



IMPROVING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR PROSPERITY

The four-year Improving Business Environment for Prosperity (IBEP) program is implemented by the World Bank Group with support from the UK Prosperity Fund managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PROGRAM PILLARS

The program aims to strengthen the design and implementation of business environment reforms in middle income countries through the following pillars:



Strengthen business regulations and practices

Improve regulations, reduce administrative costs, foster open and competitive markets and lower uncertainty



Enhance business competitiveness

Improve local firms' linkages to international markets and investors and increase their ability to meet service and product quality standards



Catalyze shared prosperity

Advance shared prosperity by supporting business environment reforms at the subnational level

The IBEP program is built around a Global Influence Window and a Country Engagement Window that inform each other through a **two-way feedback loop**. The Global Influence Window identifies and bridges gaps in data, research or knowledge solutions to inform country projects' design and implementation. In turn, country projects' implementation informs the initiatives being designed and delivered under the Global Influence Window.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE WINDOW

The Global Influence Window capitalizes on the WBG's global reach and knowledge across the following five pillars: (i) analytics; (ii) reform toolkits; (iii) adaptive policy design; (iv) the biannual Global Investment Competitiveness Report; and (v) regular events bringing together policymakers with businesses and academia to enhance partnerships, exchange ideas and develop solutions.

COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT WINDOW

The Country Engagement Window supports business environment reforms in the following nine middle-income countries: Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey and Vietnam. These reforms are expected to generate improved investor perceptions, private sector savings, increased investments and more open and competitive markets.

The program also features a **Gender and Inclusion (G&I)** cross-cutting theme in its activities. A G&I approach was formulated to set targets in each of the nine programs under the Country Engagement Window.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE WINDOW

Produced operationally relevant diagnostics and reform tools. Major results delivered with IBEP support as of September 2019 include:

167

analytical and policy outputs, including working papers, country reports, methodology notes, blogs and databases;

9,917

downloads of externally published outputs, including working papers, country reports and blogs;

46

learning events;

1,758

event participants;

51%

female event participants;

92%

satisfaction of event participants with event content, organization and learning;

79

projects or activities of the World Bank Group leveraging IBEP outputs; and

68

countries benefiting from IBEP outputs.

COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT WINDOW

Country projects are progressing on their respective policy engagements, formalized strategies and recommendations toward tangible policy reforms and have achieved the following as of September 2019:



89 government counterpart agencies engaged in substantive policy dialogue;



8 country projects are addressing themes of **gender and inclusion**;



the team developed **82 diagnostic materials** including databases, surveys, guidelines and policy reports;



78 workshops and events gathered **4,723 private and public sector stakeholders**;



33 recommendations on institutional, legal, and regulatory changes delivered to government counterparts;



9 government entities implemented recommended changes; and



building on the diagnostic work and consultative engagement with government counterparts, **the program attained 8 reforms.**