





Supporting SMEs and SMIs for a Sustainable Strengthening of the Malian Economy

As part of its transformation strategy, the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development plays a key role in financing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Small and Medium Industries (SMIs) operating in key sectors in West Africa as important drivers of economic growth and development as well as job creation.

EBID has been championing the growth of SMEs and SMIs, particularly in the Republic of Mali, through its first line of credit to the Banque Malienne de Solidarité (BMS) S.A worth FCFA 2 billion, which has borne significant positive effects in the country's economy.

EBID's credit facility for BMS has contributed to strengthening the stable resources available in the decentralised financial system for the refinancing of SMEs and SMIs in Mali. These invaluable resources have made it possible to finance several business projects worth FCFA 3.25 billion operating in sectors such as microfinance, agriculture, transport, and industry. A vegetable growers' cooperative in the suburbs of Bamako, which benefited from a total of FCFA 22 million, was able to expand its vegetable production activity by purchasing agricultural inputs and obtaining ploughing machines. This loan has enabled them to develop 40 ha of irrigated fields that are managed by 385 vegetable growers.









The funds injected into the economy through the EBID line of credit to BMS have helped to create wealth for thousands of people, with effects on inclusive growth in Mali. A trader, who received a sub loan of FCFA 2.5 million, was able to increase her capital to purchase raw materials for dyeing fabrics. A business owner, who was granted a sub loan of FCFA 10 million, was also able to grow her gold business. These are all concrete examples that underline the decisive role of EBID in the transformation of the Communities within ECOWAS.

Indeed, the jobs that have resulted from this financing from the Bank have undoubtedly improved the quality of life of thousands of people living in Mali. These jobs have generated an average annual salary of FCFA 419 million and an annual

average of FCFA 14 million in tax payments to the government.

In addition to the direct wealth generation through job creation, EBID's intervention has contributed to the electrification of the country. A state-owned company that produces, transports and supplies













electricity across Mali was granted a FCFA 150 million loan by BMS through EBID's credit facility. The loan was used to acquire electrical equipment for the distribution of energy produced from a thermal power plant, which is injected into the national grid to meet the demand of the Malian population.

Consumers and suppliers have been empowered by the credit facility given to BMS, enabling them to undertake income-generating activities that contribute to the fight against poverty.

Supporting the growth of local SMEs and SMIs to enhance the economies of ECOWAS Member States is at the core of the strategic mission of EBID, and the line of credit to BMS is a notable example of how EBID empowers local businesses and industries to drive forward their economies.



