

OVERVIEW:

Technical Assistance for improving environment and wider investment climate through structured dialogue- ICR Facility

11th EDF/INTRA-ACP PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES AND PROGRAMME

Title of facility or programme

INVESTMENT CLIMATE REFORM FACILITY- ICR FACILITY

Funding

11th European Development Fund (EDF) under the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (initial budget €10 M + top-up €10M), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the British Council

Implementing partners

British Council (BC), Expertise France (EF), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Stichting Nederlandse Ontwikkelingsorganisatie (SNV)

Duration

December 2019 – August 2025

Program description

The Investment Climate Reform (ICR) Facility supports public and private stakeholders in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to improve their investment climate and business environment. Fostering a more favourable and gender-transformative business environment will enable local and international businesses to generate opportunities, both for women and men, and boost economic growth and sustainable development.

It provides **Technical Assistance** in three action areas:

1. Business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives

It offers on-demand expertise for business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives. It supports targeted interventions through local or international experts that can be deployed for up to 90 expert days over the course of a year. Interventions can focus on the economy as a whole or individual sectors and value chains. Requests for Technical Assistance can be handed in by governmental organisations, business membership organizations, **chambers of commerce, cooperatives, professional associations**, development financial institutions (DFIs), and EU delegations in Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States for support in the following fields:

■ Business Environment Reform

Economy-wide and sectoral business environment improvements through the identification, design, implementation and evaluation of reforms in functional areas such as business registration and licensing, investment policy, and tax administration, among others. **Special focus is given to reforms which resolve barriers for economic participation of women and youth.**

■ Business Environment for Sustainability

Promoting sustainability in the business environment through innovative approaches such as social entrepreneurship, green economy, **climate-smart investment and inclusive businesses.**

■ Public-Private Dialogue (PPD)

Supporting public private dialogue mechanisms to be more effective, inclusive and focused on results, to better contribute to evidence-based policymaking and to keep entrepreneurs' priorities relevant across political cycles.

2. Strengthening national and sub-regional development financial institutions

The ICR Facility provides technical assistance to national and sub-regional DFIs in ACP countries to become stronger institutions and to identify, prepare and implement projects and investments with high development impact, especially related to women's economic empowerment (WEE) and gender-lens investing (GLI)

Capacity building can be provided in three areas:

- Tailor-made expertise to selected institutions: on topics such as management processes and investment pipelines, access to and leverage of international funding, strengthening institutional structures, specific financial instruments, policy dialogue;
- Organising knowledge sharing activities: by disseminating good practices and lessons learned, and promoting dialogue and knowledge sharing between regional and national institutions as well as between geographical regions;
- Providing demand-based expertise on investment climate reform and policy dialogue: by supporting DFIs through short-term expertise of up to 90 days on topics related to business environment and investment climate reform, advocacy with policymakers and PPD formats (see above). DFIs can also benefit from the demand-based mechanism described under Action Area 1.

3. Knowledge Exchange

The ICR Facility also shares lessons learned and good practices from the interventions carried out under action area 1 and 2 (above) and our partners. It equips and supports public and private actors with information, research and tools to create better conditions for businesses to thrive.

These include:

- Developing and sharing knowledge (ICReports; a Toolbox for policy-makers and practitioners and several trainings on how to use that toolbox; a training course starting in the beginning of 2023 which will support Women's Economic Empowerment);
- Promoting the debate via interactive communication through Live Events, various blog posts and an active and a fast-growing LinkedIn profile;
- Enabling networking and exchanges (Peer-to-peer events; bringing together specific players, such as Investment Promotion Agencies, Arbitration centres;
- Focus Groups on Women's Economic Empowerment.



Co-funded by the European Union



implementing partners



Governance The Project Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for the implementation of ICR Facility's activities and is based in Brussels. The project is guided by a Steering Committee (SC) chaired by the funding institutions: EU, OACPS Secretariat, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and British Council with the participation of the implementing partners

Geographic coverage: Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)

Geographic coverage and beneficiaries

Beneficiaries: Government agencies, regional organisations, national or local business associations, EU Delegations, professional associations, chambers of commerce, financial service providers, trade unions, development finance institutions, economic communities in member states of the OACPS. Private sector entities are only eligible for support when they are representing a larger group of companies (e.g. federations) and the request is also linked to public sector actors.

How to apply / contact details

Please check the eligibility criteria on the ICR Website and fill out the online request form (www.icr-facility.eu/request-form) or contact the ICR Facility via email. The PMU can support you in filling in the online request form.

E-mail: icrfacility@giz.de