IFC and Switzerland
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 in more than 100 countries, IFC committed a record $31.5 billion in own-account investments and mobilization from third parties to private companies and financial institutions in developing countries in fiscal year 2021 (FY21). IFC partners with multinationals and mid-sized firms that are interested in investing in emerging markets. As of June 2021, IFC had a long-term committed investment portfolio of over $1.4 billion with Swiss partners spread across several sectors and regions.

IFC’s Long-Term Investment Portfolio with Swiss Sponsors
As of FY21 (ending June 2021), IFC’s long-term investment portfolio with Swiss sponsors amounted to over $1.4 billion. Swiss private sector companies have benefited from co-investments with IFC, while making notable contributions to development.

- **Mobilization**: IFC has a strong relationship with Swiss financial institutions (FIs) and an active engagement across multiple sectors. As of June 2021, Swiss FIs held close to $320 million in IFC Syndicated Loans.

- **Global Trade Finance Program (GTFP)**: As of June 2021, IFC issued 811 guarantees amounting to close to $1.9 billion for Swiss banks since the GTFP began in 2005. The major confirming banks have been Credit Suisse, UBS, and Zurcher Kantonalbank.
Switzerland is one of the largest donors to IFC Advisory Services, mainly through Switzerland’s State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. In FY16-21, Switzerland provided cumulative funding of over $181 million for IFC Advisory Services. Since 2014, SIFEM, the Swiss Development Finance Institution, has been a signatory of IFC’s Master Cooperation Agreement, which streamlines lending procedures for joint investments to ease financing to private companies in emerging markets. Since then, SIFEM has co-invested in several projects alongside IFC, and adopted the Operating Principles for Impact Management in 2019.

Examples of initiatives supported by Switzerland include:

- The Sustainable Cities Program supports the implementation and financing of sustainable infrastructure solutions in select cities in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Sub Saharan Africa and Latin America. The program will help close the financing gap for urban infrastructure and make a direct contribution to increasing access to infrastructure services to citizens while improving the quality and/or efficiency of urban services. As a result, select cities will not only strengthen their competitiveness through job creation and economic growth and enhanced operational efficiency, but also improve the environmental sustainability of urban infrastructure.

- The Ukraine Crop Receipts Project supported the introduction of crop warehouse receipts as a new financial instrument for farmer finance, improving access to pre-season financing based on the pledge of future crops. As of June 2020, the project facilitated $1.2 billion in financing to over 4,000 MSME farmers from 239 creditors.

- Belgrade Waste-to-Energy is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) that enabled the city of Belgrade, in Serbia, to close the largest open dumpsite in Europe, construct a sanitary landfill, eliminate groundwater pollution sources and build a waste-to-energy plant. IFC, with support from SECO and other partners, advised on the regulatory framework, designed a bankable and viable PPP transaction structure, and assist the city in conducting an international competitive tender, which attracted top-tier operators in the sector.

Examples of Successful Cooperation

MSC, Global
In June 2021, IFC committed a $375 million senior loan for its own account and a $375 million syndicated loan to Medlog, the logistics arm of the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), the world’s second largest shipping company domiciled in Switzerland. The loan will help Medlog expand its logistics operations globally with a focus on Africa. The project is expected to result in improved cargo handling capacity of the logistics infrastructure in emerging markets via targeted investments in additional trucks, rail, warehouses, depots, and equipment. IFC’s investment will help increase integration and efficiency of logistics networks, reduce logistics costs, and accelerate the adoption of new technologies in the logistics sector across emerging markets, significantly supporting regional economic development while contributing to building and enhancing local capacity.

AKFED, Kyrgyz Republic
In September 2020, IFC committed a senior loan of $6 million, denominated in local currency, to the Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank (KICB) for on-lending to microfinance institutions and microenterprises in the Kyrgyz Republic, with a particular focus on affordable housing finance for low-income individuals and financing to women-owned microenterprises. The principal shareholder of KICB is AKFED, the private sector development arm of the Aga Khan Development Network, headquartered in Switzerland. IFC’s investment will contribute to more inclusive access to microfinance in the Kyrgyz Republic by demonstrating to other financial institutions a business case for investing in women-owned enterprises and micro-housing, particularly in rural areas.

ReponsAbility, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa
In June 2019, IFC committed $45 million to Access to Clean Power Fund (ACPF), a fund managed by the Swiss asset manager responsAbility Investments and dedicated to financing renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions in the distributed generation space in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. ACPF will extend debt financing to companies that specialize in household-level or commercial and industrial energy solutions in these regions, where currently an estimated 1.3 billion people lack access to grid-based electricity. ACPF will become the largest fund globally in the distributed generation space, focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa (primarily) and Asia, with IFC as an anchor investor. The project will provide financing for distributed generation producers and suppliers, helping to enable access to affordable and clean energy for underserved segments of the population and small businesses. ACPF is envisioned to demonstrate to the wider investor community that the distributed generation segment is investable and on the right trajectory for fully commercial sustainability, especially with SMEs.