



## INVESTMENT CLIMATE

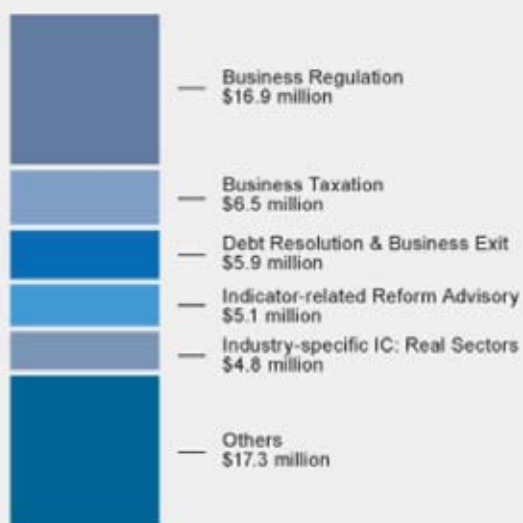
IFC is committed to helping governments implement reforms that improve the business environment and encourage and retain investment, fostering competitive markets, growth, and job creation. We design and support regulatory reforms that support business- and trade-friendly environments, while also helping resolve legal and policy weaknesses that inhibit investment. FY12 marks the beginning of the new FY12 to FY16 strategy cycle, which is focused on three strategic priorities—fostering enterprise creation and growth; facilitating international trade and investment; and unlocking sustainable investments in key industries, particularly agribusiness and tourism. At the end of FY12, IFC had an active portfolio of 129 investment-climate projects in 60 countries, valued at \$226.7 million. In FY12, our advisory program expenditures totaled \$57 million, of which 77 percent was in IDA countries, and 25 percent was in fragile and conflict-affected areas.



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**Project Expenditures by Product****Investment Climate Business Line**

Product	Development Results for Projects Active During CY11
Business Regulation	Eight reforms in Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Montenegro, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, and Vanuatu
Business Taxation	Two reforms in Armenia and one in Georgia
Debt Resolution and Business Exit	Three reforms in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, and Ukraine
Industry Specific-IC	One reform in Armenia
Indicator-based Reform Advisory	35 reforms in 20 countries
Public-Private Dialogue	One reform in Timor-Leste
Special Economic Zones	Three reforms in Haiti, Rwanda, and Yemen
Trade Logistics	Two reforms in Bangladesh and Burkina Faso



## HELPING IMPROVE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR ENTREPRENEURS IN LIBERIA

*At her store in downtown Monrovia, Choko Harris sells household goods that come all the way from China and Thailand. Her livelihood depends on the free port of Monrovia—a port that recently became a lot easier for businesses to navigate.*

“Going through customs was very difficult,” Harris says. “Your goods used to stay one month, two months.” Now her merchandise gets through in less than two weeks.

The port’s new efficiency owes much to the One-Stop Shop, an administration system that IFC helped the Liberian government set up. The system simplifies the complex shipping process, putting all relevant agencies under one roof.

Since 2006, IFC has supported the Liberian government’s efforts to improve the country’s investment climate, fueling business creation and expansion. According to an external

evaluation, reforms implemented so far have yielded \$4.7 million in private savings, created more than 20,000 new jobs, and attracted \$13 million in private sector investment.

Our work supported 10 pieces of legislation, leading to an improved Investment Act and the creation of Liberia’s first commercial court and code. It also led to the establishment of the Liberia Business Registry, which consolidates all four of the relevant government agencies. As a result, the time required to start a business dropped from 20 to six days, and costs were reduced significantly.

“Conducting business in Liberia is getting much easier—roads are being built, more airlines are operating, and goods are moving faster,” says Natty Davis, chairman of Liberia’s National Investment Commission.