Co-funded by the European Union

INVESTMENT CLIMATE REFORM FACILITY

The Investment Climate Reform (ICR) Facility supports organisations in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to create better conditions for businesses to thrive and for women's economic empowerment. Fostering a more favourable and gender-sensitive business environment will enable local and international businesses to increase their investments, create jobs and boost the economic growth and sustainable development at large.

Funding: 22,750 M€ provided by the European Union (EU) and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the British Council

Implementation: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), British Council (BC), Expertise France (EF), Stichting Nederlandse Ontwikkelingsorganisatie (Netherlands Development Organisation, SNV)

Period: December 2019 – August 2025

1. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

The ICR Facility offers targeted and 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. Eligible requests must be part of a wider strategy or reform process.

In what areas is expertise offered?

Business Environment Reform (BER)	Business Environment for Sustainability	Public-Private Dialogue (PPD)
Identification, design, implementation and evaluation of business environment reforms in 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;	Promotion of sustainability in the business environment through innovative approaches such as social entrepreneurship, climate-smart investment, inclusive businesses or reforms that support inclusive business and Women's Economic Empowerment;	Strengthen interaction between private sector, government, civil society and other key stakeholders to achieve more impactful and sustainable development policies. Particular attention is paid to strengthen the representation of women in PPD processes e.g. by involving women´s business organizations.

Who can submit requests for expertise?

Government agencies, regional organisations, national or local business associations, EU Delegations, chambers of commerce, cooperatives, professional associations, private institutions with a public mandate, public private dialogue platforms, local development finance institutions (DFIs), financial services providers and trade unions in member states of the OACPS.

How to submit a request

Please check the eligibility criteria and fill in the online request form *(www.icr-facility.eu/request-form)*.

Requests for expertise must aim at improving the business and investment climate in a member state or subregion of the OACPS.

Implemented by

2. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

The ICR Facility provides expertise to national and subregional development finance institutions (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). Since 2020, the ICR Facility has organised a total of 22 events and over 50 DFIs have benefitted from our support.

The ICR Facility can support DFIs in three different ways:

- **Providing 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.

3. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The ICR Facility also shares lessons learned and good practices from the interventions carried out under Component 1 and Component 2 (above) and our partners. We equip and support public and private actors with information, research and tools to create better conditions for businesses to thrive. These include:

- **Developing and sharing knowledge through**
  - ICReports on recommendations to support Climate Smart Investments, Innovative Financing Solutions and Womens' Economic Empowerment;
  - 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, many blog posts and an active and a fast-growing LinkedIn profile;
- **Enabling networking and exchanges through**
  - Peer-to-peer events about specific topics, such as
    - Green Jobs
    - Policies for the Social Economy
    - Eco-Industrial Parks
  - And bringing together specific players, such as
    - Investment Promotion Agencies
    - Arbitration centres
  - Focus Groups on Women's Economic Empowerment.

ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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