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COMMUNIQUÉ

CAO Cases Regarding IFC's Investment in Bridge International Academies in Kenya

Washington, DC, January 29, 2021 – The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), the independent accountability mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has four active cases related to IFC's investments in Bridge International Academies, a chain of low-cost schools in Kenya and other countries. These cases are addressing labor, health, safety and child protection concerns:

- [Bridge International Academies-01](#): CAO is conducting a compliance investigation focusing 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. The investigation responds to a June 2018 complaint from current and former Bridge parents and teachers. The investigation is expected for completion mid-2021.
- [Bridge International Academies-02](#) and [-03](#): CAO is facilitating a dispute resolution process between two families and Bridge to address two complaints filed in February 2020 regarding a safety incident at a Bridge school in Kenya in October 2019.
- [Bridge International Academies-04](#): CAO initiated a compliance appraisal in September 2020 in response to child protection concerns at Bridge schools in Kenya. This provision in CAO's [Operational Guidelines](#) allows for sensitive environmental and social issues not subject to a complaint to be addressed through a CAO-initiated compliance process. CAO's appraisal, which does not make any findings in relation to the company or the impacts of the project, concluded that an investigation of IFC's performance in relation to these concerns is merited. The investigation process commenced in January 2021 and is expected for completion by December 2021.

CAO is not able to comment on the specifics of ongoing dispute resolution and compliance processes. Information about the status of these cases and all case reports are posted at www.cao-ombudsman.org.

Information about IFC's investment in Bridge International Academies is available on [IFC's Disclosure 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.