

The Facility « Investing for Employment » announces the launch of the first official call for proposals in Morocco

Press Release

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Today, many African countries have dynamic economies that offer excellent investment opportunities. However, additional support is needed to overcome local challenges and stimulate job-creating activities.

In Morocco, the labour market is characterised by strong and persistent imbalances in supply and demand for labour, and in the qualification system. This imbalance manifests itself in the form of unemployment and a mismatch between the qualifications sought by employers and those offered by the education and training system.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a strong impact on all labour sectors. Besides health, education, catering and tourism, the employment market has been hit hard by the health crisis. In 2020, the unemployment rate rose from 9,2 % to 11,9 % at national level, affecting young graduates (18,5 %), and even more so women (16,2 %).

It is crucial to find solutions to address the main forms of employment gaps (unemployment and underemployment). These solutions involve support for job creation, the development of human capital through training, the development of employability, reintegration into the labour market and the promotion of entrepreneurship.

The Facility « Investing for Employment » (IFE) is an investment facility created by KfW Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as an integral part of the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation. Operating under the brand Invest for Jobs, the Special Initiative aims to create good jobs and apprenticeships and to improve working conditions in its partner countries in Africa.

The Facility IFE is an investment mechanism for employment, providing competitive grants to co-finance public or private projects in its eight partner countries in Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt (in preparation), Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia and Morocco. It does so by offering co-financing grants for new investment projects with a high job creation impact.

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To reach this goal, co-financing grants will be awarded through a competitive application process ranging from **€1 million to €10 million** per project. The first call for proposals in Morocco will be launched on **1 March 2021** seeking applications for four types of projects:

1. Public Infrastructure for job creation (covers up to 90 % of the cost)
2. Common service for job creation (covers up to 75 % of the cost)
3. Projects that foster direct job creation which have benefits/impacts more broadly than solely for the project owners (covers up to 50 % of the cost)
4. Projects that foster direct job creation by companies (covers up to 25 % of the total cost).

Green economy is also one of the key elements that applicants will have to take into account. In fact, 'Integrating green jobs' is one of the objectives of the Moroccan National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SNDD) for the period up to 2030.

The evaluation of the projects will be carried out by the Facility IFE. The evaluation process covers a first pre-selection stage based on the concept notes and a second phase of detailed evaluation of project proposals.

IFE invites companies and other interested organisations, whether public or private, as well as consortia to submit concept notes as soon as the **call for proposals opens on 1 March 2021**.

Due to the corona pandemic (COVID-19), information meetings will be organised online, presenting the objectives of the facility, its conditions for submitting proposals, as well as the steps and modalities of participation, the eligibility of projects and the evaluation criteria of the submitted concept notes.

For more information about the Facility « Investing for Employment »:

<https://invest-for-jobs.com/en/investing-for-employment>

For more information about the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation:

<https://invest-for-jobs.com/en>

We are looking forward to hearing from you
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