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COMMUNIQUÉ

Compliance Investigation of IFC's Environmental and Social Performance Related to Bridge International Academies in Kenya

Washington, D.C., February 14, 2020 – The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), the independent accountability mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, is conducting a [compliance investigation](#) of IFC's investment in Bridge International Academies, a low-cost, for-profit chain of schools. CAO's involvement responds to a complaint filed in 2018 on behalf of current and former parents and teachers from Kenya and will focus on the application of IFC's environmental and social standards to the project, particularly in relation to compliance with national law, labor practices, stakeholder engagement and management of health and safety risk.

Bridge International Academies operates over 200 schools in Kenya and IFC's investment has supported an increase in the number of schools in Kenya and expansion to three new countries.

As part of its compliance investigation, CAO conducted a field visit to Kenya, February 9-14, 2020, to speak to representatives of the complainants, Bridge International Academies, and other relevant stakeholders. In the course of the field visit, CAO had an opportunity to visit several academy sites. CAO met with current and former parents and teachers of Bridge Academies. The information gathered during these meetings and visits will inform CAO's investigation report, which will consider IFC's due diligence, appraisal and supervision of the project, as well as the environmental and social outcomes of IFC's investment. CAO anticipates finalizing the investigation by September 2020.

More information about the case, including the [Terms of Reference](#) for the compliance investigation, is available at www.cao-ombudsman.org.

Information about IFC's investment in the project can be found through [IFC's Project Information and Data Portal](#).

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About CAO:

The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent accountability mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), members of the World Bank Group. CAO's mandate is to address complaints from people affected by IFC and MIGA projects in a manner that is fair, objective, and constructive, and to improve environmental and social outcomes on the ground. www.cao-ombudsman.org.