



# THE ICR FACILITY SUPPORTS NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

The Investment Climate Reform (ICR) Facility provides technical assistance (TA) to national and sub-regional Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) located in the member states of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States to identify, prepare and implement projects and investments with high development impact that are particularly related to **gender-lens investing** (GLI) and **women's economic empowerment** (WEE) in both the client-facing and internal processes of the banks.

## 1. WE PROVIDE TAILOR-MADE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SELECTED INSTITUTIONS

The ICR Facility supports DFIs by providing **tailor-made technical assistance, capacity building and advisory services**. Each bank chooses the topics and forms of assistance based on its strategic priorities, and a workplan is jointly developed to detail specific activities. The support can cover the revision of policies and procedures, the review of services, market studies, trainings, etc. When possible, activities targeted towards a specific bank are opened to other beneficiaries.

From 2020 until 2022, we supported six DFIs. We are supporting another ten DFIs on the topic of GLI and WEE from 2023 until 2025.



### OUR PARTNERS REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AROUND GENDER ON THREE MAIN TOPICS:

Institutional gender strengthening	Gender-responsive monitoring & evaluation (M&E)	Refinement of financial and non-financial services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct institutional gender assessments, looking at both the internal and client-oriented activities</li> <li>Workshops with management and/or staff members on the results of the gender assessments</li> <li>Revise existing or develop new gender policies, strategies and action plans</li> <li>Staff trainings on how to implement a gender policy, strategy and action plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing M&amp;E frameworks and systems</li> <li>Incorporate new or improved indicators, capturing relevant gender-related and sex-disaggregated data</li> <li>Develop new standard operating procedures and M&amp;E manuals for staff members</li> <li>Staff trainings on gender-responsive M&amp;E implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing financial and non-financial services for women</li> <li>Identify areas of improvement, such as alternative collateral requirements and appropriate financial literacy trainings</li> <li>Develop new gender-sensitive financial products</li> <li>Align services with the bank's gender policy, strategy and action plan</li> </ul>

### SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SMEDCO) IN ZIMBABWE

We are working with SMEDCO to:

- Strengthen the DFI's gender institutional mainstreaming capacity
- Amend the existing M&E framework to include new key performance indicators, sex-disaggregated data and sources for data collection in alignment with the gender strategy
- Improve SMEDCO's credit risk management policy and its operationalisation
- Refine an existing product targeting women

Are you interested in learning more about tailored technical assistance? Check out our [ongoing interventions](#)



## 2. WE ORGANISE KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACTIVITIES

The ICR Facility **disseminates good practices and lessons learned**, and **promotes dialogue & knowledge sharing** between regional and national institutions as well as across geographical regions. We publish studies and organise **activities for wider audiences** such as group trainings and peer-to-peer exchanges.

<p><b>Study on Trends in Gender Finance in ACP Development Finance Institutions: Overview and Selected Examples</b></p>	<p><b>Virtual Training for Development Finance Institutions: How to Develop a Gender Approach</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this study was to identify DFIs with active gender finance or WEE initiatives to showcase good practices and highlight challenges about approaches to GLI and WEE in order to spark dialogue and action within and across the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region.</li> <li>The study can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> and the webinar presenting the results of the study can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This self-paced course takes the learner through the basic steps to develop a gender finance approach within a DFI. It contains videos, texts, interactive exercises and quizzes, and refers to additional resources.</li> <li>The course is organised into 9 modules and has a duration of around 2 hours to complete.</li> <li>The training is free of charge and is accessible via this <a href="#">link</a>.</li> </ul>

Are you interested in discovering more knowledge products or keeping up to date on group activities?

Visit our [website](#)



## 3. WE PROVIDE DEMAND-BASED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON INVESTMENT CLIMATE REFORM AND POLICY DIALOGUE

DFIs can apply for short-term technical assistance of up to 90 expert days from the ICR Facility on topics related to improving the business environment and investment climate reform with regards to **GLI and WEE**, including advocacy with policymakers, public-private dialogue formats and improving the existing legal/ institutional frameworks and policies for public-private partnerships. The ICR Facility works with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank, the Eswatini National Industrial Development Corporation, the Lesotho National Development Corporation, the Development Bank Ghana and the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency in Botswana.

Requests can include for instance:

- Collaborating with policymakers to establish a common understanding of gender finance issues and aligning the operations of DFIs with national gender strategies
- Promoting an inclusive and gender-sensitive investment climate
- Engaging with financial regulators and authorities to discuss potential regulatory amendments to facilitate more and better financing for women
- Improving sex-disaggregated data availability and defining gender-responsive key performance indicators

### TANZANIA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (TADB) AGRIBUSINESS FINANCING FOR WOMEN & YOUTH



The ICR Facility supported TADB in developing a gender scheme to offer financial and non-financial support for women and youth in agribusiness.

**This included:**

- A landscape study on agribusiness financing for women and youth
- Drafting a gender strategy
- Conceptualising a gender scheme

- A public-private dialogue to validate and launch the gender strategy and scheme and expand partnerships and dialogue with stakeholders along the agricultural value chain

Are you interested in improving your investment climate or to kick-start a public private dialogue? Send your application [here](#).

### ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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