

# ACP Business Friendly Program | Results Story

## GHANA

### World Bank led Macro-Level Intervention

Thanks to support provided by the World Bank Group through the ACP Business Friendly Program, Ghana has **strengthened the investment-climate reform coordinating body** through improved internal operating procedures and reporting lines. The coordinating body is now better poised to improve governance and citizen engagement.

The ACP Business-Friendly (BF) Program is an intra-ACP action funded by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. The program aims to support business-friendly and inclusive national and regional policies and strengthen productive capacities and value chains.

Funded by:



European Union



Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States

Implemented by:



**WORLD BANK GROUP**  
Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation



Watch the [Program Overview Video](#).



Read the [Program brochure](#).



Technical meeting with BRR team on boosting private sector engagement in regulatory reform governance (December 2022)

## THE CHALLENGE

Ghana's Business Regulatory Review Unit (BRR) found itself grappling with a myriad of challenges that hampered its efficacy in coordinating reform activities. Among these hurdles were organizational constraints, notably limited allocation of staff, and a prevailing lack of clarity regarding the unit's mandate and agenda. These issues impeded the unit's ability to efficiently prioritize tasks, streamline processes, and effectively engage with both the private sector and citizens in the reform process, leading to a lack of transparency and limiting the opportunity to collect valuable feedback.

# THE SOLUTION

The World Bank (WB) Team supported Ghana to adopt a multifaceted approach to address the challenges faced by the BRR unit. Firstly, the team conducted a comprehensive Institutional Diagnostic which identified key areas necessitating improvement, including challenges to business entry and exit and contract enforcement during commercial disputes, and a rise in building collapses. The findings were delivered in a report which served as a reform guide, enabling the unit to prioritize critical issues such as facilitating construction permits, streamlining processes, and mitigating resource diffusion. Simultaneously, efforts were directed to providing legislative support. The WB team facilitated extensive collaboration and iterative discussions to further the passage of the forthcoming BRR Act. Essential insights were shared with lawmakers, ensuring that the Act aptly addressed the unit's requirements and aspirations.

To bolster engagement with the private sector and strengthen transparency, the WB team organized technical working sessions with various private sector associations. The sessions aimed to bridge communication gaps, identify requisite tools, address deficiencies in public relations and communications, and spearhead the formation of technical working groups. These groups, particularly focused on addressing pressing issues like building collapses related to construction permits, fostered a collaborative environment conducive to problem-solving. A final way in which teams supported transparency was through the establishment of the BR Registry, which provides firms with easy access to bills and regulations, thereby fostering greater transparency and facilitating compliance. By leveraging the draft of the BRR Act, the WB team encouraged a notable surge in draft views and comments on the legislative process.

# EARLY RESULTS

The BRR unit has witnessed a marked improvement in the efficacy of its staff, who became more adept at prioritizing activities with a clear understanding of the unit's mandate. Concurrently, the private sector exhibited increased confidence owing to enhanced engagement with the BRR Unit and the improved transparency and accessibility of regulations and bills.

# FUTURE OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, the WB team remains poised to provide ongoing support as the BRR bill progresses through parliament. Additionally, a follow-up workshop on the BRR Diagnostic Report is planned to track recommendations aimed at further enhancing the unit's governance structure.

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