EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS, INSPIRING FUTURES: 50 BRIEFS OF IsDB PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS
Empowering Women and Girls, Inspiring Futures:

50 Briefs of IsDB Programs and Operations introduces a wide array of initiatives implemented by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Member Countries and in Outreach Communities in Non-Member Countries, with the aim of contributing to the empowerment of women and girls, as direct or indirect beneficiaries of its operations and interventions.

These interventions cover all the sectors of the Bank that are financed using various modes of financing including, loans, technical assistance grants, technical cooperation grants, special assistance grants as well as NGO grants since the establishment of the first Women in Development Unit in 1998.
Overall Objective

The first NGO operation supported by the Bank in Saudi Arabia benefitted Al-Faisalya Women Welfare Society, a well-reputed NGO founded in 1975 in the city of Jeddah, with a vision of providing service and decent living conditions for the community, particularly the needy and low-income families, and combat poverty.

The Bank supported the establishment, in 2004, of one of the most important centres of the NGO ‘Sleysla’. The objective of which was to improve the economic situation of girls from disadvantaged families suffering from low education and income and/or disabilities, through equipping them with sewing and embroidery skills to produce Saudi traditional handmade crafts, in promotion to the Saudi heritage.

The long-term partnership extended beyond this project when, in 2012, Al-Faisalya requested the Bank’s support to improve the quality of the handicraft products manufactured by “Sleysla”, which was employing, among others, underprivileged and disabled women. A study visit was organized by the Bank to Malaysia to benefit from the Malaysian expertise in palm fiber processing for handicraft and, discussing means and ways to bring this expertise to Saudi Arabia.

STRENGTHENING AL-FAISALYA WOMEN WELFARE SOCIETY IN SAUDIA ARABIA

Project Dates:

- 2004 (phase 1)
- 2012 (phase 2)

Sector: Capacity Development for Gender Equality

Country: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Total Budget: US$ 150,000
- IsDB Contribution: US$ 75,000
- NGO Contribution: US$ 75,000

Mode of Financing: Grant (NGO and Technical Cooperation Program)

Implementing Agency: Al-Faisalya Women Welfare Society (NGO)

SDGs: Women's Empowerment Project Briefs
Project Beneficiaries
- Women and girls from disadvantaged and low-income families.

Key Components
- Training girls in sewing and embroidery skills over a period of 4 months (phase 1);
- Purchase of 15 sewing and 1 computerized embroidery machines (phase 1);
- Integration of trained girls into the job market (phase 1); and,
- Sponsorship of a two-week study visit to Malaysia for representatives from the Al-Faisalya Women Welfare Society to learn new skills in palm fiber processing (phase 2).

Key Results
- 60 girls from low-income families economically empowered through the acquisition of new sewing and embroidery skills that created opportunities for self-employment/entrepreneurship; 30 girls were immediately employed at Sleysla Centre.
- Sleysla Centre is still functional to date, after 16 years of existence, and serves as a technical training centre for disadvantaged women and girls who learn to produce and sell local high-quality handicrafts with a modern touch, contributing to the sustainability of the Centre and securing an income to the girls and their families.
- Learning from the Malaysian expertise in palm fiber processing for handicraft was successfully transferred to Saudi Arabia, adapting design and implementation techniques to fit the Saudi context. A new range of products using different colouring techniques and innovative designs were produced that marry local Saudi tradition with modernization.
- Training curriculum developed by Sleysla on softening and colouring techniques of Saudi palm leaves, taught until date at the Centre.
Overall Objective

The project aimed to reduce poverty and improve the socio-economic standards of the rural population in Chagai, through more efficient use of water resources and improved agricultural practices. It also aimed to provide a livelihood for unemployed young men and women, who were ready to adopt agriculture as their primary occupation.
CHAGAI WATER MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN PAKISTAN

Project Beneficiaries

• Poor farmers in the district of Chagai, including 1000 school girls.

Key Components

• Development of 300,000 acres of land in Chagai district through the exploitation of surface and ground water resources and land reclamation and, provision of farmers with machinery and 300 goats, generators, and water storage tanks;
• Training farmers on on-farm irrigation systems and water management; and,
• Training on food processing techniques focused on schoolgirls from Noshki and Balbandin over a period of 6 months.

Key Results

- 300,000 acres of land developed in Chagai and farmers provided with machinery and 300 goats.
- 1000 school girls trained in food processing and in the techniques of making jams, pickles and squashes. A female horticulturalist was employed to train the girls and ensure their participation.
- Farmers provided with training on crops, agriculture and irrigation methods.
- Increased awareness of young people on the importance of income generation and of gaining new skills and knowledge, particularly young women, who were isolated and lived in areas where there was no TV or communication.
Overall Objective

IsDB and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) partnered to initiate the first forum for businesswomen in Islamic countries and create a platform with the aim to enhance the role of businesswomen in contributing effectively to the economies of their countries.

The platform provides an opportunity for businesswomen to share their experiences and know-how, discuss new ideas, identify business opportunities and connect with and expand their business partnerships globally. A number of success stories were recorded as a result of these forums.

Sector
Regional Integration and Cooperation

Country
OIC Member Countries

Project Dates
2005 - 2016

IsDB Contribution
US$ 270,000

Mode of Financing
Grant
(technical cooperation program)

Implementing Agency
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)

SDGs

Women's Empowerment Project Briefs
FORUM FOR BUSINESSWOMEN IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

Project Beneficiaries

- Businesswomen of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member Countries.

Key Components

- Sponsorship of businesswomen participation in 8 forums; and,
- Technical and Financial assistance toward outcomes of the forums.

Key Results

As a result of the recommendations of the 2nd forum, OIC-Businesswomen Network (OIC-BIN) was established to provide a single web portal to all the women entrepreneurs in OIC Member Countries to network among themselves, learn best practices and exchange know how and experiences.

One Million Businesswomen of the Global South Online (OMBOL) (http://www.icciabin.org/) was launched in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation of UNDP to assist businesswomen in forming business partnerships; particularly across borders, and to open opportunities for experienced businesswomen to assist other women in setting up small businesses or employment opportunities or business training to other women.

A key success story from these forums was the establishment of Family Bank in Sudan, with a capital of US$ 35 million, to assist women-run enterprises to play their role in the economic growth of their countries. The Bank expanded to 42 branches throughout Sudan targeting under-served segments of society with the aim to alleviate poverty and provide employment to women and youth. The successful Family Bank model is being studied today for replication in other OIC Member Countries.
Overall Objective

The Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Program (DEEP) aimed to empower and graduate marginalized poor families, especially female heads of households, from being economically dependent to independent providers of income, through accessing promotional safety net activities and financial services that address their specific needs.

The strong sponsorship of IsDB to DEEP did not only help the Program to succeed in a conflict area like Palestine, it also created a visible funding vehicle that mobilized additional resources for the Program through cooperation with many donors.
DEPRIVED FAMILIES ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM IN PALESTINE

Project Beneficiaries

- 16,042 Palestinian families (direct beneficiaries), including women, youth, persons with disabilities, university graduates, small farmers, leaders and innovators; and,
- Community at large (indirect beneficiaries).

Key Components

- Promotional Social Safety Net Activities which include enterprise development and livelihoods activities, provided by local partner NGOs to address the needs and empower families too poor for conventional microfinance, but with great potential to become independent providers;
- Access to Financial Services from Microfinance Institutions/Programs provided to entrepreneurial poor families; and,
- Institutional Capacity Building to partner NGOs and Microfinance Institutions to reach and address the needs of the Palestinian deprived families.

Key Results

- 16,042 Palestinian families lifted out of poverty through the implementation of successful economic SMEs projects; 79% of families improved their income by 64%.
- 4,980 women trained in business services and coaching.
- 4331 women owned their projects.
- 14,040 jobs created for women.
- 87% of SMEs projects still operating.
- 40% improvement in the child education, housing conditions, self-confidence and the relationship with family and community.
- 96% of women reduced their dependence on others by more than 75%.
- Economic Empowerment Fund for the Palestinian People established by the IsDB to upscale the empowerment efforts and ensure its long-term sustainability.

Gender Dimension

DEEP employed a holistic family analysis approach, which included analyzing the gender roles’ distribution and relating them to the changing position of women. This analysis was important as the program employed its findings to accommodate for gender sensitivities and relations within families and communities. The program was also very vigilant to mainstreaming women’s empowerment across its different phases and sectors, including selecting implementing partners, technical staff, and implementation mechanisms. The program adopted the values of accompaniment of women beneficiaries to maximize their social capital through fostering strong relations with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and merchants. This was strongly supported by dedicated social workers from the Ministry of Social Development, who managed the cases of these women.

The program also developed a referral system through the Ministry of Social Development, which linked DEEP with social protection services, health, education, psychological and legal services. This created a safety net for many women starting or expanding their businesses to overcome challenges they faced in or outside their homes in order to empower them and pave their path out of poverty.

The different program’s monitoring and evaluation reports depicted that the community’s level of awareness on women’s positive role as entrepreneurs has increased sharply and their attitude towards women’s engagement in the public realm has positively changed.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to improve the delivery of water supply in Bamako through the reinforcement of water production and the extension of the distribution network for the low-income groups in the city, leading to improvement in the public health condition in linkage to water-borne diseases.

Sector: Water, Sanitation and Urban Development
Country: Republic of Mali
Project Dates: 2010 - 2013

Total Budget: US$ 15.718 million
IsDB Contribution: US$ 14.063 million
Mode of Financing: Loan
Government of Mali Contribution: US$ 1.655 million
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Energy and Water

SDGs: 

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
KALABANCORO WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN MALI

**Project Beneficiaries**
- 182,000 inhabitants in the southern outskirts of Bamako; of whom more than 55% fall below the poverty line.

**Key Components**
- Construction works and provision of equipment (compact station for potable water production; feeder pipe; reservoir and distribution network).

**Key Results**
- 18,000 m³ per day of additional water produced.
- 44,160 women from low-income households have access to clean water.
- Creation of new economic activities, including 960 activities for women, related to water such as the sale of water in plastic bags, selling ice food manufacturing and beverage.
- 65 km of distribution network extended.
- Women and young adults’ productivity increased by reducing the number of working days devoted to fetching water and hence releasing the time to other productive economic activities and education.
- Improved mother and child health in the targeted community.
- 182,000 inhabitants of which 96,000 of people from low-income households have access to clean water.
- Reduction of water expenditure in the family budget as a result of having access to potable water instead of water vendors that are much more expensive.
Overall Objective
The IsDB Prize for Women’s Contribution to Development aimed to recognize, encourage, inspire and reward outstanding women’s achievements, as well as draw particular attention to the vital role women play in the socio-economic development process. The Prize also sought to motivate women and girls by promoting inspirational role models, whose achievements have transformed not only their lives, but also the lives of their families and the people around them.

Prize Dates
2006 – 2018

Country
Multi-Country: All IsDB Member Countries and Outreach Communities in Non-Member Countries

Total Prize Cash Awards
US$ 1.95 million

SDGs
1 No Poverty
2 Zero Hunger
3 Good Health and Well-being
4 Quality Education
5 Gender Equality
6 Clean Water and Sanitation
7 Affordable and Clean Energy
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10 Reduced Inequalities
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
12 Responsible Consumption and Production
13 Climate Action
14 Life Below Water
15 Life on Land
16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
Prize Beneficiaries

The Prize targeted two categories:

- Individual women, and,
- Women-led organizations.

Prize Themes

The Prize, with its 13 editions, highlighted various issues shaping our world and their specific effects on women. The Prize was granted to individual women and women-led organizations who have persistently gone a long way towards bringing about positive change in their communities in fields such as economic empowerment, capacity development, entrepreneurship, education, health, finance, science, food security, managing water resources, the environment, promoting the rights of the girl child, community service, prevention and control of cancer, and promoting peace and stability.

Prize Awards

Since the inception of the Prize in 2006, a total of 45 prizes have been awarded to individual women and women-led organizations from 29 different countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Uganda, and Yemen.
VOCATIONAL LITERACY PROGRAM FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (VOLIP) – VOLIP-SENEGAL

Overall Objective
VOLIP-Senegal, part of a multi-country VOLIP Program, aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor, particularly women and youth, to gain functional literacy competencies and vocational skills and to have access to micro-finance to combat unemployment and escape the poverty trap and gender inequality. VOLIP is an Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) -the poverty reduction arm of the IsDB- flagship program used as a vehicle for poverty reduction.

VOLIP-Senegal, a pilot project, was successfully completed in Diourbel and Kafrine and scaled up to be replicated in three new poverty-stricken regions hit by food crisis; namely, Fatick, Thies and Kaolack. Although phase 2 shares the same objectives and structure with the pilot project, through improvements drawn from the lessons learnt of the pilot phase, phase 2 however, was designed to specifically address women’s needs and therefore enhances time-saving and community level solutions to achieve targeted female enrolment, while also reducing their work burden.

Sector: Education
Country: Republic of Senegal
Project Dates:
- 2008 – 2016 (Pilot Phase 1)
- 2017 – 2021 (Phase 2)
Sector: Education
Country: Republic of Senegal
Project Dates:
- 2008 – 2016 (Pilot Phase 1)
- 2017 – 2021 (Phase 2)

Mode of Financing
- Loan and Istisna’a financing

IsDB Contribution
- US$ 11.75 million (Pilot Phase 1)
- US$ 9.95 million (Phase 2)

ISFD Contribution
- US$ 9.95 million (Loan)

Implementing Agency
- The Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection

SDGs
- Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
- Islamic Development Bank
Program Beneficiaries

- Women workers, out-of-school children and illiterate adolescents and young adults.

Key Components

- Access to Alternative Basic Education, addressing educational needs of out of school children (9 to 15 years) – 60% being girls;
- Youth’s Literacy and Vocational Training; providing literacy programs and non-formal education to rural adolescents and young adults aged (16 to 24 years);
- Women Workers Literacy and Vocational Training, providing literacy and vocational programs tailored to the needs of rural women workers (25 to 49 years); and,
- Microfinance Support Scheme, addressing the need for financial access to women and youth.

Key Results (Pilot Phase 1)

- 4,681 out-of-school children (61.33% of whom were girls) had access to education.
- 2,880 youth provided with vocational technical training and functional literacy training, and 88% of these benefitted from training in micro-projects management.
- 9,996 young women provided with technical training on various crafts and on-the-job functional literacy training, while about half of those benefitted from training in micro-projects management.
- 123 milling facilities acquired against a target of 50, which impacted on the time women spend on domestic work thus freeing up their time for training and other economic activities.
- 578 micro-enterprises established and 361 micro-projects submitted to Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) for financing.
Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs

**Overall Objective**

The project aims to improve the lives and economic viability of the rural poor living in remote inaccessible villages off the energy grids, by investing in rural women to become Solar Engineers and supply their communities with clean, low-cost household lighting from solar energy, using a proven model for self-sustaining community development approach, known as the ‘Barefoot approach’.

**Sector**

Energy

**Multi-country**

Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Indonesia, Jordan, Mali, Senegal, Somalia and Syria

**Project Dates**

2018 - 2020

**Total Budget**

US$ 1.9 million

**IsDB Contribution**

US$ 1.5 million

**Mode of Financing**

Grant (Technical Assistance)

**The Barefoot Agency contribution**

US$ 0.4 million

**Implementing Agency**

The Barefoot College International (BCI)

**SDGs**

Islamic Development Bank
Project Beneficiaries
- 44 illiterate and semi-literate rural women trained as Women Barefoot Solar Engineers from nine targeted IsDB Member Countries; and,
- 2,250 households.

Key Components
- Partnership Development and Community Engagement to identify and select local partners and rural women beneficiaries in the targeted countries, as well as sensitize the communities on the Barefoot approach;
- Training of Women Barefoot Solar Engineers for 6 months on how to fabricate, install and maintain solar-powered household lighting systems;
- Implementation of Sustainable Solar Electrification through the empowerment of trained women to introduce the solar home lighting to the communities for a fee, which will serve to provide livelihoods for the women and encourage them to develop a viable business model for sale of utilitarian solar products;
- Training and Implementation of Sustainable Secondary Livelihood Program that involve the development of secondary livelihoods activities, customized for each target country to mitigate the inherent risks in traditional sources of rural livelihoods; and
- Implementation of Enriche Outreach Program across the nine countries to encourage rural women to enter the energy sector.

Key Expected Results
- 44 illiterate and semi-literate rural women trained as Barefoot Women Solar Engineers and empowered to engage in entrepreneurship activities and develop the skills of other women.
- Solar electrification of 2,250 households established by the trained women.
- Viable business models and go-to market approaches developed to tap on relevant local and international market opportunities.
- Outreach program implemented across the nine selected countries to encourage rural women to enter the energy sector.
Overall Objective

BRAVE Women Program financed by the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) facility, aims to enhance the resilience of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) owned/led by women in fragile contexts, as potential engines for innovation, employment, and improved quality of life.

In April 2018, the IsDB mobilized grants from the multi-donor fund “We-Fi”, that was created with the aim to unlock the potential of women entrepreneurs across the developing world, by addressing the full range of barriers they face. BRAVE Women builds on IsDB Group existing BRAVE program in Yemen, implemented by its private sector arm, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), adding a focus on women owned/led MSMEs.
Project Beneficiaries

- Women owned/led enterprises in Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Yemen.

Key Components

- Business Resilience Capacity Building includes training to business advisors. Training of Trainers sessions will be also conducted to support local delivery of training to eligible women owned/led MSMEs;
- Business Recovery Support includes financing an estimated 300-500 women owned/led MSMEs per country in pre-selected value chains, on a cost-sharing basis (matching grant) after successfully completing the training;
- Value Chain Resilience targets enhancing the lead firms, women business associations and sector specific cooperatives, and aims to ensure sustainability of impact in target sectors by helping enterprises and producers to address value chain requirements; and,
- BRAVE IT Platform to track all aspects of women owned/led beneficiary firms interactions and overall reporting.

Key Expected Results

- 2160 women owned/led MSMEs supported and reported having increased sales or profits.
- 5500 of direct jobs, disaggregated by sex, created by women owned/led MSMEs.
- 60 lead firms supported and having introduced new products and/or new market channels.
Overall Objective
YES-Egypt, part of a broader MENA-focused program addressing youth unemployment, aimed to improve the livelihoods and quality of life of Unemployed Potentially Active Youth, including young women, to enable them to develop sustainable income generating activities and graduate from dependency to self-sufficiency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project Dates</th>
<th>Total YES Program Budget</th>
<th>Total YES-Egypt Budget</th>
<th>Mode of Financing</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Finance</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2014 - 2019</td>
<td>US$ 200 million (covering Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen)</td>
<td>US$ 52.88 million</td>
<td>Grant and Restricted Mudarabah</td>
<td>Social Fund for Development (SFD), with their branches on the ground, Microfinance Institutions and Partner Banks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SDGs
1. No poverty
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
8. Decent work and economic growth
YES-Egypt undertook interventions targeting young women and men, as well as Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) and training providers with the aim to:

- Bolster youth’s technical skills and capacities through increasing their access to i) a mix of Micro & Small-to-Medium size Enterprise (MSEs) financial services, ii) market-oriented training and entrepreneurship facilities; and iii) business and market opportunities and networks, with active private sector engagement; and,
- Increase young entrepreneurs’ access to Islamic microfinance services through increasing the capacity of PFIs and training providers by extending: i) MSEs lines of financing for promising rural and urban business activities; and ii) capacity building programs for delivering youth-oriented sustainable MSEs Islamic lending schemes.

The project implemented the Ard El Kheir initiative under the YES-Egypt project, targeting 90% of poor women, who had little or no education. It involved incubating young women entrepreneurs and developing their capacities on the best practices of cattle raising, including modern techniques of feeding, as well as mobilizing the required resources and providing a market to sell the cattle for sustainability. A total of 540 poor women benefitted from this initiative, lifting them out of poverty.
Women's Empowerment Project Briefs

**Overall Objective**

The project aims to build, furnish and equip a Centre for Muslim women in Brussels to have better facilities for attending educational and training programs, capacity building and languages courses, as well as having a suitable environment for conducting social activities in general. The Centre also offers Arabic language courses and Islamic teachings for Muslims and non-Muslims.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND INTEGRATION CENTRE FOR MUSLIM WOMEN IN BELGIUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Dates</strong></td>
<td>2017 - 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Budget | US$ 700,000 |
| IsDB Contribution | US$ 200,000 |
| Mode of Financing | Grant (Outreach Communities in Non-Member Countries) |
| FIOE Contribution | US$ 250,000 |
| Implementing Agency | Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE) |
| SDGs | 4, 5, 9 |

Women's Empowerment Project Briefs
ESTABLISHMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND INTEGRATION CENTRE FOR MUSLIM WOMEN IN BELGIUM

Project Beneficiaries
• Estimated 850 Muslim women;
• Refugee women; and,
• Young students.

Key Components
• Build, furnish and equip a four-story building.

Key Results
A four-story 575 sq.m Centre for Muslim women in the centre of Brussels with administrative offices, teaching facilities, library, computer lab, a multi-purpose and a dining hall, and kitchen facilities built and equipped.
**Overall Objective**

The project aims to contribute to the socio-economic development of Ebonyi State of Nigeria, through improved road transport infrastructure. The project pays particular attention to women’s socio-economic development as it provides higher-capacity, safe and reliable road transport infrastructure, that will enable women to access farms, markets, health, social and administrative facilities.
Project Beneficiaries

- Farming and small-scale industrial communities in the zone of intervention. The ring road effectively serves about 2.7 million, corresponding to 62% of the total population of the Ebonyi state, to access farms, mines and factories.

Key Components

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) of road sections, including community and stakeholder consultations (men and women);
- Civil works including rehabilitation of sections of the Ebonyi State Ring Road; resulting in 177.81 km new road. Other major works include improvement on roadside facilities and safety, such as having bus stops and waiting areas, service areas, emergency stopovers, installation of road safety devices, lighting system across the cities, separate male/female toilets, environmental mitigation measures;
- Rehabilitation and improvement on social infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, sanitation facilities and feeder roads leading to farming communities; and,
- Capacity building on road safety and HIV/AIDS sensitization, and project management unit capacity enhancement.

Key Expected Results

- 178 km of road constructed between Ohauku-Onueke-Nwezenyi with associated structures and other highway facilities and 10km of feeder roads rehabilitated, with an expected result of increasing exposure and connectivity between communities, thus promoting cultural, social, and economic linkages.

- Improved safe and reliable transportation is expected to increase the mobility of women, which will in turn result in improving their socio-economic status and in generating business and employment opportunities.

- Volume of transported agricultural products increased by 400%, benefitting 50% of women who play a key role in the agriculture sector.

- 4 schools, 1 health centre and 1 roadside market rehabilitated, spurring social and economic benefits, including an expected increase in school enrolment rates for young women (for whom safety and accessibility are important).

- Access to social infrastructure increased by 30%, with at least 20% for women by 2024.

- 1,500 construction jobs created with at least 25% for women and 25% for young people.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to improve the quality of healthcare surveillance for high-risk pregnancy and childbirth in Djibouti by capitalizing on the Moroccan experience. The IsDB matched the challenge of Djibouti with the experience of Morocco so that the two countries collaborate, through the IsDB Reverse Linkage modality, to improve maternal and child health care.

Total Budget
US$ 850,000

IsDB Contribution
US$ 285,000

Mode of Financing
Reverse Linkage Grant Operation

Government of Djibouti Contribution
US$ 280,000

Government of Morocco Contribution
US$ 285,000

Implementing Agency
1) In Morocco: the Reproductive Health Centre (RHC) of the Hospital Ibn Sina and,
2) In Djibouti: the Mother and Child Center of the Ministry of Health.

Study Visit Dates
2017 – 2019

Recipient Country
Republic of Djibouti

Provider Country
Kingdom of Morocco

Sector
Health

Recipient Country
Republic of Djibouti

Provider Country
Kingdom of Morocco

Study Visit Dates
2017 – 2019

Implementing Agency
1) In Morocco: the Reproductive Health Centre (RHC) of the Hospital Ibn Sina and,
2) In Djibouti: the Mother and Child Center of the Ministry of Health.

Women's Empowerment Project Briefs
IMPROVING MATERNAL, NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH REVERSE LINKAGE IN DJIBOUTI

Project Beneficiaries

- Mothers and children and;
- Health care professionals in maternal, neonatal and child health services.

Key Components

- Development of Supporting Measures for Monitoring High-risk Pregnancy and Childbirth;
- Capacity Development of Medical Staff in Monitoring High-risk Pregnancy and Childbirth; and,
- Deployment of Electronic Monitoring Equipment (CTG) in Maternal and Healthcare Centres.

Key Results

- Training of Trainers (TOT) programs developed and tailored to local context, and Djiboutian maternal health specialists provided with TOT.
- Decision-makers and public sensitized on the importance of electronic monitoring of high-risk pregnancy.
- Capacity of Djiboutian nurses, midwives and medical doctors developed in monitoring high-risk pregnancy and childbirth through series of training workshops.
- Protocols and standard operating procedures formulated and implemented for monitoring high-risk pregnancy and childbirth in the Maternal and Healthcare Centres in Djibouti.
- A select of Maternal and Healthcare Centres in the country equipped with cardiotocography machines and technicians' skills upgraded in the maintenance of these equipment.
Overall Objective

The project aims to improve significantly the living conditions of low and lower-middle income population by providing wider access to affordable and improved quality housing. The project gives a particular attention to women equal rights to economic resources and ownership of land and property.

Sector: Urban Development
Country: Republic of Suriname
Project Dates: 2018 - 2020

Total Budget: USS 38.75 million
IsDB Contribution: USS 35 million
Mode of Financing: Loan and Istisna'a financing
Government of Suriname Contribution: USS 3.75 million
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing

SDGs: 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
Project Beneficiaries
The bottom 40% of Suriname population who have not benefited previously from an affordable housing project.

Key Components
The project provides housing solutions to the target beneficiaries using a demand-driven approach to address their specific needs through a package of housing incentive/subsidy.

- For target beneficiaries who have land ownership, the access to affordable housing is provided through a provision of:
  a. Subsidy for new house construction.
  b. Subsidy for quality improvements or extension of house.
- For beneficiaries who do not have land, the access to affordable housing is given through the allocation of land (long-term rent) and housing with subsidized mortgage program.
- Institutional capacity building to strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders in the affordable housing sector in terms of planning, management and sustainability of the sector.

Key Expected Results
- 4,000 affordable and decent housing units constructed and improved, of which 2,000 new housing units have access to improved sanitation facilities and 700 housing units in the hinterland have access to electricity through solar energy.
- 5% increase in employment on local construction industry.
- Low quality housing in the country decreased from 13% in 2012 to less than 10% in 2028.
- 16,000 beneficiaries (3% of the total population in Suriname) – 40% of beneficiaries are women-headed households who are systematically included as one of the priority segments in the screening process to receive a package of subsidy, due to the significant number of women-headed households in Suriname and, who also may not have the same access of information or may have financial and cultural constraints to access the program.
**Overall Objective**

The project aimed to advance Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for women’s empowerment in Yemen, through the establishment of the first telecentre fully devoted to women to enable them to use technology, who otherwise could not use the available mixed-setting telecentres for socio-cultural purposes.
Project Beneficiaries

- Women of all ages, educational backgrounds and income levels.

Key Components

- Equipment and furniture of a computer lab, a training hall and a student service centre; used to provide ICT training courses and professional training workshops for women. The service centre delivered different forms of support for female students such as helping them in job searches via the internet, preparing their resumes, etc;
- Training sessions and professional development workshops to build women’s capacities and equip them with skills and knowledge increasing their opportunity to find employment based on the market demand in Yemen;
- Staffing the telecentre with a coordinator and two lab assistants for service provision; and,
- Promotion and marketing campaigns, through press releases, promotional materials and community outreach visits to local schools and women’s groups to create general public awareness about the purpose and importance of ICT services and the role the telecentre could play in the community.

Key Results

A fully equipped centre provided to women where they can access computers, the internet and other technologies, in addition to developing digital skills. The use of ICT played a key role in reducing isolation, bridging the digital divide and creating economic opportunities for Yemeni women.
Overall Objective

The Uganda Dryland Integrated Development project, part of the East Africa Regional Drylands program which included Djibouti, Uganda and Somalia, is a multi-sectoral intervention aimed to strengthen the livelihood and reduce vulnerability of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Northern Uganda.

DRYLAND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN UGANDA

16

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs

Total Budget

US$ 24.90 million

IsDB Contribution

US$ 15 million

Mode of Financing

Loan

ISFD Contribution

US$ 5 million

Government of Uganda Contribution

US$ 4.9 million

Implementing Agency

Office of the Prime Minister through Millennium Promise Alliance Inc.

Country

Republic of Uganda

Sector

Agriculture & Rural Development

Project Dates

2014 - 2019

SDGs

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. WATER AND SANITATION
6. CLEANER AIR
7. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
8. LIFE ON LAND
9. LIFE UNDERWATER
Productivity enhancement of dryland agriculture and livestock through improving production and productivity in terms of crop and livestock farming;

- Rural and market infrastructure development through enhancing rural road networks, improving access to renewable energy services, provision of clean water for both human and livestock consumption and encouraging agricultural and livestock production;

- Access facilitation to basic social services through increasing the accessibility of basic health care and universal education within the project areas; and

- Community business development support through building local capacities and empowering communities with managerial and business skills to ensure community integration into markets.

**Project Beneficiaries**

- 80,184 people in approximately 16,475 households in 4 districts in the Karamoja region.

**Key Components**

- Productivity enhancement of dryland agriculture and livestock through improving production and productivity in terms of crop and livestock farming;

- Rural and market infrastructure development through enhancing rural road networks, improving access to renewable energy services, provision of clean water for both human and livestock consumption and encouraging agricultural and livestock production;

- Access facilitation to basic social services through increasing the accessibility of basic health care and universal education within the project areas; and

- Community business development support through building local capacities and empowering communities with managerial and business skills to ensure community integration into markets.

**Key Results**

- 1750 ha of grazing lands enhanced; 600 ha of small-scale land irrigated; 4000 ha of rain-fed land built and improved.

- 250 km of rural roads rehabilitated and 15 km of district roads constructed.

- 1800 households (50% women) have increased production capacity with 3500 and 640 improved breed goats and cows, respectively.

- 105 girls provided with post primary scholarships to combat school dropout.

- 10 community-based artificial insemination established, equipped and operational with particular emphasis on providing small ruminant animals for female-led households.

- 6 community-based grain storage banks and warehouses established and operational.

- Women entrepreneurs’ specific needs were addressed to encourage their full participation in the milk value chain and vegetable production.

- 15 milk collection centres, 12 livestock slaughterhouses and 12 livestock marketing centres established, improving access to sustainable markets for the pastoralists.

- Basic Healthcare and nutrition enhanced, reducing malnutrition in children under five years and pregnant women.

- 150 energy saving household stoves distributed, decreasing the time spent by women on accessing wood for cooking, using this time for other household work and productive activities.

- 5 mobile health clinics, eighteen mobile primary schools established.
Regional Rice Value Chain Program (RRVCP) aims to contribute to helping 10 Sub-Saharan African countries achieve their national development aspirations of becoming rice self-sufficient by 2025 and enhance their economic growth. The overarching approach is one that takes a value chain where the private sector plays a key role with the governments and development partners, providing the enabling environment required, while addressing the needs of both men and women to enhance household income and create rural employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women farmers and young people in particular.
Project Beneficiaries

- Two million smallholder farmers across the 10 targeted countries, focusing on women and young farmers.

Key Components

- Raising rice production by investing in innovative land development, high-yield seed technology, irrigation and water management improvements;
- Improving smallholder farmers’ links to markets and finance to expand their crops and incomes; and,
- Fostering an enabling policy and institutional environment.

Gender Dimension

The Program aims to reduce gender inequality, create decent employment opportunities for women and youth along the rice value chain and promote women rural entrepreneurship, through (i) ensuring that women smallholder farmers have equitable access to 1) new technologies, modernized irrigation system, improved seeds, small portable equipment that are women friendly to increase productivity; 2) financial and technical resources as well as extension and advisory services; (ii) strengthening women/youth-led cooperatives and groups by creating linkages with national and international markets and service providers with the rice value chain; and (iii) contributing to making rice value chains more nutrition-sensitive through rice fortification and increasing awareness about the higher nutritional value of less polished and milled rice. Women will be a special target for the awareness-raising sessions concerning nutrition education, thereby strengthening food and nutrition security.

The Program will also strengthen the capacity for gender and youth mainstreaming of the implementation agency. The monitoring of gender and youth related activities will be ensured by a social development specialist recruited as part of the country level project teams. The program will have clear targets for women and young people that will be monitored and reported on to assess the impact on women (at least 40% per country).

Key Expected Results

- Agricultural productivity increased from current 0.5-2 tons/per hectare to 3-5 tons/per hectare, resulting in poverty and hunger reduction.
- 10 to 20% of annual rice demand met in target countries and, at least 10% reduction in rice imports by 2025.
- 2 million smallholder farmers’ capacity improved, both technically and financially (40% women).
- Households’ incomes and nutrition improved, bringing particular benefits to women and youth.
Overall Objective

The project aims to increase women's participation in productive activities by reducing the time women spend on unpaid care work, using an evidence-based approach to transform attitudes and responsibilities from within the household up to decision makers in support of women's social and economic development.

The IsDB partnered since 2016 with OXFAM to address the burden of unpaid care work in Bangladesh and Tajikistan, with the aim to replicate the approach in other Member Countries.
EMPOWERING WOMEN BY DECREASING THE BURDEN OF UNPAID CARE WORK

Project Beneficiaries

- Men and Women from 20 communities in Northern Bangladesh.
- 6000 people (51% women) in 10 villages in Khalton region in Tajikistan.

Key Components

- Research and documentation using Rapid Care Analysis Tool, developed by OXFAM, to assess context-specific patterns of unpaid care work;
- Identification of practical and transformative interventions using a participatory methodology (including women and men) for designing effective women’s empowerment programs to help redistribute the responsibility of care work so women are not disproportionately responsible; and,
- Awareness campaigns to local community and policy makers to help change the gender-biased notions towards care work as feminine work to a more collective responsible outlook which considers unpaid care work as human work.

Key Results

**Bangladesh**

- Increased recognition of the social and economic value of care activities in the communities promoted transformative change in attitudes and responsibilities in care work, supporting women’s economic, social and personal empowerment.
- Cooking stoves installed in 400 households and childcare facilities provided to decrease the time spent by women on these activities, enabling them to engage in other productive activities.

**Tajikistan**

- 12 local Civil Society Organizations trained in conducting a rapid care analysis and evidence-based data generated and used to develop solutions, through a participatory approach, to address the burden of unpaid care work (phase 1).
- 15 existing women savings groups received Trainer of Trainers on RCA (phase 1).
- 1,000 poor households provided with energy efficient stoves, 2 water supply systems rehabilitated and 5 early childhood centres established to decrease the time spent by women on unpaid care activities, enabling them to engage in other productive activities (expected in Phase 2).

Tools and methodologies of RCA standardised and disseminated to 25 agencies (expected in Phase 2).

Partnerships at national level built through engagement with the Committee for Women’s and Family Affairs (CWFA), the primary policy-making and coordinating body on issues around women’s empowerment and gender equality in the country, and through the League of Women Lawyers, which has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with this Committee (expected in Phase 2).

At least 2 policy briefs developed and disseminated on care work (expected in Phase 2).
**Overall Objective**

The project aimed to increase on a sustainable basis access to, and use of rural water supply and sanitation services in the provinces of Cabo Delgado and Gaza.
Project Beneficiaries

- Rural population in the provinces of Cabo Delgado and Gaza, of which 50% were women.

Key Components

- Rural water supply infrastructure: construction and equipment of boreholes and small piped systems;
- Rural sanitation: community education program including promotion of improved hygiene and latrines; and,
- Technical Assistance and consultancy services: training and transfer of knowledge to communities.

Gender Dimension

The project had diverse socio-economic benefits including sparing the time previously used to fetch water by household members, especially women, to other revenue generating activities; improved health and wellbeing of the household members due to improvement in salinization and water supply, which directly reduced the previously incurred health-related costs. The project particularly encouraged communities to keep women in decision-making at all stages of the water source management process, as well as inclusion of women in water committees. The level of women’s participation in water committees increased and their leadership skills were valued; women held management positions such as president, secretary and treasurer. Creation of new employment opportunities for women was also possible in repair and maintenance, other water supply-related activities, but also related to SMEs establishment.

Key Results

- Participation of women in decision-making processes increased, including management of water committees at a rate of 59%, compared to men at 41%.
- New roles entrusted to women, including presidents, secretaries, or treasurers of water committees, while other women became part of the repair and maintenance groups.
- 245,000 people (50% women) had access to water supply infrastructure.

- 15,000 people (50% women) had access to sanitation infrastructure.
- 550 new boreholes and 4 extended small piped water systems.
- Training provided in hygiene and sanitation principles reducing under 5 years mortality rate to 50%/100 live births.
Overall Objective

The Millennium Villages Project (MVP) Phase II aimed to work with local governments and rural communities to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) through consolidation of activities undertaken in MVP Phase I (implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and other partners) and scaling up to cover the entire Isingiro District, through the delivery of an integrated holistic approach to development that focuses on lifting rural communities out of absolute poverty.
Project Beneficiaries

- 450,000 inhabitants of the district of Isingiro (75% women and children).

Key Components

- Promotion of interventions that increase and diversify agricultural output for food and nutritional security;
- Improvement of business development and micro-finance, by developing entrepreneurs’ business skills and financing for business investment, production and marketing of high-value agricultural products and facilitating formation and functioning of cooperatives;
- Promotion of universal access, retention and quality of education, through promoting interventions that increase net enrollment, ensure students complete the entire seven-year primary school period and obtain quality education;
- Strengthening of health service delivery systems for improved access to basic health care; by establishing integrated holistic systems for health care delivery; the community health worker program is a key ingredient of the component;
- Development of infrastructure and innovation promotion, by increasing access to motorable roads to increase access to markers and social services, provide energy options in areas not served by grid power, while protecting the environment through energy-saving cooking stoves; and,
- Promotion of water for domestic consumption production and sanitation in Isingiro district.

Key Results

- 7100 farmers trained (2840 women) on technology.
- 10,100 farmers trained (4100 women) in crop agronomy and husbandry including integrated soil fertility management.
- 100 tons of subsidized fertilizers procured and distributed to farmers (40% women).
- 22 schools supported with school feeding materials.
- 250 head teachers (100 women) on curriculum management.
- 60 tons of maize and bean seeds procured and distributed to 7550 farmers (3020 women).
- Access to improved sanitation >75% (baseline 2008: 53%).
- Capacity building provided to 12 Early Childhood Development Centres and 48 caregivers trained (45 women) to ensure effective teaching and learning in early childhood education.
- 44 teachers trained (36 women) on use of Information and Communications Technology to improve quality for teaching.
- A role model program established in 30 schools to encourage and mentor school girls and ensure gender parity.
- Child mortality reduced to less than 45 deaths per 1,000 births (baseline 2010: 76).
- 78 reproductive health outreaches conducted for women of reproductive age on family and family planning commodities distributed.
- Maternal mortality reduced to less than 150 deaths per 100,000 deliveries (baseline 2010: 435).
- 300 people (40% women) trained in entrepreneurship and business skills.
- Energy saving and renewable energy technologies use increased by 20% (baseline: 0%).
- Access to improved drinking water increased to 75% (baseline 2008: 32%).
Overall Objective
The project aimed to provide direct health services to the most vulnerable and needy segments of the population in the Rohingya Camps and surrounding communities, particularly women and children.
Building, equipping, and staffing a field hospital.

Project Beneficiaries
- Rohingya refugees in Camp 4 and surrounding communities, particularly women (52% of refugee population) and children.

Key Components
- Building, equipping, and staffing a field hospital.

Key Results
- Field hospital built and operational.
- Improved health and rehabilitation services to 300,000 Rohingya refugees (60,000 women) at the Cox Bazar Camp 4.
- Home visits and outreach work provided to help in reducing incidences of preventable diseases.
- Travel time dedicated to access health and rehabilitation services reduced.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to transform the Saudi Centre from a training centre to an employment entity, whereby visually impaired girls can undertake suitable jobs within the centre to earn income, and secure self-financing for the centre that caters visually impaired girls across the different countries in the Arab region.

SUPPORTING THE SAUDI CENTRE FOR TRAINING VISUALLY IMPAIRED GIRLS IN JORDAN

Country: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Project Dates: 2012 - 2013

Sector: Economic Empowerment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>IsDB Contribution</th>
<th>Mode of Financing</th>
<th>NGO Contribution</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>SDGs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US$ 175,000</td>
<td>US$ 60,000</td>
<td>Grant (NGO Program)</td>
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<td>Saudi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls (NGO)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
Project Beneficiaries

- 80 visually impaired girls from the Arab region.

Key Components

- Infrastructure enhancement of the centre for the production and income-generating activities; involved mainly civil works and procurement of furniture to increase the total capacity of the centre from accommodating 48 girls to 80 girls with the new expansion;
- Initiation of productive activities for the visually impaired girls according to the demand of the Jordanian market (i.e. weaving, loom work, food processing, handicraft, computer and translation skills); and,
- Provision of financial incentives to the visually impaired girls trainees.

Key Results

- 80 vocationally qualified visually impaired girls employed.
- Marketing venue to sell visually impaired girls’ products directly to the public established in the centre’s 2nd floor.
- Centre refurbished with new and up to date equipment to facilitate the production process and income-generating activities for visually impaired girls.
- Enriched outreach program across the nine selected Arab countries implemented.
Overall Objective
The project aims to develop the institutional capacity of the Bureau of Gender Affairs of Suriname to fulfill its role in advocating for women's needs and priorities within national policies and government agencies.
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE BUREAU OF GENDER AFFAIRS IN SURINAME

Project Beneficiaries
- Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) of Suriname.

Key Components
- Capacity development of the BGA to conduct policy analysis, advocate for, and monitor the country’s mainstreaming of women’s needs and priorities in national policies and government agencies;
- Establishment of an institutional framework to guide the work of the BGA;
- Development of a national gender database to monitor and report on the country’s efforts and achievements in meeting its national development objectives and international commitments; and,
- Research studies to identify key issues that generate social and economic inequalities within the country.

Key Expected Results
- A cadre of competent and qualified gender experts within BGA created and able to mainstream gender equality across all sectors and operations.
- A National Gender Policy including a 3-year work plan developed.
- Gender sensitized data collection cadre created and able to enhance reliability and credibility of the data collected.
- A monitoring framework developed.
- Policymakers supported in applying/translation available gender data into the development of evidence-based policies and programs.
- Evaluation of the Implementation of Decree C-II (introduced in 1981 to protect married women).
Overall Objective
The project aimed to create a business climate conducive to establishing and maintaining Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), especially for marginalized women and youth.
Development of a business support infrastructure conducive to establishing and maintaining MSMEs especially for marginalized women and youth, which included providing recommendations to improve the legal framework and streamline the business procedures under the Maldives Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Act (2013);

Development of operational and human resource capacity of the business development service centres (BDSCs), expanding their geographical coverage to all seven provinces with improved services. The BDSCs can now offer 32 different types of services to MSMEs; and,

Improvement of access to finance for MSMEs, which included setting a credit guarantee scheme that reduced the collateral requirements for lending; reducing loan processing time and introducing the Line of Credit Facility to specifically cater to the credit demand by MSMEs, extending its reach by targeting women- and youth-led businesses.

Project Beneficiaries

- Marginalized women and young people.

Key Components

- Women’s participation in MSME sector considerably improved; business registration of MSMEs increased from 39 in 2011 to 967 by end of 2018, including women-owned (175) and youth-owned (294).

- Strong network of business support established with a total of 532 training and technical programs conducted; 3,525 business consultations and technical business visits, benefiting a total of 17,465 participants. 50% of these participants were women.

- 201 MSMEs from different sectors such as IT, retail, fisheries, and tourism across all seven provinces of Maldives provided with loans, generating 1,182 jobs as of the first quarter of 2019 and boosting economic development of local communities.

- 66 women-led MSMEs benefitted from the Women Entrepreneurs Loan (WEL) scheme, which further strengthened their inclusion in the sector.

Key Results
**Overall Objective**

The project aimed to improve girls’ participation and performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in five educational institutions (secondary, vocational training and teachers’ training college) by improving teachers’ pedagogical skills and creating an engendered social and educational environment in Ouagadougou.

The Burkina Faso experience is replicated in Senegal and Togo in 2020.

**Project Dates**

- **Sector:** Education
- **Country:** Burkina Faso
- **Project Dates:** 2014 - 2016
- **Total Budget:** USD 170,000
- **IsDB Contribution:** USD 150,000
- **Mode of Financing:** Grant (NGO Program)
- **NGO Contribution:** USD 20,000
- **Implementing Agency:** Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) - NGO
- **SDGs:**
The main focus of the project was to positively change both the supply side and the demand side of girls’ education, which involved:

- Empowering 500 girls for self-actualization, engagement, and decision-making;
- Improving teachers’ teaching methodologies and approaches by building their capacity in Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP) of STEM subjects;
- Engendering school management systems to foster good learning environment;
- Advocating to influence the integration of gender into national education policies and plans of Burkina Faso; and,
- Creating awareness at community-level on the importance of girls’ education, particularly in STEM fields.

**Project Beneficiaries**

- 500 girls and teachers in five educational institutions in STEM stream.

**Key Components**

The main focus of the project was to positively change both the supply side and the demand side of girls’ education, which involved:

- Empowering 500 girls for self-actualization, engagement, and decision-making;
- Improving teachers’ teaching methodologies and approaches by building their capacity in Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP) of STEM subjects;
- Engendering school management systems to foster good learning environment;
- Advocating to influence the integration of gender into national education policies and plans of Burkina Faso; and,
- Creating awareness at community-level on the importance of girls’ education, particularly in STEM fields.

**Based on an external evaluation of the pilot project, the following key results were reported:**

- 72% of girls reported having improved performance in STEM subjects as a result of the project.
- A national education coalition and network established to support policy advocacy and the project implementation.
- STEM clubs have been set up in these institutions, including 86 girls’ beneficiaries.
- The gender review of the national policy document identified gaps which were addressed through a curriculum review, commitment to mainstream GRP into STEM teacher pre-service training and Ministry of Education granting scholarships to the best female graduates intending to study Science at university.
- 149 girls and 40 boys were empowered by the TUSEME approach\(^1\), and a TUSEME club was established in each of the five educational institutions.
- Teachers and school administration’s performance has been strengthened to mainstream gender equality in STEM pedagogy.
- Most girls passed their exams and moved to Grades 11 & 12, and opted to continue their education in science and technology.
- 97 participants (41 women & 56 men), including school heads received training on GRP and its application to STEM.

1 The Tuseme model is one of FAWE’s flagship programs in the region. Tuseme clubs are established with the aim of addressing the structural roots of gender inequalities by understanding and engaging with norms and social rules, as well as practical issues, which impact upon girls’ attendance and performance at school. In the clubs, boys and girls are taught how to make decisions, think critically and creatively, communicate, build empathy, be assertive and be self-aware, therefore boosting their confidence and motivation levels at school.
Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs

Overall Objective
The project aimed to improve sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable women and young girls towards economic and social empowerment and human rights awareness in remote areas of Bangladesh.

Sector
Women’s Empowerment

Country
People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Project Dates
2018 - 2019

Total Budget
US$ 120,000

IsDB Contribution
US$ 100,000

Mode of Financing
Grant (NGO Program)

NGO Contribution
US$ 20,000

Implementing Agency
Centre for Mass Education in Science (NGO)

SDGs
1. No Poverty
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM THROUGH LIVELIHOOD SKILLS TRAINING AND HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS IN BANGLADESH

Project Beneficiaries

- 300 disadvantaged rural women and young girls aged 19 to 35 years in the four districts of Tangail/Tangail Sadar, Dinajpur/Chirirbandar, Rajshahi/Paba, and Chapainawabgonj/Nachole.

Key Components

- Vocational skills training to women in the trade of fashion garments and basic computer education to help them engage in economic activities;
- Creation of opportunities for networking through linking trained women with local and national organizations; and,
- Awareness raising events organized with women, men and youth on women’s rights and elimination of gender-based violence.

Key Results

- Improved behavior at the levels of the women, girls and community at large in relation to women’s empowerment, as well as strong sense of ownership was built within a short period of the project.
- 180 women employed or self-employed with an average decent monthly income of 5000 Bangladeshi Taka (US$ 59), contributing significantly to the family income.
- 120 younger girls equipped with essential skills such as literacy, numeracy and basic computer skills to improve their employability.
- 300 women and girls trained on technical skills in fashion garments, marketing and computer education.
- Comprehensive awareness training on human rights issues provided to women and girls including violence against women, early marriage, and reproductive health.
- Community dialogues convened to raise awareness of the negative impact of gender-based violence (with over 20,000 community members sensitized) and practical solutions identified in which the community can support human rights for all, and especially for women and girls for their social and economic empowerment.
**Overall Objective**

Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA) fellowship program aims to empower young Arab women scientists in agriculture by building their leadership and research skills, with a focus on food, nutrition and water security, and encouraging gender-responsive working cultures, as well as creating platforms to showcase their intellect, capability and contribution in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

<table>
<thead>
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<td>International Centre for Bio Saline Agriculture (ICBA)</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
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</table>
**ARAB WOMEN LEADERS IN AGRICULTURE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**Project Beneficiaries**
- 22 women scientists from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia were selected to take part in the 18 months program.

**Key Components**
- Research visit to AWARD Africa to learn from the in-the-context nature of AWARD as an operative model (MOU signed for joint framework of cooperation in sharing training resources);
- Virtual and classroom-based trainings to 22 women scientists on topics such as research methods, literacy and management, public engagement and impact for researchers, leadership excellence and creativity;
- Individual mentoring support to each of the 22 women scientists over the period of the fellowship and beyond; and,
- Branding development, communication, project management, monitoring and evaluation.

**Key Expected Results**
- Improved capacities of 22 Arab women scientists working on food, nutrition and water security in leadership and research skills.
- Establishment of regional network of Arab women scientists working on food, nutrition and water security to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration across disciplines.
- Creation of first MENA’s forum to discuss regional agricultural and food security research and development challenges between Arab women leaders and policy makers to lead critical advances and innovations in these areas, as well as foster gender perspectives in agricultural development to contribute to better and more women-centred solutions for improved food, nutrition and water security.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to enhance the quality of life of poor Muslim women and girls through increased knowledge and livelihoods skills. It also aimed to empower the community at large to raise their voice against the negative practices of early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
Project Beneficiaries

- Married, widowed, and disabled women and female heads of household aged 18 and above in Acha, Momo Division of the North West Region of Cameroon.

Key Components

- Communities and stakeholders’ support to women’s economic empowerment through consultation meetings and house to house identification, interviews, assessment, selection and enrolment of beneficiaries;
- Establishment of an embroidery centre to promote employment-oriented skills and training for women and adolescent girls;
- Creation of support networks with local tailoring/training institutes and garment industry representatives to strengthen training placements and employment opportunities for targeted women and girls; and,
- Improvement of community awareness on social issues impacting women’s and girls’ ability to participate equally in social and cultural life and reduction of gender-based violence.

Key Results

- Increased, community awareness of women’s rights, and women’s economic and social empowerment in three localities in Acha, North West Region of Cameroon.
- 30 influential men (Imams and Ardors) and male heads of household engaged to foster dialogue with local authorities to understand the local drivers and responses to women’s and girls’ marginalization.
- Six-month tailoring and embroidery training courses provided to 25 selected vulnerable women, supported with starter kits and taken on educational trips to various companies for exposure in the tailoring industry.
- Technical support provided to the 25 trainees to establish and operate their own tailoring and embroidery businesses by equipping them with entrepreneurial skills and business management skills and linking them to different partners for mentorship and counselling.
- Tailoring and embroidery centre established and equipped with machines and trainers of trainers’ facilitators.
- 4 open days conducted at school and the villages levels to create awareness and information dissemination among youth through dramas, poems and sports.
Overall Objective

The project aimed to pilot an agriculture incubator to foster entrepreneurship and provide adequate services to agripreneurs, particularly women and youth, to enable them to develop technology-related, high-value agriculture production projects in urban settings, that contribute to creating employment opportunities and boosting the national agriculture sector and the country’s food security.
**Project Beneficiaries**

- Emerging entrepreneurs particularly among women (60%), young people and local farmers; and,
- Unemployed young men and women.

**Key Components**

- Design, construction and equipment of a high-tech agriculture incubator, consisting of training and incubation greenhouses;
- Design and delivery of a market-oriented training program; and
- Business development services.

**Key Results**

- A high-tech agriculture incubator designed and constructed, including eight greenhouses that feature vertical production systems, light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, reverse osmosis systems, advanced cooling pads, hydroponic technologies, and post-harvest sorting, grading and storage facilities, as well as training classrooms and laboratory facilities.

- One batch of 30 young agripreneurs, of which 22 were women, graduated from the program and received technical training on agricultural greenhouse farming techniques, business plan development, and marketing strategies.

- Trained agripreneurs were able to apply advanced technologies that yielded high quality crops with reduced production costs and sell in the Bahraini farmers’ market, located next to the agriculture incubator, to facilitate marketing of trained agripreneurs’ produce.
**Overall Objective**

The Integrated Community Driven Development (ICDD) program aimed to reduce poverty by empowering communities, particularly targeting women and the poorest segments, to become effective development players and partners through a comprehensive, integrated community-based approach.

This model was first implemented in Indonesia and then replicated in Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Community Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Republic of Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Dates</td>
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<td>Total Budget</td>
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<td>Mode of Financing</td>
<td>Istisna'a, Loan and Grant</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
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</table>
INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT IN INDONESIA

Project Beneficiaries
- 4,700 communities in 14 provinces and around 4.1 million households, out of which 2.8 million represented poor households.

Key Components
- Since Phase 1 of the Program, the overall approach has gradually shifted from community empowerment to economic empowerment, rebalancing the activities supported by the block grants towards a greater emphasis on the economic and social activities (proactively targeting women), in addition to infrastructure development;
- During Phase 2, the Program further strengthened economic activities through the Livelihood Enhancement Program, increasing the revolving fund provided under Phase I and introducing livelihood capacity building to self-help groups (four-fifths being women), in more than 500 villages; and,
- Under Phase 3, this was expanded to another 700 villages. The Program also introduced Business Development Centre Pilots at the district level to help bring products and services in 10-15 districts to markets.

Key Results
- More than 40,000 small businesses supported, and 3,300 business coaches trained.
- 2,556 healthcare facilities, meaning 37,200 people have access to better healthcare, including new maternal and child health-integrated services post and day cares for children under 5.
- 560 school units and 26,376 school scholarships for children, mainly girls.
- 6,109 public toilet units built.
- 13,465 km urban roads and paths built and 4,482 units of public lighting put in place.
- 67 km bridges built.
- 316 km water pipelines and 225 km waste-water canals constructed.
- Poverty levels in country dropped since program began, from 16.6% in 2007 to 11.3% in 2014.

Gender Dimension
The ICDD applied gender mainstreaming principles throughout the three phases. At the level of planning and coordination, gender focal points, gender mover volunteers, and female leaders were appointed. Women also benefited from separate meeting sessions in stakeholders’ consultation processes and at least 40% of women representation at the community decision-making levels was adopted. Sex-disaggregated data is recorded in a centralized management information system, including at environmental and city-level planning documents. Women targets were set throughout the project cycle of at least 40% of women participation, and 70% from the 40% being poor women. Thorough gender analysis and gender-responsive planning and budgeting was applied. Training materials were also developed to improve gender equality and equity sensitivity within communities. At the project implementation level, gender responsive infrastructure was respected to improve infrastructure quality and control gender mainstreaming at all stages of the program through a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
Overall Objective

The project aimed to empower rural women and young girls who have dropped out of school in mountainous area of Amezmiz, by enhancing the economic activities of 50 women in support to improved household livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

Sector: Agriculture
Country: Kingdom of Morocco
Project Dates: 2018 - 2020

Total Budget: US$ 144,000
IsDB Contribution: US$ 100,000
Mode of Financing: Grant (NGO Program)
NGO Contribution: US$ 44,000
Implementing Agency: Association Assid pour le Development Durable (NGO)

SDGs

Women's Empowerment Project Briefs
EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN OF AMEZMIZ COMMUNITY THROUGH THE VALORIZATION OF LOCAL PRODUCTS (OLIVES AND HONEY) IN MOROCCO

Project Beneficiaries

- 50 rural women aged 18-50 (direct beneficiaries); and,
- 250 women benefitting from part-time jobs during harvest period (indirect beneficiaries).

Key Components

- Establishment of Women's Production Cooperatives and provision of production units to improve the production quality and marketing of the target rural women products;
- Development of capacities of 50 women to equip them with production, processing and marketing skills of olive oil and canned olives and honey and their derivatives;
- Development of capacities of 30 women on financial, administrative and management skills to ensure good management of the cooperative; and,
- Creation of the Amezmiz local product trademark to ensure women's ownership of the brand and that the marketing of their products extends beyond the local markets.

Key Results

- 50 women's awareness raised about the advantages of working together and mobilized one another to establish the Women’s Production Cooperative.
- Men and youth engaged through community dialogues and awareness raising events to promote women’s economic and social inclusion, and gender equality and women's empowerment concepts.
- 50 rural women acquired the needed skills to improve the value and marketing of the Cooperative's local products in olives and honey.
- Capacity of 30 women strengthened in Cooperative’s administration and financial management and governance.
- Capacity of 30 rural women strengthened in the process of valorisation of local products.
- Two production units (olive crushing and honey processing) created and equipped.
- Amezmiz local product trademark, Best Manufacturing Practice (BMP), valorization and Best Hygienic Practice (BHP) manuals developed.
Overall Objective
The project aims to facilitate improved physical access to and from the north-eastern agricultural regions of Sierra Leone, promoting agricultural potential and trade exchange with Guinea.

Sector: Transport
Country: Republic of Sierra Leone
Project Dates: 2018 - 2024

Total Budget: US$ 134.6 million
IsDB Contribution: US$ 110 million
Mode of Financing: Installment Sale financing
Saudi Fund for Development: US$ 20 million
Government of Sierra Leone Contribution: US$ 4.6 million
Implementing Agency: Sierra Leone Road Authority (SLRA)
SDGs:
Project Beneficiaries

- Communities of Kambia and Bombali districts (50% women).

Key Components

- Civil works including upgrade of existing earth road from Kambia-Kamakwie (105 km long) and bridges across two districts in Northern Sierra Leone near the border with Guinea; and,
- Consultancy services including design and supervision of overall civils works, field supervision visits, and training of graduate engineers in road construction and maintenance.

Key Expected Results

- Road transport infrastructure improved and travel time reduced from 4.5 hours to 2 hours.
- Access to social infrastructure enhanced with the construction of 20km feeder roads, 2 markets, 2 health centres, 6 dry stores, 2 rest areas and 6 boreholes wells.
- Improved safe and reliable transportation services are also expected to result in better access to i) health care, particularly for expectant mothers with obstructed labour who cannot sustain longer than 3 hour delay to the nearest health unit at Kambia and, to ii) education, particularly increasing school enrolment rates for young girls, for whom safety and accessibility are important.
- Improved market access and facilities are expected to enhance trade (45% of vendors being women), translating into increased income and livelihoods at the household levels.
- 300 permanent jobs created (30% women, 20% youth), 500 temporary jobs, and graduate engineers’ training provided on road construction and maintenance (50% women).
- Rice production increased by 5000 hectares by providing improved all weather access to the rice growing areas of Kambia and Bombali districts.
**Overall Objective**

She Trades-Egypt aims to increase the participation of women-owned Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in export-oriented handicrafts value chains by enhancing their competitiveness and their capacity to penetrate both local and regional markets.

The project is implemented in partnership with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) Aid for Trade Initiative for the Arab States (AfTIAS Program).

The project is replicated in Morocco in the food processing sector in 2020.
Project Beneficiaries

- 50 SMEs owned by women; and,
- Export Development Authority (EDA), Women associations and Trade Support Institutions (TSIs).

Key Components

- Capacity development of trade promotion organizations and women associations to provide better, effective and efficient business services to Egyptian SMEs owned by women along the value chain requirements;
- Export capacity building of women-owned enterprises and enhancing their compliance with the market requirements; and,
- Business linkages of women entrepreneurs with the global value chain.

Key Expected Results

- Increased participation of 50-targeted women-owned SMEs in handicrafts export value chains is achieved.
- Improved capacities of EDA and selected TSIs to support women-owned SMEs to sell to local and regional markets.
- Increased capacities of women-owned SMEs to sell to local and regional markets.
- Business linkages developed between targeted women-owned SMEs and potential buyers.
Overall Objective

The Women Entrepreneurship Development and Youth Employment Support (WED-YES) project aimed to foster economic development for women and youth employment, with special emphasis on poverty alleviation in rural areas of Senegal.

Sector: Islamic Finance
Country: Senegal
Project Dates: 2013 - 2021

Total Budget: US$ 22.5 million
IsDB Contribution: US$ 15 million
ISFD Contribution: US$ 5 million
Government of Senegal Contribution: US$ 2.5 million
Mode of Financing: Loan

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Women, Children and Women Entrepreneurship (MFEEF)

SDGs:

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
Project Beneficiaries

- Underemployed women, petty traders, artisans in the informal sector, unemployed graduates of higher and technical education, micro-entrepreneurs in startup activities and women with disabilities in the three northern regions of Louga, St. Louis and Matam.

Key Components

- Lines of Islamic Microfinance (IMF) managed by a National Credit Line Team appointed under the project management unit and extended to beneficiaries with a strong focus on women;
- Infrastructure development to strengthen major social services in the areas of health, education, energy, water and sanitation, as well as support agriculture and fisheries as the backbone of the Senegalese economy;
- Value chain development of rice, horticulture and milk, emphasizing high value addition and job creation potentials by introducing innovative and affordable technologies for the production, packaging and marketing facilities and, creation of agribusiness development and incubation services for women and youth; and,
- Training and capacity building for Micro Finance Institutions to down stream Islamic Microfinance lines and provision of special equipment and management information system for an effective implementation of rural financing, as well as building the capacities of beneficiaries in the business development services in the respective value chains to ensure sustainability of results.

As of end of 2019, the following was achieved:

- 3 MFIs signed lending agreements adapting the Islamic Finance and training provided to 361 staff.
- 140 projects financed (40% women-led).
- 3 midwifery houses constructed.
- 1230 producers trained (50% women) in good agriculture practices, agriculture entrepreneurship and management of irrigated areas.
- Hydro-agricultural area developed and equipped in the village of Sague for the benefit of women.
- 3 solar pumping systems installed for the benefit of women’s groups.
Overall Objective

The study visit aimed to provide south-south exchange of experiences in promoting gender equality by familiarizing Senior Officials and key stakeholders from The Gambia with the experience of Uganda in the implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting in their national budget framework.
Project Beneficiaries

- 7 Senior Officials from the Women's Bureau of The Gambia and other related ministries/entities.

Key Components

- Sponsorship of 14 days study visit of 7 Gambian Senior Officials to Uganda, which included meetings with key Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Non Government Organizations and Civil Society Organizations to learn about the best practices in Gender Responsive Budgeting in Uganda for possible adoption and implementation in The Gambia.

Key Results

- Capacity of the gender machinery of The Gambia strengthened to mainstream gender equality in the country’s development process.

- Learning from the best practices of Gender and Equity Responsive Budgeting (GERB) in Uganda acquired for possible adoption and implementation in The Gambia.
Overall Objective
The project aims to improve maternal, neonatal and child healthcare (MNCH) services in Tajikistan. It employs an integrated approach in implementation where it works on the different levels and sectors of the MNCH system, starting with infrastructure and ending with addressing the socio-cultural aspects of the problem.
Project Beneficiaries

- Direct beneficiaries are women and children who seek timely and quality provision of antenatal, delivery, postnatal, and child health care and services, estimated at 62,238 women; 10,118 pregnant women; 9,903 newborns; and 45,264 children less than five years of age.

Key Components

- Establishment and refurbishment of clinical and gynecological units in the targeted communities’ hospitals, to be equipped with female private examination rooms and restrooms;
- Establishment of an operational referral system;
- Development of a gender-sensitive referral protocols and provision of capacity building to health personnel, such as doctors, nurses and midwives, to ensure good use of these protocols that can be periodically updated to ensure sustainability;
- Institutional and human resources development through the provision of inter-related studies and training courses; and,
- Promotion of MNCH services through communication and awareness-raising to enhance conducive health-seeking behavior and address the conventional socio-cultural believes negatively influencing patients and their families and making them refrain from seeking MNCH medical support.

Key Expected Results

- Preventable deaths of new-born and children under 5 years ended.
- Under five mortality decreased from 43 to less than 25/100 LBs.
- Neonatal mortality decreased from 19 to less than 12/100 LBs.
- Maternity Mortality Ratio decreased from 45 to less than 25/100,000.
- Increase in percentage of pregnant women benefiting from antenatal care from 50% to 70%.
- Four central district hospitals upgraded, protocols developed and 129 centres equipped.
- District referral system established and functioning.
- 2346 health personnel trained on identified priority areas.
- 1000 women’s lives restored through social and economic support.
Overall Objective

The project aimed to support Bangladesh’s efforts to raise levels of social development and improve rural household livelihoods, by increasing access to electricity and promoting environmentally friendly renewable energy systems in rural areas for the productive use of electricity. It contributed to bringing positive changes to the economy of the rural people of the off-grid areas as they started using Solar Home Systems (SHS) for their income-generating activities, alleviating energy poverty.

**Project Beneficiaries**
- More than 400,000 poor people (60% women and girls) in 72,600 rural and isolated households across Bangladesh.

**Key Components**

**Key Results**
- 72,600 SHS installed exceeding the target of 45,000 SHS.
- Positive social and economic impacts translated into improved lifestyle and income of the rural poor in general.
- Kerosene lighting usage reduced, a potential fire hazard in the home that produces smoke and fumes, hence preventing household air pollution that affects primarily the health of women and children in the households.
- Time-saving reported among women that resulted mainly from the reduction of activities required in order to cook (mainly access to wood and the time taken to activate stoves), using this time for other household work and income generating activities.
- Students, including girls, had more time to study thanks to the SHS and could break the tough barriers of village life to realize their dreams by continuing their education past secondary schooling.
- Rural women empowered to work after dark either at home or at their shops as they benefitted from additional access to light and felt safer to stay longer hours working.
- 500 direct and 1000 indirect jobs created (40% women).
Overall Objective
The project aims to improve girls’ education in primary (foundational) classes by strengthening their reading skills and increasing girls’ enrolment in selected IsDB assisted schools in the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), through targeted interventions at institutional and community level.
Phase 1 of the project (2018-2019), 1000 students (girls and boys) in ten IsDB assisted schools were given access to age/level reading materials via a mobile library bus, which was purchased and custom designed to be the resource centre carrying the 5000 purchased books and other learning materials. A library manual was also developed that can be used to guide the school teachers beyond the project period.

Phase 2 of the project (2019-2020), focuses on girls only (1800) due to the very low enrolment rate of girls in AJK primary schools and aims to:

i) provide girls’ access to reading materials through a mobile library and special interactive lessons to improve reading proficiency, critical thinking and problem-solving skills;

ii) train at least 200 female teachers in all 10 districts of AJK in the skills to improve reading skills and foster critical thinking for sustainability;

and,

iii) hold awareness-raising meetings with parents and community to promote girls’ education.

At the end of phase 1, there was:

- A visible improvement in the children reading skills; struggling readers became better readers and average readers became proficient readers in 5 months.
- An increase in girls’ confidence.
- An increase in school enrolment rates among girls.

Improved teacher teaching strategies and skills.

A recognition by the Education Department of the significance of the project for upscaling, hence phase 2 of the project.
RECRUITMENT OF EXPERT TO ASSIST BURKINA FASO IN ORGANIZING THE 7TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IN OIC MEMBER STATES

Overall Objective
The expert's principal role involved providing technical support to the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family of Burkina Faso for a successful organization and running of the 7th Ministerial Conference on the “Role of Women in Development of OIC Member States”, held in Ouagadougou from 30 November to 1 December 2018.

Sector
Capacity Development for Gender Equality

Country
Burkina Faso

Expert Visit Dates
OCT 2018 - DEC 2018

IsDB Contribution
USD 23,000

Mode of Financing
Grant (Technical Cooperation Program)

SDGs

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
RECRUITMENT OF EXPERT TO ASSIST BURKINA FASO IN ORGANIZING THE 7TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IN OIC MEMBER STATES

**Project Beneficiaries**

- Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family of Burkina Faso.

**Key Components**

- Recruitment of an international expert to be located in Burkina Faso for three months to provide the needed support to the Ministry in organizing the conference.

**Key Results**

- Technical assistance provided to the national and technical organizing committees of Burkina Faso for the overall organization of the ministerial conference, including programming, communication, as well as partnership and resource mobilization.

- Documents produced pertaining to the organization of the conference and post-conference, including all related correspondences, report-writing, and key recommendations made.

- Institutional capacity built, knowledge shared, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms put in place to measure progress and success of the conference.
Overall Objective

The project aimed to improve the health and socio-economic status of women who have suffered from the physical and psychological trauma of Obstetric Fistula (OF).

This project served as a pilot project to establish the effectiveness of the holistic approach taken by the IsDB that focused on the continuum of care for obstetric fistula: prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration.
THE BIGGER PICTURE: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ERADICATING OBSTETRIC FISTULA IN NIGERIA (KANO STATE)

Project Beneficiaries
• Women with OF of Kano State.

Key Components
• Provision of surgical repair of fistula patients;
• Provision of physical, mental and social support through well-planned and coordinated activities to rehabilitated clients; and,
• Empowerment of women through education and development of income-generating skills for sustainable development; and,
• Post-rehabilitation support by assisting reintegration of women into their communities, with 12 months follow-up and monitoring of re-assimilation back to communities.

Key Results
• Massive prevention campaigns to 10 clinics and 12 villages in Dambatta and Makoda.
• 53 OF women/girls surgically repaired with 92% success rate.
• 53 OF women/girls equipped with literacy, numerical, vocational and business skills, as well as received health and nutrition education.
• 53 OF women/girls received psychological rehabilitation within 4 months of surgery.
• 53 OF women/girls returned to their villages, accepted and provided with support to start income-generating projects and were visited by project staff.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to reduce the prevalence of Obstetric Fistula (OF), focusing on the four priority areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of women OF survivors.
REGAINING WOMEN’S DIGNITY: OBSTETRIC FISTULA TREATMENT AND CARE IN THE GAMBIA

Project Beneficiaries
• Women and communities in 5 districts of The Gambia.

Key Components
• Awareness-raising campaigns on OF condition, targeting women, men and the community at large;
• Provision of comprehensive treatment and care to women with OF;
• Capacity development to a cadre of health care professionals to conduct OF repair; and,
• Provision of necessary support to women OF sufferers for their social and economic reinsertion into their community.

Key Results
- Operating theatre in Mandinaba Model Village equipped with necessary surgical equipment to conduct fistula repairs (Phase 1).
- Two yards in the Mandinaba Model Village refurbished, expanded and equipped to accommodate up to 20 patients at the same time during rehabilitation of OF patients (Phase 1).
- More than 30,000 women and men sensitized in 200 communities on obstetric fistula by raising awareness on the causes and treatment of the condition (Phase 1 & 2).
- 95 women suffering from OF provided with comprehensive treatment and care (Phase 1 & 2).
- 110 surgeries performed (Phase 1 & 2).
- 80% percent rate of effectiveness of OF surgical procedures.
- 95 survivors of fistula empowered through counselling, skills development, functional education and economic livelihood opportunities to help improve the socio-economic status of treated women (Phase 1 & 2).
Women's Empowerment Project Briefs

**Overall Objective**
The two-phased project aimed to provide comprehensive services care for Obstetric Fistula (OF) patients within the country by complementing the fistula repair surgery provided at national fistula treatment sites.

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<th>Health</th>
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<td>Republic of Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>Project Dates:</td>
<td>2013 - 2014 (1st phase)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>US$ 286,000 (2 phases)</td>
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<td>ISFD Contribution</td>
<td>US$ 202,000 (2 phases)</td>
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<td>NGO Contribution</td>
<td>US$ 59,000</td>
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<td>Implementing Agency</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
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</table>
**Project Beneficiaries**

- Women with OF in Sierra Leone.

**Key Components**

The two-phased projects focused on outreach and expanding activities to larger geographical areas to reach populations in the periphery to identify women suffering from fistula and link them to treatment facilities. Key project components included:

- Awareness-raising campaigns using effective Behavioral Change Communication focused on promoting the utilization of maternal health services and referring fistula patients to repair facilities;
- Provision of coordinated care to OF patients treated at the two fistula treatment sites available in the country (West African Fistula Foundation) and Aberdeen Women’s Centre by safely transferring them to Haikal Foundation Home to receive comprehensive post-treatment and support;
- 3 months psycho-social counselling, literacy education, and life skills training to OF treated women and provision of seed money in the form of technical start up kits to help women initiate income generating activities; and,
- Follow up visits by a social counsellor to OF treated women up to six months to ensure smooth social reintegration.

**Key Results**

- 40 villages educated on good maternal health practices.
- Women have improved access to comprehensive coordinated maternal health services and fistula treatment.
- 110 women received post-surgery support including social and economic support.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to reduce the number of new Obstetric Fistula (OF) cases and decrease the backlog of Obstetric Fistula (OF) cases in Eastern Uganda.
Strengthening of existing community mechanisms to identify and refer patients to OF repair services;

Treatment activities focused on mobilizing local surgeons and health facilities and arranging repair surgeries for patients; and

Provision of rehabilitation, including psycho-social counselling, literacy education, and life skills training to OF treated women and provision access to land to engage OF treated women in agricultural production and become property owners over time.

200 women received comprehensive fistula treatment including social support and skills development for income generation.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to assist the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity through providing quality Obstetric Fistula (OF) prevention, treatment and social integration services.

Sector: Health
Country: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Project Dates: 2014 - 2016

Total Budget: US$ 493,000
ISFD Contribution: US$ 170,000
Mode of Financing: Grant (NGO Program)
UNFA Contribution: US$ 323,000
SDGs: 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
The project followed a two-phased approach:
• Phase 1 focused on conducting prevention and treatment activities, while developing a complimentary social integration program; and,
• Phase 2 focused on developing the capacity of a local NGO to carry out the rehabilitation and reintegration activities outlined in the social integration program.

Key Results
- Awareness of 34 provinces improved and positive attitude developed towards OF patients.
- Two rehabilitation and re-integration centres established.
- Capacity of Malali Maternity Hospital and a local NGO strengthened to provide fistula.
- Treatment and rehabilitation services both in terms of infrastructure and human resources.
- 171 OF patients accommodated and provided with basic psycho-social counselling, including literacy, numeracy, income generation trainings.

Project Beneficiaries
- 209 women of reproductive age with Obstetric Fistula or any other Pelvic Floor Disorder (direct beneficiaries); and,
- Healthcare providers and community-based women organizations (secondary beneficiaries).
Overall Objective
The project aimed to improve the quality of Obstetric Fistula (OF) services and strengthen the social integration program linked with these services.

Sector: Health
Country: Republic of Guinea
Project Dates: 2014 - 2016

- Total Budget: USD 313,360
- IsDB Contribution: USD 50,000
- Mode of Financing: Grant (NGO Program)
- ISFD Contribution: USD 100,000
- Fistula Foundation Contribution: USD 130,530
- NGO Contribution: USD 32,830
- Implementing Agency: Engender Health (NGO)
- SDGs: 4, 5, 8, 11, 16
The project followed a two-phased approach:
• Establishment of a referral network to coordinate the identification and referral of women with OF through the health pyramid of the Ministry of Health;
• Village Safe Motherhood Committees outreach activities, including door-to-door, to identify and sensitize pregnant women and the community on birth preparedness, as well as identify and refer OF cases;
• Provision of comprehensive treatment and care to women with OF.
• Strengthening of the social integration program by offering psychotherapy to women suffering profound social isolation and assigning each woman to a volunteer host family to help her re-build her self-esteem and make a gradual and smooth transition to normal life; and,
• Phase 2 focused on developing the capacity of a local NGO to carry out the rehabilitation and reintegration activities outlined in the social integration program.

**Project Beneficiaries**
- 209 women of reproductive age with Obstetric Fistula or any other Pelvic Floor Disorder (direct beneficiaries); and,
- Healthcare providers and community-based women organizations (secondary beneficiaries).

**Key Components**

**Key Results**
- Improved referral system of fistula patients through having focal points at district levels, health centres, rural radios, and VCMCs established and effective.
- 59 women surgically repaired from OF (with 90% success rate) and enrolled into the social integration program.
- 4978 community members sensitized on good health practices.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to contribute to the prevention and treatment of Obstetric Fistula (OF) by increasing women's access to maternal health and obstetric fistula repair services.

Sector: Health
Country: Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Project Dates: 2015 - 2017

Total Budget: USS 121,000
ISFD Contribution: USS 100,000
Mode of Financing: Grant (NGO Program)
NGO Contribution: USS 21,000
Implementing Agency: Association for Education and Health of the Woman and Child (NGO)

SDGs:
1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality

Women's Empowerment Project Briefs
IMPROVING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OBSTETRIC FISTULA IN MAURITANIA

**Project Beneficiaries**
- Women with OF and health care providers (direct beneficiaries); and,
- Policy-makers and community members (secondary beneficiaries).

**Key Components**
- Awareness-raising campaigns in 4 regions to sensitize community members on good health care practices;
- Upgrading the skills of health care providers through the delivery of training on obstetric fistula, management of difficult birth, prevention, diagnosis and referral of OF cases; and,
- Provision of surgical treatment and reintegration support to women suffering from OF.

**Key Results**
- 10,000 community members sensitized on OF condition, its prevention and means for identification and treatment.
- 256 policy makers and leaders sensitized on maternal health issues specially OF.
- 30 health care providers trained.
- Fund established to support women victims of OF; 200 women received surgical repair and re-integration grant.
Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs

**FROM DESPAIR TO DIGNITY: OBSTETRIC FISTULA IN PAKISTAN**

**Overall Objective**
The project aimed to improve women’s access to maternal health services by supporting the expansion of the National Fistula Project.

**Sector**
Health

**Country**
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Project Dates**
2015 - 2016

**Total Budget**
US$ 116,385

**ISFD Contribution**
US$ 100,000

**Mode of Financing**
Grant (NGO Program)

**NGO Contribution**
US$ 16,385

**Implementing Agency**
The Pakistan National Forum on Women’s Health (PNFWH) - NGO

**SDGs**
1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
Awareness-raising campaigns targeting Chitral, within the northern most region of Gilgit-Biltistan, particularly sensitizing families on the consequences of early marriage and pregnancy and engaging the broader community to reflect on the issue, which is a main cause of OF;

Health care workers workshops on obstetric fistula, management of difficult birth, prevention, diagnosis and referral of OF cases;

Hands on training by masters trainers to 2 doctors on OF repair surgical techniques within the OF centres established under the National Fistula project; and,

Provision of surgical treatment and reintegration support to women suffering from OF.

Project Beneficiaries

- Women with Obstetric Fistula (OF) and health care professionals.

Key Components

- Awareness-raising campaigns targeting Chitral, within the northern most region of Gilgit-Biltistan, particularly sensitizing families on the consequences of early marriage and pregnancy and engaging the broader community to reflect on the issue, which is a main cause of OF;
- Health care workers workshops on obstetric fistula, management of difficult birth, prevention, diagnosis and referral of OF cases;
- Hands on training by masters trainers to 2 doctors on OF repair surgical techniques within the OF centres established under the National Fistula project; and,
- Provision of surgical treatment and reintegration support to women suffering from OF.

Key Results

- 800 villages educated on good social and health practices.
- 127 health care professionals received capacity development in maternal health and on safe OF delivery practices.
- 2 local physicians received additional technical skills in OF surgical repair.
- 50 women with OF surgically repaired and received social and economic support.
- OF centres integrated into the district headquarter hospital of Gilgit-Biltistan increasing overall availability of OF services within the country.
Overall Objective

The project aimed to improve maternal health outcomes in Northern Somalia by improving women’s access to maternal health services and increasing access to Obstetric Fistula (OF) repair services.

Sector: Health
Country: Federal Republic of Somalia
Project Dates: 2015 - 2017

Total Budget:
- ISFD Contribution: USS 100,000
- NGO Contribution: USS 20,500

Mode of Financing:
- Grant (NGO Program)

Implementing Agency:
- Edna Aden University Hospital (EAUH) - NGO

SDGs:
- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Women’s Empowerment Project Briefs
SUSTAINABLE PREVENTION OF OBSTETRIC FISTULA IN SOMALIA

Project Beneficiaries

- 20 young women midwives and 2 physicians.

Key Components

- Training of 20 community midwives to serve the basic health needs of their communities;
- Building the capacity of 2 physicians working in Edna Aden University Hospital with additional surgical skills in OF repair; and,
- Equipment of an operating room within Edna Aden University Hospital with the necessary equipment and supplies to provide fistula repair surgeries.

Key Results

- 20 Maternal and Child Health Centres in Gabiley operationalized and staffed with trained community midwives.
- 2 physicians trained with additional surgical OF repair skills.
- Over 250,000 people have increased access to basic health services, including access to fistula repair surgeries for OF patients.
Overall Objective
The project aimed to decrease the incidence and prevalence of Obstetric Fistula (OF) in the remote villages of Cox’s Bazaar in Bangladesh by improving women’s access to maternal health and comprehensive obstetric fistula services.
Strengthening of existing community mechanisms to identify and refer patients to OF repair services;
Treatment activities focused on mobilizing local surgeons and health facilities and arranging repair surgeries for patients; and
Provision of rehabilitation, including psycho-social counselling, literacy education, and life skills training to OF treated women and provision access to land to engage OF treated women in agricultural production and become property owners over time.

**Project Beneficiaries**

- Women with OF and health care professionals.

**Key Components**

- Women with OF and health care professionals.

**Key Results**

- 5 midwives employed and given the opportunity to start their own business.
- 5 maternal and neonatal health care centres established and operating.
- 100 OF patients identified and referred for surgery at HOPE Hospital.
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- 25,000 women of reproductive age and children aged 0-2 years had access to improved basic health services.
- 30 women treated for their fistula received rehabilitation services and had access to income generating opportunities.
- 10,000 people educated on improved maternal health practices.
As a result of the success of the previous OF initiatives and the positive psychosocial and economic consequences on OF women survivors, their families and communities, IsDB decided to scale up its OF operations and allocate US$ 5 Million for the “OF Coalition”. IsDB aims at allocating US$40 million over a period of five years to ensure the sustainability of the “OF Coalition”. It is important to note that IsDB took into consideration the lesson learnt from all previous OF initiatives to ensure smooth implementation and sustainability. In addition, the design of this scaled-up program builds on previously documented best practices including: robust partnerships with international/national stakeholders; OF surgical and health related training to medical professionals, provision of vocational training to OF women survivors to start their own business; and awareness raising, advocacy tools and outreach programs.

The long-term strategic goal of IsDB-ISFD program on obstetric fistula is to improve maternal health by addressing obstetric fistula and contributing to its elimination by 2030.
Program Beneficiaries

- The five benefiting countries from the Program are high-need countries with low availability of resources and support to address Obstetric Fistula from external partners, among other criterion.

Key Components

- Country Assessment and Situational Analysis to be conducted for each benefiting country to determine/validate needs, set the baselines and identify appropriate interventions;
- Prevention interventions include integrating fistula within national maternal and child health or other reproductive health strategies, developing health promotion capacities at the community level and increasing access to, and use of quality emergency obstetric care services, including referral management and addressing transportation barriers;
- Treatment interventions include proactive screening and increasing the national capacity to provide fistula surgery and palliative care for women whose fistula is deemed incurable;
- Rehabilitation interventions include treating the consequential physical and psychological impairments caused by fistula and providing training to improve the socio-economic constraints many women face; and,
- Reintegration interventions include supporting women survivors to apply the skills learned during rehabilitation to engage in social and economic activities depending on country context.

Key Expected Results

- 5,000 communities benefit from increased awareness and utilization of services in maternal health.
- 3,000 healthcare professionals receive skills training in maternal health and/or OF services.
- 20,000 women receive comprehensive treatment for their fistula and reintegrate into their community.
- 15,000 fistula survivors are supported to engage in social and economic activities.
- 130 healthcare facilities are equipped and their capacities developed to deliver quality maternal and obstetric fistula care.