Early Warning System

IFC-51653

MFP-BOP LAPO NG

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Quick Facts

Countries	Nigeria
Financial Institutions	International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	B
Voting Date	2026-05-01
Borrower	LAPO MICROFINANCE BANK LTD
Sectors	Finance
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 10.00 million
Loan Amount (USD)	$ 10.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	$ 10.00 million

Project Description

According to bank's website, the proposed project consists of a senior loan of up to US$10 million in Nigerian Naira equivalent to LAPO Microfinance Bank Limited (“LAPO MFB” or the “MFB” or “LAPO”), one of Nigeria’s largest microfinance institutions. The project will be supported by a pooled first loss guarantee (“PLFG”) of up to US$40 million provided by International Development Agency IDA Private Sector Window Blended Finance Facility (“IDA-PSW BFF”) allocated to the Base of Pyramid (“BOP”) Envelope under the FIG MSME Platform. Approximately 80 percent of the proceeds will support the expansion of LAPO MFB’s BOP-focused Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (“MSME”) lending program, including the scaling up of its digital lending platform to enhance outreach and financial inclusion, while the remaining 20 percent will be used to support supply chain finance (“SCF”) for MSMEs, including transactions originated through a digital SCF marketplace operated by Fiducia Data Services Limited (the “Project”).

Early Warning System Project Analysis

Environmental Category: FI-2 - Limited

Investment Description

- International Finance Corporation (IFC)

The total project cost is estimated at up to US$10 million in Nigerian Naira equivalent to LAPO MFB.

Financial Intermediary

Financial Intermediary: A commercial bank or financial institution that receives funds from a development bank. A financial intermediary then lends these funds to their clients (private actors) in the form of loans, bonds, guarantees and equity shares. Financial intermediaries include insurance, pension and equity funds. The direct financial relationship is between the development bank and the financial intermediary.

- LAPO MICROFINANCE BANK LTD (Financial Intermediary) **is owned by** LAPO NGO (Parent Company)

Private Actors Description

LAPO MFB:

LAPO MFB was established in 2007 as a private limited liability company, originating as an offshoot of the Lift Above Poverty Organization (“LAPO NGO”). It was licensed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (“CBN”) as a State Microfinance Bank in 2010 and was upgraded to a National Microfinance Bank in 2012. LAPO MFB has grown into one of Nigeria’s largest microfinance institution’s, serving over one million clients through more than 500 branches nationwide across all 36 states. Headquartered in Maryland, Lagos, its lending focuses on women entrepreneurs, nano businesses, and smallholder farmers, with operations supported by a hybrid group and individual lending model and mobile agents. LAPO MFB is majority owned by LAPO NGO, which holds a 56.9% equity interest. The MFB’s founder and Chairman, Mr. Godwin Ehigiamusoe, holds a 40.1% equity interest, with the remaining 3.0% held by minority individual shareholders.

Fiducia Data Services Limited (Fiducia):

Fiducia began operations in Nigeria in 2023 as a digital SCF market place provider. The company’s digital SCF platform relies on a licensing agreement with a third-party provider, M1 Group, which operates under license from the Reserve Bank of India. Fiducia’s digital marketplace addresses two critical barriers to MSME financing: (1) mitigating risks for financial institutions by linking credit to more robust and creditworthy anchor corporates; and (2) lowering acquisition and processing costs for financial institutions through bulk onboarding of MSMEs.

Contact Information

LAPO Microfinance Bank Limited

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ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can submit a request for information disclosure at: https://disclosures.ifc.org/#/inquiries

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ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF IFC/MIGA

The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who believe they are likely to be, or have been, adversely affected by an IFC or MIGA- financed project. If you submit a complaint to the CAO, they may assist you in resolving a dispute with the company and/or investigate to assess whether the IFC is following its own policies and procedures for preventing harm to people or the environment. If you want to submit a complaint electronically, you can email the CAO at CAO@worldbankgroup.org You can learn more about the CAO and how to file a complaint at http://www.cao-ombudsman.org