SADC - European Union

Support to improving the Investment and the Business Environment in the SADC region

EU Contribution: € 14,000,000 (approx. BWP 222 million)

Duration of implementation : (2019-2024)

Beneficiary Partner: SADC Secretariat

Objective: Develop a SADC investment zone, promoting intra-regional investment and attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the SADC region, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Results:

- **An enabling investment environment across SADC member states with less barriers and more business-friendly reforms**
- **Harmonised financial markets in the SADC region**
- **Enhanced financial inclusion and improved access to finance for SMEs**

Job creation is essential for poverty reduction and a critical priority for the SADC member countries. Most of these economies are dominated by capital-intensive extractive sectors with low impact on job creation. Economic diversification is hampered by the inadequate business environment, weak investors' protection, corruption and limited access to finance.

Boosting private investment to encourage job creation requires improving the business climate through the development of a transparent and open investment regime for both domestic and foreign investors, facilitating access to finance and strengthening market institutions.

The goal of the programme is to create jobs through the stimulation of domestic and foreign investment into diverse labour-intensive economic activities. All activities will concur to make the SADC region an attractive investment destination

RESULTS:

As part of the activities of the programme, the Protocol on Finance and Investment was revised and National Action Plans for Investment were developed in eight SADC Member States. In collaboration with the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the programme completed the first SADC Investment Climate scorecard, expected to be published by the end of 2023. SIBE currently supports the negotiation of double tax-avoidance agreements and builds the capacities of investment promotion agencies in the SADC region. Upon demand from the Member States, the programme helps address anti-money laundering deficiencies and develop national financial inclusion strategies. The latter are presently being developed for Botswana, Namibia and Angola.