IFC and France
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 $2.4 billion with French partners spread across several sectors and regions.

IFC’s Long-Term Investment Portfolio with French Sponsors

As of FY21 (ending in June 2021), IFC’s long-term investment portfolio with French sponsors amounted to $2.4 billion. French private sector companies have benefited from co-investments with IFC, while making notable contributions to development.

- **Mobilization**: IFC has a strong relationship with French financial institutions and an active engagement with companies across multiple industry sectors. As of June 2021, French financial institutions (incl. the French development finance institution Proparco) held over $1.3 billion in IFC Syndicated Loans, led by Société Générale, Proparco, BPCE Group, BNPP and Crédit Agricole.

- **Global Trade Finance Program (GTFP)**: As of June 2021, IFC issued over 2,100 guarantees amounting to $3 billion for French banks since the GTFP began in 2005. The most active confirming banks have been BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole and Société Générale.
Examples of Successful Collaboration

Cerba HealthCare, Africa

In May 2021, IFC together with Proparco, the private sector financing arm of Agence Française de Développement Group (AFD Group), committed a financing package of €15 million to Cerba Lancet Africa, which is majority owned by the French group Cerba HealthCare, a leading international player in medical diagnosis, and co-owned by Lancet Service Company, the foremost diagnostic company in sub-Saharan Africa. The loan will help the company upgrade its existing diagnostics laboratories in Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Eswatini. The funding will also allow Cerba Lancet Africa to add new facilities across Africa, particularly in countries with limited diagnostic services. The company’s planned expansion will focus on the poorest and most fragile countries in the region. IFC’s investment will help strengthen diagnostic capacity and the health response to COVID-19 in Africa, as well as support long-term health and economic recovery.

Crédit Agricole, Global

In March 2021, IFC committed a $182 million guarantee on a $4 billion-equivalent reference portfolio composed mostly of Crédit Agricole CIB (CACIB) trade finance assets in emerging markets. CACIB is the corporate and investment banking arm of the French banking group Crédit Agricole. The transaction will allow CACIB to extend a considerable amount of incremental trade finance to support business development in its target regions. IFC’s investment will support CACIB in extending new lending across a wide range of emerging markets, helping to resume critical trade finance flows that were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Investisseurs & Partenaires, Burkina Faso

In July 2020, IFC committed a senior loan of up to $4 million in local currency to support Alliance de Crédit et d'Epargne pour la Production (ACEP)'s expansion of its lending operations in the rural finance and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) space in Burkina Faso, with an emphasis on digital lending products such as mobile banking to enhance financial inclusion. ACEP is a microfinance institution in Burkina Faso and a subsidiary of ACEP Group, a regional microfinance group founded by Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P), a French impact investment group dedicated to supporting SMEs in sub-Saharan Africa. Other shareholders of ACEP include Société Générale Burkina Faso (a subsidiary of Société Générale, one of the largest French banks), a Belgian impact investment firm Incofin and a French solidarity investor Crédit Coopératif. IFC’s investment will help improve access to affordable credit for rural and women-owned MSMEs in Burkina Faso. The project is expected to reduce the MSME finance gap and promote the digital transformation of financial institutions in Burkina Faso.

Société Générale, Ghana

In June 2020, IFC committed a 5-year senior loan of $50 million to Société Générale Ghana, a subsidiary of the French financial services group Société Générale which aspires to be one of the key players in SME finance in Ghana. The loan will be used for on-lending to local SMEs, allowing the bank to significantly grow its SME portfolio. SMEs represent more than 90% of businesses in Ghana and contribute about 70% of the country’s GDP; however, longer-term financing to financial institutions for targeted on-lending to SMEs is scarce due to the perceived risk associated with the SME segment. IFC’s investment will increase access to longer-term funding for underserved local SMEs in Ghana while promoting greater market competitiveness through demonstration of the commercial viability of SME lending.

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