IFC and Portugal

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 \$43.7 billion in own-account investments and mobilization from third parties to private companies and financial institutions in developing countries in fiscal year 2023 (FY23).* IFC partners with Portuguese multinationals and mid-sized firms interested in investing in emerging markets. As of June 2023, IFC had a long-term committed investment portfolio of \$218 million with Portuguese partners in the Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Services sector, spread across Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.



*The World Bank Group fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following calendar year.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTION

In 2019, IFC and SOFID, the Portuguese development finance institution, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support sustainable tourism investments in emerging markets as an engine for growth and job creation in Lusophone African countries, with an initial focus on São Tomé e Príncipe.





In 2021, IFC became the first institutional partner to the Lusophone Compact, a partnership between Africa Development Bank, Portugal and six Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. The Lusophone Compact promotes private sector development by providing risk mitigation, financing instruments, and technical assistance to encourage businesses in member countries. Its goals are closely aligned with IFC's Creating Markets strategy to unlock opportunities for private sector investment through private sector diagnostic work, risk mitigation and financing of viable projects.

Examples of Successful Cooperation

Jerónimo Martins, Colombia



IFC committed a \$95 million loan in 2020 and a \$93 million loan in 2019 in Colombian Pesos to Ara Tiendas, a Colombian food store chain, to finance expansion of its retail stores as well as working capital. Ara Tiendas is a subsidiary of Jerónimo Martins, one of the largest European food retailers based in Portugal. IFC's investment in Ara Tiendas, a soft discount retailer, increases access to good quality food and staple goods in a modern retail environment at affordable prices, including in underserved areas in intermediate cities. With 1241 stores in operation in the country, of which 27 percent were established in the last 12 months, Ara Tiendas' growth has also created significant employment (12.5k employees 2022) and lead to the development of a local supply network.

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