also in terms of the targeted beneficiaries: a) MSMEs with potential for rapid growth and job creation with preference for green job creation and a high potential for economic impact; b) Specific focus on green, agricultural, women-owned, MSMEs owned by youth, start-ups and MSMEs operating in the health sector which are significantly financially under-served in ACP countries; c) Smallholder farmers and agricultural SMEs facing a financial gap, which can contribute to food security by maintaining and creating rural jobs, especially for women and youth.

They are implemented by highly experienced development banks / agencies and combine instruments such as guarantees, loans, grants, first loss capital, currency hedging, VC funds and technical assistance. They have a typical 5-7 years investment cycle, which have yet to be reached, to yield a clear perspective on results achieved. Despite the delays caused by the pandemic, the results achieved by these three programmes are already significant and contribute to the achievement of the expected results of the ACP PSD strategy.

Pillar 3: Increased Financial inclusion:

Of the three ongoing programmes[31] fostering financial inclusion for underserved segments such as MSMEs, smallholder farmers and women entrepreneurs, two only just became operational with scant results to report in terms of logframe objectives. The third one which started earlier in 2021 is already achieving exciting results in empowering African youth and women entrepreneurs. It appears on track to meet set targets through a combination of training, mentoring, linkages with larger firms and seed capital.

The target beneficiaries are, on the one hand, low-income customers who do not have access to appropriate digital financial solutions, including women, young people and entrepreneurs and on the other hand, African women entrepreneurs who struggle to access finance to start or grow a business.

Pillar 4: ACP-EU PSD knowledge management is promoted.

The knowledge management objective of the Intra ACP strategy aims to promote the exchange of good practices and the replication of innovative models among ACP regions. Given the limitation of resources and the fact that Intra-ACP PSD programmes cannot be implemented in each and every ACP country, Knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices, peer to peer learning and replication of innovative models among ACP regions are crucial to multiply the overall impact of successful programmes. The production and wide dissemination of knowledge resources among beneficiary countries and the availability of tools such as the OACPS PSD IT platform also contribute to objective set out by the strategy.

[30] It does not include AgriFI (EDFI) programme, just launched in December 2021. And also, a new programme CaribEquity by IDB Lab, which is being approved and expected to start by 2022.

[31] described in section 2.3. of the report

Annex I : One-page presentation per Programme

Fit for Market (FFM): Strengthening competitiveness and sustainability of the ACP horticultural sector

Implementing partners

COLEACP

Budget

EUR 25.3 M (EU contribution of EUR 20.3M and AFD contribution of EUR 5M)

Overall objective

Reduce poverty, improve food security and food safety, and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the agri-food export sector in ACP countries

Specific objective

Enable smallholders, farmers' organisations and MSMEs to access local and international horticultural markets, by complying with SPS issues and market requirements, in a sustainable framework.

Result 1

Capacities of smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs to access local and international markets are strengthened by complying with SPS measures and other market requirements

Result 2

Smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs have the business skills and tools to be efficient, profitable and inclusive.

Result 3

Linkages between smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs are reinforced.

Result 4

Conditions for market access and competitiveness in ACP horticultural chains are monitored and ACP interest are represented

Result 5

Competent authorities have an enhanced capacity to support the horticultural sector, ensuring management and enforcement of SPS standards.

Geographic coverage

ACP countries (demand driven)

Current country coverage

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suriname, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Beneficiaries

Smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, horticultural MSMEs, support services and competent authorities

Fit for Market SPS (FFM SPS): Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems of the ACP horticultural sector

Implementing partners

COLEACP

Budget

EUR 15M^[1]

Operational Period

60 months (01/01/2019 – 31/12/2023)

Specific objective

Enable smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs to access local and international markets, by complying with SPS issues and market requirements, in a sustainable framework.

Overall objective

Reduce poverty, improve food security and food safety, and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the agri-food export sector in ACP countries.

Result 1

Capacities of smallholders, farmer's organisations and horticultural MSMEs are strengthened by complying with SPS measures and other market requirements.

Result 2

Smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, and horticultural MSMEs have the business skills and tools to be efficient, profitable and inclusive.

Result 3

Linkages between smallholders, farmer groups and organisations and horticultural MSMEs are reinforced

Result 4

Conditions for market access and competitiveness in ACP horticultural chains are monitored and ACP interest are represented

Result 5

Competent authorities have an enhanced capacity to support the horticultural sector, ensuring management and enforcement of SPS standards.

Result 6

Technical innovation and research brokerage generate the knowledge and technologies needed to supply safe and quality horticultural produces in line with regulations and standards.

Geographic coverage

ACP countries (demand-driven)

Current country coverage

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suriname, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Beneficiaries

Smallholders, farmer groups and organisations, horticultural MSMEs and support services, amongst which competent authorities

[1] The FFM SPS Programme has been allocated additional amount of €15.0 million by the European Union, through the 11th EDF. From an operational perspective at the level of the implementing partner, the FFM and FFM SPS programmes are two different grant agreements.

SUPPORT TO BUSINESS FRIENDLY AND INCLUSIVE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES, AND STRENGTHENING PRODUCTIVE CAPABILITIES AND VALUE CHAINS (ACP BF)

Implementing partners

ITC – International Trade Center, UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organizations, WBG – World Bank Group

Budget

EUR 41.7M in total – ITC on VC productive and commercial alliances and micro-level intervention (EUR 14.7M), UNIDO supporting investment promotion institutions, including Investment Promotion Agencies through meso-level interventions (EUR 15M), and World Bank supporting regulatory reforms through macro-level interventions (EUR 12M)

Operational Period

One hundred twenty (120) months or ten (10) years from the date of the signature of the financing agreement which is 19 November 2018 – 20 December 2024. [2]

Specific objective

To promote business-friendly and inclusive national and regional policies, and strengthening productive capabilities and value chains

Output 1

Adopt and implement business-friendly, inclusive and responsible national policies and legal frameworks

Output 2

Strengthen productive, processing and commercial alliances and capabilities of agriculture value chains and MSMEs

Geographic coverage

Central Africa: Cameroun, DRC, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe. East Africa: Kenya, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Uganda
Southern Africa: Angola, Zambia, Mozambique.

West Africa: Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Benin, Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Mauritania

Caribbean: Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Pacific: Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea

Beneficiaries

ACP countries, ACP regional economic communities, regional PSD organization, ACP national investment climate reform bodies, national investment promotion agencies (IPA), ACP agriculture value chain actors and SMEs

[2] Each implementing partner has different ending date for the programme.

Farmers Organisations for ACP (FO4ACP)

Implementing partners

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD with PAFO, AgriCord, PIFON and FAO)

Budget

EUR 50M: EUR 40M + EUR 10M (top-up) EDF

Operational Period

60 Months – 2019 – 2024 (extension for additional 12 months in progress)

Overall objective

To increase income and to improve livelihood, food and nutrition security and safety of the ACP family farming in the target areas of the project

Outcome 1

FOs and farmer-led enterprises improve technical and economic services to their members along the value chains;

Outcome 2

FOs influence policies and business environments for the transformation of family farming and the development of sustainable, adaptive economic initiatives and farmer-led enterprises;

Outcome 3

FOs are accountable organizations able to effectively perform their institutional functions.
Current Geographic coverage (December 2021) [3]

Current Geographic coverage (December 2021)

EAFF (East Africa, Farmers Federation) – Burundi, Djibouti, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

PROPAC (Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale) – Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, DRC, RCA, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, ROPPA (Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs d'Afrique de l'Ouest) – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

SACAU (Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions) – Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

UMAGRI (Union Maghrébine et Nord-Africaine des Agriculteurs) – (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco), Mauritania, Sudan, PAFO – Pan-African Farmers Organization

PIFON (Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network)

Pacific: Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands

Caribbean: Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia; Region-wide projects

Beneficiaries

FOs and farmer-led enterprises

[3] The implementation is happening in some of those countries mentioned. All countries are part of regional organizations memberships, however, some countries are included in the regional activities only.

Technical Assistance Facility for improving the business environment and wider investment climate through structured dialogue (ICR Facility)

Implementing partners

GIZ, SNV, British Council, Expertise France

Initial Budget (2019-2022)

Total budget: EUR 11.625M of which EU-ACP contribution EUR 10M; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) contribution EUR 1.5M and British Council contribution EUR 125k.

New Budget (2022-2025) after extension

Total Budget: EUR 22.75 of which EC-ACP contribution EUR 20M; British Council Contribution EUR 250k; BMZ Contribution EUR 2.5M.

Operational Period

36 months: 01 September 2019 to 31 August 2022 (extension until 31 August 2025 being implemented)

Specific objective

Support ACP partner countries and regional institutions in their public-private sector structured dialogue processes to create a more conducive investment climate, especially for women.

Output 1

Business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives resulting from the formal and informal public private dialogue process are supported, with special focus on strategic ACP value chains.

Output 2

ACP regional and national development financial institutions are strengthened in their capacities to participate in the identification, preparation and implementation of investment pipelines through traditional as well as blended finance instruments.

Output 3

Effective and innovative instruments, lessons learned, and best practices are compiled, mainstreamed with national and regional ACP partners and advised on through the TA facility.

Geographic coverage

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions

Beneficiaries

ACP policy makers on regional and national level; ACP private sector intermediaries; and ACP regional and national development finance institutions (DFIs) meeting the eligibility criteria.

Technical Assistance Facility for improving the business environment and wider investment climate through structured dialogue (ICR Facility)

Implementing partners

GIZ, SNV, British Council, Expertise France

Budget

Total budget: EUR 11.625M of which EU-ACP contribution: EUR 10M; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) contribution: EUR 1.5M and British Council contribution: EUR 125 000

Operational Period

36 months: 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2022

Specific objective

Support ACP partner countries and regional institutions in their private sector structured dialogue process to create a more conducive investment climate.

Output 1

Business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives resulting from the formal and informal public private dialogue process are supported, with special focus on strategic ACP value chains.

Output 2

ACP regional and national development financial institutions are strengthened in their capacities to participate in the identification, preparation and implementation of investment pipelines through traditional as well as blended finance instruments.

Output 3

Effective and innovative instruments, lessons learned, and best practices are compiled, mainstreamed with national and regional ACP partners and advised on through the TA facility.

Geographic coverage

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions

Beneficiaries

ACP policy makers on regional and national level; ACP private sector intermediaries; and ACP regional and national development finance institutions (DFIs) meeting the eligibility criteria.

BOOST AFRICA PROGRAMME

Implementing partners

EIB – European Investment Bank

AfDB – African Development Bank

Budget

Total budget: EUR 180M: Lead FI: EUR 120M (AfDB, EIB) + Intra-ACP/EDF: EUR 60M (TA EUR 4.2M + Risk capital EUR 50M plus lead fees)

The EU/AfIF/ACP Secretariat contribution to Boost Africa is distributed as follows:

-EUR 24 000 to be managed by AfDB (i.e., EUR 20 000 000 for Financial Instrument (namely for the AfDB Boost Africa Investment Envelope), EUR 4 000 000 for Technical Assistance (namely for the ELab) and EUR 900 000 for Communication and visibility activities, and audit);

-EUR 35 100 000 to be managed by EIB (i.e, EUR 30 000 000 for Financial Instrument (namely for the Boost Africa Investment Platform), EUR 4 200 000 for Technical Assistance (namely for the Technical Assistance pool) and EUR 900 000 for Communication and visibility activities, and audit).

Operational Period [4]

The overall duration of the Boost Africa Initiative Program (BAIP) under the AfDB-European Commission (EC) Agreement is 16 years and commenced on March, 2019. Boost Africa Initiative's (BAI) investment lifespan is 4 years and commenced on March 2019. However, the VC Funds that benefit from AfDB and EC resources may have a longer life period.

Specific objective

Boost Africa is a joint initiative between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to enable and enhance entrepreneurship and innovation across Africa in a commercially viable way through a blending mechanism with the European Union under the Africa Investment Facility (AfIF). The priority objective of the initiative is to tackle the root causes of migration in targeted countries, in line with EU strategy.

Additionally, through a layered financing structure, the initiative is foreseen to have a catalytic effect by attracting resources from other Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)/private sector investors and sovereign entities to a market segment that they could otherwise not approach.

Output 1

EUR27.3 million financing has been committed to intermediaries to-date and EUR70million to be advanced by 2028 under BAIP.

[4] Boost Africa is a unique programme (within Intra-ACP Programmes) and blended finance mechanism, where EIB/AfDB act as Sponsors of several Funds in which they take stakes (Junior/Senior Tranches). In addition, there are TA and ELab components. Moreover, they have different disclosure standards between IAs (e.g. AfDB prepares a full report while EIB provides only slide deck).

Output 2

- Three (3) financial intermediaries (VCs) supported to-date and 8-9 financial intermediaries (VCs) to be supported by 2028
- Three (3) financial intermediaries (incubators/accelerator funds) supported to-dated and 20-30 will be supported by 2027

Output 3

EUR 28.2M new TA grants made available to financial intermediaries and projects (conservative estimate)

Output 4

40 financial intermediaries receiving a grant or TA support (conservative estimate)

Standard Outcomes (conservative estimates)

205 new final beneficiaries (start-ups and MSMEs);

3 300 net direct job creations over the programme's life;

9 900 net indirect job creations over the programme's life

Geographic coverage

Boost Africa specifically primarily targets African countries and regions mostly affected by migration, startups lack access to adequate patient capital, under-developed in terms of venture capital activities and market to promote inclusive job creation for affected communities.

Current country coverage (September 2022)

Africa Region – Funds supported so far and pipeline cover various geographies as highlighted below:

- Countries covered by approved Funds: Algeria, Angola, Belgium, Morocco, Ghana, Nigeria, Ghana, Tunisia, Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroun
- Countries to be covered by pipeline Funds: DRC Congo, Angola, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Rwanda, Egypt, Togo, Burkina Faso, Zambia, Gabon, Malawi, Morocco.

Beneficiaries

The final beneficiaries will be Funds with a Venture focus, i.e. a focus on early stage high growth tech and tech enabled companies. The start-ups and MSMEs supported by the Funds shall be less than 5 years of life at entry and significantly be led/owned by youth and/or women with a high potential for economic impact. Sectors such as ICT, healthcare, climate mitigation and adaptation, education, financial services, and manufacturing shall be supported. There will be a particular emphasis on intermediaries focusing on youth and women and inclusive green economy.

EURIZ Guarantee and technical assistance programme

Implementing partners

Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

Budget

- Component 1: Guarantee scheme (EUR 19M)
- Component 2: Autonomous Technical Assistance (TA EUR 6.8M)

Operational Period

72 months: 2019 – 2024

Overall Duration

12 years: 2019– 2030

Description of the action

EURIZ is a risk-sharing facility which aims to target the financially under-served Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. EURIZ consists of a two-fold approach:

- The first which targets all MSMEs in fragile states where there is a lack of financing for all sectors and no guarantee.
- The second, covering both fragile and non-fragile countries, but which targets financially under-served MSMEs (such as, green, agricultural, women-owned, MSMEs owned by youth, start-ups, MSMEs operating in the health sector...).

Objective 1

Access to finance and job creation: EURIZ will provide incentives to financial institutions to improve access to credit for financially under-served MSMEs. The main objective of EURIZ is to promote job creation, growth and improve access to financial services. Some specific operations will address cross-sector objectives, notably across health, education, green projects or social business sectors.

Objective 2

Strengthening the collaboration between development agencies and the demonstration effect: EURIZ will be based upon, and promote, a strengthened collaboration between AFD and SIDA

Objective 3

Catalytic effect: EURIZ will play a catalytic role, in incentivising and mobilising significant amounts from financial institutions.

Geographic coverage African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Current country coverage (May 2021)

West Africa: Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania. Southern Africa: South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia

Beneficiaries

MSMEs in fragile states

Financially under-served MSMEs in fragile and non-fragile countries (such as, green, agricultural, women-owned, MSMEs owned by youth, start-ups, MSMEs operating in the health sector...).

AGRI-BUSINESS CAPITAL FUND (ABC FUND)

Implementing partners

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with the support of:

- Luxembourg government;
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA);

Budget

Total Phase 1 budget: EUR 45.75M (Financial instrument: EUR 40M, TA: EUR 3.65M) + IFAD direct costs & technical assistance EUR 4.7M

Tentative budget Phase 2 – Blending structure – Total budget: EUR 237M: Intra-ACP/EDF: EUR 45.75M (see above)

- Luxembourg Govt: EUR 5.0M
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation EUR 8.7M
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA): EUR 4.8M
- Other prospective sources: EUR 168M

Operational Period

The ABC Fund is established with an unlimited duration. However, the programme duration is linked to the Technical Assistance component lasting 5 years (2019-2024).

Overall objective

The ABC Fund is a blended capital impact investment vehicle aiming at alleviating the funding gap faced by small- scale farmers, thereby contributing to inclusive economic and social development in targeted countries.

Additionally, through a layered financing structure, the initiative is foreseen to have a catalytic effect by attracting resources from other Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)/private sector investors and sovereign entities to a market segment that they could otherwise not approach.

Objective 1

Strengthen agriculture value chains in low and lower-middle income countries in a sustainable way, by addressing ongoing investment capital constraints currently affecting farmer organizations and rural SMEs that are part of the “missing-middle”, limiting their ability to scale.

Objective 2

Support job preservation and the generation of new, viable employment opportunities for women and the rural youth, as an alternative to migration

Objective 3

Leverage existing IFAD/AGRA project work:

- Identify strong investment prospects with the potential to elevate the whole value chain;
- De-risk ABC Fund investments by aligning the TAF activities closely to the investment projects; and
- Promote private sector involvement by helping SMEs achieve sustainable growth and eventually integrate into the formal financial sector.

Geographic coverage

ABC Fund started working in 10 countries with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. As ABC Fund has been growing in size and capacity, it has been progressively expanding the number of countries of investment, aiming to cover 15 to 20 countries over 10 years. Country selection is subject to the criteria set out in ABC Fund's Investment Strategy, subject to any concentration limits or diversification strategies identified therein. The contribution from the Contracting Authority is restricted to investments in countries of the ACP region.

Current country coverage

Burkina Faso, Benin, Bolivia, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Uganda

Beneficiaries

The ABC Fund targets smallholder farmers and aims to support projects that create viable employment opportunities for rural youth, and men and women-led SMEs. The ABC Fund offers direct funding to legally registered SME, cooperatives or farmers' organizations operating in underfinanced yet profitable segments of agricultural and agribusiness value chains. The ABC Fund also invests in financial institutions providing financing solutions to smallholder farmers, cooperatives, farmers' organizations, and agri-SMEs. [5]

[5] ABC Fund flyer material

Digital Finance for Resilience in ACP Countries (DFS)

Implementing partners

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Budget

EUR 15M

Operational Period

48 Months – December 2020 to Dec 2024

Overall objective

To contribute to the deployment of digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to deepen financial inclusion and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19, to make economies and societies more resilient to external shocks

Specific objective 1

To improve digital finance policies and regulations to provide early response to emergencies and create an enabling environment to economic recovery.

Specific objective 2

To create and strengthen digital finance ecosystems that support low-income individuals in particular women and youth; and MSMEs to mitigate immediate shocks of emergencies and seize economic opportunities.

Geographical focus

Countries covered in Africa (Gabon, Niger, Malawi and Ethiopia), in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago and Eastern Caribbean States) and in the Pacific region (Vanuatu, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga and Fiji).

Target Beneficiaries

Regulators, policy makers, regional bodies, financial services providers (including banks, MFIs, FinTechs, MNOs), MSMEs and people living in poverty in particular women and youth.

Final beneficiaries

At least 600 000 low-income customers have access to appropriate digital financial solutions including women, youth and entrepreneurs in the 7 ACP countries

Main activities related to S.O.1

- 1.1 Act as convener and strategic policy adviser for Central Banks in selected countries;
- 1.2 Implement responsive regulatory framework to increase uptake and usage of DFS with sub- regional, regional, and national bodies;
- 1.3 Enhance lateral learning within Central Banks intra-regional and inter-regional by disseminating best practices.

Main activities related to S.O.2

- 2.1 Expand agent network to respond at country level by setting up regional fund to support MNOs and other DFS providers;
- 2.2 Share relevant information on COVID19 and build long term financial and digital capabilities of individuals to access and use DFS;
- 2.3 Support the development of DFS beyond digital payments to build longer term resilience;
- 2.4 Create a community of practice among digital payment providers in each region and sub-region to share best Practices.

Women Entrepreneurship for Africa [WE4A]

Implementing partners

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), Swiss Association for Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets (SAFEEM).

Budget

Total budget: EUR 20.6M (11th EDF EUR 20M + BMZ EUR 600 000)

Operational Period

32 months (01.02.2021 to 30.09.2023)

Specific objective

An increased number of African women entrepreneurs have enhanced business capacities, have access to formal financial Services, are integrated into local and regional value chains, and contribute to employment creation in their communities.

Output 1

Gender sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed Capital for African women entrepreneurs (component implemented by TEF)

Output 2

Support to link African women entrepreneurs to private sector networks and providing necessary technical assistance (component implemented by GIZ)

Output 3

Provision of acceleration and growth programme including second stage financing (component implemented by SAFEEM);

Geographic coverage

Africa-wide

Beneficiaries

The target group of the project are African women entrepreneurs who own (or co-own) and manage their own businesses from across from all OACPS countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

ACP-EU Private Sector Development (PSD) Knowledge Management Technical Support Function (TSF)/ PSD Light Structure (Business ACP)

Implementing partners

IBF International Consulting in consortium with B&S, Enabling Environment, Gopa, Microfinanza and Quarein.

Budget

EUR 9M (EUR 6M + EUR 3M Top-Up)

Specific objective

INITIAL: Provide technical and administrative support to the joint PSD platform in collaboration with the PSD coordination mechanisms regarding activities in relation to the joint PSD framework.

TOP-UP: The ACP private sector and its representative organizations, at national, regional and all ACP levels, are regularly informed of the progress and results of Intra ACP programs, take ownership of the PSD Knowledge management platform and contribute to the dissemination – replication of best practices and learning tools.

Output 1

INITIAL: The joint PSD framework is implemented

TOP-UP: Under the common PSD framework being implemented, the OACPS Secretariat and the EC are regularly informed of the progress and results obtained by intra-ACP programs; Synergy between programs is enhanced; the ACP private sector takes ownership of the results of the programs and contributes to their sustainability and dissemination / replication.

Output 2

Best practices identified and lessons learned shared

Output 3

Peer-to-peer learning between ACP countries and regions dynamised and promoted

Output 4

INITIAL: Collaboration and learning amongst EU ACP PSD public and private stakeholders is enhanced.

TOP-UP: Collaboration and learning between public and private sector stakeholders is strengthened through the constitution of thematic networks of ACP and EU contributors who interact.

Output 5

INITIAL: The knowledge system for Intra-ACP EU PSD actions is strengthened.

TOP-UP: The ACP private sector and its representative organizations, at all ACP, regional and national level, take ownership of the knowledge system and use and feed the IT platform.

Output 6

The visibility of ACP-EU funded activities is enhanced

Output 7

The monitoring and closure of the 7 grants of Tradecom II program is successfully carried out.

Output 8

The RFPs' involvement capacities in relation to the post-Cotonou transition are strengthened.

Beneficiaries

ACP private sector development stakeholders

11th EDF intra-ACP Private Sector Development Programmes: **implementation, results, impact.**

2021

