

# OVERVIEW:

## LEVERAGING DIGITAL FINANCE TO INCREASE RESILIENCE OF ACP COUNTRIES

11<sup>th</sup> EDF/INTRA-ACP PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES

**Title of facility or programme** **LEVERAGING DIGITAL FINANCE TO INCREASE RESILIENCE OF ACP COUNTRIES. DIGITAL FINANCE FOR RESILIENCE IN THE ACP COUNTRIES**

**Budget** €15 Millions

**Duration** 48 months

**Implementing partners** UNCDF

**Programme description** 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:

- **improvement of digital finance policies and regulations** to provide early response to emergencies and create an enabling environment to economic recovery;
- **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.

**Governance** Global Steering Committee (GSC): oversight of the programme implementation, including but not limited to setting mission, strategies, priorities, outputs and outcomes, approving annual work plans and budgets, monitoring and evaluation of performance, assisting the team in raising funds to support the program.

GSC Composition: UNCDF, EU, OACPS, other technical experts.

Technical Sub Committee (TSC): grants and technical assistance projects approval.

TSC Composition: UNCDF's Directors and Deputy Director Inclusive Digital Economies, Global Digital Lead, Chief Management Support Unit, the respective Regional Manager of the projects being approved and one external technical expert (non-staff member).

**Geographic coverage and target beneficiaries**

**Geographic coverage:** all OACPS countries (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific)

**Central Africa:** Cameroon, Gabon

**East Africa:** Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda

**Southern Africa:** Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**West Africa:** Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin

**Caribbean:** Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), Barbados, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago

**Pacific:** Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Vanuatu

**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.

**Ultimate beneficiaries:**

At least 600,000 low-income customers have access to appropriate digital financial solutions including women, youth and entrepreneurs in the targeted ACP countries.

**Access conditions to technical assistance programme**

Be a lead applicant:

In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

- Be a legal person and be a specific type of organization such as: non-governmental organization, social business, foundation, inter-professional or intermediary organization, international (inter-governmental) organization, private company
- Be licensed to operate in one of the **ACP** or EU member states.

Be a co-applicant:

Partnerships and joint ventures are acceptable as long as the lead member of the consortium complies with the abovementioned conditions. Co applicants must:

Be a legal person and be a specific type of organization such as: non-governmental organization, social business, foundation, inter-professional or intermediary organization, international (inter-governmental) organization.

**contact details**

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