

Investment Climate Reform Facility

The ICR Facility supports public and private stakeholders in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to improve their investment climate and business environment. In a conducive, sustainable and inclusive business environment, local and international businesses increase their SDG-related investments. This generates decent jobs and improves livelihoods in ACP countries.

In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, 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.

Funding	European Union (EU), 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 (11,625 M€)
Framework	EU External Investment Plan (Third Pillar Investment Climate)
Implementation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), British Council (BC), Expertise France (EF), Stichting Nederlandse Ontwikkelingsorganisatie (Netherlands Development Organisation, SNV)
Period	12.2019 – 08.2022



1. Technical Assistance for Business Environment and Investment Climate Improvement

The ICR Facility offers specific and targeted technical assistance of up to 90 expert days for business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives. Technical assistance is provided at the economy-wide, sectorial and value chain level based on requests.

What are the areas for Technical Assistance offered?

■ Business Environment Reform

Identification, design, implementation and evaluation of business environment reforms in areas such as business registration and licensing, investment policy, and tax administration, among others.

■ Business Environment for Sustainability

Promotion of sustainability in the business environment through innovative approaches such as social entrepreneurship, climate-smart investment, inclusive businesses or gender-specific reforms, among others.

■ Public-Private Dialogue (PPD)

Strengthening the PPD processes and its key stakeholders for more impactful and sustainable development policies.

Who can hand in requests for Technical Assistance?

EU Delegations, government agencies, regional organisations, national or local business associations, chambers of commerce, cooperatives, professional associations, private institutions with a public mandate, public private dialog platforms, local development finance institutions (DFI), financial services providers, trade unions in members of the OACPS.

How to submit a request

Please check the eligibility criteria and fill in the online request form (contact: icrfacility@giz.de). Requests for technical assistance must aim at improving the business and investment climate in a member or sub-region of the OACPS. It must be part of a wider strategy, reform process, or PPD mechanism.



2. Strengthening national and sub-regional development financial institutions

DFIs play a crucial role in improving the business and investment climate in their respective region. They have a role as catalysts to leverage additional SDG-related investment of companies. The ICR Facility supports around four national or sub-regional development finance institutions (DFIs) with tailor-made capacity building. DFIs are selected by a thorough needs assessment. Capacity building can be provided in three areas:

- **Capacity Building in developing and delivering specific products**

e.g. green bonds, funds-of-funds, credit insurance, buyer/ supplier credit;

- **Using blended finance instruments and building investment pipelines**

by peer exchange, facilitated business incubation programs, dissemination of market information to participants (match making, market briefings etc.);

- **Strengthening institutional structures**

with regards to monitoring, evaluation, ESG standards, reporting and governance.

The ICR Facility further supports a greater number of DFIs through the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned from tailor-made capacity building.



3. Compile and mainstream lessons learned and good practices

Through the activities and lessons learned in Component 1 and Component 2 the ICR Facility identifies, compiles and shares good practices for improving the business environment and investment climate. The ICR Facility supports communication among peers who are active in business environment and investment climate reform. Public and private actors will have innovative tools at hand to create a more conducive, sustainable and inclusive business environment. This includes:

- **Developing, compiling and sharing knowledge products**

like policy briefs or tools for policy-makers and practitioners;

- **Promoting the debate via interactive communication**

like blog posts, social media, and webinars;

- **Enabling peer-to-peer learning**

by sharing knowledge and giving advice on innovative instruments.

Questions? Please contact us: icrfacility@giz.de (ICR Facility).