

A stylized illustration of a diverse group of approximately 15 people of various ages and ethnicities standing in front of a world map. The group includes a young man in a blue jacket and green shorts, a woman in a white top and blue skirt, a man in a green shirt and overalls, a woman in a green top and yellow skirt, a man in a yellow shirt and black pants, a woman in a black dress, a man in a blue shirt and black pants, a woman in a blue headscarf and long blue skirt, a young boy in a yellow shirt and black pants, a woman in a white shirt and yellow skirt sitting in a wheelchair, a young boy in a white shirt and blue pants, a woman in a black dress, a man in a blue shirt and black pants, and a woman in a blue headscarf and long blue skirt. The background is a stylized world map in shades of green and blue.

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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

2020

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INTRODUCTION

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play an important role in addressing development challenges through the delivery of humanitarian aid and sustainable development interventions.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB, referred to hereafter as the Bank) has long recognized the role CSOs have played as valuable development partners in Member Countries (MCs), helping to promote participation, enhance sustainability and alleviate poverty. The Bank's engagement with civil society began with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the 1980s through the establishment of the Special Assistance Program. In 1997, the IsDB established the NGO Program to recognize the role of NGOs and to reinforce cooperation with MCs. The NGO Program approved 264 projects for a total amount of US\$14.4 million in the form of grants during the period 2003-2019. These approvals consisted of direct support to grassroots communities and capacity development to improve the efficiency of local CSOs. CSOs have also implemented a number of projects through Trust Funds, which have received significant donor funding (around \$3.0 billion) for addressing humanitarian issues and basic social services in MCs affected by man-made and natural disasters.

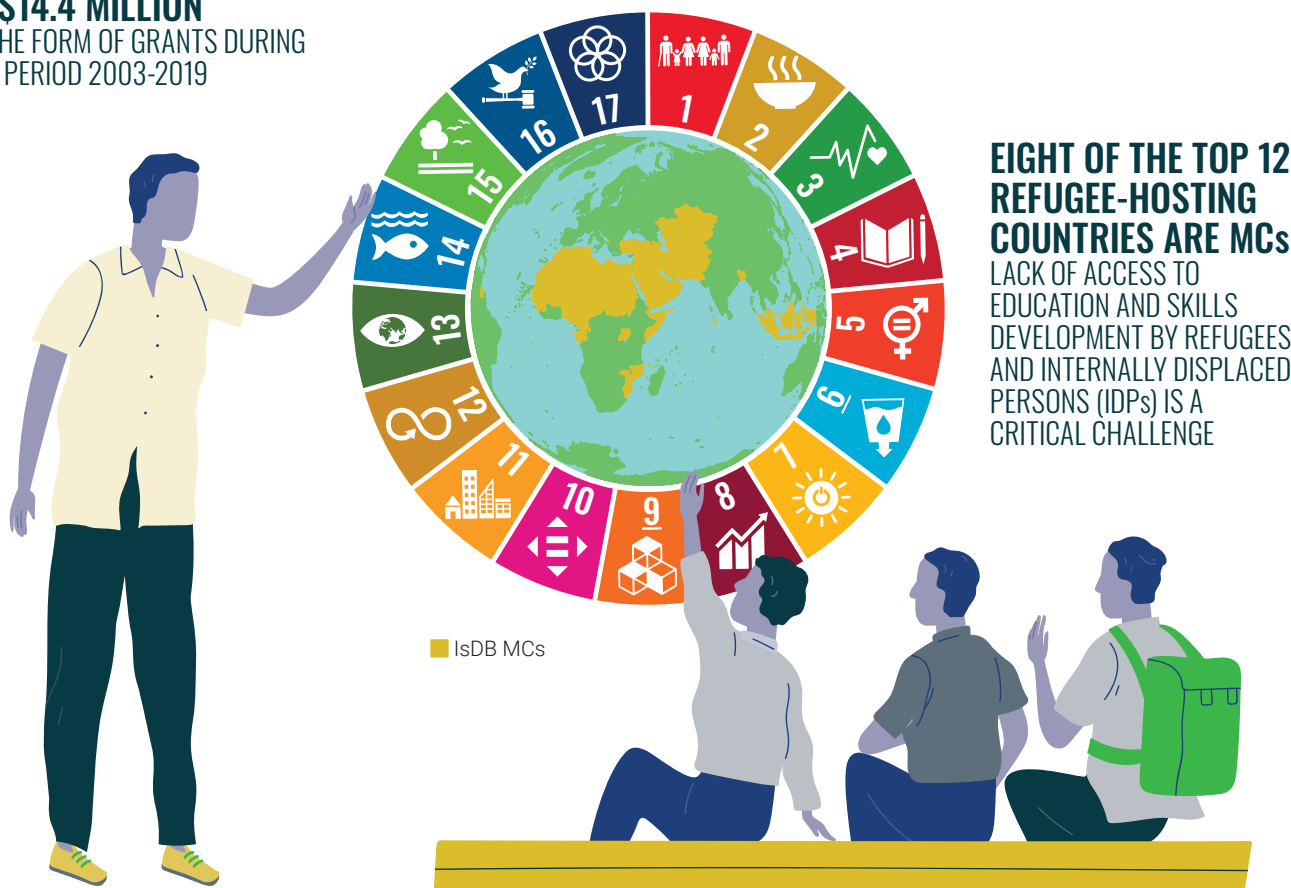
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CONTEXT AND GLOBAL TRENDS

IsDB's MCs face daunting development challenges. Despite steady progress in reducing poverty and boosting health and education, immense stumbling blocks such as political fragility, instability, conflict and income inequality still stand in the way of implementing the 2030 Agenda. This has at times been exacerbated by poor social and economic infrastructure and a weak private sector. Unemployment has become a significant concern, with about 192.7 million people unemployed worldwide in 2017. In 2018, 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced by violent conflicts. Eight of the top 12 refugee-hosting countries are MCs. Lack of access to education and skills development by refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is a critical challenge.

In 2015, governments, international institutions, the private sector and CSOs collectively adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to foster economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Building on the earlier Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs were enhanced to include peace/governance, forced displacement and climate change, and they call for development institutions to work with CSOs.

Indeed, addressing global challenges requires the consolidated and coordinated efforts of all development actors, including governments, civil society, donors and others. The development challenges faced by MCs are vast, multifaceted and growing, and responding to them is beyond the scope of any individual institution.



IsDB's APPROACH

IsDB considers CSOs to be unique partners in development. CSOs bring greater momentum to the Bank's interventions, and facilitate access to society's most vulnerable people through their knowledge of local communities. Working closely with CSOs and NGOs enables the Bank to make a real difference in improving people's lives. With its new Civil Society Engagement Policy – outlined below – the Bank offers a space for civil society to address common problems, advance shared interests and promote collective aspirations. CSOs often complement the socio-economic development efforts of governments, so it is in the Bank's interest to encourage their participation in and contribution to certain phases of selected projects and operations in its MCs.

In line with the 2030 Agenda, IsDB remains at the forefront of addressing the complicated and diverse challenges faced by its MCs in all economic and social sectors. The 10-Year Strategy and the President's 5-Year Program (P5P) call for increased participation of CSOs as elements of the network of developers in IsDB interventions. The P5P roadmap expands the Bank's framework of collaboration with CSOs, aligned with the development efforts pursued by MCs.

Based on this, the Bank has recently developed its first Civil Society Engagement Policy guided by its transformation agenda, strategic priorities and the SDGs. The purpose of the Policy is to set the Bank's strategic direction for systematic engagement with CSOs. The Policy aims to create a framework of dialogue, consultation and partnership with CSOs to foster the sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices. It also aims to improve direct assistance to local communities in MCs through CSOs.

The Policy has four pillars. These are (i) mainstreaming CSOs in in-country engagements, programs and projects; (ii) engaging with CSOs as partners; (iii) building capacity; and (iv) diversifying sources of financing. The Policy is guided by six non-discretionary principles of country endorsement, innovation, partnership, selectivity, solidarity and inclusiveness.

IsDB GRANT FOR LOCAL CSOs

The objectives of IsDB's CSO grants are to: (i) promote capacity building and strengthen CSOs in IsDB MCs; (ii) support projects with effective and innovative practices; (iii) encourage the transfer of knowledge among CSOs; (iv) co-finance projects that target the most disadvantaged population groups; and (v) ensure long-term sustainability by working at the grassroots level.

Grants are provided directly to local CSOs in all MCs to complement government efforts in community resilience building, social protection, livelihoods development, poverty alleviation, resettlement, reintegration of youth and women's empowerment. The program also encourages dialogue and information sharing between IsDB and CSOs.

IsDB offers grants to projects that are identified, prepared and initiated by a CSO using a participatory approach. The CSO remains fully responsible for the effective implementation of the project for the entire duration. IsDB finances two types of project through the CSO grants: (i) capacity building projects to strengthen the efficiency of CSOs and improve the quality of services they provide to the community; and (ii) pro-poor projects that address the basic needs of disadvantaged groups and empower grassroots communities. Eligible project areas include the acquisition of new skills and knowledge for grassroots communities; information, education and communication activities; advocacy services; development of local technology; small civil works at community level; and provision of equipment.

The maximum grant amount for a CSO (local NGO, CBO, association, self-help group, etc.) project is US\$100,000-US\$150,000. The CSO is required to contribute to the project's budget both in cash and in-kind. It is also encouraged to bring other partners into the project.

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CSO GRANTS IN ACTION

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY'S RESILIENCE THROUGH IMPROVING RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY IN BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a non-profit institution generating agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Its main objectives are to improve livelihoods and enhance food and nutrition security.

IITA implemented the Strengthening Community's Resilience through Improving Rural Livelihoods and Food Security in Borno State, Nigeria project in 2019. The project was implemented in four Local Government Areas (LGAs) – Bayo, Hawul, Kwaya Kusar, and Shani – with 40 communities participating.

The project promoted production technologies and supported the local seed supply system to make improved seeds available to smallholder farmers in southern Borno.

WHO DID THE PROJECT SUPPORT?

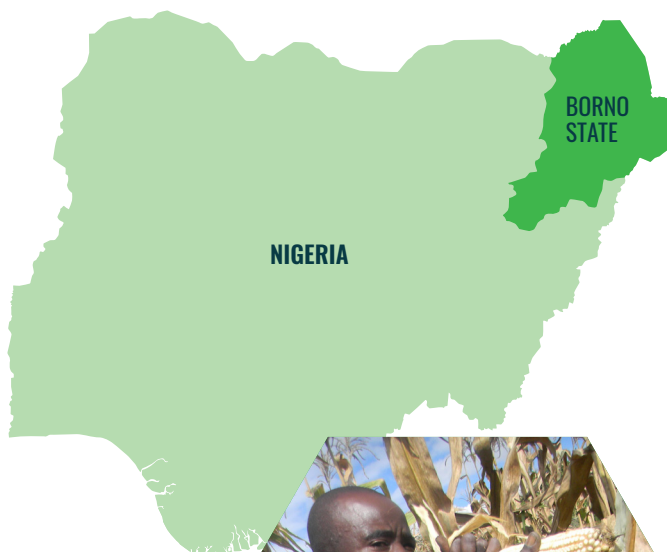
The project supported a total of 3,547 smallholder farmers in four Local Government Areas of Borno State.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

- Created awareness of improved crop production technologies through field demonstrations, media campaigns and field days.
- Strengthened seed supply through support for community seed production.
- Supported input supply to farmers through linkages to seed companies and agro-dealers.
- Conducted nutrition education and behavioral change communication to develop household knowledge and the capacity to improve diet quality.
- Strengthened the capacity of farm households in the use of improved production and processing technologies and knowledge.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

- The project sensitized 40 communities and mobilized 3,547 farmers (2,523 men and 1,024 women) from four LGAs for the implementation of project activities.
- A total of 360 demo plots (120 plots each of maize, cowpea and soybean) were established across the four LGAs with the full participation of farmers and the Borno State agricultural development project (ADP).
- A total of 18 field days were organized and conducted by IITA/Borno State ADP in 18 locations.



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- A total of 260ha of seed farms (120ha of maize, 80ha of cowpea, and 60ha of soybean) were established by 260 community seed producers in the 40 communities across the four LGAs.
- The project organized and facilitated several meetings between community seed producers and the Jirkur Seed Company to stir up interest in the seeds of improved varieties of maize, cowpea and soybean.
- The project worked with the Borno State ADP and local government health departments to organize nutrition campaigns. The campaigns aimed to raise awareness among women and youth about the availability of locally produced nutritious foods, and how dietary diversity can provide the nutrients that people need to maintain their health and well-being.
- Food demonstration sessions were conducted across the four LGAs for 1,100 people to expose household members to the preparation of nutritious meals using locally available and affordable ingredients.



CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL NGOs SUPPORTING REFUGEES, TURKEY

Two NGOs – Beyaz Eller (BE), and the Humanitarian Academy for Development (HAD) of Islamic Relief International – joined forces in this IsDB-funded project to support the capacity of CSOs working with Syrian refugees.

Since the Syria refugee crisis began in 2011, more than 750 CSOs have been set up in Turkey to provide needs-based services to affected Syrian people (both refugees and those displaced within Syria). These organizations have been fully engaged in responding to the increasing needs of refugees and IDPs, leaving them with little time for capacity building. Many of these CSOs are still growing and have structural skills gaps. This has made it difficult for them to access funding and many were unsure where to seek relevant support.

If these organizations are to continue to provide the required support in a professional and effective manner, the majority of their members must have access to capacity-building programs at this critical stage. The objective of this project was therefore to enhance the capacity of local NGOs (LNGOs) to maximize their effectiveness in responding to the needs of vulnerable Syrian refugees.

WHO DID THE PROJECT SUPPORT?

Local NGOs and CSOs based in Turkey and working on the Syria crisis, serving Syrian refugees and internally displaced people.



COLLECTIVELY,
90 ORGANISATIONS
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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Conducted a detailed training and developmental needs analysis and, in accordance with that analysis, produced customized training materials and delivered the training in addition to providing coaching and mentoring in key areas of need.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

A full-fledged training needs assessment was achieved using a triangulated method of data collection, surveys, and face-to-face interviews. This featured the participation of 80 organizations and 239 individual responses. A number of key findings emerged, including identification of the training and interventions required. Following this, 10 training sessions were conducted, including three mentoring and coaching activities. Collectively, 90 organizations benefited from this project, with 195 individuals directly involved.

RESILIENCE CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT, SOMALIA

The Resilience Capacity Building Project (ResCap) is being implemented by African Development Solutions (Adeso) to support the Federal Government of Somalia in identifying current interventions focused on building resilience in Somalia, as well as gaps and priorities. Findings from the project will inform the operationalization of the Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF), ultimately addressing drought vulnerability and improving disaster management at a government level.

WHO DID THE PROJECT SUPPORT?

The Federal Government of Somalia.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The Federal Government of Somalia launched the RRF in 2018 to guide drought recovery in Somalia. Initially, this project aimed to develop an implementation plan for the RRF but various consultations with government stakeholders revealed the need to first map existing government and donor-funded resilience programs to the five objectives of the RRF. Accordingly, Adeso contracted a consulting firm to engage with various government representatives to map existing resilience programs, ultimately classifying them into high- and medium-priority interventions. A two-day validation workshop was then conducted with relevant stakeholders, where government representatives developed priority actions to fill current gaps.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

The project produced a matrix mapping relevant resilience programs, created a final report and conducted a two-day validation workshop with relevant government stakeholders. The matrix and report serve as tools to support the government in setting priorities to operationalize the RRF, to strategically plan and align programs to the National Development Plan, to develop policy briefs on resilience and sustainable solutions, and to have a more cohesive coordinated structure at both the national and state level. The project has developed government capacity in building resilience, and in the long term this will help disaster-affected communities receive the support they need.

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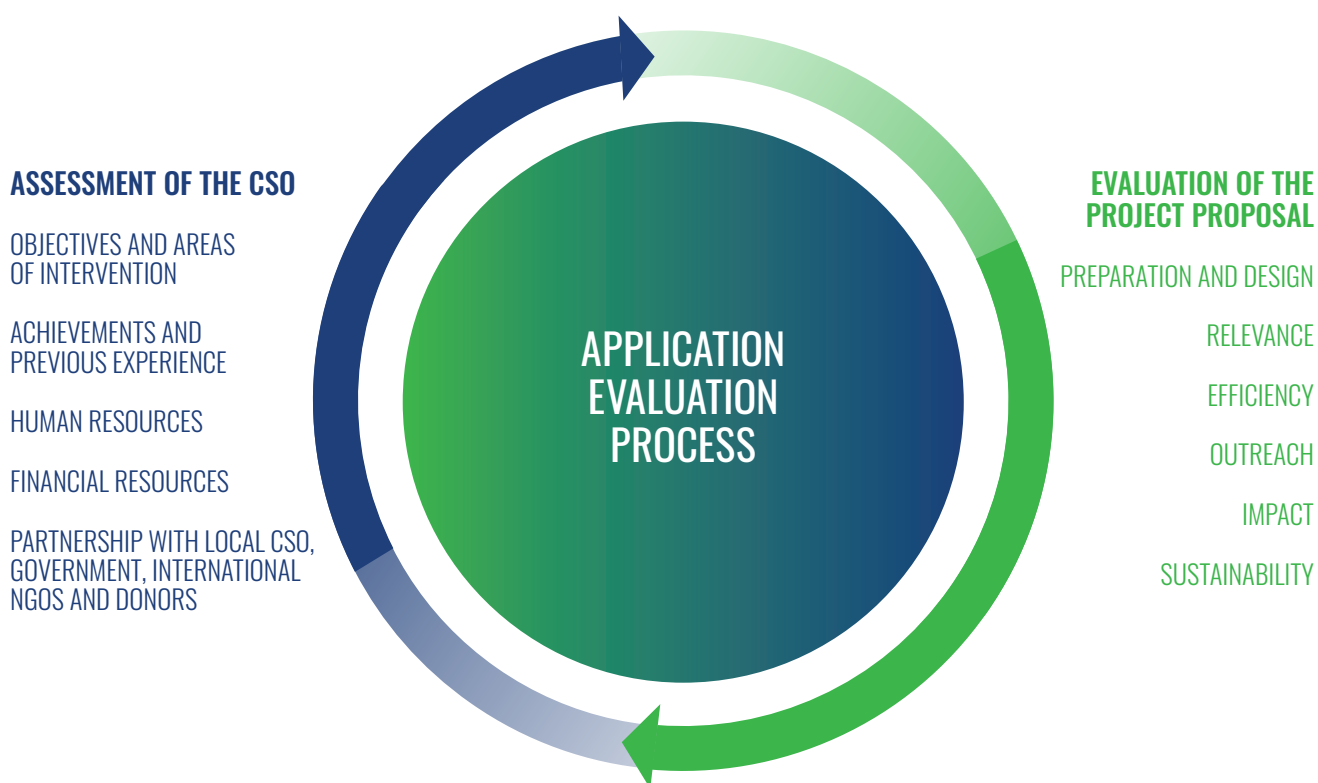
WHO CAN APPLY FOR A CSO GRANT?¹

All CSOs in MCs meeting the following criteria are eligible to apply. Applicants must:

- Be a registered CSO in one of the IsDB MCs in accordance with national legislation.
- Be a local non-profit CSO whose primary objective is to enhance the social and economic well-being of the community.
- Be active in one of the sectors supported by IsDB (e.g. education, health, agriculture, poverty alleviation, economic empowerment, women's empowerment and youth development...).
- Have at least three years of actual experience.
- Not be a CSO with a political mandate.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS EVALUATED?

Applications go through a two-step process as shown in the diagram below.



¹ Detailed criteria of eligibility of CSOs' proposals are defined in the external guidelines for CSOs.

IsDB - ISFD NGO EMPOWERMENT FOR POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAM



The IsDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have established the NGO Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program, a five-year regional program to support the Bank's MCs in achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The program was launched during the 2019 United Nations General Assembly Week, with a large number of high-ranking officials and senior participants from various countries. Participants included representatives from various international, regional and local CSOs, donor representatives, crowdfunding organizations, and regional and international institutions including the IsDB, ISFD, UNDP, Save the Children Humanitarian Leadership Academy, Spark, Plan International, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Al-Quds Fund, and UNCHR.

THE PROGRAM'S MAIN OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

1. Map, screen and categorize national CSOs in the MCs that endorse the program. Develop a roster of CSOs that can partner with the IsDB/ISFD. Identify the CSOs' institutional capacity gaps, specializations and landscape, and locate other actors.
2. Build the capacity of local CSOs in IsDB MCs in order to mainstream CSOs in the Bank's in-country engagement, improving operational efficiency and effectiveness.
3. Promote the innovative and transformative projects of mapped CSOs in order to contribute to poverty reduction and therefore to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Set up the Tadamon crowdfunding and aggregation platform to support mapped CSOs in gaining greater visibility, connections, training and funding.

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE PROGRAM

FOR CSOs:



Access to an online database of CSOs from IsDB MCs. Find organizations to collaborate with, and become part of a vetted and verified Tadamon network.



Free online training courses powered by Tadamon and partners' platforms. Benefit from customized education and training materials for organizational development, skills and capacity building.



Crowdfunding training. Create campaigns to access new sources of funding to finance your projects.



Access to donor communities. Connect your work and campaigns with your potential partner and donor, gain visibility and connect to new partners and investors.

FOR PARTNERS:



Leverage the funding and resources made available by IsDB and ISFD.



Develop internal capacities in alternative finance and innovation in developing countries (such as in Blockchain, Crowdfunding and Impact Investment).



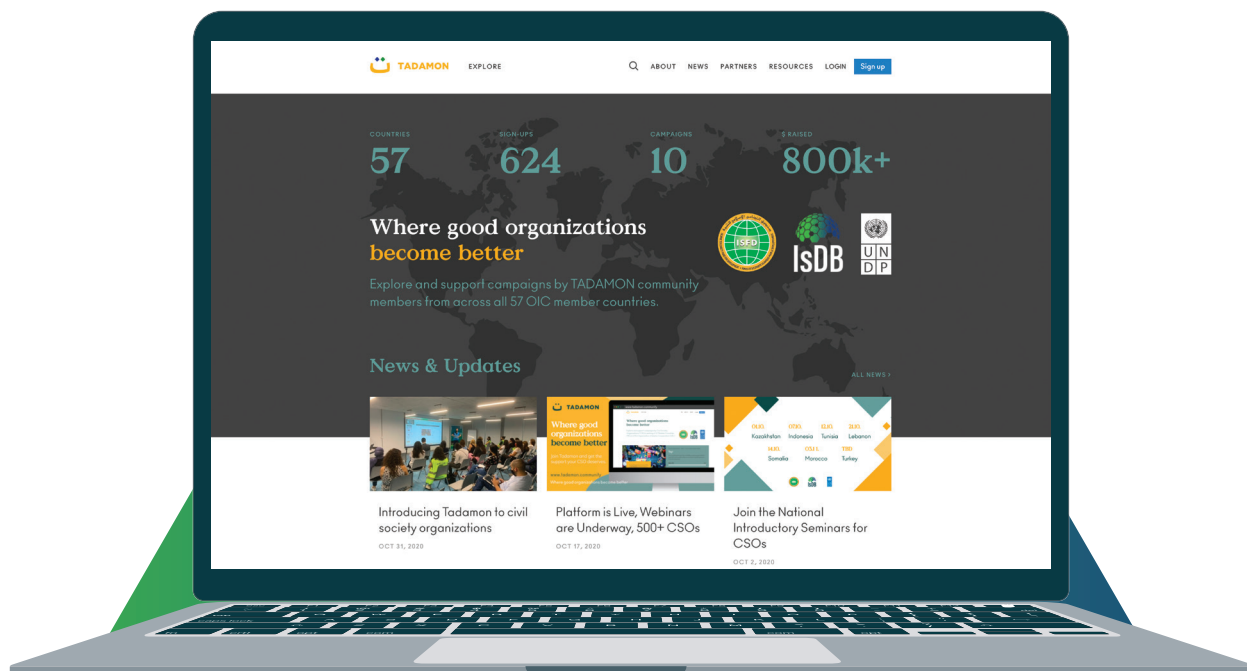
Strengthen the role of CSOs working in the development area.



Facilitate and influence the development of national regulation frameworks together with established national Crowdfunding Hubs.



Access to knowledge and expertise from other partners on the platform.



THE TADAMON PLATFORM

Tadamon (<https://tadamon.community>) is a transnational network providing greater visibility, funding and knowledge to CSOs in 57 OIC Member States (IsDB Member Countries). The platform supports CSOs' efforts to raise funds, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate projects for grassroots communities.

As an online platform, Tadamon offers a comprehensive, easily searchable list of high-quality CSOs with a proven track record. Local partners can also be easily searched on the platform.

The platform aims to make CSOs better at doing what they do. It offers cutting edge skills-building in all aspects of CSOs' activities, from fundraising and management to communication and public relations.

Tadamon also acts as a bridge, linking grassroots communities in OIC member countries working on development issues. It connects CSOs, partner organizations and donors across Africa, Asia, Europe and MENA.

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