

Project Preparation Facility (PPF) Explained

Support Mechanisms and Priority Areas



ASCENT
WEEK
2025

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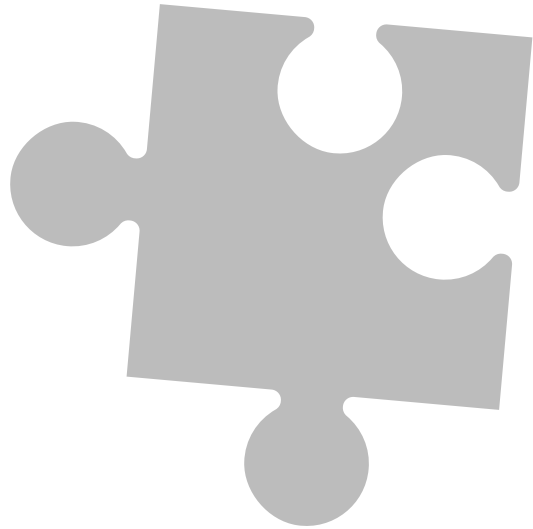
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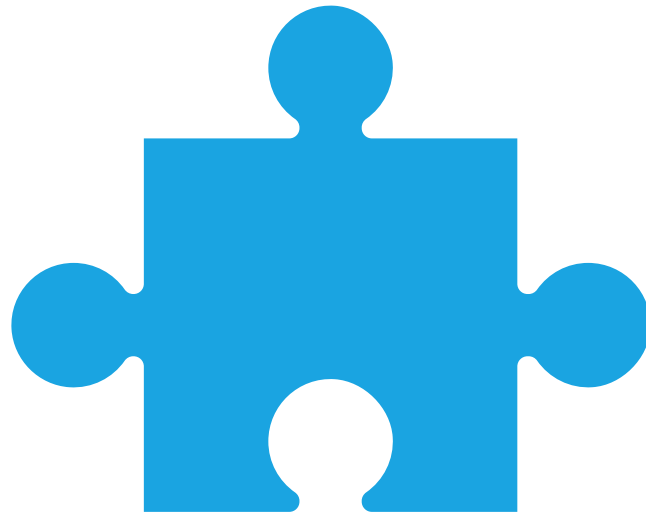
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A **Project Preparation Facility (PPF)** to fill the gap between investors and projects



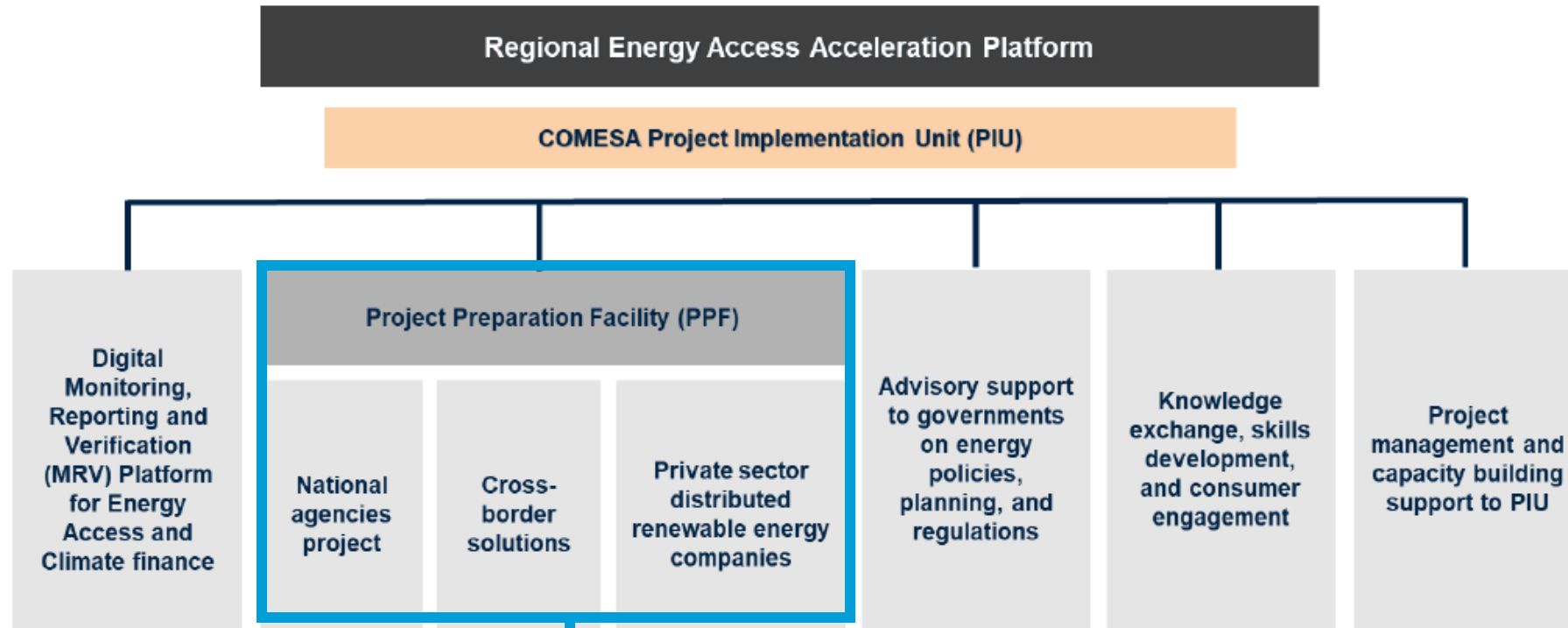
Developers and companies looking for funding but finding it too difficult to access it



Investors and lenders looking for investments but seeing lack of bankable projects and companies

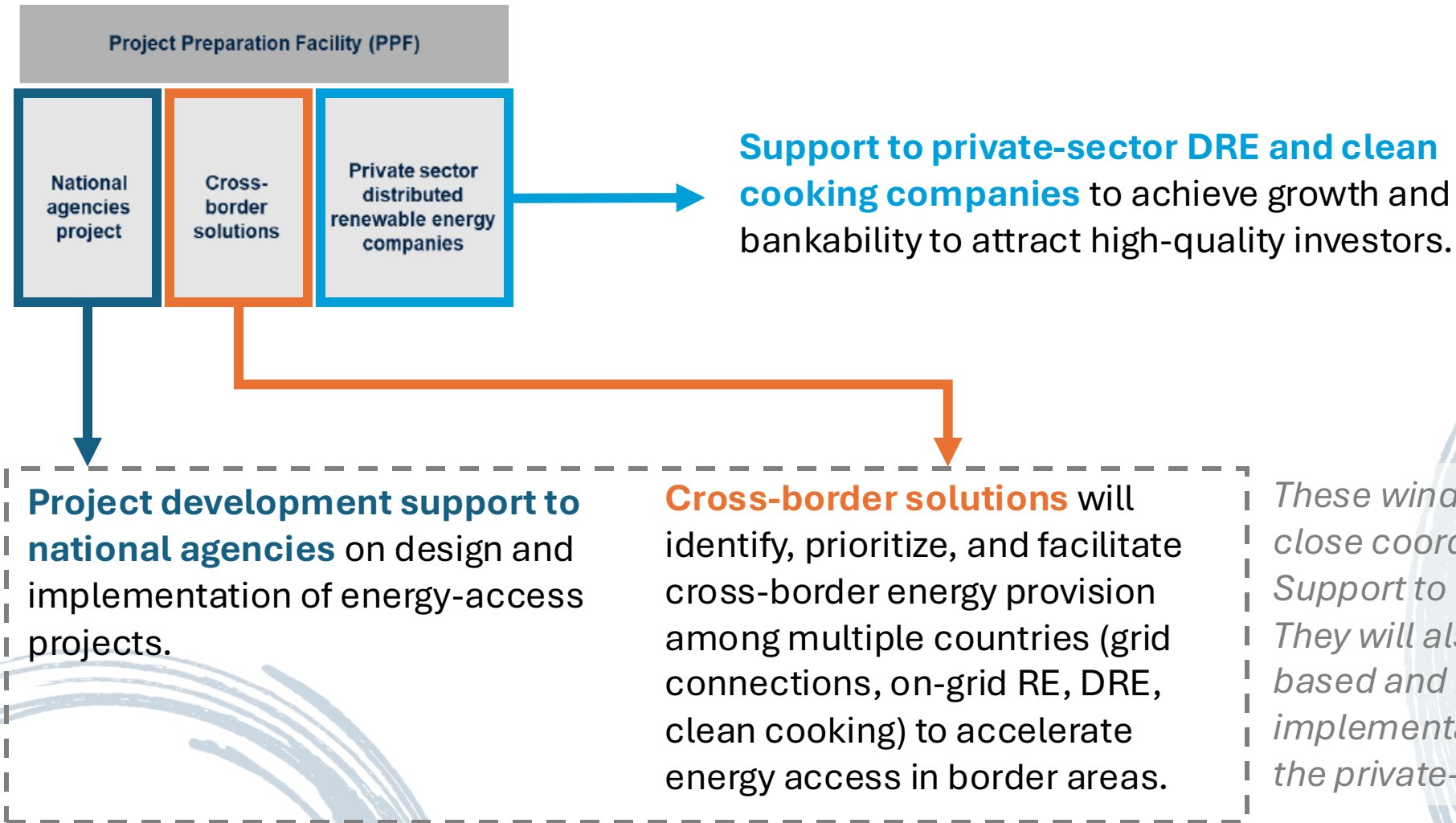
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The Project Preparation Facility (PPF)



- Support governments and private sector in developing bankable, investment-ready projects through a demand-driven approach.
- Funding allocation of \$25m across all three subcomponents.

The Project Preparation Facility (PPF)



Support to DRE & clean cooking companies

- **Objective:** Support growth and bankability of companies to attract investors, including Zafiri and the Regional Energy Access Financing Platform (REAF) managed by the Trade and Development Bank (TDB) under ASCENT
- **Eligible technologies:** off-grid solar, mini-grids, productive use of renewables, clean cooking
- **Services:**
 - **Market intelligence on DRE and clean cooking markets** (eg, geospatial mapping and planning platforms, market assessments on specific technologies)
 - **Project preparation and business development support** (technical, financial, economic, social, legal, regulatory, E&S safeguards, institutional, governance, transaction structuring and management issues)
- **Types of support:** grants or technical expertise via roster of experts
- **Expected results:** 30 companies reaching financial close and another 100+ supported in their fundraising journey

Support will be provided through four windows

1. Publicly available resources:

- eg geospatial planning platforms, country briefs for DRE and clean cooking companies, matchmaking between suppliers and distributors in nascent markets and nascent product categories, etc.
- “pre-application” support

2. Roster of experts:

- on-demand specialized project preparation and business development services critical to unlocking finance (especially equity and debt).
- eg, investment-grade studies, digitizing operations, credit risk management, legal services, financial reporting, ESG requirements, etc.

Expected cost per company supported / per support package: \$30-60k

3. Grants for project preparation and BDS:

- for activities not covered by roster
- eg, integration of software, hiring staff critical to unlocking investment.
- grant requests supported by investors or financial advisors prioritized.
- disbursement milestone-based.

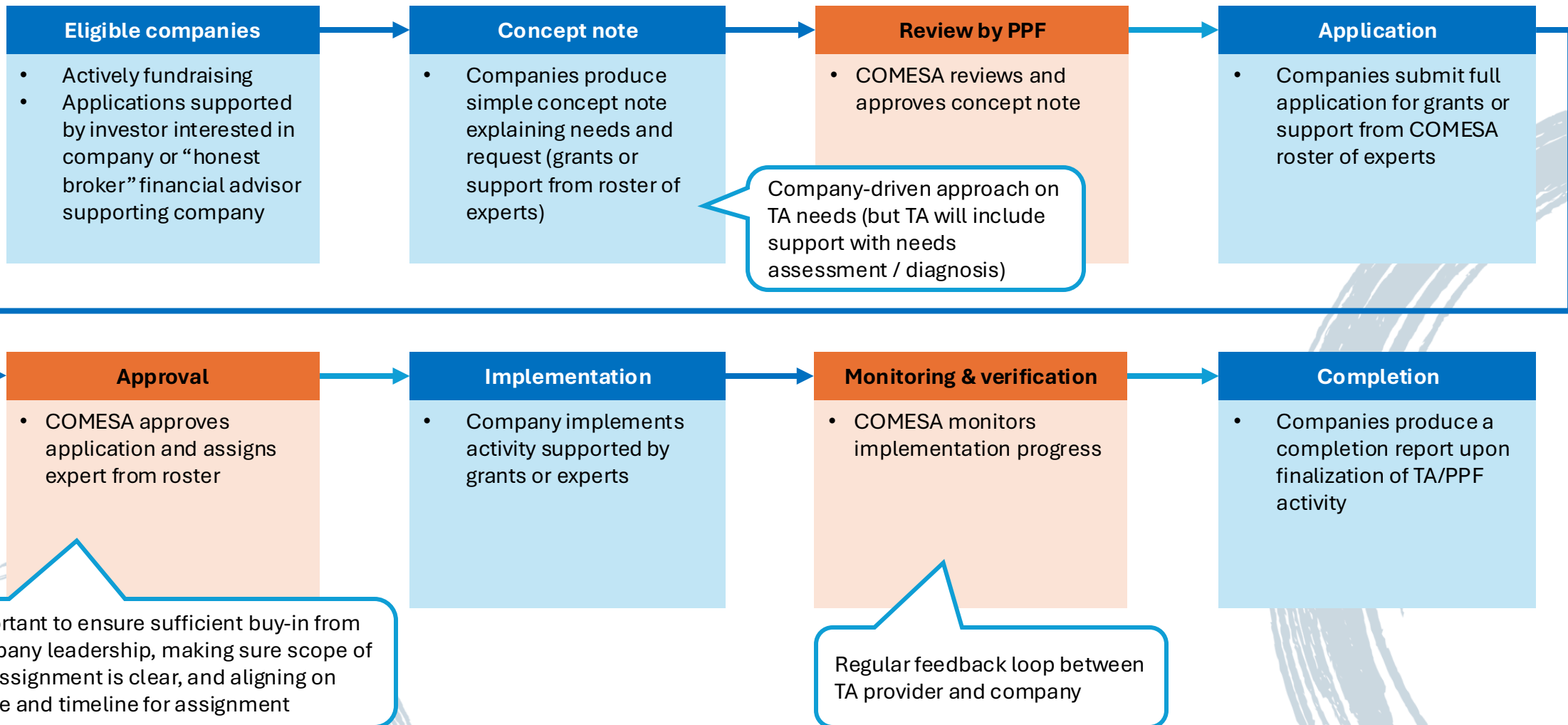
Expected cost per company supported / per support package: \$50-150k

4. Grants to industry associations and investors providing project preparation and BDS:

- eg, cohort-based trainings to local or small companies, grants to investors to cover embedded advisors or transaction/DD costs.
- disbursement milestone-based.

Expected cost per organization applying: \$200k-1m

Eligibility, application and approval process



Eligibility, application and approval process

- Company eligibility for direct support (windows 2 and 3) will be defined in terms of company size (annual revenue, number of customers, etc.) and/or the ticket size of the financing they are looking to raise.
- **Most important criterion is that companies be actively fundraising and that applications be supported by an investor intending to invest in the company or a TA provider / “honest broker” financial advisor** (eg GET.Invest finance advisor) supporting the company, confirming the service they are applying for is needed to advance the financing transaction.
- **Small and early-stage companies that are not able to raise financing in the short term will be supported indirectly**, through publicly available resources and investment-readiness training provided by partners (windows 1 and 4).
- **Grants to TA providers and investors for project preparation and business development will also go through a 2-stage application process**, including concept note and full application.

Management of the PPF

- **COMESA Secretariat** will be responsible for overall coordination of the PPF through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Regional Energy Access Acceleration Platform, which includes a project coordinator supported by a team of experts (DRE experts, legal experts, procurement experts, E&S and gender specialists, etc) .
- A consulting firm will be hired to act as **“PPF manager”** . A consulting firm will be engaged through a competitive tender to manage all processes (detailed design of facility, produce documentation, engage roster of experts, manage company applications and recommend selection to COMESA, provide COMESA with instructions for grant disbursements, reporting, etc) and report to COMESA.

Partnerships

- Partnerships with **TA actors** in the sector is an essential feature of the PPF to ensure additionality
- **Industry associations** can be supported through window 4 for them to provide investment-readiness training to their members.
- **TA providers:** such as the Zafiri TAF, GET.Invest, BII Plus, etc. can direct companies they are supporting to the services and grants of the PPF. Companies not eligible for the PPF can be directed to these TA facilities, where relevant.
- **Investors and financiers** will be encouraged to direct companies they are investing in to the PPF for TA or grants that can help advance their investment / transaction. Investors will be eligible to apply for grants themselves to provide TA to their investees or partially cover their transaction costs.

Roster of experts

- **The roster of expert will include accounting firms, legal advisors, engineering firms, transaction advisors, E&S consulting firms, and specialized DRE consultancies** to provide a menu of specialized service packages. These companies will be engaged through a framework contract and be deployed based on demand.

Expected results and budget

- **30 companies** reaching financial close
- **Another 100+** supported directly (windows 2 and 3) or indirectly (window 4) or indirectly in their journey to becoming investable / bankable. This includes early-stage companies supported through industry associations or other TA programs supported by the PPF.
- About 20 projects from national or cross-border agencies supported
- Resources made publicly available. Market assessments, country briefs and convening events that are of benefit to the sector more generally.

Estimated costs per window

1. Publicly-available resources	\$2m
2. On-demand services from roster of consultants	\$5m
3. Grants to companies for project preparation and BDS	\$10m
4. Grants to TA providers and investors for project preparation, BDS, and transactions	\$8m
Total	\$25m

Next steps and timeline

- Contracting PPF manager: September 2025
- Finalizing operations manual and implementation arrangements: October 2025
- Launch of PPF and opening call for applications: November 2025

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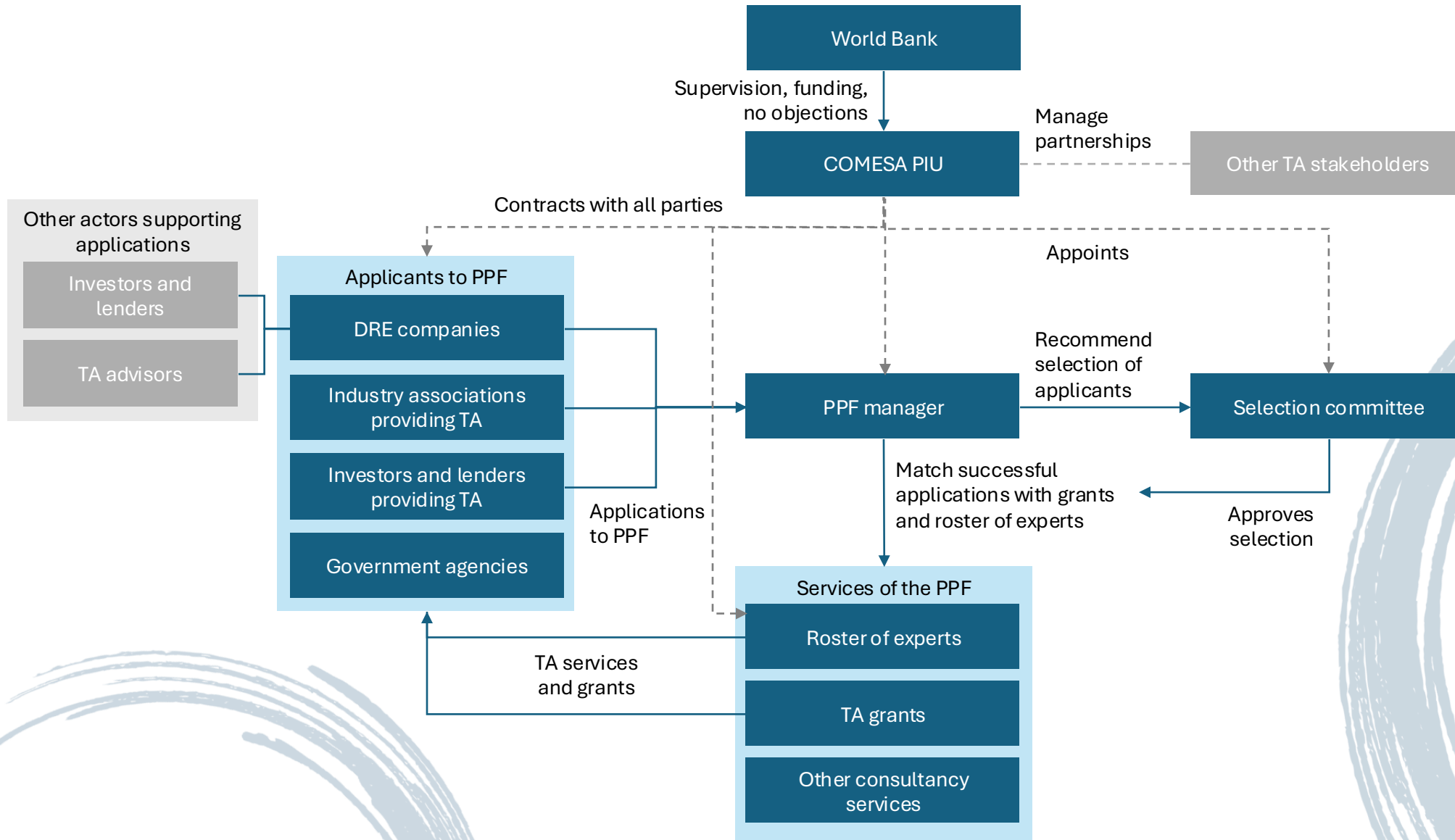


Thank you!

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Management of the PPF



Management of the PPF

Institution	Roles
COMESA PIU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for overall implementation - Responsible to market and promote the program - Contracting of PPF manager - Contracting party with TA and TA grant recipients - Appoint members of selection panel (from COMESA PIU, industry experts, and other stakeholders) - Processing grant and TA payments upon instruction of PPF manager - Oversee and monitor PPF manager - Manage strategic partnerships with other TA stakeholders, eg GET.Invest.
PPF manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize operations manual and related documentation - Issue call for applications to TA and TA grants - Pre-qualify and evaluate applications, including technical and financial due diligence on the applications under consideration - Recommend selection of applicants to selection committee - Assist the PIU with the contracting of TA and TA grant recipients - Monitor and report on the progress of the program - Prepare grant and TA disbursement instructions to the PIU - Set up and manage a web-based platform to manage application processes, contracting, monitoring and verification, disbursements, reporting, etc. - Assist the PIU with the contracting of other services, such as consulting firms to produce publicly available resources (market assessments, one-stop-shop country portals, convening events, etc).
Selection committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for final evaluation and selection of applicants based on recommendation of the PPF manager
TA recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare and submit applications (qualification and proposal) - Implement TA activities - Report on performance
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervise implementation - Issue No Objection to changes in the operations manual - Issue No Objection on the selection of TA and grant awards