

PARTNERSHIPS

Connecting Partners For a Sustainable Future



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A Newsletter of the Chief Product and Partnerships Officer Directorate at the Islamic Development Bank

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Partnerships for Development in the Age of COVID-19

We are living in unprecedented times when the global community is facing myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has made life even more difficult, thereby increasing the challenges faced by policy makers to channel resources to various sectors of development. These challenges have made the contribution of multinational institutions like the Islamic Development Bank even more relevant. Yet, no institution can do it alone.

Development institutions must work collectively and innovate ways to mobilize resources for the benefit of their member states. At the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), we are glad that a new directorate, the Chief Product and Partnerships Officer (CPO) Directorate was established to oversee this responsibility.

Despite the challenges at hand, IsDB is making significant progress in upscaling its partnership and resource mobilization from different fronts. As you will find in this edition of **Partnerships** newsletter, the Bank is partnering with Global Partnerships for Education, the World Bank, African Development Bank, BADEA and several UN institutions to maximize the benefit of its development interventions.

The newsletter also carries several stories about the role of Islamic Finance, particularly through the Awqaf Properties and Investment Fund to attract private investors for various projects that will translate into the realization of the sustainable development objectives of IsDB. Resources have also been mobilized successfully in regional integration, youth development and community empowerment.

Several countries have benefited from the intervention of IsDB. The Bank supported countries like Maldives, Benin and Mozambique with laboratory equipment aimed at managing COVID-19 while a major project aimed at connecting 175,000 Nigerians with electricity is underway. As you will notice from our lead story, IsDB is working with the Arab Coordination Group and the Global Partnerships for Education to provide access to financing that will help educate 175 million children in 37 countries by 2025.

Some of these feats were all achieved during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges of the moment, the future looks brighter. The editorial team of **Partnerships** newsletter welcomes your contributions, suggestions, and feedback for future editions. If you have a good story about partnerships and resource mobilization, your home is the **Partnerships** newsletter. Enjoy the reading.

---Editorial Team

EDITORIAL TEAM

Supervisor Amer Bukvic

Advisors Idrissa Dia, Riad Ragueb, Syed Hussain Quadri, Mohammed Ali Chatti, Mohammed Al Sayed

CPO Front Office Coordinator Fawaz Abdunour

Editor

Muhammad Jameel Yusha'u

Contributing Editors

Karim Allaoui, Nedzad Ajanovic, Jawara Gaye
Saeed Ahmad, Ahmed Berthe

Production Coordinator Rafik Khafaji

Proofing Editor Amber Shahid

Administrative Coordinator Mohammed Hanif

This newsletter is produced by the Front Office of the Chief Product and Partnership Officer Directorate at the Islamic Development Bank. 8111 King Khaled Street, Alnozlah District 22332-2444, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and does not represent the official position of Islamic Development Bank or its Board of Governors and Executive Directors



Immediate Recovery from COVID-19 a Greater Priority, Says New IsDB President



H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, President of Islamic Development Bank

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 9th August 2021 – The new IsDB President has marked economic recovery as one of his biggest priorities post COVID-19 era.

H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser has assumed office, on Monday, 9th August 2021 as the new President of the Islamic Development Bank and Group Chairman. Earlier in July, the Board of Governors of the Bank had elected Dr. Al Jassar 2021 to lead the Bank Group for the next five years.

In his first address to the IsDB Group staff on his inauguration day in office, H.E. Dr. Al Jasser, reassured his strong commitment toward the economic recovery of the Member countries in post COVID-19 era.

Underlining the need to overcome the immediate challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic he vows to help rebuild stronger economies for the IsDB Member Countries and move effectively toward cultivating new sectors for investment and growth.

“There is no greater priority than the immediate recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. We face unprecedented challenges, which require a stronger and more responsive IsDB Group. Many of these challenges have been addressed in the Group’s 3 Rs strategy

and related programs. The priority must now be to develop this strategy further and implement it,” he added.

The IsDB Group Chairman then emphasized on the Group as a beacon of hope that advocates for its Member Countries on the global stage and reflects their aspirations with efficient actions and results. “We honor the last 46 years of history and take the lessons from the past as we chart the course towards the future. Together, as one closely-knit team, we can strengthen the IsDB Group as the preeminent economic institution.”

Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser expressed his profound gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its trust and confidence in him and nominating him for the position. He

appreciated the Board of Governors of the IsDB for the responsibility and mandate entrusted to him during the July 2021 election to lead the institution. Lastly, the new IsDB President extended acknowledged the former President of IsDB for his exceptional efforts, achievements, and dedication to the institution and its mandate during his term of office.

H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California and has previously served as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Economy and Planning. He was also a former Governor of The Saudi Central Bank, and an advisor at the General Secretariat of the Saudi Council of Ministers with the rank of a minister.



There is no greater priority than the immediate recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. We face unprecedented challenges, which require a stronger and more responsive IsDB Group. Many of these challenges have been addressed in the Group’s 3 Rs strategy and related programs. The priority must now be to develop this strategy further and implement it.”

Acting CPO Pledges More Visibility for IsDB at the Grassroots Level

Increasing the visibility of the development interventions of Islamic Development Bank at the grassroots level in IsDB member countries is the vision of the newly appointed Acting Chief Product and Partnership Officer (CPO), Mr. Amer Bukvic.

Mr. Bukvic stated this during an interactive discussion with Partnerships Newsletter in his office at the IsDB headquarters in Jeddah. The Acting CPO stated that his previous experience as the CEO of BBI has prepared him well for this responsibility.

"What I have done is in line with my vision. We have been working on promoting rural development in the Balkans. We have been working on the promotion of agriculture, of youth leadership; we have been working on regional integration, creating different fora such as Sarajevo Business Forum and Sarajevo Halal Fair. All these are

in line with the mission and vision of Islamic Development Bank," stated Mr. Bukvic.

On his vision on how he intends to move the CPO Directorate forward, Mr. Bukvic stated that we need to create a much stronger synergy between the capacities that we have within the IsDB and the capacities that we have together with the governments of our member countries.

According to him, this can be done in different ways. "Step number one is to increase the visibility of IsDB, which is still the most prestigious institution of the Muslim World. We must promote this institution to the grassroots. By increasing the visibility of this institution, we would like to become a catalyst of economic activities in member countries. We should be the leading institution around which all other partners will gather," he reiterated.



Mr. Amer Bukvic, Acting Chief Product and Partnership Officer

Mr. Bukvic concluded by stating that the need of our member countries is very high because IsDB member countries have the highest number of least developed countries, therefore, the requirements of these countries are much greater than the capacity IsDB has alone. So IsDB must take a leading position as a catalyst around which other countries will gather.

Mr. Amer Bukvic rejoined IsDB following a long career as the CEO of Bosna Bank International in Bosnia Herzegovina. He received his bachelor's degree from the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur (1996) and his master's degree from the International University of Japan (1998). He completed a postgraduate executive education with London Business School (2004) and Said Business School at the University of Oxford (2014).



What I have done is in line with my vision. We have been working on promoting rural development in the Balkans. We have been working on the promotion of agriculture, of youth leadership; we have been working on regional integration, creating different fora such as Sarajevo Business Forum and Sarajevo Halal Fair. All these are in line with the mission and vision of Islamic Development Bank."

Educating 175 Million Children in 37 Countries by 2025

How Islamic Development Bank, ACG and GPE Established SmartEd

A major initiative that brings together the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) called SmartEd, is pooling resources to educate 175 million children in 37 common Member Countries. The ACG SmartEd facility will also contribute in getting 88 million girls and boys in school by 2025.

IsDB signed a Letter of Intent with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in April 2019 expressing commitment to cooperate in mobilizing resources for education by leveraging on the GPE Multiplier grants, and to deepen IsDB engagement in global education architecture through participation in GPE governance. In the same year, the IsDB was accredited by the GE Trustee, the World Bank, as a Grant Agent of the GPE to administer GPE grants allocated to Member Countries, and became an Alternate Board Member of the GPE Board for the Multilateral Development Agency Constituency.

Given the observed apparent reluctance amongst some developing countries to accrue ordinary financing for education on account that the long-term nature of returns to investments in education makes it unattractive for governments to borrow on ordinary terms, there has



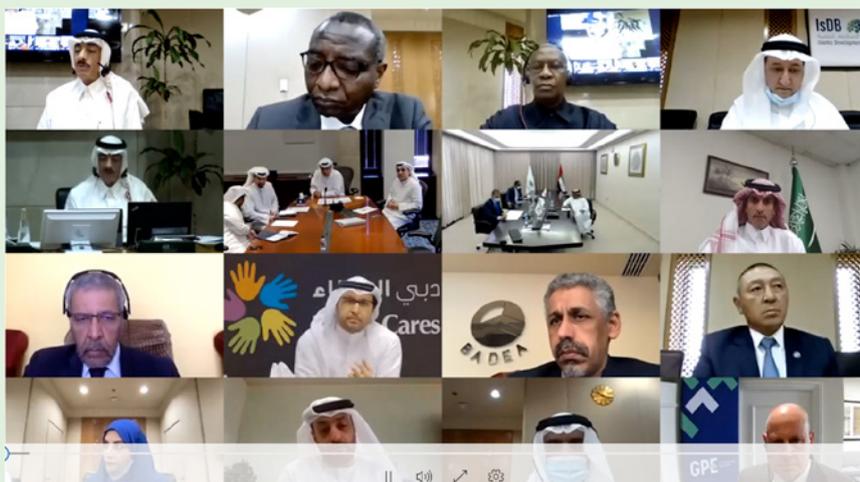
been a push towards higher reliance on grants or concessional financing for the sector. Ironically, many of these countries crave to harness the advances in technology and increase competitiveness, but lack the human capital to do so effectively and efficiently, due to inadequate investments in education and training.

The aim of SmartEd is to create an initial US\$ 500 million facility, with a potential to increase the volume, to get millions more children into school and learning. The initial phase would leverage \$100 million in pure grant resources from the GPE with at least US\$ 400 million in concessional loan financing collectively mobilized by participat-

ing Arab Coordination Group (ACG) members convened and coordinated by the IsDB. The resulting pool of resources will be made available immediately across 37 mutually eligible common Member Countries, providing them with the option of highly concessional lending for education programs.

The SmartEd facility is an opportunity for the ACG institutions and the GPE to combine grant capital from the latter with concessional lending from the former to raise investment in high-impact education programs in Common Member countries. The combined financing instruments—a synthetic form of blended finance—lowers the cost of education investment for client governments. The initiative is potentially a quadruple win:

- o facilitates an enhanced pipeline of lending to a vital social sector from ACG institutions.
- o ensures sustainable borrowing for member countries by enhancing the grant element on financing instruments.
- o supports member countries human capital investment needs and demands.
- o ensures these financial investments pay social dividends





through robust program design and monitoring.

The SmartEd facility does not require creating a new institution or vehicle. Rather, it requires collaboration and coordination between participating ACG institutions led by the IsDB. The facility enables governments to leverage the group of institutions' expertise in designing, monitoring, and implementing programs/projects.

In March 2021, the former IsDB President, Dr. Bandar Hajjar hosted a meeting of the Heads of ACG Institutions and the Vice Chair of the GPE Board, Minister Serign Mbye Thiam of Senegal, to intimate them of the SmartEd initiative and solicit their commitment to participate in the facility.

The ACG institutions are: Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Arab Monetary Fund, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, OPEC Fund for International Development, and Saudi Fund for Development.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of the leadership of the ACG Members and the GPE towards education in the wake of the impact of COVID-19 on education systems worldwide but more so on developing countries. The need for further advocacy and funding to ensure that education remains a priority in the global response efforts was underscored.

The key highlight of the meeting was the announcement by the IsDB President to pledge \$200 million towards

the targeted \$400 million that the ACG is mobilizing, to leverage on the \$100 million in grant resources pledged by GPE for the SmartEd initiative.

Sequel to the IsDB announcement, BADEA and OPEC Fund pledged \$100 million and \$50 million respectively for the facility. Other institutions namely Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Arab Monetary Fund, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and Saudi Fund for Development have all pledged to participate on a project by project basis.

On the sidelines of the Global Education Summit in London on 28-29 July 2021, the IsDB President co-chaired with the Vice Chair of the GPE Board, a hybrid high-level conversation with Ministers of Education from Member Countries to intimate them on the establishment of the ACG SmartEd facility which avails member countries a source of funding to unlock their respective grant allocation from the GPE Multiplier.

The former IsDB President announced at the Summit that the ACG has committed \$400 million, including \$250 million from IsDB to activate the ACG SmartEd facility. The initiative is scheduled to be officially launched at the RewirEd Education Summit in Dubai in December 2021.



The key highlight of the meeting was the announcement by the IsDB President to pledge \$200 million towards the targeted \$400 million that the ACG is mobilizing, to leverage on the \$100 million in grant resources pledged by GPE for the SmartEd initiative.





IsDB Partners with TRINE to Connect 175,000 People with Electricity in Nigeria



In its effort to improve the lives of the people in Member Countries through viable partnerships, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is partnering with the Swedish based crowdfunding platform, TRINE, to connect 175,000 people with electricity in Nigeria. UNDP has been engaged as third-party assessor to quantify how this innovative finance instrument is contributing to achieving the SDGs in the off-grid solar industry. UNDP's assessment provides insight on impacts that the investment is having in addressing energy poverty as well as other benefits accrued on SDGs and the climate.

The project, which aims to support rural households with modern energy solutions will purchase about 40,000 Solar Home Systems (SHS) to be implemented over a 6-month period. To support the implementation of this pilot project, IsDB is working with Green light planet GLP, an SME along with TRINE to run the crowdfunding campaign in three phases. Each campaign aims to mobilise Eur1 million. The campaigns took place on 24 April 2021; 5 May 2021; and 3 June 2021 (Greenlight Planet 15, Nigeria | Trine). To support these campaigns, IsDB invested Eur 1 million divided across the three campaigns, which is a third of the targeted amount. The contribution of IsDB has incentivized the crowds to participate in the campaigns which were closed in a record time, an average of four days, compared to an average of two to three weeks for other campaigns. The Bank is now following with Trine and Green light planet GLP for the installation of the SHS and UNDP's first assessments found that the investment has an impact on 13 out of the 17 SDGs.

Commenting on the project, Mr. Amer Bukvic, Acting CPO stated: "In the 21st century, we must embrace technology and innovation to solve development challenges. This project, in addition to its main contribution to the targets of the sustainable development goal (SDG7) on access to renewable energy, has shown that IsDB is not only connecting households with electricity, but connecting people with opportunities, because access to energy helps in creating employment."

Mr. Idrissa Dia, The Acting Director of Economic and Social Infrastructure Department overseeing new energy related initiatives, among other sectors at IsDB stated: "This project, through the replicability of its original model, would definitely be a game changer in connecting economically deprived people in IsDB member countries with electricity. It is green, sustainable, and

US\$ 500m Agreement: IsDB, IFAD, Team Up to Tackle Climate Change and Food Security

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 14 April 2021: The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have signed a Cooperation and Co-financing Framework Agreement (CCFA) aimed at tackling climate change, improving food and water security and other strategic priorities in common Member Countries. As part of the agreement, each of the two institutions will contribute US\$250 million over the next five years (2021-2025).

The agreement was signed virtually on Wednesday 14 April 2021 by former IsDB President Dr. Bandar Hajjar and the President of IFAD Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, Dr. Bandar Hajjar stated: "The renewal of our partnership comes at a time when the world is facing unprecedented socio-economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Food and water security are strategic priorities for IsDB member countries, most of which are in arid and semi-arid areas. Demographic growth and climate change are increasing the pressure on these vital resources."

"The partnership we are signing today, will allow us to co-create financing and investment programs that will address these challenges but also help our Member Countries tap into emerging global value chain opportunities to build resilience and create wealth in post COVID-19 world." Dr. Hajjar added.

The agreement signed by IsDB and IFAD would explore working in several areas such as agricultural and rural development, agribusiness, value chains development, improved access to markets and rural financial services, improved access to employment opportunities and South-South and triangular cooperation.

Other areas of interest include water for rural development, building resilience to climate change and natural disasters to achieve the SDGs; Science, Technology, and Innovation as well as community-based approaches and policy dialogue.

IsDB and IFAD have long history of cooperation going back to 1979, four years after IsDB was established.

fast to implement. If replicated at high scale, it would therefore contribute greatly to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Development. I am proud of my colleagues who invested their energy and talent for the success of this beautiful initiative."

The Board of Executive Directors of IsDB approved the campaign on 8 September 2019. Nigeria was identified for this pilot project as it hosts nearly 84 million people without access to electricity, representing the largest population without electricity in IsDB member countries, therefore constituting a unique opportunity to test the concept.



CPO Units Mobilize US\$ 44 Million in Second Quarter of 2021

A total of US\$44.1 million has been mobilized by various departments/units of the Chief Partnerships Officer Directorate (CPO) of the Islamic Development Bank, in the second quarter of 2021. The figures include official co-financing activities, comprising of both sovereign and non-sovereign resources.

In terms of breakdown of the amounts mobilized, the Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) Department mobilized US\$17.5 million; Economic and Social Infrastructure Department (ESID), US\$10 million; Islamic Financial Services Department (IFSDD), US\$9.5 million; and Resilience and Social Development Department (RSD), US\$7 million.

The Front Office of the CPO Directorate compiles the resources mobilized every quarter from the units of the directorate. These figures do not include the amount of co-financing mobilized via the Front Office of the CPO Directorate.

The Acting Chief Partnership Officer, Mr. Amer Bukvic states: "I am so proud of my colleagues from the various units of the CPO Directorate. These resources will go a long way in changing lives in our Member Countries through the financing of projects. By working as a team, I believe we can achieve more."



Kalley-Plateau Primary School in Niamey, Niger. The Poverty Alleviation arm of IsDB, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, pledges to reconstruct the school as part of its Out-of-School Children Programme

US\$500 Million Cash Waqf Sukuk Underway

Preparations are underway for the launching of US\$500 million Cash Waqf Sukuk (CWS) program aimed at addressing the challenges of Out-of-School Children (OOSC) in IsDB Member Countries. The project, which started under the former Crowd Engagement and External Funds Management Department is now being handled by the Front Office of the Chief Partnerships Officer Directorate.

CWS is an innovative financing mechanism that aims to mobilize resources through a Sukuk (Sharia compliant bond) instrument. CWS is a 'Social Sukuk' whose sole objective is to look for interested benefactors who would provide Waqf (endowment) in form of cash. The CWS would be invested and the profit will be channeled toward the poverty alleviation schemes of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) through its poverty alleviation arm, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD). Upon maturity of the Sukuk, benefactors would receive their initial cash contributions back.

A unique feature of CWS is that all the profit is directed to poverty alleviation programmes as donations from the sukuk subscribers / investors (henceforth termed "benefactors"). Subscription to CWS is not restricted to Muslims only, it is open to all partners interested in committing part of their socially responsible resources for poverty alleviation causes. Another, peculiarity of CWS is that it targets High-Net-Worth-Individuals, institutions and members of the public

The Sharia Board of IsDB approved the concept of CWS, and the Board of Directors of ISFD has approved the issuance of up to US\$500 million, with an expected initial issuance of US\$200 million.



Boosting Resources of the Awqaaf Properties Investment Fund

Al Rajhi Family Invests US\$8 million in APIF Capital

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 08 August 2021: A renowned investor from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ms. Mounira Al-Sahban from the Al Rajhi family has invested US\$8 million in the capital of the Awqaaf Properties and Investment Fund (APIF).

The investment by the Al Rajhi family is the third time APIF received such interest within 2021, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the global business climate.

It would be recalled that APIF has mobilized US\$22 million in 2020 and additional US\$16 million in the first half of 2021. Among the investments attracted include US\$ 1.5 million from the Interna-

tional Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) and US\$ 6.5 million from the Indonesian Hajj Fund Management (BPKH) earlier this year.

Commenting on the new investment from Al Rajhi family, the head of APIF, Dr. Mohammed Ali Chatti stated: "I couldn't be prouder of the APIF team for their out-of-the-box approach in reaching out to new investors and increasing the capital of this great fund. To achieve sustainable development and change lives in Member Countries, we call on both individual and institutional investors to take advantage of the uniqueness of APIF to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of our Member Countries."

Al-Rajhi's investment is also the first of its type because—unlike all other APIF investments—it is an individual investment and not an institutional one. APIF now has all types of investors: public sector investors, private entities, third sector non-profit NGOs, and individual investors. Individual investments have always been the main pillar of philanthropic activities, forming over 60% of total philanthropic investments according to the National Philanthropic Trust (NPT). Therefore, Al-Rajhi's investment also proves APIF's attractiveness to both institutions and individuals interested in the field of Awqaf.



Indonesia's Hajj Fund Invests Additional US\$6.5 Million in APIF



The Awqaf Properties Investment Fund (APIF) of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is pleased to confirm receipt of US\$6.51 million from Indonesia's Hajj Fund, the Badan Pengelola Keuangan Haji (BPKH) as an additional investment following their participation of \$4.32 million earlier in 2020. With a total investment of above US\$ 10 million, BPKH has become part of the APIF Supervisory Committee with two representatives.

Following productive discussions with the APIF team and the recognition of APIF's

efforts in the Awqaf sector, BPKH decided to participate with the additional investment, which translates to 568 certificates at a Net Asset Value (NAV) of US\$11,468.

The BBKH Head of the Executive Board, Dr. Anggito Abimanyu, and Executive Board Foreign Investment and International Relations Officer, Dr. Hurriyah El-Islamy have expressed their appreciation to IsDB for the investment opportunities and the excellent work in managing the APIF Investment" and continued, "We hope that APIF can achieve the desired outcome in generating sustainable return and contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Ummah."

The Acting Director of the Islamic Finance Sector Development Department, Dr. Mohamed Ali Chatti stated: "APIF investments are mutually beneficial: while generating sustainable, reliable income for investors, they also have large impacts

on their socio-economic developmental goals in the educational, social, and health sectors. Such additional investments represent investor's admiration of APIF's achievements."

It is to be noted that APIF investors always display great interest in larger participations in the fund. This investment is part of APIF's firm steps towards its resource mobilization strategy and journey: The additional investment followed APIF's successful attraction of 4 new investors in 2020, namely: Direct Aid Society, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Badan Pengelola Keuangan Haji (BPKH) and World Assembly of Muslim Youth with a total investment value of US\$21.59 million. This additional participation by BPKH also followed the attraction of the IIFA additional participation of US\$ 1.5 million in May 2021, which is part of the total US\$ 8 million APIF has mobilized by mid-2021.



International Islamic Fiqh Academy Invests US\$1.5 Million in APIF Capital

The Awqaf Properties Investment Fund (APIF) of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is pleased to confirm receipt of US\$1.5 million from the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) as an investment from the Islamic scholarly body in its capital.

This investment follows the signing of an agreement earlier in May 2021 jointly by H.E the President of IsDB, Dr. Bandar Hajar and the IIFA Secretary General, Professor Kotoub Mustapha Sano.

IIFA originally pledged to invest US\$1 million in APIF but following productive discussions with the APIF team, it decided to increase the investment to US\$1.5 million. The investment translates to 129 certificates at a Net Asset Value (NAV) of US\$11,589.

Commenting on the investment by IIFA, IsDB Vice President and Acting CPO, Dr. Mansur Muhtar stated: "I commend the effort of APIF team for their commitment in mobilizing external resources so that we can maximize the impact of IsDB and APIF interventions in Member Countries and for the benefit of Muslim communities in Non-Member Countries. To achieve sustainable development, we need to increase the tempo in attracting more investors to benefit from our products and services."

The Acting Director of the Islamic Finance Sector Development Department, Dr. Mohamed Ali Chatti, stated: "Investing in APIF brings dual benefits. It generates regular and steady profits for the investors but more importantly makes impact on the end beneficiaries of our projects whether these projects are in education, health, or other social sectors. We welcome investment from all partners interested in making impact on the lives of people."

This investment is part of APIF's firm steps towards its resource mobilization strategy and journey. In 2020, APIF has successfully attracted four new investors with a total investment value of US\$ 21.586 million.

APIF finances profitable revenue-generating real estate projects including commercial, residential, and mixed-use buildings. The commercial buildings may include offices, retail units, medical units, educational units, parking facilities, warehouses, or a combination of these.



KSA & IsDB Launch Executive Program for Development Cooperation in Yemen

The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY) and the Islamic Development Bank have launched an Executive Program for development cooperation in Yemen, with the aim of strengthening the strategic partnership between the two sides, uniting development efforts, and building the future vision for development and reconstruction in Yemen in cooperation with the Yemeni Government and development partners.

The Executive Program was signed by former IsDB President Dr. Bandar Hajjar, and SDRPY General Supervisor, Ambassador Mohammad bin Saeed Al Jaber on 20 May 2021 at the IsDB HQs. The signing ceremony was attended by a number of officials from both sides.

The President of the Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Bandar Hajjar, expressed hope that the Program will be a starting point for further joint cooperation between SDRPY and IsDB to support socio-economic development in the Republic of Yemen, especially, in light of these difficult circumstances that Yemen is going through. "Several paths have been laid down by the Program outlining areas of cooperation, and we are keen to translate them into jointly implementable programs and projects between the Bank and the Saudi Program in the short, medium, and long terms," Dr. Hajjar stated.

In order to activate this program, Dr. Hajjar called for the continuation of holding technical meetings between the two teams on all tracks that were agreed upon to exchange information and experiences, in addition to coming up with joint projects that could be implemented. "We have to think about how to benefit from the experience of the Country Platform that the Bank recently introduced to help its member countries respond to Covid-19 pandemic by developing a mechanism for monitoring and exchanging information on development projects and programs between various development partners," he elaborated.

Dr. Hajjar also called on both teams to discuss a mechanism for setting up a unified and clear strategic plan for the support and development of Yemen, which brings together all development partners and supporters with the participation of the Yemeni legitimate Government. "The Saudi Program can coordinate this scheme in order to unite efforts to achieve maximum benefit from international support and to prevent duplication and dispersion of efforts and resources" he concluded.

For his part, the General Supervisor of the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen, Ambassador Mohammad bin Saeed Al Jaber, said in a statement during the signing of the Executive Program that the signing of the



Program comes within the framework of building a strategic partnership in support of the Yemeni Government to serve the Yemeni people by strengthening the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to serve Yemen under the guidance of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman - may God protect them. "This occasion confirms the keenness of both SDRPY and IsDB to contribute to achieving comprehensive and sustainable development throughout Yemen" he said. "By the grace of God, a number of programs that were implemented either by the Bank or by the Program have been realized in various aspects of economic and social development in Yemen," he explained.

Ambassador Al Jaber, then, explained that the Executive Program will support the unification of efforts and joint projects implemented by different players including the Saudi Program, the Bank Group, and the international development community to support the Yemeni Government's efforts in building a future road map for development and reconstruction in Yemen. He added that the Program will support the implementation of Development projects in various Yemeni Governorates, in partnership between the two sides and the Yemeni Government. "One of the fruits of this Executive Program will be the building of an electronic platform with the aim of uniting efforts and highlighting the contributions of donors and clarifying the development gaps in various sectors to coordinate and direct efforts towards the real needs," he said.

Al Jaber emphasized that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the largest contributors to development, reconstruction and direct economic support to Yemen through the Saudi Program, which has nearly 200 development projects and initiatives in such sectors as education, health, water, energy, agriculture and fisheries, transportation, and construction.

Moreover, many Saudi Government Agencies, support Yemen in all fields.

The Executive Program contributes to expanding existing joint projects in cooperation with the Yemeni Government, introduces new projects for youth, rural growth, women's empowerment and labor-intensive projects. It also supports the literacy program, confrontation with the Covid-19 pandemic, raising efficiency and quality of local agricultural production, and promotion of agricultural exports in Yemen. Furthermore, it supports the private sector and strengthens its role in development, within a framework that ensures the effectiveness of development work and builds the capacities of the Yemeni Government and institutions.

The areas of cooperation between the two sides, in coordination with the Yemeni Government and institutions, include 6 tracks, i.e., vision and the strategy for development, reconstruction and economic recovery in Yemen, digital and technological cooperation and knowledge exchange, strategic planning for partnership in development projects and programs as well as the completion of incomplete projects and programs of the Islamic Development Bank. They also include strategic communication and information, investment for sustainable development, empowerment of the private sector, and the implementation of IsDB Group funded projects.

The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen is a major contributor to achieving several paths in development and reconstruction in Yemen, achieving economic recovery, implementing necessary infrastructure projects, improving access to basic services needed by Yemeni citizens, implementing human development programs and building the capacity of institutions at the national and local levels in various Yemeni Governorates in coordination with the Yemeni Government and local authorities, and cooperating with international organizations, civil society organizations and private sector.



IsDB Partners with UNOPS to Support Member Countries in Responding to COVID-19 Pandemic

In its effort to support Member Countries in tackling the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, the Islamic Development Bank has partnered with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to support strengthening the health systems in Member Countries.

This support included procurement of essential medical equipment and supplies, like mobile labs, lab equipment, ECG machines, medical beds, PCR and PPE

kits, testing kits, and more than 95 ambulances, among others. It also included construction of epidemiological treatment centres.

Many Member Countries have benefited from this partnership, like Maldives, Cameroon, Benin, Chad, Guinea, Mozambique, and Senegal.

These efforts will help countries in tackling the scourge of COVID-19.

Maldives: Delivery of portable x-ray machines to the Ministry of Health in Maldives to support COVID-19 response



Mozambique: Delivery of ambulances for the Ministry of Health in Mozambique to support COVID-19 response



Benin: Delivery of ambulances for the Ministry of Health in Benin to support COVID-19 response





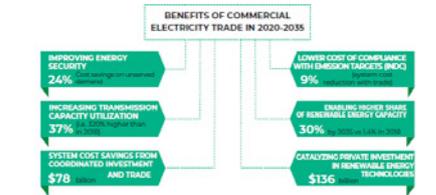
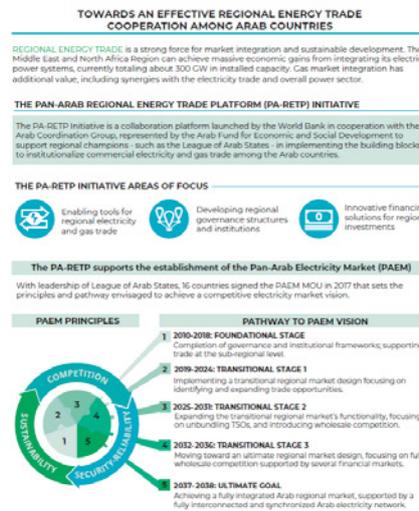
IsDB Convenes ACG-WB Task Force Meeting to Discuss Pan Arab Energy Market

IsDB convened on 23 March 2020 a meeting of the joint Arab Coordination Group-World Bank (ACG-WB) Task Force to discuss potential partnership opportunities offered by the Pan Arab Energy Market (PAEM). The meeting took stock of progress in the rollout of the Pan Arab Regional Energy Trade Platform 2.0 (PA-RETP 2.0), with a special focus on electricity trade and discussed potential investment workstreams. This meeting is part of the ongoing ACG-WB Deep Dive process.

Mohammad Jamal Al Saati, Special Adviser to the President, chaired the meeting, which was attended by around 30 representatives from ACG institutions, World Bank and IFC, in addition to Bank representatives from CPO and EOP.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the World Bank and Arab Fund to highlight the recent progress and state of play of the PA-RETP 2.0 rollout and its legal framework, including the ratification process of the "Arab Grid Code", which underpins the PAEM. The ACG and WB partners reiterated their support for this strategic initiative. ACG members expressed their readiness to consider specific investment proposals, as and when these materialise, and welcomed the proposed participation of the private sector, through SPV arrangements.

PA-RETP initiative is a collaboration platform launched by the World Bank in partnership with the ACG (represented by Arab Fund) and the League of Arab States to facilitate commercial electricity and gas trade amongst Arab countries. It aims to generate through 2035 up to US\$78 billion in system cost savings from coordinated electricity investment and trade and up to US\$136 billion in investment in renewable energy. In doing so, it aims to establish a Pan Arab Electricity Interconnections Financing Facility (PIN-FIN) with the purpose of enabling a coordinated preparation and financing for cross-border transmission infrastructure and critical projects that facilitate trade and transition to a fully integrated and operated PAEM Grid. PIN-FIN should bring more realization of the cross-border projects through innovative financing and project design solutions that promote private finance (including private equity



and commercial finance), limit public debt and de-risk projects. The initiative has identified 23 projects with an estimated investment requirement of over US\$7 billion.

Several IsDB member countries formally support this initiative, which promotes regional cooperation and economic recovery, and are currently in the process of ratifying the PAEM legal framework. These include Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi

Arabia, Sudan, Comoros, UAE and Yemen.

Partnering with development partners and supporting regional market integration are indeed amongst the P5P priorities. The newly created CPO Directorate focuses on building effective and innovative partnerships, with a view to leveraging additional financial resources and knowledge from a wide range of development and financial partners, in order to increase the volume and impact of IsDB-supported projects and programs in member countries.



IsDB and ACG Partners Discuss Co-Financing Opportunities

The The Arab Coordination Group held its Spring meeting of Heads of Operations on 7 April 2021 under the chairmanship of the Qatar Fund for Development. IsDB submitted some 20 co-financing opportunities worth \$1.9 billion supporting total investment of \$4.8 billion, including \$0.8 billion of planned IsDB financing. These co-financing opportunities targeted 18 IsDB member countries in Africa, Asia and Arab region and covered a wide range of sectors, including education, health, agriculture, energy, transport, water & sanitation, and urban development.

The ACG also discussed a number of ongoing workstreams such as the ACG-OECD DAC dialogue, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), the Arab Development Portal, procurement harmonization, update on Palestine, update on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) 2021 Annual Meeting to be held in October 2021 in the UAE. The ACG also held its customary separate bilateral meetings with partners, namely, the International Monetary Fund and AIIB.



IsDB and BADEA Unite to Boost Co-Financing of Development Projects in Africa

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 25 May 2021: Leaders of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Dr. Bandar Hajjar and that of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Dr. Sidi Ould TAH have today signed a historic agreement aimed at boosting co-financing of development projects in common member countries in Africa.

In the past ten years IsDB and BADEA have co-financed more than dozen projects in Ivory Coast, Guinea, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Mali, Senegal, Chad, Niger, Togo and Mozambique. These co-financing operations were in sectors such as education, water, sanitation, urban development, agriculture, transportation, energy, health and trade.

The virtual signing ceremony took place on Tuesday 25 May 2021. It is part of the effort of IsDB to renew its partnership with development institutions at a time when the world is facing unprecedented socio-economic challenges caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Bandar Hajjar, former President of IsDB stated: "The partnership we signed

today, will allow us to co-create financing and investment programs that will address key development challenges but also help our member countries tap into emerging global value chain opportunities to build resilience and create wealth in post COVID-19 world."

Data indicate that unemployment and poverty rates across developing countries are rising, making it necessary to come up with measures that would significantly improve the co-financing of development projects to support developing countries to recover and build back their rural productive assets.

The agreement focuses on co-financing over the period 2021-2024. The agreement comprises key areas of collaboration such as joint diagnostic work; procurement and capacity assessments; sharing of pipeline and annual work programs; special initiatives which support inclusive social development; science, technology and innovation; global value chains (GVCs); private sector development; trade finance; trade policy, trade development, trade facilitation and pro-

motion, including under the Arab Africa Trade Bridges Program and joint syndicated trade transactions

Other areas covered by the agreement are sukuk issuance; investments; investment promotion and policy formulation; insurance of investment and export credit operations; climate action and regional cooperation and integration.



The partnership we signed today, will allow us to co-create financing and investment programs that will address key development challenges but also help our member countries tap into emerging global value chain opportunities to build resilience and create wealth in post COVID-19 world." Dr. Bandar Hajjar stated.



IsDB, World Bank Launch MENA Deep Dive

IsDB and the World Bank convened on 7 June 2021 a bilateral meeting to revitalise the IsDB-World Bank partnership in the MENA Region. The meeting, which was co-chaired by IsDB Vice President Mansur Muhtar, Acting CPO and Stephan G. Koeberle, Director of Strategy & Operations, World Bank, brought together over 40 participants from both sides, including Anasse Aissami, Acting COO, Regional Hub Managers, and senior representatives from COO & CPO Directorates, President's Complex, ICD and ITFC, in addition to several World Bank MENA and IFC senior officials.

The meeting paved the way for exploring potential collaboration in MENA countries both in terms of co-financing opportunities as well as non-financing activities such as analytical work, advisory assistance and knowledge products across common areas of interest, with a view to agreeing on a joint action plan, including priority co-financing transactions, to guide joint work over the next 1-2 years.

In his opening remarks, Vice President Mansur Muhtar reiterated the



commitment of IsDB Senior Management to the long-standing strategic partnership between the two institutions. He reminded the MENA Region's predicament saying "the MENA Region continues to face daunting challenges, which have been exacerbated by the deep economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. While there are signs that the recovery has begun, it remains uneven across the Region and is likely to be protracted and divergent". He added "prospects will vary substantially across MENA countries, depending on the evolution of the pandemic, the pace of immunisation and exposure to tourism and other contact-intensive sectors. Saving lives and livelihoods will continue

to dominate the public policy response in 2021, while keeping a close eye on debt sustainability and financial resilience". He called for harnessing the acceleration of digitalisation witnessed throughout the pandemic to induce lasting transformational impact and to re-build better along an inclusive, job-creating green path.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss strategic priorities and engagement in MENA and review regional project portfolios and current challenges. The teams also discussed a number of topics of mutual interest, including the Covid-19 response and vaccine rollout, FCV (Fragility, Conflict & Violence), climate change & green transition, and private sector development.

The meeting was highly informative and thought-provoking and both partners were eager to pick up where they left off before the pandemic. The two co-chairs agreed to work together and instructed their respective regional and sector teams to follow up bilaterally with their counterparts to flesh out specific partnership proposals ahead of the visit to Saudi Arabia of the World Bank Vice President MENA scheduled for early July 2021.



IsDB and AfDB Chiefs Renew Strategic Partnership for 2021-2023



An IsDB supported project in Abidjan, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire, where the headquarters of African Development Bank is located. The two institutions have developed strong cooperation over the years

In February 2021, the IsDB and AfDB Presidents formally extended through the end of 2023 the ongoing strategic partnership between the two institutions, which is underpinned by a formal co-financing arrangement. Under the previous co-financing arrangement covering the period 2018-2020, IsDB and AfDB co-financed 11 operations in 10 common member countries and contributed US\$625 million (56 percent) and US\$483 million (44 percent), respectively, for a total co-financing amount of US\$1.1 billion. All co-financed operations, bar one, targeted the sovereign sector. Co-financing dipped in 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The two institutions aim to achieve a cumulative co-financing volume of US\$2 billion for the period 2018-2023.

Co-financing is targeting: (i) infrastructure development; (ii) human development; (iii) private sector development and investment promotion; (iv) agriculture; (v) capacity development & technical assistance, including Islamic finance; (vi) political risk insurance; and (vii) trade and trade facilitation.

IsDBG-AfDBG 2020-2018 Co-Financing Data (US\$m)

Co-Financing	IsDBG	AfDB	Total
2018	237.03	143.02	380.05
2019	347.95	339.64	687.59
2020	40.00		40.00
2018-2020	624.98	482.66	1,107.04

Furthermore, the two institutions have agreed to explore cooperation on activities in the following areas for projects in common member countries: (i) joint diagnostic and analytical work, and institutional capacity assessments; (ii) sharing of pipeline and annual work programs; (iii) cooperation in the areas of fragility/conflict situations; and (iv) development effectiveness. The MoU also provided for an annual consultation to review the implementation of the MoU and to develop a joint annual work plan and pipeline of projects.

To kick-start the implementation of the renewed AfDB-IsDB partnership, AfDB identified in June 2021 some 45 potential co-financing opportunities in all common African member countries, where AfDB financing could reach US\$3.7 billion. These co-financing op-

portunities are currently under consideration by IsDB.

Furthermore, the two institutions are currently engaged with other workstreams, which are at different levels of progress and maturity. These include (i) joint support to financial institutions (ICD); (ii) PPP (IsDB/ICD); (iii) sukuk and capital markets (ICD); (iv) Co-Guarantee Platform for Africa (ICIEC); (v) AfDB Balance Sheet Optimization for Covid-19 Response (ICIEC); (vi) African Continental Free Trade Area (ITFC); (vii) Africa Investment Forum (ICD/IsDB); and (viii) Affirmative Financial Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA-IsDB DoST).



IsDB Attends IMF-WBG 2021 Virtual Spring Meeting



The IsDB Vice President Country Programs & former Acting CPO, Dr Mansur Muhtar, attended the Virtual 2021 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG), which were held during the period 5-11 April 2020. This year's Spring Meetings included the G24 Finance Ministers Meeting, the Development Committee Meeting and the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, in addition to the meeting between the IMF Managing Director and MENA Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

The Virtual 2021 Spring Meetings were dominated by three topics: Covid-19, debt and climate change. According to the IMF, global prospects remain highly uncertain one year into the pandemic. New virus mutations and the accumulating human toll raise concerns, even as growing vaccine coverage lifts sentiment. Economic recoveries are diverging across countries and sectors, reflecting variation in pandemic-induced disruptions and the extent of policy support. The outlook depends not just on the outcome of the battle between the virus and vaccines—it also hinges on how effectively economic policies deployed under high uncertainty can limit lasting damage from this unprecedented crisis.

percent in 2021, moderating to 4.4 percent in 2022. The anticipated vaccine-powered recovery in the second half of 2021 remains concentrated in a few large economies with continued adaptation of economic activity to subdued mobility. High uncertainty persists over the path of the pandemic, the effectiveness of policy support to provide a bridge to vaccine-powered normalization, and the evolution of financial conditions.



As shown above, global growth is projected at 6

The IMF estimates that the pandemic could cost \$28 trillion in lost global output by 2025. Most advanced economies, however, are expected to achieve by 2025 GDP output levels that would have been achieved in the absence of the pandemic. In contrast, developing countries' GDP in 2025, on average, is expected to be 5 percent below the pre-pandemic projected level. This might be attributed to the size and impact of fiscal-support measures and vaccine rollout in advanced and developing countries—out of the \$18 trillion of global fiscal-support measures, advanced economies have implemented measures worth 13 percent of their GDP, while middle-income countries and low-income countries, implemented measures worth only 4 percent and 2 percent of GDP, respectively.



IsDB and World Bank Discuss Post-COVID Recovery

A meeting held on 8 July 2021 between former IsDB President, Dr. Bandar Hajjar and World Bank Vice President for Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Mr. Ferid Belhaj, saw into a wide array of topics of cooperation between the two leading development financiers. Kuwait's Mr Merza Hasan, World Bank Executive Director and Dean of the Board and Mr Issam Abou-sleiman, World Bank Country Director for GCC accompanied Mr Belhaj.

Welcoming Ferid Belhaj and his team to the IsDB Group headquarters, President Hajjar underlined the long-standing cooperation between IsDB and the World Bank and the mutual interest to further expand this strategic partnership.

The two leaders discussed the Arab region's economic prospects amidst the ongoing post-Covid-19 recovery. President Hajjar highlighted the daunting challenges that the Arab region is currently facing, which have been significantly exacerbated by the profound economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the uneven signs of a timid recovery across the region.

"We believe prospects will vary substantially across Arab countries, depending on the evolution of the pandemic, the pace of immunization, and exposure to tourism and other contact-intensive sectors. Saving lives and livelihoods will continue to dominate the public policy response in 2021, despite debt sustainability and financial resilience concerns," the former IsDB President elaborated at the meeting.

He then touched upon the acceleration of digitalization witnessed throughout the pandemic, which provides a unique transformational opportunity to re-build better.

Both sides concurred that the Arab region needed more than ever an inclusive green-path to job creation, and agreed to work together and with other like-minded partners to make this a reality.

The Former IsDB President voiced satisfaction with the current IsDB-World Bank working level cooperation under the ongoing MENA deep dive, which aims to identify specific co-financing and partnership opportunities to jointly take forward over the period 2021-2022. The two partners agreed



to scale-up cooperation in the areas of Covid-19 vaccine response, FCV (Fragility, Conflict & Violence) situations (e.g., Yemen, Lebanon), climate change & green transition, regional cooperation, including the Pan Arab Electricity Market, and private sector development.

The technical teams from both sides are set to continue with the MENA deep dive process launched in June 2021. The

Former IsDB President requested the World Bank to replicate the deep dive to cover member countries in Africa and Asia as well, which the World Bank agreed to.

Cumulative IsDB-World Bank co-financing has so far totaled US\$ 13 billion for over 100 projects, inclusive of US\$ 4 billion from IsDB and US\$ 9 billion from the World Bank, making the World Bank IsDB's leading co-financier.



We believe prospects will vary substantially across Arab countries, depending on the evolution of the pandemic, the pace of immunization, and exposure to tourism and other contact-intensive sectors. Saving lives and livelihoods will continue to dominate the public policy response in 2021, despite debt sustainability and financial resilience concerns.

Islamic Development Bank and Asian Development Bank Organize Virtual Annual Retreat



As part of the existing Framework Cooperation and Co-financing Agreement (FCCA) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 2018–2022, the Bank organized a joint IsDBG-ADB Virtual Annual Retreat through five separate meetings: (i) Central West Asia on 24 November; (ii) Private sector development that included PPP, Trade Finance and Insurance on 25 November; (iii) South Asia on 25 November; (iv) South-east Asia on 26 November; and (v) Heads of Procurement meeting on 1 December 2020. These meetings discussed progress made under the FCCA, as well as discussed current and future areas of cooperation.

The three regional meetings were chaired on ADB's side by the respective Director-Generals (Mr. Werner Liepach, DG, Central West Asia; Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, DG, South Asia; and Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam, DG Southeast Asia) and were moderated by Dr. Abdul-Hakim Elwaer, Adviser to President on Global Advocacy and Principal Executive Assistant to the President on Global Practices and Partnerships, and from IsDB's side included Br. Jean-Michel Happi, Acting Chief Operations Officer, Heads of respective Regional Hubs/Center of Excellence (Mr. Saleh Jelassi, Jakarta; Mr. Mohamed Abida, Kuala Lumpur; Mr. Muhammad Sulaiman, Dhaka; Mr. Ibrahim Shoukry, Almaty

and Mr. Hammad Hundal, Ankara), Regional and Headquarter staff. There were updates on current activities in each region by both sides, including COVID-19 response and on-going and pipeline co-financing projects in each country, opportunities for cooperation in specific global practices on thematic topics such as Joint Country Strategy work, Cooperation Regional cooperation, Reverse Linkage and Alternative Development Finance. The two teams agreed to develop Joint Action Plan matrix both on parallel financing of projects in common member countries and identify joint activities with clear targets, outputs and timeline for their completion, both at regional level as well as thematic global practice level.

Mr. Ayman Sejiny, CEO of ICD and Mr. Michael Barrow, Director-General on Private Sector Development at ADB, chaired the meeting on private sector development and the session was moderated by Hamza Boukili, Head of Partnerships at the ICD. Both sides provided an update and overview on Private Sector Operations with a focus on Infrastructure, Corporate Finance and Financial Institutions with the active participation of Shantanu Chakraborty, Director Infrastructure Finance, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB, Bart Raemaekers, Head of Guarantees and Syndications, ADB Christine Engstrom, Director Financial Institutions, ADB, Ikbal Daredia, Ag. Director Global Markets and Fixed Income Department,

ICD and Noman Siddiqui Head of PPP Division, IsDB. The ITFC and ICIEC also participated in the retreat and gave presentations on Trade Finance and Political and Credit Insurance in the common member countries. Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration and increasing co-financing activities in the private sector in Asia, with a particular focus on Indonesia.

Heads of Procurement meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Aamir Ghani, Manager of Project Procurement Division, IsDB and Ms. Risa Teng, Director General of the ADB Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department (PPFD), ADB. The senior procurement staff both at Headquarters and regional hubs/country offices of the two institutions participated in the meeting that discussed initiatives to enhance efficiency of the procurement process and effectively deal with the transparency, accountability, and complaint handling. Mechanisms were also discussed on joint support to common member countries for improving their public procurement systems. It was agreed to build knowledgebase on procurement systems for common member countries, exchange information on various initiatives and programs being implemented and to jointly undertake capacity building programs.

IsDB and WHO to Facilitate Easy Access to COVID-19 Vaccines in Member Countries

The Chief Product & Partnerships Officer Directorate (CPO) of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has organized a joint technical workshop with the World Health Organization (WHO) to collaborate on major partnerships that will facilitate easy access to COVID-19 vaccines in member countries. Based on the proposed collaboration, IsDB and WHO will develop a Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA) that would help the two institutions to respond to health emergencies and address development challenges in fragile situations.

The virtual workshop which took place on Tuesday, 23 March 2021 had in attendance over 50 participants from various Departments of the CPO and COO Directorates, Regional Hubs as well representatives of WHO. The workshop was moderated by Dr. Ammar Abdo Ahmed, IsDB Lead Global Health Sector and Br. Nedzad Ajanovic, IsDB Senior Global Partnership Specialist, M. Amin Kébé, WHO International Financial Institutions Portfolio Manager.

The Strategic Framework Agreement expected to be signed by July 2021 will comprise several initiatives including the manufacturing of vaccines, regulatory frameworks, joint country assessments and strengthening of health systems and joint work plans in specific IsDB member countries. The collaboration will also include capacity building, social finance/impact investment, support for the prevention of cancer initiative (IAEA-IsDB) and utilization of the WHO Academy in various areas of capacity building.

The workshop was attended by the WHO Hanan H. Balkhy, Assistant Director-General Antimicrobial Resistance, Peter Singer, Special Advisor to the DG, WHO Global Directors



(Ann Lindstrand representing the Director of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals; Stella CHUNGONG, Director Health Security Preparedness; Nedret EMIROGLU, Director Country Readiness Strengthening; Sylvie BRIAND, Director Global Infectious Hazards Preparedness; Altaf MUSANI, Director Health Emergency Interventions; Oliver MORGAN, Director, Health Emergency Information & Risk Assessment), WHO Regional Focal Points (WHO EMRO: Rick BRENNAN; WHO AFRO, Abdou Salam GUEYE and WHO SEARO, Jos VANDELAER) and their teams.

The objective of the joint workshop was to identify the key interventions areas between IsDB and WHO for the upcoming three years at Global and Regional levels and to support the implementation of IsDB Health Sector Strategy. It is worth mentioning that the selected health intervention will be aligned with the IsDB Health Strategic Pillars.

During the workshop, the following technical discussions took place on:

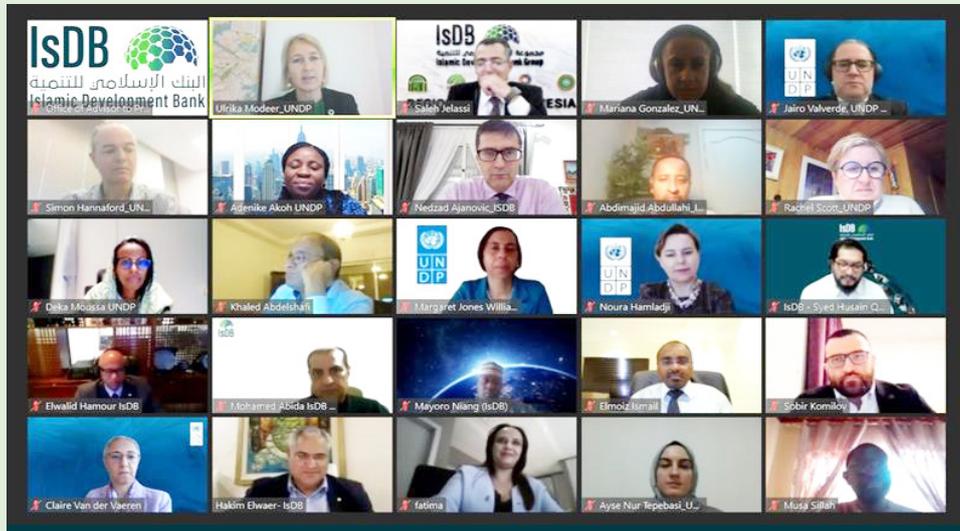
- **Emergencies:** Outlines of International Health Regulations, country preparedness, link with the Vaccine and country focus;
- **Vaccines:** COVID-19 Vaccine,

Normative work on Vaccine unpacked into manufacturing, regulatory aspect, procurement and delivery, joint country assessment, link with emergencies in health and strengthening health systems capacity in countries;

- **Regional/country implementation:** How to organise joint country assessment based on List of potential targeted countries (IsDB) and deliver joint work plans; and
- **Technical cooperation:** Areas for technical cooperation and joint capacity building include Anti-Microbial Resistance, Social finance/Impact investment, Non-Communicable Diseases and WHO Academy.

The joint workshop with WHO is part of the effort of the CPO Directorate to scale-up partnership between IsDB UN sister institutions and mobilize technical and financial resources for the benefit of member countries.

4th Global IsDB-UNDP Annual Consultation Meeting



The global IsDB-UNDP annual consultation meeting took place on 14 December 2020 with approximately 50 participants from both institutions. This virtual meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Ulrika Mod er, Assistant Director General and Director of Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP and Dr. Abdul-Hakim Elwaer, Principal Executive Assistant for Global Practices and Partnerships, Executive Office of the President. This was our 4th annual consultation since the launch of the renewed, SDG-focused Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Joint Action Plan in 2016, and the first consultation since H.E. Bandar Hajjar, IsDB President and Ackim Steiner, UNDP Administrator launched the 2019-2021 action plan last September, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Like in previous years, the purpose of this consultation was to collectively review progress in the implementation of the joint action plan and confirm priorities for the year ahead, based on added value and clear development impact through the joint work. One of the advantages of this year's consultation was that having met online allowed the two institutions to secure broad

and high-level participation both from respective headquarters and regional hubs/country offices. Further, the consultation built on "deep-dives" that took place throughout 2020 at global and regional levels, through which relevant teams had already identified practical priority initiatives for collaboration on COVID-19 response and beyond.

Some Highlights of achievements and priorities for 2021:

- NGO Empowerment Programme/TADAMON platform—through which IsDB, ISFD and UNDP teams are working to empower 500 local NGOs in countries like Lebanon, Somalia, Turkey, Morocco, Indonesia and Tunisia to help them access innovative finance and improve their capabilities to implement poverty reduction projects and deliver quality results on the ground.
- Through the jointly launched **Global Islamic Finance and Impact Investing Platform**, we are helping Governments leverage Islamic Finance for the SDGs through South-South Cooperation/knowledge transfer and capacity development, such as in Djibouti where we are joining forces to enhance the economic resilience of vulnerable SMEs through an assessment of the Islamic

microfinance ecosystem, the application of best practices in the global Islamic microfinance sector, and trainings for national stakeholders.

- In Africa, IsDB and UNDP partnered in Cameroon to help the Government procure essential medical and non-medical supplies.
- Successful cooperation has also taken place in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on water management, rural development and energy efficiency, combining UNDP grant resources on capacity development with IsDB's loans.
- In 2020, we also worked together on strategy development on water and urban sectors, South-South Cooperation, and on IsDB's fragility and resilience policy; and we are about to embark on a joint study on youth entrepreneurship/youth-led enterprises in Asia (Bangladesh and Indonesia).

The two sides already provided an initial update to the draft Joint Action Plan that includes detailed list of ongoing and planned collaboration for 2021 across regions and sectors and agreed to finalize it by the end of December.



IsDB and ISFD Launch Strategic Partnership with NAMA Foundation

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 3 August 2021 - A launching ceremony was held for the strategic partnership with NAMA Foundation on 3rd of August 2021.

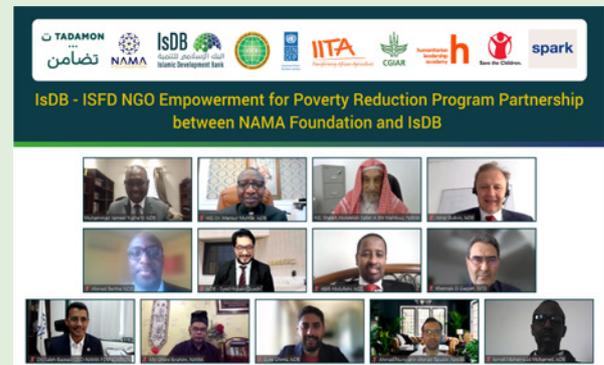
The event was officially opened by Dr. Mansur Muhtar, Vice President, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and H.E. Sheikh Abdelelah Salim A. Bin Mahfouz, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, NAMA Foundation (NAMA) while Mr. Amer Bukvic, IsDB's Acting Chief Product and Partnership Officer delivered the closing remarks of the ceremony.

The launching of the strategic partnership comes in the wake of an earlier joint agreement between former IsDB President, Dr. Bandar Hajjar and Chairman of NAMA's Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, Sheikh Abdelelah Salim A. Bin Mahfouz. The agreement was signed in mid-June 2021 to support the IsDB - ISFD NGOs Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program (Tadamon). The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) is IsDB's poverty reduction arm.

Through this new and innovative partnership with civil society as a developer, NAMA, a non-profit foundation, will direct US\$ 2 million to support Tadamon through the institutional capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in selected Member Countries. This is considered as an important target of

the resource mobilization efforts of the civil society practice of the Resilience and Social Development Department - increasing the financial base of the program - to support the hard-to-reach communities in the member countries.

The IsDB - ISFD NGOs Empowerment for Poverty Reduction program was officially launched in September 2019 on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. It is an innovative and transformative partnership initiative derived from the existing IsDB NGOs Program, ISFD mandate and the new strategy 2030 to reduce poverty in



OIC member countries and IsDB policy-level and strategic engagement with the Civil Society.

The program's goal is to contribute to reducing poverty in IsDB member countries through development and humanitarian initiatives. More specifically, it empowers CSOs to improve the socio-economic well-being of hard-to-reach communities by better identifying impactful CSOs. It also supports them in increasing the education of refugees and remote communities, creating jobs, building resilience, and contributing to a more robust community livelihood.

IsDB and IFC to Expand Cooperation



The IsDB and the World Bank Group's IFC chiefs are gearing up for broader and deeper institutional and operational cooperation.

This was the main topic of a virtual meeting held on 23 March 2021 between former IsDB President, Dr. Bandar Hajjar, and the new IFC Managing Director, Mr. Makhtar Diop where the two sides discussed partnership between the two institutions in supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), invest-

ments, Sukuk, and digital infrastructure.

The two institutions have long enjoyed solid cooperation in joint operations at Group level mainly through IsDB's PPP Program and Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

At the meeting, Dr. Hajjar congratulated Mr. Diop on his appointment as head of IFC and explained to him how the IsDB's new business model envis-

ages to make markets work for development with a focus on science, technology, and innovation (STI) and Islamic finance.

Amongst other topics discussed at the meeting were the establishment of the Economic Empowerment Department in IsDB and the Heads of MDBs forum. The Former IsDB President also proposed to the IFC Managing Director to explore areas of cooperation in economic empowerment, health with the vaccines, Islamic finance, and PPP projects in various target sectors including digital infrastructure.

Mr. Makhtar Diop, who is a Senegalese-born economist, also appreciated the ongoing level of cooperation between the two institutions and expressed hope that the two sides could further contribute to greater development achievements in different sectors.

Currently, the volume of the co-financing operations between IsDB Group and IFC stands at US\$1.15 billion.



IsDB, UNICEF, AGREF and KSA Kick-Start the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children

The Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children (GMPFC) approves US\$ 12 million in new grants to support children in Bangladesh, Jordan and Pakistan. The funding to the innovative GMPF was made available by the UAE's Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund (AGREF), and KSA's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief).

The leaders of the Islamic Development Bank, UNICEF, KSrelief and AGREF met virtually on 1 February 2021 to formally approve the first batch of projects funded by the GMPFC, which was originally launched at the UN General Assembly in September 2019. The IsDB-administered GMPFC manages pooled Islamic philanthropy resources for life-saving humanitarian assistance and for achieving child-related SDGs. The UAE's AGREF and KSA's KSrelief are the Fund's first donors, having contributed US\$10 million and US\$ 9.2 million, respectively, to kick-start the Fund's operations.

Three projects with a total value of US\$12.1 million were approved by the Fund's Governing Council. These projects, to be implemented in partnership with UNICEF, target mainly refugee children in Bangladesh, Jordan and Pakistan:

- In Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, where an estimated 1.2 million Rohingya refugees and members of the host population need humanitarian assistance, KSrelief will provide funding towards lifesaving health-care for children and women, along with nutrition support for children under the age of five, and pregnant and nursing mothers.
- In Jordan, funding from the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund will be directed to Jordan which hosts more than 650,000 registered Syrian refugees. The approved funding will be used to support vulnerable children and young people between the ages of 12 and 24 to strengthen learning and wellbeing, and in particular, to support their positive transition to adulthood.
- In Pakistan, funding contributed by KSrelief will support immunisation coverage and health services for children under the age of five in selected districts, contributing to the reduction in the current number of 250,000 children who die every year before their first birthday.

The Fund's Governing Council, which was co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Bandar Hajjar,

President of Islamic Development Bank Group, and Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, reviewed the Fund's operating procedures and discussed its future growth strategy.

H.E. Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah, Supervisor General of the King Salman Centre commented: "I am very pleased to announce KSrelief's participation in the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children. Particularly now, when the Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating an already challenging global humanitarian landscape, it is essential for our collective efforts to be directed towards helping the most vulnerable among us – our children. The Fund will enable Muslim philanthropists to support programmes that provide at-risk children and youth with access to protection, education, health care, proper nutrition and every opportunity to achieve success in the future".

H.E. Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair, Founder of the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund added: "Education can only be effective if children and youth are healthy, safe, and have access to water and food. That is why a collaborative approach is needed now more than ever before given the unprecedented challenges resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. We believe that the programmes currently being rolled out in Jordan, Bangladesh and Pakistan will positively impact thousands of vulnerable children and will play an important role in mitigating the public

health and socioeconomic impact of the pandemic to help elevate their livelihoods and safeguard their futures. With that, we are very proud to be involved in co-ordinating and channeling Muslim donor support to help institutionalize giving in a strategic and impactful way, and we look forward to generating sustainable impact off the back of this."

Hosting the virtual meeting, H.E. Dr. Bandar Hajjar stated "Today we begin to deliver on our promise to children to bring brighter days, as the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children has now become fully operational, thanks to the support of our partners". "We look forward to expanding our partnership with Muslim philanthropists to address the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children, and to tackle head-on poverty and disease in our member countries", he added.

Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, said: "With the challenges facing the world today, and as we look to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, collective, coordinated and sustained action is critical. The Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children represents a unique opportunity for leading global Muslim philanthropists to come together and create significant and lasting change for the most vulnerable children and their families."

The partners confirmed their continued commitment to the Fund as a global strategic platform for Muslim philanthropy in a joint call for action:

"The GMPFC is a unique vehicle which ensures that Muslim Philanthropy is at the forefront of fighting poverty and disease and achieving the SDGs. We call on all Muslim Philanthropists around the world to join our growing coalition of global Muslim leaders, so that together we can strategically respond to humanitarian needs and save lives."





IsDB and the South Centre Advocate for the Development of National Strategies for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

April 2021, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Geneva based South Centre have strongly advocated for the formulation of national strategies for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The two institutions made the call in a joint policy paper on National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) titled "Policy Paper on National Strategies for SSTrC". The joint policy paper developed a framework on how to formulate the SSTrC strategies.

While many developing countries do not have explicit SSTrC strategies, the state of play shows that its elements can be found in various policies, institutional guidance and national development strategies. The absence of a holistic approach and a nationally acknowledged strategy carries the risk of fragmentation in undertaking SSTrC strategies.

For these reasons, the IsDB has identified the development of a national strategy to guide a country's SSTrC interventions as a fundamental pillar of a country's "National Ecosystems for SSTrC" framework. A national strategy for SSTrC serves as guidance for a country's SSTrC activities, initiatives and institutional framework, both from the perspective of being a provider and a beneficiary of SSTrC. Furthermore,

they provide a clear long-term vision and defined goals and targets of SSTrC and strengthen cohesion by aligning with the general national development strategies of the member countries.

On the occasion of the Policy Paper's release, the former IsDB President reiterated the role that the Bank plays in SSTrC, indicating that "The Bank has been scaling up its support to member countries through SSTrC through new mechanisms like Reverse Linkage. For effective engagement in SSTrC through such mechanisms, it is important for countries to define their role as providers of expertise as well as recipients of development solutions through a robust strategic framework. As such, this Policy Paper comes at a critical juncture in the context of the ongoing pandemic, providing guidance on how countries may develop their national strategies for SSTrC in order to become effective and efficient players in SSTrC".

The Bank has been ramping up its thought-leadership in SSTrC by developing new frameworks and knowledge products that strengthen the architecture of SSTrC, nationally, regionally, as well as globally. Despite the challenges posed



by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the IsDB continued its elaboration of the national ecosystems framework by developing new tools such as the recently released "Assessment Framework on National Ecosystems for SSTrC", which is a detailed framework for conducting capacity gaps analysis in countries of the South and provide inputs for tailor-made, country-specific capacity development interventions to strengthen national ecosystems for SSTrC.

The IsDB is the only multilateral development bank that is owned by countries from the Global South alone. It has been promoting SSTrC among its member countries since its establishment and contributes actively to the global conversation on strengthening development cooperation.

Japan Lauds Partnership with IsDB

The growing partnership between IsDB and Japan was discussed at a meeting held on 6 June 2021 between Japanese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Fumio Iwai, and former IsDB President, Dr. Bandar Hajjar, during the Ambassador's visit to the IsDB headquarters.

Cooperation between IsDB and Japan, which yielded over US\$6 billion in cumulative co-financing, was the focus of the meeting. The two sides also discussed cooperation in many other fields of development.

Dr. Hajjar elaborated on the different flagship programs in which the Bank is looking forward to promoting cooperation with Japan such as the scholarships program, Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and IsDB's Transform Fund, in addition to scaling-up co-financing with Japan. He praised the good partnership the Bank has developed with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and, more recently, the Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), noting IsDB's keen interest to expand and deepen its partnership with Japan.

Ambassador Iwai expressed Japan's satisfaction with its partnership with IsDB in the areas of investment and international development cooperation, including TICAD (Tokyo



International Conference on African Development, the eighth summit of which will be held in August 2022 in Tunisia) and the CEAPAD (Cooperation amongst East Asia Countries for Palestinian Development). He expressed Japan's willingness to further strengthen the current partnership to include new areas of development cooperation. He also added that Japan is supporting KSA in achieving the Saudi Vision 2030, as the two countries are working on 80 projects since 2017. The Ambassador then commended the significant achievements of KSA especially in education and capacity building of its cadres at all levels.

IsDB and UNITAR Join Forces to Strengthen Capacities and Save Lives

New York, United States of America and Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Joint Action Plan to strengthen cooperation in IsDB member countries.

This collaboration will enhance national capacities and scale up community level action to screen, detect, and improve care for non-communicable disease (NCD) patients, accelerating IsDB member countries' progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 3.4: reducing premature mortalities due to NCDs by one-third by 2030. Through implementation of the Joint Action Plan, IsDB member countries will benefit from innovative financing solutions, sustainable progress, and improved access to quality, affordable NCD supplies with a particular focus on common cancers affecting women.

IsDB member countries will benefit from capacity development in disaster

risk reduction and the use of geospatial and climate information for improved decision-making. This will include the provision of rapid mapping services, including rapid satellite imagery analysis, to improve situational awareness and support relief and response efforts and recovery efforts in an emergency context. The collaboration will also support the development of new and improved flood and drought early warning systems to improve climate resilience in IsDB member states.

Furthermore, IsDB's effectiveness in its interactions with member countries will be enhanced through the provision of training on core diplomatic skills such as negotiation, leadership in crisis and conference diplomacy, among others. IsDB and UNITAR will also cooperate in the field of chemical and waste management, with a focus on improved classification and labelling of chemicals, enhanced waste management systems, and more accurate registries of emissions and releases.

Mr Nikhil Seth, United Nations As-

sistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR, and Dr Bandar M. H. Hajjar, President of IsDB signed the MoU and Joint Action Plan on 26 April 2021.

"We are very pleased to sign this MoU and Joint Action Plan with the Islamic Development Bank, which will kickstart a number of strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening capacities in IsDB member countries and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through a well-rounded approach," said Mr Nikhil Seth during the signing ceremony.

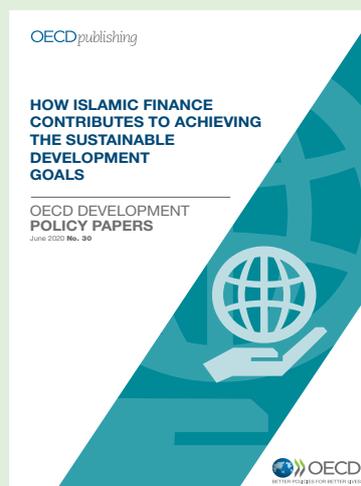
"The scale of resources needed for management of NCDs and addressing climate change concerns in countries to meet globally agreed targets is significant, particularly in the context of a global pandemic, and will continue to add to the pressure on households in low-resource countries to increase their out-of-pocket expenditure," said Dr Bandar M. H. Hajjar. "I am delighted that practical responses through this partnership will help us to reduce premature mortality and save lives."



IsDB and OECD-DAC Chiefs Co-chair Islamic Finance Event

The former IsDB President featured as a keynote speaker at the OECD-hosted event held on 1 December 2020 to present the OECD report on Islamic Finance entitled "How can Arab, Islamic and DAC Donors Collaborate through Islamic Finance Tools and Concepts?". The webinar gathered over 70 participants, including OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and Arab Co-ordination Group (ACG) members, policymakers and Islamic finance practitioners.

The former IsDB President, Dr Bandar Hajjar, underscored the growing importance of Islamic finance in the quest for development solutions and additional financial resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. He highlighted some of the innovative financing mechanisms spearheaded by IsDB in the areas of Islamic social finance such as Awqaf, Zakat and Muslim philanthropy. He also singled out the IsDB's recent Green Sukuk program, which



The Green Sukuk raised EUR1 billion in 5-year Trust Certificates under IsDB's \$25 billion Trust Certificate Issuance Program.

The Chair of the OECD-DAC, Susanna Moorehead, highlighted the long-standing collaboration between the DAC and the Arab donors, which builds upon dialogue and strengthened technical collaboration

to deepen operational cooperation and policy harmonization.

The Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), Jorge Moreira da Silva, underlined that Islamic Finance is more needed than ever, not least because of the current Covid-19 context where many partner countries need stable, countercyclical funding sources. The webinar also featured presentations from: Ana Fernandes, Head of the OECD Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit; Blake Gould, CEO of the Responsible Finance and Investment Foundation; Sami Al-Suwailem, Director-General of the IsDB Institute; Tika Arundina, Director of Islamic Economics Program at the Faculty of Economics and Business Universitas Indonesia; and Alessandro Villa, Deputy Head of Unit, International Organisations and Development Dialogue with other Donors, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission.



VP CPC Lauds Staff Commitment, Urges More Tempo on Resource Mobilization



The commitment of the staff of the CPO Directorate to build the foundational structure on product development, partnerships and resource mobilization has been lauded by the Vice President (CPC) and former Acting CPO, Dr. Mansur Muhtar. Dr. Muhtar made the comment during the meeting of the Heads of Departments, Divisions and Principals of the Directorate. He urged the team to work harder in the effort to mobilize more resources to enable the Bank to achieve its development objectives.

"I noticed the progress being made in providing the foundation in terms of the guidelines for staff on resource mobilization and developing a stakeholder engagement plan to enable us reach our external partners. We need to pay more attention in achieving our KPIs on resource mobilization." Dr. Muhtar stated.

During the meeting, an update was provided by various heads of departments and units on mobilizing resources through co-financing of projects that would make impact in regional cooperation and integration, social and economic infrastructure, Public Private Partnership, and Islamic Finance through Awqaaf Development.

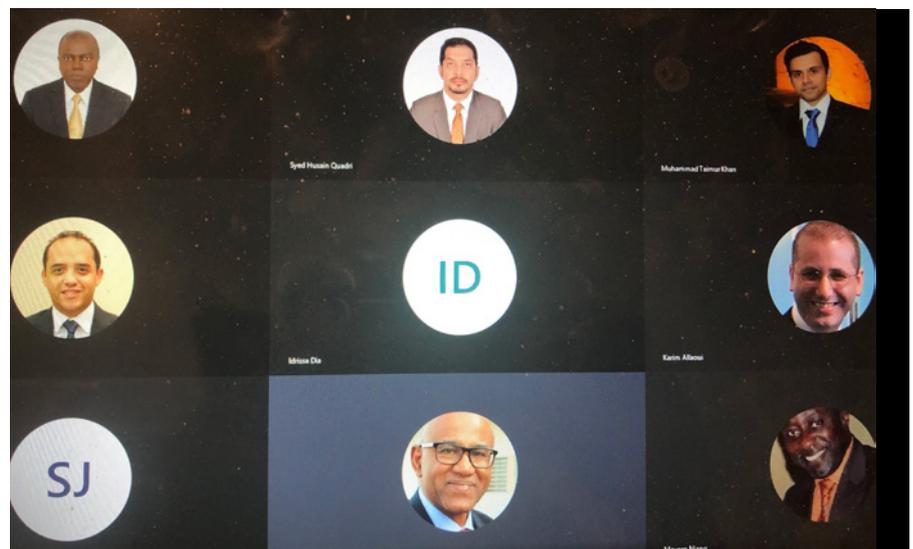
The meeting highlighted the need for stronger engagement between various units to help deliver the mandate of the Directorate.

CPO and COO Directorates Join Hands to Upscale Partnership with World Bank on Co-Financing of Projects in the MENA Region

The CPO and COO Directorates are working closely to develop a joint project pipeline with World Bank as part of the effort to increase the co-financing of projects for the benefit of IsDB Member Countries. In this regard, a joint meeting led by the then Acting COO, Jean-Michel Happi was organized on Thursday 22 April 2021, alongside focal points from the CPO and COO Directorates to brainstorm on how to move forward with the initiative.

During the meeting, strategies for strengthening the synergy between the two directorates on developing project pipelines with World Bank, particularly from the thematic areas of the Resilience and Social Development Department (covering fragility, resilience, women and youth and climate change practices particularly) was discussed extensively.

In 2019, IsDB and World Bank signed a new MoU aimed at guiding the collaboration between the two institutions from 2020-2022. A meeting is expected to be held between 26-27 May 2021 where IsDB and World Bank will explore opportunities for the co-financing of projects, starting with portfolios in the MENA Region in the next one to two years.



The discussion with World Bank is also expected to look at additional co-financing opportunities that would focus on joint analytics and joint products. Among the potential themes of mutual interest include, FCV, climate finance, gender, employment, COVID-19 vaccine rollout, (Islamic) finance, regional initiatives, and private sector development.

The World Bank had already shared its project pipeline in the MENA Region, with IsDB expected to follow suit to

strengthen the collaboration. The CPO and COO Directorates have been holding series of joint meetings to ensure synergy and smooth running of operations to meet the expectation of senior management.

Common Vision: Staff of CPO Directorate United to Work as One Team, One Directorate and One Bank

Following the successful retreat organized by the CPO Directorate on 6 April 2021, a special Town Hall was organized for the entire staff of the directorate on Sunday 11 April 2021. A common theme that emerged during the Town Hall was the strong interest expressed by the staff to work as One Team, One Directorate and One Bank.

The vision of working as one team, one bank and one directorate was made by the Vice-President (CPC) and former Acting CPO, Dr. Mansur Muhtar during his maiden address at the retreat organized a week earlier.

The aim of the Town Hall was to bring all staff together so that they can be on the same page as the new directorate focuses on developing products and resource mobilization as the Administrative Instruction establishing the directorate stated.

In his remarks, the then Acting CPO Dr. Mansur Muhtar thanked the entire staff of the Directorate for their tireless effort and working together on the KPI's and IWP of



2020 and performance planning for 2021. Dr. Muhtar urged the staff to keep the momentum since there are only around 8 months left to achieve the KPIs and IWP for 2021.

The Town Hall brought together several departments that are critical to the success of the new directorate. Presentations were made by the Director of Strategy Department Ahmad EL Khodary and the Acting Director, BPRD, Farhan Rashid. Each of

the heads of CPO Units comprising ESID, RCI, RSD, IFSD, PPP and the CPO-FO presented their KPIs for the benefit of the entire staff. The last two sessions of the Town Hall presented a summary of the issues raised during the retreat by Saraf Sharaf, while En'amulrahman Malkawi and Muntasir Majdoub Ahmad made a presentation on the process of product development.

Retreat Sets Agenda for Enhanced Products Development and Resource Mobilization

The Chief Product and Partnership Officer (CPO) Directorate has organized a one-day retreat on Tuesday 6 April 2021. The retreat sets the agenda for additional products development, enhanced resource mobilization and developing stronger synergy among the different units of the directorate and other functions of the Bank.

The well attended retreat was led by the Vice-President (CPC) and former Ag. CPO, Dr. Mansur Muhtar. In his welcoming remarks, the then CPO highlighted that the theme of the retreat was "Harnessing Market Potential for Sustainable Development," with a high emphasis on resource mobilization and strengthening internal and external



➤ partnerships; therefore all effort should be deployed to ensure the successful implementation of the Integrated Work Programme 2021 as well as the respective KPIs of the various CPO units.

Dr. Muhtar reiterated the importance of uniting for a common purpose to meet the expectations of the senior management and ensure the success of the President's 5-Year Programme.

"As we begin this historic journey, I want us to remember that our actions and decisions would have impact on the end beneficiaries of our efforts, that is the Member Countries. We can only achieve this by working as One Team, One Directorate and One Bank," stated Dr. Muhtar during his welcoming remarks, which resonated with the participants.

Ahead of the main retreat, three major pre-retreat sessions were organized by the CPO Directorate with the COO, the heads of units and with the Country Operations Managers (COMs) of the COO/CRS Directorate, in presence and active participation of the Heads of the CPO units and the Front Office Staff of the CPO and the COO. The pre-retreat sessions led by Idrissa Dia, a Lead Strategic Coordinator of CPC, were aimed at establishing a solid and equal understanding of the renewed CPO mandate, and full synergy between the Global Practices of the CPO and the Regional Hubs under COO, to ensure a seamless transition, coordination, exchanging and generating knowledge while establishing effective business processes for the delivery of cross-functional KPIs.

The main retreat on 6th April 2021 was divided into several sessions. The first session, which kicked-off with a speech by the Vice-President/Ag.CPO was facilitated by Muhammad Jameel Yusha'u. It was a brainstorming session where various heads of the CPO units such as Riad Ragueb of RCI, Syed Hussain Quadri of RSD, Sami Faruqi of ESID, Mohammed Chatti of IFSDD and Mohammed Alsayed (PPP) dissected the challenges and opportunities available in the CPO Directorate. The discussion concludes that the various units should work towards ensuring quality, innovation, be result oriented, pragmatic, increase visibility of the work of the directorate and learn from the experience of the past.

The second session of the retreat facilitated by Karim Allaoui was on "Resource Mobilization – Mirage or Market



Making." The session featured versatile and thought-provoking presentations by Muhammad Ahmad Bello who spoke on "Overcoming RM Challenges in PPP Investments," Yoseph Ataa Al Suwady who discussed "leveraging the concept of Awqaf for mobilizing resources for development," Aminuddin Mat Ariff who focused on "Mobilising Resources for South-South and Triangular Cooperation," Olatunji Yusuf whose topic was on "Opportunities for RM for/through Sovereign Investments," and Saeed Ahmad who spoke on "Options for Mobilising Private Sector Capital."

The third session facilitated by Idrissa Dia and Sami Faruqi had the Acting DG/COO Jean-Michel Happi as the key presenter. The theme of the session was centered on developing stronger synergy between the CPO and COO Directorates. During the presentation, Jean-Michel Happi suggested a roadmap for developing synergies which he outlined as establishing joint working groups for product offerings, strategic upstreaming of projects programming and country engagement, establishing sectoral and thematic communities of practice and formulating a platform for effective country and policy dialogue.

The fourth session facilitated by Nedzad Ajanovic was mainly on developing synergies with other units of the Bank. Presentations made during the session include "Mainstreaming STI into CPO Activities" by Mohammed Shaker Hebara, "Increasing Visibility and Stakeholder Engagement" by Thamer Ahmad Baazem, and "New

Quality Review and Fiduciary Roles," by Farhan Rashid.

The final session, facilitated by Fawaz Abdunour and moderated by Sarah Sharaf featured a presentation on an "Overview of ADF Initiatives and Working Arrangements for CPO," by Mohammed EL Habib Ansari. The session also provided the key conclusions and take-aways.

A team comprising Idrissa Dia, Syed Hussain Quadri, En'amulrahman Malkawi, Muntasir Majdoub, Sarah Sharaf and Olatunji Yusuf is working on the key findings and the way forward from the retreat. The outcome would be presented in a Special Townhall on 08 April 2021 for all CPO staff.



As we begin this historic journey, I want us to remember that our actions and decisions would have impact on the end beneficiaries of our efforts, that is the Member Countries. We can only achieve this by working as One Team, One Directorate and One Bank," stated Dr. Muhtar

IsDB to Provide Access to Finance to 3000 Households Through the Tadamon CSO Pandemic Response Accelerator Program



The Islamic Development Bank introduced the Strategic Preparedness and Response Programme to support Member Countries in tackling the challenges of COVID-19

The Tadamon CSO (Civil Society Organizations) Pandemic Response Accelerator Program was approved by the Bank in 2020 to contribute in maintaining the gains in the realisation of the SDGs. The Program operationalizes the Competence, Linkage, Delivery and Funding tracks of the P5P and 10-Year Strategy, which stress the need for IsDB to become a bank for a network of developers.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a critical role in engaging citizens as a foundation for sustainable innovation to contain and mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Launched by IsDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the purpose of the Program is to contribute to the immediate and medium-term efforts of Member Countries (MCs) to prevent, contain and respond to negative impacts of COVID-19, particularly in the 17 MCs affected by fragility and conflict, refugees and internally displaced people. The Program adopts the SPRP 3-R approach, focusing on Response, Restore and Restart, with technology playing a key role at each stage. The Program focuses on several SDGs including 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17 and is derived from the approved Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP), which aims at supporting MCs' efforts in preventing, containing, mitigating, and recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scope of the Program includes:

- Emergency Medical Response through CSOs (Respond). It entails medical supply to health facilities, essential community social services such as psycho-social counselling, training of community health workers and communication, awareness.
- Education in Emergency (Respond). The Program will ensure the provision of basic education in emergency situations and skills development through high tech and/or

simple communication tools.

- Building Community Resilience (Restore). Deprived households, including those headed by women, will acquire, among others, entrepreneurial skills and knowledge and competencies required to engage in income-generating activities, both online and in person while maintaining physical distancing.
- Setting up a Pandemic Response Accelerator Window.

The Program introduces an innovative "Pandemic Accelerator" tool to mobilize resources to:

- Contribute to the response to the pandemic by tapping into a network of CSOs and social innovators.
- Improve access to finance, building capacity for entrepreneurship.
- Map and empower organisations.

The Accelerator will be hosted at www.tadamon.community on the "IsDB – ISFD NGO Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program". It will also provide:

- Digital neighbourhoods that improve social infrastructure and community resilience through digital education, digital care and telemedicine.
- Physical distancing to engage and provide psychosocial support, offering new ways of building
- virtual social networks, and solidarity.

The Accelerator will use solutions with blockchain and similar technologies, and will make an Open Call in 2021/2022 through the Tadamon Platform for Covid-19 and pandemic response resources mobilization using donations and co-financing.

To fulfil the needs of vulnerable communities and to serve the MCs during crises or in their long-term development perspectives, the accelerator and the Tadamon platform offer a new way of bringing additional value to digital transformation,

with new mechanisms to foster networks and mobilize financing and resources. This is in line with the emerging trends that capitalize on networks of developers including partnerships with non-traditional actors, encouraging digital transformation and innovation with crowdfunding and blockchain technologies.

Plan & Achievements:

The most vulnerable groups are those that are at higher risks from the COVID-19 pandemic. Their lives, livelihoods and conditions are significantly affected by the cascading effects on social and economic conditions. Decisions of governments and partners to reduce the costs of the pandemic for some societies have directly affected the hard-to-reach communities who have no access to basic health and social services. At the front-line of the crisis, CSOs, with the support of IsDB are contributing to the efforts and participating in the global responses.

After needs assessments and closed consultations with partners, especially CSOs, the chief results expected from the Program include:

- Around US\$ 46 million mobilized from non-traditional partners. The total cost of the Tadamon CSO Pandemic Response Accelerator Program is US\$ 55.00 million. The seed contribution of IsDB-ISFD to the financing of the Program through a grant totals US\$ 8.5 million.
- 1 million vulnerable people will gain access to basic medical services to help mitigate the health impact of Covid-19.
- Capacity building for 5,000 community health workers to respond to Covid-19.
- Use of media coverage for raising awareness and sensitization campaigns to reach 3 to 5 million vulnerable people in affected communities.
- 20,000 children, refugees and those at risk of being left behind will have access to continuing basic education and skills development.
- 3,000 of the most deprived households will access financing to set up their own income generating activities. Also, 60% of the targeted households will have coping, adaptive and transformative resilience capacity to risks and shocks.

To date (from 2020-Q3 to 2021-Q2), the accelerator Program has raised over US\$ 23.4 million of actual commitments or pledges under finalization from partners, particularly INGOs such as Spark International, IFRC, Light for the World

and Plan International. The beneficiaries are the 10 MCs facing fragility and affected by conflict, with a target population of 13 million beneficiaries living in vulnerable communities, 4,300 people trained, 90 established startups, 4,400 vulnerable households supported. These countries include Burkina Faso, Comoros, Djibouti, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Ni-ger, Sudan, which currently benefit from a number of projects to support their vulnerable communities.

Partner CSOs are currently adopting community engagement approaches that ensure prevention, identification of early symptoms, mitigation of transmission, and support of humanitarian and social services for the most vulnerable populations and local authorities working together with community leaders.

Table 1: Approvals of the Tadamon CSO Pandemic Response Accelerator (from 2020-Q3 to 2021-Q2)

Countries supported so far 10	Civil Society Organization/Partners 4	million Approved 3.3 amounts by IsDB/ISFD	million of CSO 23 Contribution
Burkina Faso	Light for the World	250,000	392,266
Comoros	IFRC	450,000	1,203,823
Djibouti	IFRC	250,000	486,049
Guinea	Plan International	250,000	4,300,000
Iraq, Jordan Lebanon	SPARK	1,350,000	13,400,000
Mali	IFRC	250,000	1,501,895
Niger	IFRC	250,000	624,443
Sudan	IFRC	250,000	1,504,128
Total	Approvals and partners contribution	3300000	23412604

Table 2 : Targeted Population in Projects signed with partners (in 2020, 2021 Q2)

No.	Member Countries	No. of beneficiaries reached out	Number of people trained	Start-up Established	Vulnerable Households
1	Burkina Faso	2,516,480	330		280
2	Comoros	691,162	173		2,500
3	Djibouti	1,006,000	500		500
4	Guinea	1,473,902	511		
5	Iraq, Jordan Lebanon	2,708	80	90	
6	Mali	1,612,703	190		180
7	Niger	1,000,000			1,000
8	Sudan	4,820,089	2,500		
	Total	13,123,044	4,384	90	4,460

Achieved Results per Country (2020, May 2021)

No.	Member Countries	No. of beneficiaries reached out and equipment procured and/or distributed	Number of people trained	Start-up Established
1	Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 national + 5 regional hospitals + 9 clinics equipped with urgent medicine supplies 5,000 patients reached out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 110 health professionals trained 	-
2	Comoros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 320,578 beneficiaries reached out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,137 people trained 	-
3	Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 540 boxes of bleach purchased 5400 menstrual kits purchased 278 hand washing stations purchased (for Labe region) 540 boxes of soap purchased 7 prefectural health directorates were supported with 4,720 liters of fuel out of the 5,555 liters for the transport of medicines from the regional depots to 54 health centers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 161 people (108 men and 53 women), including 54 health center managers, 54 laboratory technicians and 53 hygiene officers, were trained on IPC 540 members of stock management committees (213 women and 327 men) benefited from a capacity building training SBCC campaign conducted (psychosocial support activities to promote positive coping behaviours) training of 6 enumerators and 2 supervisors 7 prefectural hospital pharmacists and 63 sale agents (23 men and 47 women) trained 	-
4	Iraq, Jordan Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 142 out of 843 youth reached out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 314 out of 1,695 scholarships awarded in Lebanon and Iraq 2 curricular improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 SMEs receive mentoring and coaching 3 HEIs and affiliated related incubators provided with technical support
5	Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 159,056 beneficiaries reached out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,475 people trained 	-
6	Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 218,750 beneficiaries reached out 	-	-

IsDB - ISFD NGO Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program

In 2019, the Islamic Development Bank introduced its IsDB - ISFD NGO Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program, which aims to help civil society organizations (CSOs) in the 57 IsDB Member Countries to better meet the needs of vulnerable groups such as refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), orphans, people with disabilities and the most deprived. The objective of the Program is to empower NGOs to improve the socio-economic well-being of the hard-to-reach communities through refugees' education, job creation, building resilience and community livelihoods development. The Program supports the Bank's Member Countries to attain the targets of Sustainable Development Goals. The Program is an innovative transformation initiative that supports development interventions by interlinking the work and experiences of CSOs, private enterprises, and social investors specialized in crowdfunding and blockchain. The Program is aligned with the inclusive social development pillar of the Bank's 10-Year Strategy and the President's 5-Year Program, which calls for more participation of Civil Society Organizations as a network of developers.

The Program carries out the following interventions: (i) mapping, screening and categorizing national CSOs in selected MCs; (ii) building capacity of CSOs; (iii) promoting innovative and transformative projects in refugees' education, job creation, building resilience and community livelihoods development and (iv) setting up sustainable innovative financing mechanisms for CSOs through crowdfunding and partnership. to increase the initial resources allocated through tapping non-traditional partners such as the private sector, foundations, philanthropists and innovative financing mechanisms such as the proposed crowdfunding platform, which has the potential to generate resources amounting to US\$ 20 million during the period of the Program.



Furthermore, the targets of program are to support (i) the mapping and capacity development of more than 500 local CSOs in selected MCs (ii) more than 15,000 refugees, IDPs, orphans to have access to quality basic education and relevant skills development; (iii) 3,000 low income families to have access to community livelihoods development through income generating activities; (iii) IsDB Group staff and CSOs capacities be strengthened through crowdsourcing; and (iv) crowdfunding from the private, sector, philanthropies and donors as well as financial support from the Bank seed grant resources to support the economic resilience of vulnerable groups and education for refugees, IDPs, orphans.

The Program has introduced an International Aggregated TADAMON platform (www.tadamon.community) which is a tool for empowering CSOs, networking in 57 OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) Member Countries by providing visibility, funding, capacity building and knowledge. The Platform has unique IMPACT model of working has five dimensions:

- **Innovation:** Tadamon facilitates and supports innovative ideas that have the potential to scale up and increase the humanitarian-development and building resilience. TADAMON uses cutting edge flexible financing mechanism.

- **Mobilize Resources:** Tadamon uses cutting edge flexible financing mechanisms such as crowdfunding and Islamic social financing. We build partnership across range of avenues to mobilize resources to meet critical noble causes and build a sustainable source of support for vulnerable groups such as Refugees/ internally displaced people (IDPs), orphans, people with disabilities and the most deprived.
- **Promote:** Tadamon brands and packages the CSOs impactful ideas and achievements to scale up and increase development results. Tadamon showcases and celebrates the progress and achievements of our partners through IsDB Group CSOs forum.
- **Assist:** Tadamon assists and empowers CSOs in IsDB MCs through institutional capacity development to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of the MCs
- **Connect:** Tadamon connects and brings together networks of developers through mapping, screening of CSOs, sharing knowledge, experience, best practice and information
- **Transform:** Tadamon invests in transformative projects and ideas that improve the so-



cio-economic conditions of hard to reach communities through CSO campaigns and partnership commitments. It sparks change.

The aggregated platform Tadamon serves as a “Trip adviser” for citizens and private sector to make it easier to financially support the humanitarian and development efforts of CSOs. This is done by linking numerous crowdfunding campaigns from several existing crowdfunding platforms. As a platform to connect efforts of all the partners, Tadamon is committed to building stronger communities and helping those less fortunate.

Initial Investment at the Approval of the Program

The total cost of the IsDB – ISFD NGO Empowerment Program is US\$ 21.00 million. The seed contribution of ISFD in the financing of the Program through grant is amounting to US\$ 10 million. UNDP contributes an amount of US\$1.61 million to the Program. The International NGOs are expected to contribute an amount of US\$ 7.31 million to the Program. Participating civil society organizations provides in-kind contribution amounting to US\$ 2.11 million.

Through innovative financing and Tadamon platform, the program aiming at increasing the initial resources allocated through tapping non-traditional partners such as the private sector, foundations, philanthropists and innovative financing mechanisms such as the proposed crowdfunding platform, which has the potential to generate resources amounting to US\$ 20 million during the period of the Program

Achievements (as of 2021, Q2)

The initiative and aggregated crowdfunding platform were officially launched by the President of IsDB in September 2019 on the margin of the United Nations General Assembly in New York with other partners such as UNDP, UNHCR, Save the Children, Plan International, crowdfunding institutions, BADEA.

To date, the following prelimi-

nary results have been achieved: (i) around 26 development partners notably, the African Development Bank (AfDB), UNHCR, Save the Children International, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Plan International and Spark, NAMA Foundation, AlAwn Foundation, IFRC signed declarations and/or financially/technically support the initiative with a total contribution of approximately US\$70.1 million; (ii) over 29 member countries have so far officially endorsed and supported the program; (iii) mapping of over 1,000 national Civil Society Organizations in member countries through bottom and top-down exercises; (iv) 17 national awareness raising, crowdfunding and capacity building programs have been conducted in IsDB MCs notably introductory CSOs mapping workshops in six member countries namely Morocco, Indonesia, Lebanon, Tunisia, Somalia and Kazakhstan. A total of 658 participants have completed trainings in the areas of organization management, crowdfunding and innovative financing. Through 6 pilot mapping workshops (carried in 2020) 454 representatives of CSOs have attended and benefitted. These workshops gave the opportunity for CSO representatives to actively participate and provide important insight of the overall successes and challenges they face. Moreover, Government focal points, staff of IsDB, ISFD, UNDP attended these events; (v) a distance learning capacity building program is established in close partnership be-

tween the Bank and Save the Children Humanitarian Academy. The learning program will support CSOs institutional capacity efforts to raise funds, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate projects for grassroots communities; and (v) over US\$ 800,000 through the crowdfunding Tadamon platform have been mobilized to support the hard-to-reach communities.

Tadamon platform established and launched in 2019 by H.E the President serves as a resource mobilization, networking and as educational academy has over 10,000 followers. It identifies and enhance visibility of partners of the IsDB – ISFD NGO Empowerment Program. It offers a comprehensive, easily searchable list of high-quality local CSOs with a proven record in 57 member countries with partners that can be easily searched on the platform. Moreover, an educational program, initiated in 2020, on crowdfunding makes CSOs better at what they're doing. Through educational program, Tadamon offers cutting edge skill-building for everything CSOs need: from fundraising and management to communication and public relations. Additionally, it currently provides a bridge between different countries, CSOs and stakeholders including partnering organizations and donors. It connects grassroots communities working on development issues. It also brings together donors and practitioners from Africa, Asia, Europe and MENA.



Islamic Development Bank and Partners Join Forces with Cameroon to Fight COVID-19



Beyond the response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) which has greatly stressed our health professionals, this partnership is an opportunity to further strengthen Cameroon's health system in the face of future resurgence of epidemics and pandemics in Cameroon", Dr. MANAOUA Malachie said.

Yaoundé 12 August 2020: The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has extended a financing facility to the Government of Cameroon amounting US\$ 27.44 million to provide immediate response to COVID-19 by procuring vital medical and non-medical equipment— including scanners, respiratory equipment, ambulances, mobile radios, hospital beds and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The medical and non-medical supplies will lift-up efforts of the frontline health workers, improve testing capacity and early detection and support the management of COVID-19 cases, thus enabling a strengthened health system in Cameroon. IsDB and the Government have agreed to entrust the implementation of the project activities to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UNDP and UNOPS signed on 23 July 2020 their agreement with the Government of Cameroon worth respectively US\$13.8 million and US\$9.1 million to strengthen the health system and support the COVID-19 recovery in the country. A similar agreement has been finalized between the Government of Cameroon and UNICEF for a total amount of US\$ 4.2 million.

"Beyond the response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) which has greatly stressed our health professionals, this partnership is an opportunity to further strengthen Cameroon's health system in the face of future resurgence of epidemics and pandemics in Cameroon", Dr. MANAOUA Malachie, Minister of

Public Health said.

The agreements reached with these United Nations specialized agencies aim to fast track the process of acquiring emergency medical supplies, ambulances, laboratory equipment and other essential items for the government of Cameroon— therefore strengthening the logistics chain of the Ministry of Health to support health centers— and to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the country. In the same vein, a country platform for reporting, information monitoring and experience-sharing on COVID 19 is under operationalization. "I am confident that these agreements will contribute to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Cameroon," said Mayoro Niang, Manager of the IsDB-Abuja Regional Hub.

"This support is part of a «no regret» approach that will strengthen Cameroon's health systems in a sustainable and comprehensive manner. I am grate-

ful that UNDP Cameroon, in partnership with the Government and the Islamic Development Bank were able to mobilize additional resources to scale up Cameroon's National COVID-19 Response Plan to fight the pandemic", said the Resident Representative of UNDP Cameroon, Jean Luc Stalon.

"UNOPS is committed to contributing to the strengthening of the health system in Cameroon through transparent and efficient procurement as well as project management, which is part and parcel of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.", said Ms Tatiana Wah, Director and Representative of the UNOPS hub in Central Africa.

"I am delighted with this new step in a long-standing tripartite partnership between the Government, the IsDB and UNICEF which will help scaling up the diagnostic capacities for COVID19 across the country.", said Jacques Boyer, Representative of UNICEF in Cameroon.



How the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund is Transforming the Lives of Refugees and Children in Bangladesh, Jordan and Pakistan



Rimas, -12year old girl, Amman, Jordan. Rimas is enrolled at a Makani Centre in Amman Jordan. She says that she learnt how to save money and how to defend herself through the different courses that she attended at Makani Centre. Photo credit: UNICEF-Jordan/ Bashar Al-Ja' bari

The IsDB and UNICEF established the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children or GMPFC as co-sponsors in 2019. The GMPFC was designed as a Shariah compliant Fund to mobilize Islamic almsgiving, zakat and sadaqa, from donors and to provide financial support to child-focused development projects in IsDB Member Countries to promote the well-being of children especially children affected by crisis situations and natural disasters. The projects could cover sectors such as education, health, hygiene, nutrition and safety among others. As of July 2021, the Fund has supported three projects, in Bangladesh, Jordan, and Pakistan. Disbursements for these projects have been made by the GMPFC and these are being implemented by the UNICEF. The GMPFC also has additional projects in its pipeline in countries such as Chad, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia among others. The GMPFC is currently looking for additional donors to support these projects. The GMPFC exploits the reach and on the ground presence of UNICEF and the IsDB to target reaching a vulnerable section of society especially in lesser developed nations, i.e. children. Thus, the GMPFC is a unique platform to address, directly and indirectly, the SDGs, especially ones related to hunger, health, education, clean water and sanitation, and gender equality.

On the three projects supported by the Fund, the project in Jordan is targeting to support learning and wellbeing of vulnerable girls and boys, young women and men, in all governorates of Jordan, with a specific focus on the twenty-three districts with high proportions of refugees and vulnerable children and youth, covering 85 per cent of the registered Syrian refugee population living in the host communities. Beneficiaries reached will include at least 70 per cent Syrian and Palestinian refugees and at least 50 per cent females. The project in Pakistan contributes to benefitting the most disadvantaged new-borns and children by provision of essential immunization and basic child health interventions in selected least developed areas of Pakistan. The project will support the implementation of the Community and Primary Health Care components of the Universal Health Coverage Benefit Package (UHC BP) of Pakistan. The project in Bangladesh is targeting Rohingya refugees in Cox Bazar aiming to ensure continued access to lifesaving curative and preventative health care services for children and women and to ensure increased access to quality curative and preventive emergency nutrition services for children under five, and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The GMPFC offers an opportunity for institutions and philanthropists to partner with credible and reputable institutions and demonstrate leadership in contributing towards the needs of children, especially vulnerable children, in a cost effective and transparent manner.