



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 March 2020 include:

246

Analytical and policy outputs, including: working papers, country reports, methodology notes, blogs, and datasets;

11,886

Downloads of externally published outputs, including: working papers, country reports, blogs, and other program resources;

60

Learning events;

2,693

Event participants;

48%

Female event participants;

91%

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

88

WBG projects or activities leveraging IBEP outputs; and

85

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 March 2020:



About **100 government counterpart agencies**, across the portfolio of nine country projects, engaged in substantive policy dialogue;



All of the nine country projects are addressing **Gender and Inclusion (G&I) constraints** through **20 relevant activities**;



About **100 workshops, seminars, training events and conferences** were held to present and discuss the results of diagnostics, build consensus with counterpart agencies, and chart out pathways towards reforms. More than **7,000 stakeholders**, representing both the public and private sectors, participated in such events;



Over **100 diagnostics and policy reports** were completed, including databases, surveys, assessments, legal reviews, and policy notes;



Building upon the diagnostic work and consultative workshops with policymakers, **40 recommendations** on institutional, legal, and regulatory changes were delivered; and



As a result of this dialogue and engagement, **15 reforms** have been achieved across the nine IBEP countries.