

FY16 FIAS REFORM DESCRIPTIONS

COUNTRY	PRACTICE	TOPIC	REFORM DESCRIPTION	REFORM	DB VALIDATED
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC					
Timor-Leste	Trade	Trading across borders	A survey of firms based at the country's ports showed that the time required to clear cargo has been cut in half, to an average of 8 days from FY15. The project supported the establishment of a new risk management unit and provided technical support and training for the new cargo clearance process. The risk management unit and a new self-assessment process at the customs office led to private sector reports of imported goods being released in as little as four hours. The capacity of customs officers has also improved. As a result of the project-supported customs brokers certification training, 26 customs brokers are fully licensed to operate in Timor-Leste. Three certification courses supported by the project have been implemented, substantially contributing to the reduction in time to import. The director-general of customs and brokers has requested support for a fourth training course to certify another 15-20 brokers by mid-FY17. The new system speeds clearance times in part by reducing the overall number of examinations and scans and more efficient document processing.	1	
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA					
Albania	Investment Climate	Construction permits	In February 2016, a government decree ended a moratorium on the issuance of construction permits, allowing the implementation of new streamlined procedures and the piloting of a new online permitting system. Albania was listed as a 'no practice country' by the <i>Doing Business 2016</i> report, ranking 189th out of 189 economies because of the moratorium. The <i>Doing Business 2017</i> report no longer counts Albania as 'no practice.'	1	1
Albania	Investment Climate	Protecting investors	In October 2014, Albania amended its law on entrepreneurs and commercial companies. Among other things, the new law directly addresses disclosure requirements of transactions between interested parties, requiring immediate public disclosure by companies of the terms of transactions and the nature of any potential conflict of interest. The amendment is highly relevant to the Doing Business indicator concerning protecting minority investors.	1	1
Albania	Investment Climate	Getting electricity	Albania made getting electricity easier by speeding up the process for obtaining a new connection.	1	1
Croatia	Investment Climate	Protecting investors	In October 2015, Croatia amended its Companies Act, requiring that directors disclose to the management and supervisory boards all relevant facts about the nature, relationship, and existence of any conflict of interest. The amendment is highly relevant to the Doing Business indicator on protecting minority investors, as it directly addresses the disclosure requirements of transactions between interested parties.	1	1
Georgia	Trade	Trading across borders	Responding to recommendations by the project team, the government adopted a new, streamlined customs risk management policy in December 2015, improving the management of risk profiles. Beginning in January 2016, only 2 percent of cargo went through risk inspection. During the first half of calendar 2016, at least 6,162 companies (which submitted more than 3 customs import declarations during this period) benefited from the improved procedures. Based on estimates from the first half of 2016, revenue generated through one of the country's main trade corridors has roughly doubled from 2013.	1	
Georgia	Trade	Trading across borders	FIAS-supported implementation of the upgraded version of the Automated System for Customs Data World (ASYCUDA) has enabled the government to improve the functionality and performance of the system. Selected modules have been enhanced enhancing the online functionality of the Georgia Revenue Service in areas such as electronic cargo control and periodic declarations. The private sector will benefit from acceleration of customs procedures through the faster processing tools with simplified declarations and automatic processing through the use of barcodes, among other improvements. Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) can now lodge simplified customs declarations with 50 percent less data requirements. Importers and exporters benefit from the integration of e-payments and e-certification as a basis for a paperless environment. Freight forwarders will benefit from enhanced customs transit procedures such as pre-arrival information and risk-management on transit transactions.	1	1
Georgia	Investment Climate	Tax simplification and compliance management	Georgia made paying taxes easier by abolishing the additional annex to corporate income tax returns and by improving the efficiency of the online system used for filing value-added tax returns.	1	1
Kyrgyz Republic	Investment Climate	Registering property	In October 2014, the government amended its law on entrepreneurs and commercial companies. Among other things, the new law directly addresses disclosure requirements of transactions between interested parties, requiring immediate public disclosure by companies of the terms of transactions and the nature of any potential conflict of interest. The amendment is highly relevant to the <i>Doing Business</i> indicator concerning protecting minority investors.	1	1
Kyrgyz Republic	Investment Climate	Trading across borders	In October 2015, the government amended its Companies Act, requiring that directors disclose to the management and supervisory boards all relevant facts about the nature, relationship, and existence of any conflict of interest. The amendment is highly relevant to the Doing Business indicator on protecting minority investors, as it directly addresses the disclosure requirements of transactions between interested parties.	1	1

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Serbia	Investment Climate	Construction permits	Serbia made dealing with construction permits less costly by eliminating the land development tax for warehouses.	1	1
Serbia	Investment Climate	Registering property	The government amended the law on state survey and cadastre, effective from December 2015, to introduce effective time limits for the registration of the property rights at the Real Estate Cadastre. Under the revised law, the Real Estate Cadaster is required to issue a final decision on the registration of a property title within 15 calendar days.	1	1
Serbia	Investment Climate	Starting a business	Serbia simplified the process of starting a business by reducing the time to register a company.	1	1
Tajikistan	Investment Climate	Trading across borders	The project team supported a reform enabling customs declarations to be submitted electronically beginning in January 2015 thanks to development and modernization of the customs service's infrastructure. The reform is part of a broader project to develop a unified automated information system connecting relevant government agencies. The reform reduced the time for processing of customs declarations from three days to three hours. Customs brokers use an electronic key to access the system and submit declarations electronically.	1	1
Uzbekistan	Investment Climate	Protecting investors	Uzbekistan strengthened minority investor protections by clarifying ownership and control structures.	1	1
Uzbekistan	Investment Climate	Registering property	Uzbekistan made transferring a property easier by increasing the transparency of information.	1	1
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN					
Ecuador	Investment Climate	Starting a business	Ecuador made starting a business easier by eliminating the publication of company charters in local newspapers	1	1
Guatemala	Investment Climate	Trading across borders	Guatemala improved cross-border trading by reducing the documentary and border compliance time for importing by making electronic submission of documents compulsory and eliminating the need for many hardcopy documents.	1	1
Guyana	Investment Climate	Registering property	Guyana made registering property easier by increasing the transparency of the Lands & Survey Commission: In May 2016, the Ministry of Business added to its website a section with public information for companies concerning property transfer and registration. Information provided includes the list of documents necessary for a transfer of private land by deed or title, and for a transfer of public lands or leases. Also included is a list of fees levied by the Land Registry for its services. This supplements information, published online since July 2015 by the Guyana Lands & Survey Commission, listing the fee schedule for obtaining certified copies and prints of updated plans and surveys. This reform was a direct result of recommendations provided during the team's mission to Guyana in 2015.	1	1
Paraguay	Investment Climate	Trading across borders	Paraguay made trading across borders easier by introducing a single window for exporting, which reduced the time required for border and documentary compliance.	1	1
St. Kitts and Nevis	Trade	Trading across borders	The St. Kitts and Nevis customs department introduced risk-based inspections to reduce the number of physical inspections of cargo. Under the trade logistics project, the FIAS-supported team helped build capacity for conducting risk-based inspections including the use of an inter-agency risk management review group. The customs department has reported processing 78-80 percent of cargo through its 'green lane,' meaning that it is authorized for immediate release.	1	
Dominican Republic	Investment Climate	Investment policy - Protection	"A government decree issued in October 2015 established the Directorate of Foreign Trade and International Trade Agreements Administration (DICOEX) as the lead agency for preventing investor-government disputes. The decree puts in place the system for dispute prevention under WTO agreements, free trade agreements or international investment treaties. Under the decree, DICOEX is the lead agency for preventing international arbitrations pursuant to investment treaties, free trade agreements, and the WTO agreements, and defending the Dominican Republic when such arbitrations take place. It also requires other government agencies to share information with DICOEX regarding possible disputes. The project team provided advice in the drafting of the decree as well as technical assistance in a number of areas relating to implementation of the dispute prevention mechanism. As a result of the decree, two investor-state disputes were prevented, resulting in an estimated \$8 million in cost savings.	1	
SOUTH ASIA					
India	Investment Climate	Getting electricity	India made getting electricity faster and cheaper by streamlining the process of getting a new commercial electricity connection. This reform impacts the city of Delhi.	1	1
India	Investment Climate	Paying taxes	India made paying taxes easier by introducing an electronic system for paying employee state insurance contributions. This reform applies to both to Delhi and Mumbai.	1	1

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India	Investment Climate	Trading across borders	India made exporting and importing easier by launching the ICEGATE portal and simplifying border and documentary procedures. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.	1	1
India	Investment Climate	Enforcing contracts	India made enforcing contracts easier by creating dedicated divisions to resolve commercial cases. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.	1	1
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA					
Angola	Investment Climate	Starting a business	The project developed a reform memo and action plan recommending short-, medium-, and long-term reform measures aiming to improve the country's business environment. The team engaged closely and frequently with government officials, sensitizing them to Doing Business methodology and the report cycle, and supporting government officials in attending a regional peer-to-peer learning event in Nairobi. As a result of this process, Angola made starting a business easier by eliminating the paid-in minimum capital requirement.	1	1
Angola	Investment Climate	Tax simplification and compliance management	The project developed a reform memo and action plan recommending short-, medium-, and long-term reform measures aiming to improve the country's business environment. The team engaged closely and frequently with government officials, sensitizing them to Doing Business methodology and the report cycle, and supporting government officials in attending a regional peer-to-peer learning event in Nairobi. As a result of this process, Angola made paying taxes easier and less costly by reducing the frequency of advance payments of corporate income tax and increasing the allowable deductions for bad debt. At the same time, Angola made interest income tax a final tax that is not deductible for the calculation of corporate income tax.	1	1
Benin	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	"The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Benin made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Benin	Investment Climate	Starting a business	The investment climate project supported the President's Investment Council in implementing reforms to improve country's Doing Business ranking. In addition to developing reform memos, the project provided training and shared knowhow. Benin made starting a business easier by eliminating the need to notarize company bylaws to activate a bank account following incorporation. The number of required procedures was reduced from seven to five and the average time involved was cut from 12 days to 8 days.	1	1
Burkina Faso	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Burkina Faso made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Burundi	Investment Climate	Tax simplification and compliance management	The project developed Doing Business reform memo and implementation action plan. The team has continuously supervised and guided the client throughout the implementation process. The Burundi investment climate program supported the country in simplifying the value-added tax filing process by reducing the number of documents to be annexed as well as the number of entries that must be captured in the monthly form, as detailed in the new regulation. The average time required to pay tax was reduced from 274 hours to 232 hours.	1	1

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Cameroon	Investment Climate	Construction permits	A 2013 decree in which Cameroon established a time limit for issuing building permits was not effectively implemented due to a lack of monitoring regarding the completeness of applications in the city of Douala. In April 2016, the Douala City Council put in place a reception desk in charge of verifying that building permit applications have all the required forms properly filled out and accompanied by the relevant supporting documents. The reform made the process more efficient. In February 2016, the Douala City Council updated its website to include the legal basis, forms, and procedural information related to obtaining a building permit.	1	1
Cameroon	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Cameroon made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Central African Republic	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. The Central African Republic made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Chad	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Chad made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Chad	Investment Climate	Starting a business	Chad made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement from about \$1,600 to about \$160. The reform became fully operational in January 2016.	1	1
Comoros	Investment Climate	Registering property	The Comoros adopted legislation making it easier, less expensive, and more transparent to register property. The reform process started more than three years ago with delivery of a diagnostic report recommending a reduction of property taxes and implementation of other important reforms relating to property. Implementation of this recommendation was immediate on Moheli and Anjuan islands, but not on Grande Comore. Over the past two years, the Comoros investment climate Team engaged in private sector sensitization and worked closely with the Lands Ministry to share international best practices, including support for conference participation in Nairobi and Maputo. As a result of these efforts, the Grande Comore finally implemented the reduction in the property transfer tax and made transferring a property less expensive. The transfer rate was reduced from 10.5 percent to 4.6 percent of property value.	1	1
Comoros	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. The Comoros made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1

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Congo, Dem. Rep.	Investment Climate	Construction permits	The project produced a reform memo and action plan that led to a reform streamlining construction permitting, improving building quality control, and reducing the time required to obtain a building permit. Further, the project supported a country delegation to attend a peer-to-peer learning event in Nairobi. The time to obtain a construction permit was reduced from 150 days to 122 days.	1	1
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. The Democratic Republic of Congo made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Congo, Rep.	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. The Republic of Congo made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Côte d'Ivoire	Investment Climate	Construction permits	"The Côte d'Ivoire investment climate project, in collaboration with the World Bank's revitalization and corporate governance project (PARE/PME), helped create and strengthen a dedicated Doing Business reform unit within the Center for the Promotion of Investment in Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI) under the sponsorship of the Prime Minister. The team coordinated the implementation of an annual Doing Business reform agenda in collaboration with multiple public and private stakeholders. The project contributed to the drafting of a building classification regulation and helped develop a manual of procedures for issuance of construction permits. The government has uploaded the relevant regulations to the website.	1	1
Côte d'Ivoire	Investment Climate	Getting credit	The project team supported the implementation of the OHADA Uniform Act on Movable Collateral and helped in the drafting of a national legal framework that includes implementation of a credit bureau. Further, the project advised on how to maximize registration coverage.	1	1
Côte d'Ivoire	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Côte d'Ivoire made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Côte d'Ivoire	Investment Climate	Enforcing contracts	The project supported an amendment to the commercial court law in order to incorporate a simplified fast-track procedure for small disputes that allows for self-representation by parties. The reform resulted in an improvement in the judicial processes index from 7 to 9 on a scale of 0 to 18, as per the Doing Business 2017 report.	1	1
Equatorial Guinea	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Equatorial Guinea made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1

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Gabon	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Gabon made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Guinea	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Guinea made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Guinea	Investment Climate	Investment policy - Entry	A new investment law approved in May 2015 increased the number of sectors allowing foreign investment and decreased the number of sectors that prohibit foreign investment. Under the previous investment law, senior government officials had the power and discretion to issue a list of priority sectors and restrictions by decree, creating confusion and uncertainty as to where and in what sectors investors could actually invest. The government agreed to the project team's recommendation that this provision be eliminated. The revised law concerning "reserved sectors" lists activities where foreign participation is allowed but subject to a ceiling or cap. The restrictions are few in number within the norms of international practice, as they cover sectors regulated by more specialized laws, including media (television, radio and print), utilities (power generation and distribution, water distribution), banking and finance, telecommunications, and pharmaceuticals. In all other sectors, 100 percent foreign ownership is permitted. The project has already resulted in a threefold increase in announced investment, from roughly \$185 million in 2014 to \$530 million in 2015. Realized investment generated data will be available soon.	1	
Guinea	Investment Climate	Investment policy - Protection	As of June 2015, investment policy changes have unlocked some \$2 million in stalled investment projects. Legislative changes approved in March 2013 have brought the country's domestic legal frameworks more in line with international standards governing expropriation, currency transfer, publication, administrative transparency, non-discrimination, and dispute settlement. The new policies prohibit discrimination among foreign versus domestic investors. Expropriation or nationalization of property must be justified by the government beforehand and be fairly compensated. Investment income may be converted to foreign currency and transferred abroad. And arbitration and other dispute resolution mechanisms will adhere to international standards.	1	
Guinea Bissau	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Guinea Bissau made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Madagascar	Investment Climate	Construction permits	The team worked closely with Antananarivo Municipality, providing training to staff as well as to private sector clients, including architects and engineers, to increase transparency and compliance with municipal rules. The project organized a validation workshop for delivering the results of a construction permit mapping report. Following recommendations of the report, Madagascar increased the transparency of dealing with construction permits by publishing construction-related regulations online where they are available free of charge.	1	1
Madagascar	Investment Climate	Trading across borders	The project undertook a diagnostic study to identify redundancies in export and import processes. The team then presented reform recommendations, including implementation of the TRADENET system. The effort involved frequent engagement with customs officials and private sector stakeholders to sensitize them to the value of best practices. As a result, Madagascar simplified cross-border trading processes, streamlined customs procedures, and implemented an electronic data interchange system that has reduced the time required for preparation and submission of trade documents from 59 to 49 hours for exports and from 68 to 58 hours for imports.	1	1

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Malawi	Investment Climate	Starting a business	Malawi made starting a business easier by eliminating the legal requirement to use a company seal. This recommendation was part of the Indicator Based Reform team's memorandum, delivered to the client two years ago. Since then, the team supported the government in effectively implementing this measure.	1	1
Mali	Investment Climate	Getting credit	The project produced a Doing Business reform memo, action plan, and training which led to the government implementing a number of recommendations. Mali improved access to credit information by establishing a new credit bureau.	1	1
Mali	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Mali made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Mali	Investment Climate	Starting a business	Mali made starting a business less expensive by reducing the paid-in minimum capital requirement. A law approved in May 2015 has facilitated the start-up of limited liability companies (LLCs) by revoking the minimum capital requirement of \$2,000. Shareholders can now freely set the capital of their company, with the minimum capital requirement set at \$10. More than 400 new enterprises have been created taking advantage of the reduced capital requirement.	1	1
Mauritius	Investment Climate	Registering property	The project developed reform a memo and action plan to support simplification of property transfers. Deeds registry officials, with project support, attended regional peer-to-peer learning events in Dubai and Nairobi. The Indicator-Based Reform team also supported the Registry in communicating ongoing reform efforts in Mauritius to the Doing Business property registration team through several face-to-face meetings in Washington, D.C., and Nairobi. As a result of these interactions, the Doing Business 2017 report has recognized the country's newly digitized land records system and streamlined processes.	1	1
Mozambique	Investment Climate	Getting credit	The project delivered a Doing Business reform memo in December 2015 that included a short-term recommendation that the government implement a law allowing the establishment of a private credit bureau. Based on the memo, the government approved a Doing Business action plan in February 2016. Establishment of regulations concerning a private credit bureau was a priority under the plan. Through the World Bank Growth Poles Project, the team funded a reform advisor to help follow up on implementation of the reform. The regulations passed in March 2016 and Mozambique established a new credit bureau.	1	1
Niger	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Niger made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1

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Niger	Investment Climate	Starting a business	Following passage of the uniform OHADA Company Act, Niger made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement. The project supported the OHADA Secretariat in achieving enactment of a uniform company law for member countries.	1	1
Nigeria	Investment Climate	Getting credit	Nigeria strengthened access to credit by creating a centralized collateral registry. The registry was developed as a result of efforts by the IFC Finance & Markets Global Practice (F&M) to create a secured transactions regime. The Indicator-Based Reform team worked closely with the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria as well as the F&M practice to ensure operationalization of the registry, overcoming many technical glitches. The registry is now live. This reform applies to both Kano and Lagos.	1	1
Nigeria	Investment Climate	Starting a business	The Indicator-Based Reform project has been working with the government for nearly four years. In this process, the team has closely engaged with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria and recommended them to automate their services. This reform has been supported and overseen over several years. The IBR team engaged with the new government in December 2015, an engagement that resulted in the identification of this reform measure as a quick win. The Corporate Affairs Commission was thus authorized to operationalize it. The reform has subsequently been implemented both in Kano and Lagos, with the average time for starting a business reduced from 28 days to 24 days in Lagos.	1	1
Regional	Investment Climate	Licenses and permits	The East African Community Scorecard identified restrictions in telecommunication services in EAC partner states which were not compliant with the EAC Common Market Protocol. Beginning in January 2015, three EAC Partner States (Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda) have moved ahead on a directive to operationalize the One Network Area (ONA) for voice in the region. Regional calls made by users in the member states are exempted from surcharges applied on international incoming calls, and any additional charges to subscribers stemming from roaming within the region have been removed. All calls in the three partner states now incur the same charges, resulting in a reduction in telephone calling costs of more than 50 percent within the region.	1	
Rwanda	Investment Climate	Licenses and permits	The East African Community Scorecard identified restrictions in the professional services in the EAC partner states which conflicted with the EAC Common Market Protocol signed by the EAC partner states in 2010. Rwanda recognizes accounting professionals from the other EAC Partner States.	1	
Senegal	Investment Climate	Getting credit	Senegal improved access to credit information by establishing a new credit bureau. The Indicator-Based Reform project helped communicate this reform effort to the Doing Business team and sponsored a data collection mission by the team which resulted in positive recognition of the reform in the Doing Business report.	1	1
Senegal	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Senegal made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Senegal	Investment Climate	Tax simplification and compliance management	Senegal made paying taxes less costly by reducing the maximum cap for corporate income tax and implementing more efficient accounting systems and software. The Indicator-Based Reform project helped communicate this reform effort to the DB team and sponsored a data collection mission by the team which resulted in positive recognition of the reform in the Doing Business report.	1	1
Senegal	Investment Climate	Investment policy - Protection	In an example of synergistic cooperation between T&C and IFC, the project team has reported \$150 million in investment generated (still being verified) resulting from the team's resuscitation of a \$300 million solar energy transaction, supported by IFC, that had been stalled due to technical legal issues. The project team helped resolve the impasse by working with the government to modify an administrative practice in Senegal. The issue had to do with differences in investor protection provisions used by most international lenders (including IFC) and those used by Senegal, which are based on French civil law.	1	
Togo	Investment Climate	Getting credit	The project shared a reform memo and helped develop an action plan to undertake this reform in the getting credit sphere. Togo improved access to credit information by introducing regulations that govern the licensing and functioning of credit bureaus in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) member states	1	1

FY16 FIAS REFORM DESCRIPTIONS

COUNTRY	PRACTICE	TOPIC	REFORM DESCRIPTION	REFORM	DB VALIDATED
Togo	Investment Climate	Resolving insolvency	The council of ministers approved the new OHADA Insolvency Law in September 2015, and the law went into effect in December 2015 for all member countries. The new law introduces the following reforms: (i) new conciliation procedure to encourage saving viable companies; (ii) simplified regulations for small enterprises; (iii) new cross-border insolvency regime based on the United Nations International Commission on Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law; (iv) clarified order of priority of creditors; (v) incentives to creditors who provide fresh money to troubled companies to facilitate their restructuring and recovery; and, (vi) a common legal framework to oversee the activities of insolvency practitioners as well as trustees. Togo made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new conciliation procedure for companies in financial difficulties and a simplified preventive settlement procedure for small companies.	1	1
Togo	Investment Climate	Tax simplification and compliance management	The project developed a reform memo and action plan to improve the country's Doing Business ranking. The project team conducted a diagnostics exercise and provided training. Togo made paying taxes easier by streamlining the administrative process of complying with tax obligations. Togo eliminated one administrative procedure required to pay taxes. Within one year, the the average time involved in paying taxes was reduced from 270 hours to 216 hours.	1	1
Uganda	Investment Climate	Tax simplification and compliance management	The project supported the Uganda Revenue Authority in introducing an online tax return filing system as part of a broader effort by the team to help the government simplify the return filing process. The country made paying taxes easier by eliminating a requirement for tax returns to be submitted in paper copy following online submission, reducing the average time required to file returns from 209 hours to 195 hours.	1	1
Zambia	Trade	Competition	The Zambia Investment Climate Program II has assisted the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission in the preparation and adoption of merger control guidelines. In the first months of implementation, compliance cost savings of approximately \$154 thousand per transaction have been generated; the average number of mergers subject to notification has been reduced; and the time for assessing mergers has been trimmed by 14 percent, from 97 to 83 days. The merger control guidelines, issued in August 2015, increased the clarity and predictability of the legal system by explaining what transactions need to be notified as well as what economic tests would be applied to assess a merger. The guidelines also create a fast-track procedure to handle in a more efficient way mergers that are not likely to harm competition. According to the competition law in Zambia, the guidelines are binding.	1	
Zambia	Investment Climate	Registering property	The project developed reform memo and action plan followed by hands-on technical assistance aiming to simplify the property transfer system and reduce transaction costs. The country made it more affordable to transfer property by decreasing the property transfer tax from 13.5 percent of property value to 9.9 percent.	1	1
GRAND TOTAL				76	66