IFC and Ireland
Partners in Private Sector Development

OVERVIEW

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Working with over 2,000 businesses worldwide, IFC’s long-term investments in developing countries exceeded $19 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2019. IFC is an active partner of established Irish multinationals and mid-sized firms interested in investing in emerging markets. Of IFC’s long-term committed portfolio of $57 million with Irish partners, 39% is in infrastructure, 37% in telecommunications, media and technology and 23% in manufacturing, agribusiness and services. Seventy-seven percent of investments is in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean at 23%.

IFC’s Long-Term Investment Portfolio with Irish Sponsors

As of FY19 (ending June 2019), IFC’s long-term investment portfolio with Irish sponsors amounted to $57 million. Irish private sector companies have benefited from co-investments with IFC, while making notable contributions to development.

IFC Committed Exposure by Sector as of June 2019 (Dollar Amounts in Millions)

- Power: 23
- Funds (Collective Investment Vehicles): 21
- Tourism, Retail & Property: 13
- Total: 57

Global Trade Finance Program (GTFP): As of June 2019, IFC issued 8 guarantees amounting to $2 million for Irish banks since the GTFP began in 2005.
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTION

IFC’s main government counterparts are the Ministry of Finance, Irish Aid, and Enterprise Ireland. As of June 2019, Ireland provided cumulative funding of almost $33 million in support of IFC Advisory Services, of which $1 million was committed in FY19. To date, Irish funding supported several strategic IFC initiatives aimed at promoting private sector development in emerging markets, including in conflict-affected states in Africa.

In October 2018, IFC and the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to generate growth opportunities for Irish companies in emerging markets, with an initial focus on food and agriculture sector.

Examples of Successful Cooperation

Mainstream Renewable Power, Sub-Saharan Africa

In June 2016, IFC contributed to a $118 million equity investment from a group of investors that included IFC, the IFC African, Latin American and Caribbean Fund (ALAC) and the IFC Catalyst Fund, two funds managed by IFC Asset Management Company; Ascension Investment Management; and Sanlam. The project provided equity funding for the Lekela Power platform, a joint venture between Mainstream Renewable Power Limited, an international renewable energy firm based in Dublin, and the global pan-emerging market private equity firm Actis. Since 2016, the project has supported the acceleration of the build-out of wind and solar plants across Africa. Lekela expects to deliver one GW of utility-scale wind and solar projects in Africa through 2021. IFC’s investment will increase access to electricity in Africa and demonstrate the viability of renewable energy independent power projects on the continent. Moreover, it will reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuel-fired plants.

Digicel, Global

Since 2003, IFC and Digicel, an Irish-owned telecommunications company, have partnered on a number of transactions in countries such as Fiji, Panama, Papua New Guinea and in the East Asia & Pacific region. The partnership with Digicel has helped to improve access to reliable and affordable telecommunication services for consumers and businesses in the markets where it operates.

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