

The Improving Business Environment for Prosperity (IBEP) Program implemented by the World Bank Group aims to strengthen the design and implementation of business environment reforms in middle-income countries. IBEP is supported by the UK Prosperity Fund, whose mission is to support the inclusive economic growth needed to reduce poverty in partner countries, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## COUNTRY FACTSHEET

MARCH 2020



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The IBEP Nigeria project aims to support improvements to the investment climate and business competitiveness in Nigeria to foster economic diversification and development. To meet these objectives, the project is supporting private sector reforms throughout the investment life cycle, reducing regulatory burdens, improving national quality infrastructure and strengthening investment promotion and aftercare services—both at the national and subnational levels. The project is targeting a range of reforms across three main components:

#### COMPONENTS

##### Deepening and Expanding Business Environment Reforms

This component seeks to reduce the administrative and legislative burden on business operations in Nigeria by supporting the relevant ministries, departments and agencies as well as the Enabling Business Environment Secretariat (EBES) in implementing business environment reforms. The project is providing technical assistance on Doing Business and other reforms through legislative reviews and the streamlining of administrative procedures at the national and subnational levels.

##### Strengthening Investment Policy and Promotion

This component supports the reduction of legal, regulatory, and policy barriers to investment in Nigeria. It is providing technical inputs to officials working on improving the Investment Law and Nigeria's International Investment Agreements and collaborating with the National Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) to strengthen its capacity for investment promotion and aftercare services. The project also provided an assessment of the Pioneer Status Incentives regime and supports Ogun State as it establishes and operationalizes its subnational investment promotion agency.

#### REFORMS TARGETED

- 1 Reduction in time and cost to start and operate a business (national and Ogun State)
- 2 Adoption of the CAMA Bill by the House of Representatives
- 3 Launch of the Kano Small Claims Court
- 4 Operationalization of the Lagos Small Claims Court
- 5 Adoption of good practice investment guarantees in the NIPC act and/or new/improved IIA/BITs model
- 6 Implementation of an investor relationship management system at NIPC
- 7 Improved investor services in Ogun state
- 8 Systematic and transparent approach for introduction and implementation of incentives at the federal level

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### Fostering Enterprise and Sector Development

The component is supporting the development and implementation of national sector strategies with a focus on the agribusiness and the housing/construction sectors. The project will also support forward and backward linkage programs in these sectors in partnership with the private sector. Furthermore, the project will support the strengthening of the Quality Infrastructure (QI) institutions providing services to the private sector and support the development of specialized QI services for the agribusiness and construction sectors.

- 9 Adoption of National Quality Policy II
- 10 Development of sector-specific Quality services I

## RESULTS AS OF MARCH 2020

- The project supported EBES on the development of an action plan for the implementation of reforms targeting the DB starting a business indicator. EBES leveraged the action plan to target other DB indicators, including dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, trading across borders, and enforcing contracts. These achievements positioned Nigeria among the top ten reformers out of the 190 economies measured by Doing Business 2020, with a reduction in time to start a business from 10.9 to 7 days (reform 1 in the table above). The project also supported the launch of the Kano small claims court and the operationalization of the Lagos small claims court (reforms 3 and 4).
- On the investment policy and promotion areas, the project responded to NIPC's request for capacity building for investment promotion practitioners. The project designed a comprehensive, selective foreign direct investment (FDI) capacity building program designed to impart international best practice techniques in investment promotion and build a cohort of world class investment promotion and facilitation specialists. Over 80 NIPC staff from HQ and regional offices have attended the program so far and have expressed high levels of satisfaction with it.
- IBEP also provided technical assistance on legal and operational guidance to the new government of Ogun State in finalizing the law establishing the Ogun State Investment Promotion Agency (OgunInvest), which was launched by an executive order in November 2019 (reform 7). The operations of the agency and its gradual implementation of plans and strategies will be key to maximize the investment attractiveness of the State of Ogun.
- On the quality infrastructure arena, the project supported the Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS) in driving the revision of the National Quality Policy (NQP) through a public-private dialogue with key stakeholders to develop a new validated policy in line with best practices.
- **COVID-19:** In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the project is supporting the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission to retain investment by strengthening its role as an investment ombudsman and by developing a tailored aftercare program for the sectors most affected by COVID-19.

## PROJECT COUNTERPARTS

Enabling Business Environment Secretariat (EBES), the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment (FMITI), the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), the Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS), Ogun State Government and OgunInvest.

## CONTACT US

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