



Initiative Africa
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IGF experience sharing workshop

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Initiative Africa

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Come and join

**Business
for Peace**

Project Duration
2021 - 2023

Initiative Africa introduced its Business for Peace Project

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IGF experience sharing workshop

Initiative Africa (IA) organized an experience sharing workshop with IGF beneficiaries which took place on July 31, 2021 at Friendship hotel.

In addition to IGF beneficiaries, stake holders and Consortium representatives were attended the workshop.

The workshop was aimed at encouraging in BMOs, to learn from one another, to emphasize on the gaps observed during the first phase project implementation and take a remedial action, to discuss on the progress to date and IGF sustainability.

A short and brief presentation from finance and program department were presented, the presentation were focused on the major gaps observed and lessons learnt in the past six months (both financial and programmatic aspects). Two IGF beneficiaries also got the chance to present their project accomplishment.

Following Q&A session on the presentations were IA representatives responded to the question raised from participants. Participants found the workshop so engaging and informative. They reflected that such workshops should be followed by field visits which IA has planned for September 2021.

Initiative Africa introduced its Business for Peace Project

IA introduced the new Business for Peace project to Business Membership Organizations (BMOs) including the regional chambers in a half-day workshop organized at Friendship International Hotel, Addis Ababa.

The Business for Peace (B4P) project, which will run for three years from 2021-2023, is aimed at enhancing the engagement of the business in an inclusive peace process in Ethiopia. The B4P project will be implemented in five regions of Ethiopia (Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray).

During the workshop, IA has presented the project objectives, approaches, expected results, and major activities. The major objectives of the B4P are:

- To mobilize the business community to engage in peacebuilding and conflict resolution actions and activities.
- To maintain support for effective peace building and inclusive coordination amongst Government, private sector, media actors and civil society through corporate social responsibility.

- To respond to concrete challenges and opportunities to build a peaceful and just Ethiopia through civic education, training, internship, and apprenticeship activities

The project's rationale was stated as "In a situation where Ethiopia is now, sustained peace can't be attained by the actions of the government alone. Hence, among other stakeholders, the business community must be engaged on peace building initiatives as it is the primary benefactor of peaceful environment."

During the discussion time, the participants reflected on how the business community can contribute to peace building. The common reflection among participants were that the project is timely and the project's objectives are appropriate. They also reflected on their experience regarding their role in peace building initiatives in their locality. Finally, the participants expressed their interest to be part of the project implementation and wanted to know more and on further collaborations possibility with Initiative Africa on this project.

The workshop was concluded by inviting all BMOs to compete for the funding with their innovative project ideas as a proposal.