



# Sectoral Regulatory Assessments

Empowering sector-specific growth for sustainable development and job creation

**For businesses, markets, and workers to thrive, a conducive business environment is essential.** Evidence shows that firms operating in sectors and regions with stronger business climates enjoy significant advantages: higher sales, more and better jobs, increased productivity, and greater investments.

**Yet each industry faces distinct regulatory challenges,** such as licensing requirements, compliance with technical standards, and administrative procedures for market entry and operation. Without sector-specific, primary evidence and data that address these challenges, policymakers risk blind spots that hinder private investment and job-rich growth.

**Sectoral Regulatory Assessments - a core program of the Regulatory Efficiency Unit in the World Bank's Policy Indicators Group** – address this gap by generating sector – specific data and policy recommendations through an innovative method of process mapping. The assessment produces in-depth studies that identify regulatory barriers faced by firms in sectors that are critical for job creation and investment.

## IDENTIFYING REGULATORY BOTTLENECKS, ENABLING REFORM

**Sectoral assessments conduct strategic process mapping tailored to a country's priorities, documenting the steps, timeframes, costs, and responsible agencies involved in key procedures.** By identifying inefficiencies – such as redundant steps, delays, or overly complex requirements – this approach generates actionable data that helps governments simplify

compliance, reduce regulatory burdens, and inform policy and investment decisions.

To ensure accuracy and relevance, studies combine:

- Comprehensive background research;
- Primary data collection from public and private sector stakeholders; and
- Extensive consultations and follow-ups with key actors.

## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture drives jobs, growth, and food security, and its impact depends on efficient regulations and effective service delivery. The assessment conducts a targeted analysis of regulatory frameworks and business conditions, equipping policymakers with a practical diagnostic toolkit and proven best practices across inputs, production, processing, logistics, and exports.

The methodology adapts to country priorities, using tailored questionnaires and detailed process mapping to track procedures—from seed certification and fertilizer registration to licensing, SPS compliance, inspections, and trade processes. By combining de jure rules with de facto performance, the program reveals how regulations work in practice.

The findings inform reforms that reduce compliance time and costs, improve transparency, and expand market access, including through streamlined institutional responsibilities and greater digitalization. As a result, the program strengthens a more competitive, resilient agriculture sector that supports private investment, innovation, inclusion, and climate-smart food trade.

## MINING

The mining sector plays an important role in economic development by contributing to exports, fiscal revenues, and job creation. The assessment collects granular business climate data and assesses bureaucratic efficiency at both central and local levels, identifying regulations and practices that either enable or constrain business activity. This provides policymakers with a diagnostic toolkit and a repository of replicable good practices. In mining, analysis focuses on value-chain segments facing the greatest challenges and may include small-scale and artisanal mining, ensuring comprehensive sector coverage.

**Actionable insights for Zambia:** Our team conducted a focused assessment of the copper mining sector in the Copperbelt and North-Western provinces, mapping the regulatory and administrative procedures faced by mining companies on the ground. The study produced primary, location-specific data to pinpoint bottlenecks and inform targeted reforms aimed at improving regulatory quality, operational efficiency, and private sector growth.

## SOLAR

Solar energy drives inclusive, low-carbon growth, creating jobs, expanding electricity access, and reducing emissions. Unlocking the full potential of solar energy projects requires a supportive business environment, efficient implementation, and stable grid system. The assessment examines regulatory frameworks and practical business conditions, identifying barriers and opportunities for both distributed generation (e.g., rooftop panels) and utility-scale projects, based on country-specific priorities.

Process mapping captures critical procedures—from permitting and technical inspections to tendering processes for large-scale projects—uncovering bureaucratic obstacles and regulatory gaps while highlighting sectoral best practices. These insights support evidence-based reforms that accelerate solar energy deployment at the local and national level.

## TOURISM

The tourism sector is a key driver of local economic development, job creation, and cultural promotion. The assessment examines the regulatory and operational landscape, highlighting where rules and practices enable or constrain private activity. Findings are consolidated into actionable guidance for policymakers. The assessment distinguishes four categories – hotels, short-term rentals, restaurants (with or without alcohol), and tour operators – and documents licensing and permitting requirements for each. Data are collected separately for each subsector using tailored questionnaires to ensure that their specific challenges are accurately identified.

Process mapping identifies licensing and permitting barriers, systematically documenting requirements, procedures, and public sector agencies involved. By highlighting regulatory complexity, overlaps, or gaps of transparency, these studies provide a clear

roadmap for targeted reforms that improve the business environment, facilitate investment, and foster private sector growth in tourism.

## WHAT DO SECTORAL REGULATORY ASSESSMENTS DELIVER?

- ✓ **Actionable data-driven findings:** produce novel primary micro-level data on how business regulatory processes are implemented in practice.
- ✓ **Analysis of regulatory constraints:** identify key administrative barriers at national and local levels to support effective reform planning.
- ✓ **Replicable good practices:** highlight proven best practices that can be adopted and replicated in the country of study.
- ✓ **Reform recommendations:** produces sectoral profiles with process maps that identify regulatory bottlenecks and provide actionable recommendations.
- ✓ **Visibility and credibility with investors and donors:** demonstrate commitment to improving the business climate and attracting investment in strategic sectors.
- ✓ **Peer-to-peer learning:** facilitate knowledge exchange between countries and regions, helping jurisdictions adopt proven solutions.
- ✓ **Interactive website:** provides access to sectoral city and regional profiles, reports, and microdata for easy comparisons and deeper analysis.

## COLLABORATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

**The Sectoral Regulatory Assessments are tailored to the needs of client governments** and are financed through a combination of government funding and strategic partnerships with development donors. These partnerships have supported subnational business environment assessments in multiple countries, including Kenya and Nigeria (through UKAid), Central America (CIDA), Afghanistan (USAID), Colombia, Peru, South Africa and Mozambique (SECO), as well as the European Union (European Commission).

## CONNECT WITH US

For more information on Sectoral Regulatory Assessments and potential collaboration opportunities with the Regulatory Efficiency team, please contact Valentina Saltane, Manager ([vsaltane@worldbank.org](mailto:vsaltane@worldbank.org)).

Further details are available on our website: [www.worldbank.org/regulatoryefficiency](http://www.worldbank.org/regulatoryefficiency)

