

# GOOD PRACTICES

**in South-South and Triangular  
Cooperation in Least Developed  
Countries:**

From the Istanbul Programme  
of Action to Achieving Sustainable  
and Resilient Development



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Designed by Paolo Ciampagna

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# FOREWORD

Developing countries face compounding challenges exacerbated by global phenomena such as climate change, poverty, and economic recession. These challenges can only be addressed through urgent and well-coordinated collective responses. According to the World Bank, the lack of urgent action will push an additional 100 million people into poverty by 2030.

The COVID-19 crisis before us continues to put our values to a severe test, challenging our promise to “leave no one behind” and proving time and time again that solidarity and collaboration across borders and boundaries in the face of global challenges is the only way forward. South-South and triangular cooperation have proven to be fundamental to accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Today, solutions created in the South deliver results to some of the most pressing development challenges, such as poverty, climate change, food insecurity, water scarcity, and others. As such, the Qatar Fund for Development is proud to be a core investor in the UNDP Accelerator Labs Network. Being one of the biggest of its kind, this network operates in more than 90 countries to support scaling up home-grown innovative solutions for common development challenges. It also aims to promote learning and cooperation across countries forming part of the network. We have seen groundbreaking locally-led innovations through these network labs, demonstrating the importance of putting relevant grass-root innovation at the core of our collective response.

This publication on *“Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in LDCs: From the Istanbul Programme of Action to Achieving Sustainable and Resilient Development”* is a prime reflection of effective South-South and triangular collaboration practices that have bred innovative development solutions. It emphasizes the importance of mobilizing all types of partnerships, and resources, to support least developed countries (LDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS) in overcoming shared challenges towards a greener, more inclusive, and more sustainable future.

Looking ahead, the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries that Qatar will host, will offer an opportunity for a holistic programme that promotes sustainable, inclusive, and resilient recovery whilst addressing the root causes of vulnerability. A programme that truly puts the LDCs at the forefront of the global development agenda.



**H.E. Khalifa Al-Kuwari**

Director General

Qatar Fund for Development

# FOREWORD

The world's 46 LDCs have arrived at an historic juncture along their development path. The year 2021 marked the conclusion of the global compact in support of their development – the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the LDC category.

During the implementation period of the IPoA, progress has been uneven across LDCs. Limited structural transformation occurred in most of them and access to adequate levels of development finance – from traditional as well as regional development finance institutions – continue to be a challenge. The average annual investment requirements to end extreme poverty in LDCs is estimated at US\$ 485 billion,<sup>1</sup> yet LDCs received only 6 percent of private finance mobilized by development finance interventions between 2012 and 2018 despite an increase in volume.<sup>2</sup> The inexorable and increasing effects of climate change continues unabated. LDCs are facing heightened vulnerability to environmental shocks, endangering the lives and livelihoods of 14 percent of the world's population.

It is against this backdrop that the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, hitting the LDCs the hardest, and inflicting upon them devastating health, social and economic impacts.

It is having a deep impact on the macroeconomic stability of LDCs, as well as reversing many years of achievements in the reduction of poverty and inequality. Strides had been made towards improving access to information and communications technology (ICT), sustainable energy, health, education, gender, and governance. Internet access in LDCs rose from about 5 percent in 2011 to 19 percent in 2019, while access to electricity in LDCs increased significantly, from 35 percent in 2011 to 52 percent in 2018. Primary education enrolment also continued to increase. Sixteen LDCs are now in various stages of the graduation process.<sup>3</sup> This process is at risk of being delayed.

The Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), therefore, takes place under unprecedented circumstances. The ambitious Doha Programme of Action for LDCs will call for a new generation of global partnership in support of LDCs and lay out priority areas for resilient and sustainable development of LDCs in the Decade of Action. At this inflection point, it is important to reflect on the achievements of the IPoA and apply the good practices and lessons learned to the next decade to build forward better.

This publication on *“Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in LDCs: From the Istanbul Programme of Action to Achieving Sustainable and Resilient Development”* showcases 80 important examples of effective action. Responding to the call in the Buenos Aires outcome document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation for the United Nations Development System to share good practices and experiences from the South, especially with LDCs,<sup>4</sup> this report has been jointly developed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLS), in partnership with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

Three transitions stand out from the good practices presented in this publication, which also reflect some of the main challenges and opportunities faced by the LDCs. These are: (i) the green transition through sustainable planning and investment, food systems and land use management, circular water management, and clean and smart energy solutions; (ii) the urban transition to transform cities into inclusive, sustainable and resilient places where everyone benefits from growth, access to transport, housing, water and sanitation, and green spaces; and (iii) the productive transition to increase capacities through local economic development, adoption of digital innovations and the creation of value-added linkages leading to structural transformation.

1 UNCTAD, The Least Developed Countries Report 2021, 2021, United Nations, available at [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldc2021\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldc2021_en.pdf)

2 UNCDF, OECD (2020). Blended Finance in the LDCs 2020, available at <https://www.uncdf.org/article/6379/blended-finance-in-the-ldcs-2020>

3 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, Report of the Secretary-General (A/76/71–E/2021/13), available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/075/80/PDF/N2107580.pdf?OpenElement>

4 Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/73/291), available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/111/72/pdf/N1911172.pdf?OpenElement>

The highlighted good practices illustrate the central tenets of effective South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. They address transnational development challenges; highlight solutions that have been piloted and scaled up and that have tangible development outcomes in LDCs. The examples also centre on achieving the IPoA priority areas and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, South-South and triangular cooperation are contributing to sustainable development and a resilient recovery. As the new Programme of Action for the LDCs will fall within the remaining Decade of Action for SDG implementation, South-South cooperation will play an important role in accelerating the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the development goals and targets of the LDCs.

We are committed to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and platforms to support national and regional development efforts. We will also work to strengthen institutional and technical capacities, improve the exchange of experience and know-how, and promote peer and cross-regional learning. We call for continued financial and technical support from the international community for LDCs to invigorate and advance South-South solutions as they strive to transition to a greener, more productive, more inclusive and more resilient future.

It is our hope that the knowledge generated through this publication informs the contributions of the international community, and the United Nations in particular, in harnessing and scaling-up impactful South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development in LDCs.



**Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray**  
Former High Representative  
for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS<sup>5</sup>



**Ms. Preeti Sinha**  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations Capital  
Development Fund



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Director a.i.  
United Nations Office for  
South-South Cooperation

5 Effective of 17 January 2022, Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray has assumed the office of Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The core team members who prepared the report are Shams Banihani and Raphael Avelar, UNOSSC; Mohammad Abbadi, Laura Sennett, Edoardo Tancioni, and Nan Zhang, UNCDF and Yuxin Ai, UN-OHRLS. The organization of this document was supervised by Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director of UNOSSC.

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# List of Least Developed Countries (as of 24 November 2021)

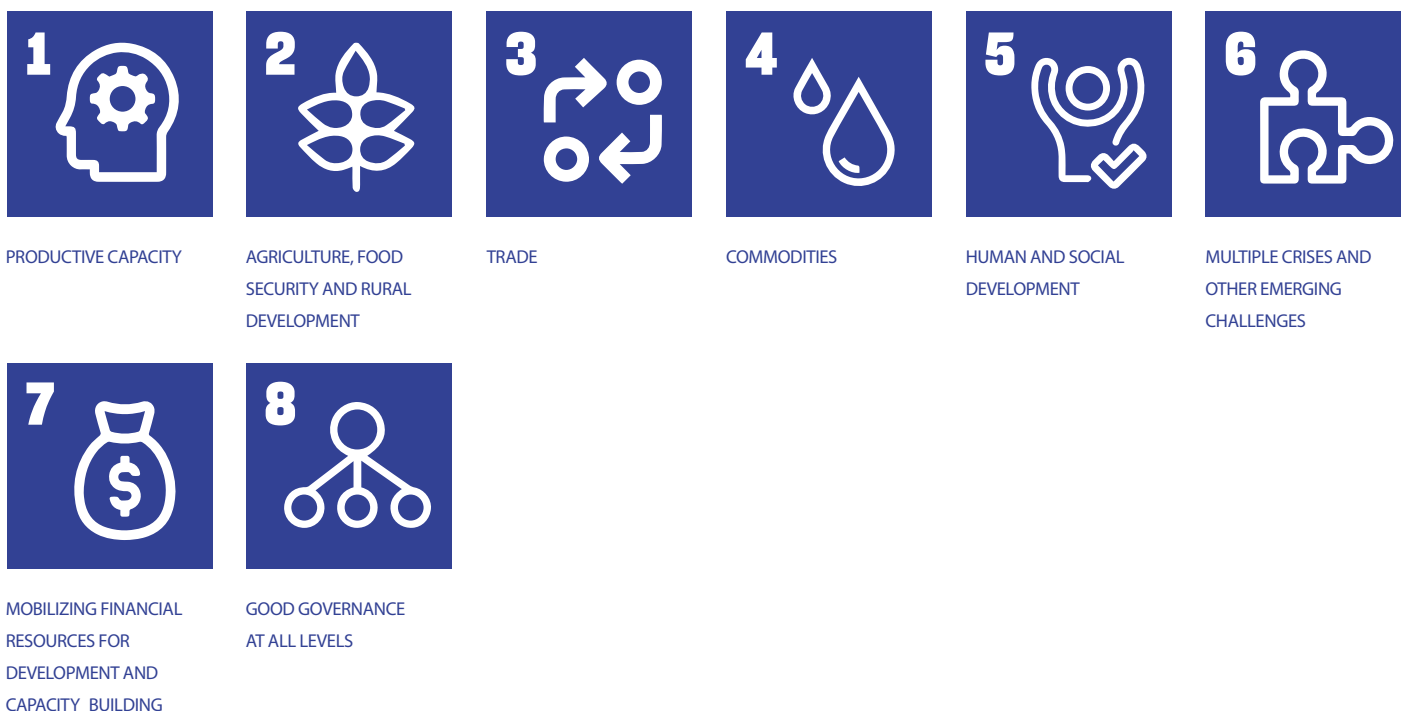
| Country                                       | Year of inclusion | Country                            | Year of inclusion |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Afghanistan                                   | 1971              | Madagascar                         | 1991              |
| Angola <sup>1</sup>                           | 1994              | Malawi                             | 1971              |
| Bangladesh <sup>5</sup>                       | 1975              | Mali                               | 1971              |
| Benin   | 1971              | Mauritania                         | 1986              |
| Bhutan <sup>2</sup>                           | 1971              | Mozambique                         | 1988              |
| Burkina Faso                                  | 1971              | Myanmar                            | 1987              |
| Burundi                                       | 1971              | Nepal <sup>5</sup>                 | 1971              |
| Cambodia                                      | 1991              | Niger                              | 1971              |
| Central African Republic                      | 1975              | Rwanda                             | 1971              |
| Chad  | 1971              | São Tomé and Príncipe <sup>3</sup> | 1982              |
| Comoros                                       | 1977              | Senegal                            | 2000              |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo              | 1991              | Sierra Leone                       | 1982              |
| Djibouti                                      | 1982              | Solomon Islands <sup>4</sup>       | 1991              |
| Eritrea                                       | 1994              | Somalia                            | 1971              |
| Ethiopia                                      | 1971              | South Sudan                        | 2012              |
| the Gambia                                    | 1975              | Sudan                              | 1971              |
| Guinea  | 1971              | Timor-Leste                        | 2003              |
| Guinea-Bissau                                 | 1981              | Togo                               | 1982              |
| Haiti   | 1971              | Tuvalu                             | 1986              |
| Kiribati                                      | 1986              | Uganda                             | 1971              |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic <sup>5</sup> | 1971              | United Republic of Tanzania        | 1971              |
| Lesotho                                       | 1971              | Yemen                              | 1971              |
| Liberia                                       | 1990              | Zambia                             | 1991              |

- General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/253 adopted on 12 February 2016, decided that Angola will graduate five years after the adoption of the resolution, and General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/259 adopted on 11 February 2021, decided that Angola will be granted a three-year extension to the preparatory period and will graduate on 12 February 2024.
- General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/133 adopted on 13 December 2018, decided that Bhutan will graduate five years after the adoption of the resolution, i.e. on 13 December 2023.
- General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/133 adopted on 13 December 2018, decided that São Tomé and Príncipe will graduate six years after the adoption of the resolution, i.e. on 13 December 2024.
- General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/133 adopted on 13 December 2018, decided that Solomon Islands will graduate six years after the adoption of the resolution, i.e. on 13 December 2024.
- General Assembly resolution A/RES/76/8 adopted on 24 November 2021, decided that Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal will graduate five years after the adoption of the resolution, i.e. on 24 November 2026.

# The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



## The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> These are not official icons of the eight IPoA Priority Areas. They were created for this publication for illustrative purposes only.

# GOOD PRACTICES



# Support for the Development of Capacities and Micro-Enterprises of Young People from Vulnerable Rural Sectors of the South Department of Haiti



Promotion of youth micro-entrepreneurship in sustainable agricultural products in southern Haiti

## CHALLENGE

In Haiti, while the rural population has been steadily declining due to rural flight and urbanization,<sup>1</sup> agriculture is still responsible for a large portion of jobs, 20 per cent of the country's GDP,<sup>2</sup> while low productivity and land tenure insecurity are significant problems for smallholder farmers.

Rural youth often struggle to find support in joining the labour market and/or developing their own businesses, leading to impoverishment and rural flight. Education, capacity development and training are crucial aspects to the fight against rural poverty, and ensure rural youth have opportunities within their own communities.

Rural youth in Haiti represent both a challenge and an opportunity when it comes to poverty reduction in the country's rural communities. Generating decent employment opportunities for young people must be encouraged and supported. The achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty) and rural economic development can only be achieved through enabling environments that empower youth to achieve their full potential.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In 2018, the Chilean Fund against Hunger and Poverty started an innovative South-South financing project that contributes to the development of young people in southern Haiti and strengthens their knowledge through the implementation of associative and individual agro-production projects related to environmental sustainability.

<sup>1</sup> <https://population.un.org/wup/Country-Profiles/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?end=2020&locations=HT&start=1988>

### NOMINATED BY

Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation (AGCID)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Chile, Haiti

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2, 5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.b, 8.5

### SUPPORTED BY

AGCID, Solidarity and Social Investment Fund (FOSIS) of Chile

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Solidarity and Social Investment Fund (FOSIS), Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HDRF)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3eqXz67>

This project with Haiti was based on a previous triangular cooperation initiative between Haiti, Chile and Germany, called the IANA project (“Imagine avni-nou ansanm - Imagine a future together”), carried out between 2014 and 2017. This allowed the creation of entrepreneurial capacities in Haitian youth from Aquin, on environmental sustainability and the transformation of agricultural products. The previous triangular cooperation experience has therefore played an important role in informing the project design of this project.

The project develops capacities of 23 young people from marginal rural areas of southern Haiti (Aquin commune) to promote five experiences in micro-entrepreneurship in sustainable agriculture and the transformation of local agricultural products. It contributes primarily to environmentally-friendly technical training, which is linked to SDG 1 and secondarily to SDG 8, generating sources of self-employment for marginalized youth and their families. The project contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development) and 5 (Human and social development). The project provides a response to the accelerated and growing migration of unemployed Haitian youth, by offering autonomous work options and helping them to transform productive agriculture.

The project developed the capacities of four trainers from the Training Centre of the Haitian Foundation for Resource Development (HDRF), a local partner in Haiti, training young people in the development of job skills and fostering partnership with innovation and care for the environment. It also includes the transfer of the experience of the Chilean Fund for Solidarity and Social Investment (FOSIS) in the field of self-employment and the strengthening of local capacities.

During 2019, the internships were carried out by the team of trainers, while during the Covid-19 pandemic, they continued through virtual meetings.

The trainers were joined by two former AGCID fellows (former IANA project coordinators), one of whom continues to be part of the team of trainers, creating a cooperative bond with the young beneficiaries, and facilitating the understanding and cultural adaptation of the capacity to transfer.

Within the framework of the prior triangular cooperation, a diagnostic assessment was created through a participatory and intersectoral process among regional, local and central teams of the Haitian ministries of environment, agriculture and education (IANA project). The assessment provided a detailed classification of the area in which the project is implemented. This participatory work is currently maintained in partnership with the HRDF territorial partner, the team of trainers and the young participants.



The young environmental technicians, certified through technical courses recognized by Haiti (technical training (CAP) of the Ministry of Education and Professional Training), undergo a 7-module training process whose content is the result of cooperation between the teams from Haiti and Chile. The materials are available and distributed by a local partner NGO, and the capacities are developed in the young participants and trainers, as well as in teams involved at the national level.

It is innovative that, based on a pilot triangular cooperation experience aimed at the training of trainers of young farmers in Haiti, the issue is continued bilaterally, enhancing its achievements, and accompanying the generation of sustainable agricultural self-employment.

The project staff learned to recognize and integrate the knowledge and experience of local teams in the development of a training methodology fully adapted to the Haitian reality. Starting with respect and listening made the task effective and enhanced the results of this initiative. Likewise, having a focal point in Aquin, and a local coordinating team that managed the implementation of the project, was essential in monitoring and periodic review which, although remote, impacted the achievement of the expected results. Along with this, the dedication, technical quality and professionalism of the people who developed the project must be highlighted as a factor that made the difference when implementing such a challenging experience for Chilean cooperation that requires additional official dedication, solid public commitment and flexibility of the human team to overcome geographical and cultural barriers, generating benefits and horizontal links, as capital for the partnership's future.

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# Forest-Fungi Agroforestry System



## Climate-smart practice for enhancing rural livelihoods

### CHALLENGE

Agroforestry, or the use of trees in agriculture, is a traditional farming practice in India, Nepal and China that provides food, nutrition and ecosystem services to support livelihoods and agricultural production. Increasing reliance on modern commercial monocropping has siphoned resources and attention from this indigenous system. Agroforestry systems require a longer waiting time before starting production compared to annual crops. Therefore, the need for farmers to make both cash and time investments during the early years of planting presents major challenges. Consequently, adding seasonal and annual harvests that become available from the first year could be a vital boost to the viability of agroforestry systems for smallholders' livelihood security. One possible way of accomplishing this is through integrating mushroom cultivation into agroforestry.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Centre for Mountain Futures (CMF) has developed a unique agroforestry system in which various medicinal plants and mushrooms are intercropped with multipurpose trees. This technique is truly a climate-smart practice for enhancing rural livelihoods.

Previously, trial pilots were established in a restored phosphorus mining site near Kunming and in Honghe County in Yunnan Province of southwest China. Honghe County, as a remote region in China with an average per-capita income far below China's national average, is dominated by mountains terrain and indigenous ethnic communities. The local Honghe government has provided land to CMF for the exploration of climate-smart practices, and accordingly, CMF is implementing a large-scale plantation based on a forest-fungi agroforestry system. India is a populous and developing country, faces many of the same challenges we have seen in Honghe county. Smallholder farmers and workers in the country, especially women and children, require small-scale economic opportunities to increase access to adequate nutrition and raise living standards. Nepal and



#### NOMINATED BY

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, India, Myanmar, Nepal

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.4, 1.A, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 5.A, 5.B, 8.2, 8.3, 13.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4

#### SUPPORTED BY

China South-South Development Center Project

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Centre for Mountain Futures (CMF), Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

June 2018 – November 2018

Myanmar are also underdeveloped and highly impoverished mountainous countries facing similar developmental problems. These common factors across Honghe, India, Nepal and Myanmar make them ideal sites for developing climate-smart and income-bolstering agroforestry practices.

Agriculture is a vital industry across these four countries. To some degree, all sites have suffered from widespread deforestation and lack of viable livelihood options. Tackling local poverty in a systematic way therefore requires solutions, and investments, that can be applied to a highly degraded landscape while also providing secure incomes. These investments operate through various programmes, of which agroforestry system development is one of the most highly regarded.

The introduction of similar mushroom cultivation practices along with agroforestry systems are applicable in India, Nepal, Myanmar and other developing countries, and would directly and indirectly address SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 13 and 15. In the Istanbul Programme of Action, the project addresses Priority 1 (production capacity infrastructure, energy, science, technology and innovation, private sector development) and Priority 2 (agriculture, food security and rural development).

Mushroom consumption in China is high and increasing on a year-to-year basis. Global mushroom consumption patterns present an excellent opportunity to farmers and NGOs in developing nations to lift communities out of poverty through the sustainable and environmentally friendly cultivation of economically valuable mushroom species.

Indigenous farmer networks can help facilitate the spread of cultivation and management techniques developed by CMF researchers across Nepal, India and Myanmar village clusters. This knowledge transfer regarding the cultivation, collection, spawn production, drying and storage of valuable and edible mushrooms such as morels (*Morchella*) can directly and indirectly supplement income streams for farming communities within and beyond project boundaries.

Supported by the China South-South Development Center Project, representatives from India, Nepal and Myanmar, whose real needs and developmental demands were first assessed by CMF staff, were invited to CMF, Kunming Institute of Botany to participate in a five-day intensive training program regarding the cultivation and production of mushrooms deemed viable for growth in their country of origin. The training covered both solid-state cultivation (e.g., the bag cultivation method) and liquid-state cultivation, with a particular emphasis on the cultivation of *Ganoderma lucidum* and *Morchella*.

Training on how to cultivate and produce these two high-demand species was meant to build a foundation for the future cultivation of other mushroom varieties with similar cultivation methods. Visiting agrotechnicians were equipped with the technologies relating to different edible and medicinal mushroom types. These visiting delegates from Nepal, India and Myanmar underwent capacity building to utilize high-value mushroom growing technologies and were empowered to set their own guidelines for the cultivation of economic mushrooms and train small-holder farmers, especially women, in their communities.



In addition, a mushroom cultivation video recorded during the training workshop has been uploaded onto our website and is available for public access. The video serves as an important reference for participants after they return home and begin to apply their skills to the task of mushroom cultivation. Meanwhile, a handbook on economic mushroom cultivation will be finalized and published shortly, thereby jumpstarting the capacity of rural development by facilitating mushroom cultivation across the world.

More importantly, the forest-fungi agroforestry system training programme must be continued in developing countries, as it not only stimulates sustainable rural development, provides stable sources of income and supplements household nutrition for rural and impoverished communities, especially for women who are disproportionately impacted by work at the household level, but it also demonstrates the social and environmental benefits of intercropping multipurpose trees with mushrooms and other economically viable crops. Continuous support from the SSDC Project has ensured the project's successful implementation. In the future, we will further enhance cooperation with the SSDC project and strengthen practical cooperation with our partners from developing countries, especially focusing our attention on, and providing more opportunities to, the least developed countries.

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# The Gambia Food Security Support



Supporting the management of aflatoxin contamination in groundnuts – the most important export product of the Gambia

## CHALLENGE

Aflatoxin belongs to a family of toxins found in crops such as maize, groundnuts and cottonseed. It is highly prevalent in the Gambia and negatively affects international trade, agriculture and public health. Aflatoxins are the principal trade risk for maize, groundnuts and cottonseed. Gambian groundnuts have remained relatively less competitive because of the presence of aflatoxin. Key products, which are birdfeed and cake, have not been allowed to enter European Union (EU) borders since 2015. For instance, birdfeed is exchanged for half the price of aflatoxin-free edibles in the EU and cake at discounts of up to 40 percent in the region compared with the same product in the EU.<sup>1</sup> Low prices for exports have made the process less attractive for farmers, resulting in decreased production and economic losses.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To tackle these issues, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) has partnered with the Government of the Gambia to implement the Aflatoxin Mitigation Programme (AMP). TİKA purchased test equipment and laboratory test consumables to be used for testing the levels of aflatoxin in groundnuts from the groundnut belt region of the Gambia. When verified as aflatoxin-free, the harvested groundnuts are expected to be purchased from the farmers with a 10 percent premium on the declared farm gate price. The processed groundnuts are then exported to the EU for a 30 percent higher price per ton than in 2016. Thus, the aflatoxin-free groundnuts effectively increase farmers' incomes and open new markets for the Gambia.

To implement the project, around 7,000 farmers were selected by the National Food Security Processing and Marketing Corporation (NFSC) in the the Gambia's groundnut belt, including the North Bank and Central River and West Bank

### NOMINATED BY

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

The Gambia, Turkey

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2, 3

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 12.2, 12.3

### SUPPORTED BY

TİKA

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

National Food Security Processing and Marketing Corporation (NFSC), the Gambia, TİKA

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

May 2018 – November 2018

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3Hd5kco>

<sup>1</sup> According to the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation's document on the project.

divisions, where aflatoxin contamination levels are much higher than the national average. A total of 5,000 hectares were used for the implementation and test process. When the biocontrol agent Aflasafe is applied, it stays with the crop and continues to protect against contamination throughout the value chain. Therefore, the aflatoxin contamination is reduced in the storage and transport processes. In addition, the positive influences of atoxigenic strain applications carry over between crops across the fields and provide multi-year benefits. Lower aflatoxin levels lead to an increase in farmers' incomes and the trade value of groundnuts. Through the opening of new markets, the project has been scaled up at the national level.

NFSC of the Gambia is responsible for preliminary tests on the product, using rapid test kits such as Elisa, to determine the levels of contamination. Since the NFSC is the paying agent for groundnuts, the data are available to serve as a verification tool for the number of farmers who saw increases in their revenues. The Ministry of Agriculture has participated in the monitoring and collection of the data on production; therefore, in the medium-term, this experience of Aflasafe groundnut production is expected to have an impact at the policy level.

This project aimed to remove obstacles to the sustainability of high added value agricultural products. Reducing local poverty in line with SDG target 1.2 is the primary goal in this context. In addition, by combating the toxins that contaminate the soil, the project contributed towards increased agricultural productivity (SDG 2.3) and the sustainability and effective use of natural resources (SDG 12.3). The project also contributed to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), by supporting efforts to increase agricultural production. The project also contributed to IPoA priority area number 3 (Trade) by providing technical and financial support to national and regional projects.

This experience can be extended to other aflatoxin-contaminated products. According to statistics from The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) in 2019 groundnut was the Gambia's second most exported product <sup>2</sup>. The main export destinations are India (US\$ 32 million), Viet Nam (US\$ 72,100) and Singapore (US\$ 39,200).<sup>3</sup>

This project can be replicated in any country if requested, bearing in mind that each country has a different climate, soil texture and agricultural species and varieties.

2 <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/gmb>  
3 <https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-product/coconuts-brazil-nuts-and-cashews/reporter/gmb>

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# Crabs Bringing Success to Coastal Farmers



Building resilience of climate vulnerable farmers in Bangladesh through learning and applying new knowledge in aquaculture

## CHALLENGE

In Bangladesh, rising sea levels are gradually inundating arable lands, and frequent cyclones are causing salt intrusion in groundwater and soil, adversely affecting agricultural activities in coastal districts. Crops like rice and vegetables have lower yields and are affected by weather shocks. Increasing salinity is also hurting smallholder farmers cultivating shrimp. Therefore, rural communities in coastal regions need to find different livelihood opportunities.

Additionally, mangrove forests in the coastal regions are negatively impacted by increasing resource demand, including crablet collection. Natural crab stocks are dwindling, forcing crab collectors to venture deeper into the forest. This not only exposes their vessels to greater possibility of damage, but also to attacks from pirates and wild animals. These forests, which protect coastal regions from tidal surges and large waves, are also damaged, leaving the coasts exposed and vulnerable to erosion.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The IFAD-financed Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE) project focuses on promoting microenterprises through its three inter-related components: 1) Financial Services for Microenterprises, 2) Value Chain Development, and 3) Technology and Product Adaptation. To increase household incomes, PACE engaged in knowledge exchange and technology transfer to learn from entities in other countries in the region to solve specific problems in economic sub-sectors. The project aligns with SDGs 1 and 2, and contributes to priority areas 2 and 6 of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA).

To address the challenges outlined, the PACE project introduced the first-ever crab hatchery in Bangladesh in the coastal Satkhira district. IFAD's longstanding national partner and the implementer of the PACE project, the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) – a Bangladeshi apex development organization – collaborated



### NOMINATED BY

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Bangladesh

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Viet Nam

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2, 6

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4

### SUPPORTED BY

IFAD

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

March 2016 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/-/project/1100001648>



with the Centre for Education and Community Development (CECD), a Vietnamese development organization to transfer hatchery technology. Overseas study tours were organized to Viet Nam to learn best practices, production technologies, and management practices related to microenterprise and value chain development around the crab hatchery. This included technical support of Vietnamese experts to expand the export-oriented crab culture sub-sector.

The PACE project aims to expand crab-farming enterprises in the coastal regions of Bangladesh by increasing the availability of crablets and improving the productivity of crab fattening activities in the regions to increase incomes, provide sustainable employment opportunities and creating new entrepreneurs in crab management. Coastal farmers embraced the new technology as they were supported with comprehensive microenterprise finance and non-financial services (training and technical advice) using the value chain development methodology.

The project has used 120 demonstration farms to encourage farmers in the district to adopt modern techniques of crab culture, such as crab fattening, grow-out, crablet nursing, crab farming using boxes, and vertical crab farming that help improve profitability. Furthermore, the project established market linkages to domestic and overseas markets, and established an information Centre to provide need-based technical market-related information to beneficiaries. PACE is implementing nine Value Chains on crab, of which two are focused on establishing crab hatcheries, and the remaining seven focus on crab culture activities. All these VC sub-projects have incorporated 35,000 project members, working in 19 climate-vulnerable sub-districts of six districts of southern coastal areas of Bangladesh. Established in 2016, the model crab hatchery started with a production of 5,000 crablets per annum, but increased production to 250,000 crablets in 2021.

Among the 35,000 direct beneficiaries of the sub-project, 38 percent are women. Through the application of innovative techniques, farmers were able to increase crab production by up to 40 percent over previous practices and build a profitable business. A good example of an improved outcome is the improved health management of crabs, achieved through adequate feeding informed by stocking rates. Another innovation is the introduction of plastic crates to enable the cultivation of soft-shell crabs, which fetch a higher price on the market.

Following the model crab hatchery, PACE has supported three other crab hatcheries at the entrepreneurial level. PKSf is also replicating the good practice beyond PACE and establishing small/mini crab hatcheries at the household level to ensure farmers' continued supply of crablets. One way in which the project ensures the replicability of these interventions is the use of locally sourced materials where the recommended materials are unavailable. An example is the use of locally produced bamboo fences instead of more expensive nets that are required to contain crabs.



The crab hatchery is an innovation, the first of its kind in Bangladesh. It aims to bring a change in the conventional practice of collecting crablets from natural sources. It improves Bangladesh's competitive advantage in the production of high-quality mud crabs, which are sought in the Asian regional market. The practice of crab fattening is also more sustainable and resilient to variance in climatic conditions in comparison to shrimp cultivation due to the physiology of crabs, which makes them hardier.

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# AGREM +: Making the Mining Sector a Lever for Local Development



## Support for improved governance of mining royalties



### CHALLENGE

In many LDCs with rich mineral resources, the extractive industry represents a large part of the national economy, contributing for example to one-quarter of the national budget in Guinea, Mali and Sierra Leone. However, while the mining sector directly impacts local economies (mostly resulting in a decline in traditional agricultural and livelihood activities), very little effort is made to provide developmental and financial solutions to boost local economies and support local populations in taking advantage of these changes. This results in a lost opportunity for the country to engage in structural transformation, create additional jobs and provide social services.

In the last few years, LDC governments have been trying to more effectively leverage the mining industry to provide additional opportunities for both the public and private sectors.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Across West African countries, and following actions of the Guinea Chamber of Mines (GCM) and the Association of ECOWAS Chambers of Mines network, new mechanisms have been put in place to increase access to funding for the public and private sectors and develop entrepreneurship in mining areas.

In 2017, the government of Guinea, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the GCM launched the Support for Improved Governance of Mining Royalties (AGREM) programme in the communes of the prefectures of Boké and Boffa for a period of five years. The programme aims to promote fair, transparent and accountable practices in the management and use of resources at the local government level for sustainable and inclusive development. The solution was to

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

6, 7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.a

#### SUPPORTED BY

Association of ECOWAS Chambers of Mines (EFEDCOM), Guinea Chamber of Mines, Burkina Faso Chamber of Mines

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Government of Guinea

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

- <https://www.uncdf.org/guinee>
- <https://bit.ly/3puyJIT>
- <https://bit.ly/3HgL2yF>

mainstream mining royalties into intergovernmental fiscal transfers: a percentage of the annual turnover of mining companies (0.5 percent for bauxite and iron; 1 percent for other minerals) is levied by the government and transferred to local government budgets.

Between 2001 and 2017, UNCDF set up LDFs (Local Development Funds) in collaboration with the GCM and the Guinean government. The Guinean government decided to replicate the UNCDF initiative, giving rise to the Economic Development Fund (FODEL) in 2017. This mechanism, inspired by UNCDF performance-based grants, has increased the number of infrastructure projects planned and managed by local governments (LGs).

The AGREM project has provided support for LGs to absorb the increase of public funding. This support has enabled, among other achievements, the construction of the modern market of Boffa. As a result, LGs can now provide the basic services and economic infrastructure needed for development, thus contributing towards achieving SDGs 9 and 11 and IPoA priority areas 5, 7 and 8.

In addition, royalties from the mining sector are used to support the local private sector, including entrepreneurship and value chain linkages with the mining industry. UNCDF set up a guarantee line in 2019, funded by mining company royalties and co-managed with the GCM. Capacity building, as provided by the guarantee fund, monitors structures in the proper management of their financing. SMEs thus benefit from subsidies, easier access to capital and subsidized interest rates, providing additional funding for local entrepreneurs. Partnerships with local banks and the GCM have been instrumental in this innovative approach.

Through these two different mechanisms and the support provided to the regional network of Chambers of Mines, the project is shedding light on how to better engage the private sector as a key contributor to the local economy. UNCDF's work in Guinea has inspired ECOWAS countries to use the mining sector to help local development. UNCDF and the Guinean government have shared best practices through the Association of ECOWAS Chambers of Mines. The financial mechanisms created there were described for the purpose of replication. Thus, Burkina Faso has decided to create a Local Development Mining Fund in 2019, using the same principles as the Local Development Mining Fund set up by UNCDF in Guinea.

Recommendations from a regional comparison were commissioned by UNCDF and shared with the Chambers of Mines in West Africa for discussion and implementation. They concern the legal frameworks currently in place, as well as an analysis of the financial mechanisms developed in the mining sector of seven West African countries: Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Sierra Leone, Ghana and South Africa. The aim is to create a framework between the countries of the South to develop similar mechanisms. The Chambers of Mines proved to be a first-class initiative partner for mobilizing actors around local development. Exchanges of experiences between the Chambers of Mines help to strengthen skills and launch new projects.



Since UNCDF's work in Guinea, and thanks to the sharing of best practices throughout South-South exchanges within the Association of ECOWAS Chambers of Mines, countries such as Burkina Faso and Ghana in 2019 have decided to create mechanisms based on the model developed in Guinea. Building on the AGREM pilot, the AGREM+ project was conceived to support all ECOWAS member countries in developing mechanisms for financing local development through mining royalties. The mechanisms can now be replicated and adapted to the needs of each country through South-South cooperation under the leadership of UNCDF. This project and the promotion by ECOWAS of regional standards for local development are driving the change of mobilizing the mining sector to contribute towards achieving the SDGs in the LDCs.

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# Local Cross-Border Initiatives (LoBI)



Local cross-border initiatives to consolidate economic development and peace

## CHALLENGE

Border populations often share numerous social and family links, which means cross-border can be places of social, cultural and economic exchanges. However, cross-border zones in least developed countries (LDCs) tend to also be also the regions most deprived of good governance, infrastructure and basic services and are often the most prone to conflicts. The development of these areas can strengthen the shared capacity of countries to respond to growing migration pressures and prevent the recruitment of young people by extremist groups. By better managing shared natural resources, tackling regional disparities, creating sustainable jobs and enhancing the effective delivery of services, inclusive and sustainable development can be achieved.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Recognizing great economic opportunities which remain largely untapped in West Africa's borders regions, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has been implementing the Local Cross-Border Initiatives (LoBI) programme. It supports the integration of cross-border development strategies into regional, national and local policymaking and the creation of a regional funding mechanism for cross-border initiatives. So far, the programme has largely concentrated on cross-border livestock and agricultural initiatives. These actions have contributed to strengthening social cohesion, reducing poverty, improving production capacity and local cross-border economic development. These focused and specific actions lead to conflict prevention and contribute towards achieving SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). They also contribute to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity) 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), 3 (Trade), 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges) and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Luxembourg

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 3, 6, 8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.a, 1.5

### SUPPORTED BY

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Government of Luxembourg

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

June 2012 – July 2017

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/lobi>

Based on the good practices and experiences shared thanks to strong cooperation with regional institutions such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC), participating countries were able to develop national cross-border cooperation policies and strategies. With the financial support of the Government of Luxembourg and collaboration between WAEMU and ECOWAS, national governments and local authorities, UNCDF implemented LoBI in two pilot areas, namely IIRSahel (between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and SKBo (between Burkina Faso, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire).

In IIRSahel, where the average annual rainfall is below 300 mm, and the production system is based on rainfed livestock, LoBI supported investments in marking transhumance tracks, vaccination parks, an animal feed production unit and a slaughterhouse. In SKBo, where the environment is more conducive to irrigation and asset-based production systems, LoBI supported an economic partnership between cross-border agricultural cooperation and the economic interest group called the "Burkina-Mali-Côte d'Ivoire Economic Interest Grouping" (GIE BMCI). In addition, LoBI worked with the cross-border network of community radios "Kurumba" for producing and broadcasting awareness-raising content on cross-border issues including security, human trafficking, the use of pesticides, etc.

These practices take potential of cross-border issues into consideration to strengthen the shared capacity of the countries involved to respond to common challenges, better manage shared natural resources, tackle regional disparities, enhance the effectiveness of service delivery and boost the ability of regional markets to compete internationally. Furthermore, by supporting cross-border exchange and coordination between local authorities, the programme ensured that the investments respond to the priority needs of populations, contributing to the reduction of poverty and tackling the challenges of agriculture, food security and rural development in the area

LoBI is an innovative model, involving local, regional and national stakeholders. At the local level, it capitalizes on existing cross-border initiatives. At the regional level, it facilitates coordination between regional institutions such as ECOWAS and UEMOA and the new national structures in charge of borders and the formulation of a cross-border roadmap. On a national scale, it has filled gaps in the definition of clear cross-border cooperation strategies and their assessment. The LoBI approach is also a replicable model, since support for the creation of a formal governance mechanism in one cross-border area can promote similar initiatives in others, notably the Mano River Region in this case.

Transforming border areas into thriving economic environments and building the capacity of local actors and communities are catalysts that stimulate inclusive local economic development and promote South-South cooperation. Ultimately, this brings people together and fosters social cohesion for other similar initiatives.



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# Local Finance Initiative



## Transforming the local economy and expanding production capacity



### CHALLENGE

Least developed countries (LDCs) are faced with insufficient aggregate economic growth and growth of poor quality that can transform the entire economic and social structure. They often lack the means to reinvest domestic capital to promote sustainable, equitable and inclusive local development. There are three major obstacles that restrict the availability of domestic and private capital for local economic development (LED), including:

- ▶ Inadequate national legal and operational frameworks, which impede engagement of the domestic financial sector in LED. Business-enabling environments for LED, including the appropriate regulations and laws, remain inadequate in many LDCs. In other cases, adequate regulations and legal frameworks exist, but fail to translate regulations and legal provisions into effective operational guidelines.
- ▶ Inadequate technical capacity and poor skill sets, which deter the development of bankable development projects.
- ▶ The need for long-term investment in infrastructure projects does not usually match the source of capital and the tendency for commercial banks in LDCs to lend in the short term.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Local Finance Initiative (LFI) is an investment mechanism that enables LDCs to unlock the flow of domestic capital to invest in sustainable development. It has been supporting countries in the global South to implement systems that foster socioeconomic transformation and encourage cooperation among countries in different regions.

One of its two key intervention areas is providing technical support and catalytic seed funding to develop transformative investments to increase the production

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Benin, the Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Nepal, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.a, 2.3, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 9.1, 17.1, 17.3, 17.5

#### SUPPORTED BY

UNCDF, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), European Union (EU), One UN Tanzania

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF, local governments and the private sector

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – 2022

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/lfi>

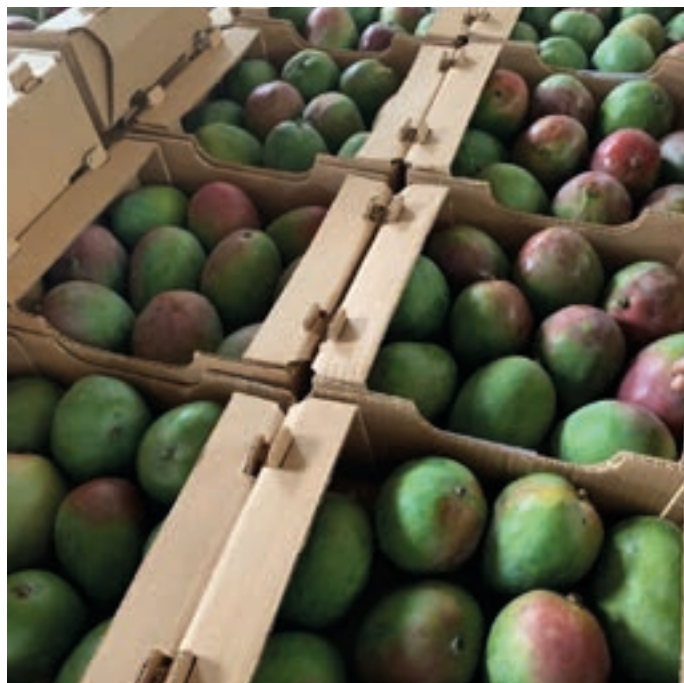
capacity of both the public and private actors. The financial support provided catalyses additional funding from both the public and private sector to speed up socio-economic transformation. The initiative helps to accelerate the attainment of SDGs 1 (No Poverty); SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), 8 (Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It also contributes to the Istanbul Plan of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

UNCDF, in collaboration with LDC governments and with support from development partners such as the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), has been providing technical assistance on good governance, business development and the establishment of investment vehicles. In addition, UNCDF's financial support has been catalytic in attracting additional public and private capital, mainly from the domestic market, for local economic transformation.

LFI has provided support to develop South-South cross-border markets that facilitate bilateral trade between countries in different regions, and hence helps to accelerate SDGs 9 and 17. A few examples are four cross-border markets in the Kigoma Region in the United Republic of Tanzania that assist in the aggregation and storage of agriculture produce and facilitate trade and the movement of goods and services between the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi. This initiative is in support of the Common Market Protocol in the Great Lakes Region in Eastern Africa, comprised of six countries: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The protocol promotes regional integration and accelerates economic growth and development through the free movement of goods and people.

The other intervention area is capacity building to address regional challenges that hinder trade among countries. For example, LFI has supported countries in West Africa (i.e., The Gambia, Guinea and Senegal) to enhance capacity and South-South collaboration to identify opportunities and support local government authorities in developing bankable projects. The outcome of this initiative is the INTEGRA Programme in Guinea Conakry, which attracts mining sector participation and pays royalties to local governments to support transformative local economic development projects along the Conakry – Labe corridor covering the four districts of Conakry, Kindia, Mamou and Labe. Similarly, in The Gambia, capacity building attracted financial support from development partners to design a programme to address climate change, youth employment and smart agriculture.

The catalytic investments made in pilot countries by UNCDF through the LFI Programme have been replicated from one region to another, and the success stories and key lessons have been shared with other developing countries. The LFI mechanism has proven that transformative local development investments can tap into additional capital from both public sector and domestic capital markets. The facilitation by LFI is a way of catalysing public funding further downstream to local communities, while at the same time de-risking investments and creating a



business-enabling environment to attract the participation of the private sector. The mechanism employs proven financing techniques to mobilize private financing for relatively small infrastructure projects that are critical for supporting local economic development, together with capacity building for key stakeholders to scale up local development funding. The programme has so far benefited over 2.9 million people (1.5 million females and 1.4 million males) in the eight LDCs. These beneficiaries include: 219,000 small holder farmers supported on access to market; over 29,000 employed (53 percent being women); more than 600,000 passengers every year served by passing through the supported infrastructure; and over 5,700 households receiving access to electricity. These transformative investments offer lessons to governments in the respective countries for scaling up to other localities. Furthermore, UNCDF is ready to work with other countries to replicate this work when the minimum conditions are met, including a legal and regulatory environment conducive to investment at the local government level.

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# The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP)



Helping to provide sustainable financial services to low-income households



## CHALLENGE

Globally, about 1.7 billion people remain unbanked, with two billion - more than half of the world's working adults – still excluded from formal financial services<sup>1</sup>. This is most acute among low-income populations in emerging and developing economies.

The Pacific Island countries face a number of challenges ranging from climate vulnerability to economic stagnation. All of this makes it one of the least developed and most financially excluded regions in the world. In many island countries, poor infrastructure and difficult terrain mean that banks are physically inaccessible to the population. In addition to geographic barriers, these countries face gender barriers, lack of financial education and consumer protection guidelines, low population density, low levels of technical expertise and vulnerability to natural hazards.

The financial inclusion landscape in the Pacific region must undergo significant development to address these challenges. Pacific Island countries need to build a foundation for an enabling policy environment, strong institutional capacity and the ability to incubate a range of financial services. In addition, collaboration and cooperation by different actors is an important factor in overcoming the challenges and achieving the SDGs.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) aims to increase the number of low-income Pacific Islanders who use formal financial services, with the overall vision of fostering inclusive

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 17.6

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Australia, New Zealand Aid Programme, European Union, UNCDF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Caribbean and Pacific Microfinance Framework Programme (EU/ACP)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP, UNCDF

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

September 2008 – June 2020

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://www.pfip.org/>

<sup>1</sup> Annex – Final Evaluation Report of Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme - Phase II, FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PACIFIC FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME (PFIP), <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/9950>

economic growth in the region. Its focus lies in supporting financial service providers to innovate with products and services for customers, assisting governments to create an enabling policy environment for financial innovation and consumer empowerment.

The following are the associated outcome areas and corresponding strategies through which PFIP has contributed towards achieving the overall vision of inclusive economic growth within the region:

- ▶ **Better Policies, Regulations and Coordinated Actions:** Assisting in establishing an enabling policy and regulatory environment in each country covered, backed by a robust national financial inclusion strategy that facilitates the expansion of appropriate, innovative and secure financial products and delivery channels for low-income Pacific Islanders.
- ▶ **Increased Financial Access:** Expanding financial access through product/channel innovations that meet the financial service needs of low-income Pacific Islanders, including women and youth, while at the same time resulting in the sustainable delivery of financial services.
- ▶ **Better Market Information and Access to Knowledge:** Enhancing the sector's understanding of products, channels and business models suited to the needs of low-income Pacific Islanders through demand, supply and impact evaluation studies.
- ▶ **Informed and Competent Consumers:** Strengthening financial competencies of clients so they can better leverage business and financial access opportunities to improve their livelihoods and establish simple, transparent consumer protection measures.

PFIP operates in the Pacific region, specifically in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu, and has funded 44 projects with financial service providers who have innovated with technology and products, enrolling over two million customers in services such as agency banking, mobile wallets, micro insurance, micro loans, remittances and saving groups. Women account for over 975,000 of all clients enrolled, representing significant progress in reducing the gender gap that exists in the Pacific. The programme integrates a South-South cooperation element by bringing cross-border lessons and experiences to solve the developmental challenges of the PICs. In addition, to implement mobile banking and agent banking models, UNCDF and PFIP partnered with private sector operators, specifically with every major telecom and commercial bank in the South Pacific.

According to the UNDP PFIP Final Evaluation <sup>2</sup>, by December 2019 the programme had achieved 52 percent of its outreach targets with 779,633 consumers enrolled in formal financial services against a target of 1,500,000. Including people in the formal economy is a critical contribution towards reducing poverty, tackling inequality and fostering inclusive and sustainable growth. Greater access to financial services is also a key enabler to many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The model primarily delivers on SDGs 1 (No Poverty) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It also contributes to the Istanbul Plan of Action (IPoA) priority areas 1, 3, 6 and 7.

2 FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PACIFIC FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME (PFIP), <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/9950>

3 Insights from the Final Evaluation of the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme - UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Considerable attention was also given to fostering innovation and ensuring that outcomes were sustainable once UNCDF support ended. Through PFIP's support, regulators from several countries of the Pacific region partnered to create "regulatory sandboxes" for developing new and innovative technologies, channels and financial products. Collectively, they pioneered the first regional working group of the global Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI). In 2016, the Reserve Bank of Fiji hosted the AFI Global Policy forum, which provided international recognition for the leadership of the region's regulators in financial inclusion. This work led policy-makers to elevate financial inclusion as a national development priority. As a result, six countries made international commitments to financial inclusion: the Alliance for Financial Inclusion 2011 Maya Declaration and the 2020 Money Pacific Goals. Five countries also developed national financial inclusion strategies (NFIS). This has created a strong, sustainable framework to support financial inclusion efforts.

Overall, the initiative suggests that (1) PFIP has been highly relevant, particularly given the emphasis on digital finance and agent banking, to help overcome geographic and gender barriers; (2) PFIP had a strong influence in making financial inclusion a key policy priority for the PIC governments; (3) embedding financial education in national curricula is an efficient way to address financial exclusion for future generations; (4) the Innovation Hub facilitated the testing of many innovative solutions and products.<sup>3</sup>

Several lessons were learned from implementing PFIP, and several areas for improvement were found. Scaling financial services to the mass markets of PICs is difficult and unprecedented for a number of reasons: (1) Given the small populations, there needs to be focus on increasing transactions per customer in the systems. The systems should be supported by governments by encouraging their usage for utility payments, government salary payments, relief/social welfare payments and tax payments; (2) The markets of the PICs are inherently small, so efforts should focus on complementary partnerships, especially between banks and telecoms. Further policies are needed to facilitate companies serving customer bases across countries; (3) Public sector funds should be used to help companies understand where rural oases are located, and how their business models need to be upscaled to determine how far they might be extended beyond these locations to where the majority of Pacific Islanders live.

Furthermore, the accelerated frequency and severity of natural hazards due to climate change have disrupted the economic and social progress of the region, revealing even more financial vulnerability. Most people in the region do not have any form of financial preparedness towards climate change and natural hazards. Moreover, women, youth and MSMEs are disproportionately affected by natural hazards, so these segments should be targeted by the programme.

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# Shaping Inclusive Finance Transformations (SHIFT)



Innovative partnerships to accelerate financial inclusion and women's economic empowerment

## CHALLENGE

Countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been experiencing economic growth estimated at 3.3 percent in 2020<sup>1</sup>. However, economic development and regional cooperation do not guarantee equal opportunities for everyone to improve their social and economic circumstances. The challenges of inclusion are illustrated by 265 million, or 44 percent, of adults in ASEAN who are still unbanked, combined with high levels of informal financial activities.

<sup>2</sup>Against this background, SHIFT aims to advance financial markets with a focus on women's economic empowerment through digital and financial inclusion. The programme's goal is to assist six million – one million directly and five million indirectly – low-income people of whom at least 65 percent would be women consumers.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

SHIFT has contributed towards the achievement of SDGs 1 and 5 by focusing on the financial inclusion of low-income women, as well as small businesses owned or managed by women, or which primarily employ or serve women. In addition, SHIFT has contributed to SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 17. Regarding the Istanbul Plan of Action (IPoA), SHIFT has addressed Priorities 5 and 7.

Over the years, SHIFT has reached 2.95 million direct beneficiaries in ASEAN, delivering financial services to 74,223 MSMEs and 2.876 million individuals. The overall proportion of women reached through the programme is 39.3 percent, and 85.8 percent amongst entrepreneurs.

<sup>1</sup> ASEAN Annual Report 2020-2021 – We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper Jakarta, ASEAN Secretariat, July 2021. <https://bit.ly/33oQst1>

<sup>2</sup> Measuring Progress 2020: Financial Inclusion in selected ASEAN countries, Kameshnee Naidoo and Christiaan Loots, January 2021. <https://bit.ly/3FznXpN>

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, Singapore, Viet Nam

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 3, 5, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 17.6

### SUPPORTED BY

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia, Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO), UNCDF Last Mile Finance Trust Fund (LMTF), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Pulse Lab Jakarta, VISA, Associations of Banks in Singapore (ABS)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

May 2014 – June 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/shift/homepage>



SHIFT uses a market facilitation approach in its implementation. This involves looking at the entire eco-system surrounding the delivery and use of financial services, and what drives the behaviour of market actors - low-income people, businesses and excluded segments within these markets such as women and young people, financial institutions, business development service providers and regulators.

Through technical assistance provided by SHIFT, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam have now incorporated gender mainstreaming in their respective national financial inclusion strategies. In addition, the central banks of Cambodia and Viet Nam have improved their data analytics and decision-making capabilities.

In terms of policy impact, to support the implementation of the 2016 Denarau Action Plan signed by all members of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, SHIFT supported the inclusion of gender in the policy agenda of member countries by developing toolkits for regulators and helped to collect gender-disaggregated data in national planning.

Within ASEAN, SHIFT helped to prioritize and institutionalize financial inclusion best practices by setting up the ASEAN Working Committee on Financial Inclusion (WC-FINC). Regarding the contribution of SHIFT to reduced vulnerability, in Viet Nam, one of the programme partners, LienVietPostBank reported that, after bill payments, their ViViet mobile app was mainly used for savings.

Thanks to SHIFT's support, the impact of COVID-19 on some partners has been mitigated as clients made better use of technology, boosting digital payments. For example, BRAC in Myanmar, despite the COVID-19 outbreak and a lockdown on lending, still onboarded 4,673 new individual loan customers, transferred 1,048 female micro-entrepreneurs from group loans to individual loans, and renewed another 5,869 individual loans in 2020.

SHIFT supported women's financial inclusion through cross-regional South-South cooperation. Thanks to the lessons learned in the ASEAN region, a new programme with a similar approach was implemented in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region, particularly in Bangladesh. There the focus has been on empowering micro-merchants and, although the sector mostly employs men, significant efforts were made to target female micro-merchants following the recommendations of the PoWER<sup>3</sup> assessment on women's challenges in Bangladesh.

Another example where SHIFT learnings were applied to another context, as part of South-South cooperation, is Myanmar. This transfer of knowledge resulted in training for 11 financial service providers to design gender-sensitive financial products. SHIFT raised awareness on the importance of gender diversity in the workforce and best practices in terms of organizational policies. Based on this support from SHIFT, the Myanmar programme was expanded to include a component focused specifically on increasing the digital financial literacy of 120,000 women in the country.

3 <https://www.uncdf.org/power/bangladesh>



The good results achieved by SHIFT over the years, as well as the adoption of SHIFT approaches by other countries in the region, prove the success of this initiative in promoting women's economic empowerment through South-South cooperation, as well as its sustainability over time.

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# Support to Agricultural Revitalization and Transformation Facility (START)



Enabling SMEs to access affordable medium-term funding for added value and agro-processing

## CHALLENGE

In Uganda, the SME sector makes up over 70 percent of the economy and contributes approximately 20 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), but it continues to struggle to access affordable financing. The growth of the agricultural sector in the country has been slow due to decades of war and instability in the region, resulting in low added value and generally low business capacity. While there are financing options available, the high interest rates of over 20 percent per annum, short repayment periods and high collateral requirements make it hard for many SMEs to afford taking out a loan. The informal nature of SMEs and many capacity gaps require business development services (BDS) to be addressed to become bankable.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenges, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and its partners launched the Support to Agricultural Revitalization and Transformation (START) Facility to provide affordable medium-term concessional financing to agribusiness SME projects in Northern Uganda.

The START facility was designed to help implement the European Union (EU) funded programme, Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) in food security, nutrition and livelihoods by providing affordable financing to agro-processing businesses in northern Uganda to improve access to locally diversified foods. START is a blended finance facility providing a customized mix of business development services (BDS), project development and structuring services and financial products managed by Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), UNCDF and Uganda Development Bank (UDB), respectively. The project mainly addresses SDG 1 poverty reduction and SDG 2 zero hunger, as well as Priority 2 of IPoA - Agriculture, food security and rural development.

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Uganda

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 3, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 2.3

### SUPPORTED BY

European Union Delegation

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Uganda Development Bank (UDB), Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

December 2017 – June 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/uganda/start>

START provides medium-term concessional financing at 10 percent per annum, with a repayment period of five years, including a grace period of up-to 12 months. The fund targets projects with a financing need of US\$ 12,000 to US\$ 120,000. SMEs are required to submit an application meeting, among others, the following requirements: registered business entity; involved in eligible agribusiness activities; based in targeted districts of northern Uganda; and contributing 25 percent of financing gap.

Through the partnership, PSFU provides general BDS to SME applicants to enable them to prepare and submit acceptable applications for funding. PSFU also conducts initial screening to longlist applicants that meet the eligibility criteria, while UNCDF undertakes a second screening to shortlist successful applicants. Applicants who are successful after due diligence are supported in preparing full proposals for funding by UDB, while unsuccessful applicants at the different stages are given the relevant business development support to address any gaps found. The facility has issued three calls for proposals to SMEs, and has prepared a total of 28 projects for financing. The 28 projects have a combined financing gap of US\$ 4.9 million, with US\$ 2.4 million from START facility unlocking US\$ 2.5 million from other financial institutions. The START Facility aims to disburse US\$ 2,900,000 (UGX. 10BN) in concessional loans over four years (2018-2022) to at least 40 SMEs. The 28 SMEs already supported by the project now employ over 500 people and provide a market to over 95,000 smallholder farmers in the region. The number of beneficiaries is expected to double by the end of the project in 2022.

START's BDS has increased the number of projects reaching financial closure by four times. START Facility also used post-investment BDS and technical assistance to support most of the SMEs in acquiring digital tools and training to simplify their operations. The high-leverage potential of SMEs accessing funding under the facility, with more than 50 percent of the total project cost coming from SMEs' own contributions, implies a high capacity to match external funding. The facility is also leveraging 1.1 times the funding from financial institutions.

The START facility experience has encouraged UDB to rollout an SME policy that adjusts the bank's requirements to simplify their processes to allow more SMEs to access funding. The bank is also accepting the customary certificate of ownership as collateral instead of the usual land titles. UNCDF and EU Delegation are currently working to extend the START facility across the country.

The START facility is a highly replicable and adaptable model, since it puts a robust financing mechanism in place in situations where domestic financial markets are underdeveloped, and local financial and technical expertise is lacking to unlock affordable funding for investments deemed risky despite their significant socio-economic impact.



The facility was presented to the UNCDF Executive Board in 2019 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9bZa0FnOM4>), resulting in requests from other countries to design blended financing mechanisms similar to the START facility. For example, UNCDF is working with partners in Burundi to support financing for agricultural value chains, and in Jamaica to unlock funding for SDG-impactful innovations (both projects are expected to be launched in 2022). Essential elements of the START facility have been integrated in the design of the Kenya Tree-Growing Fund expected to be unveiled at COP26. Some of the knowledge products have been translated into other languages, including French for knowledge sharing and transfer to Francophone countries.

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# Support to Local Governments to Strengthen their Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Protect Rural Livelihoods



Scaling up locally-led actions and securing rural livelihoods in Mozambique in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

## CHALLENGE

In 2020, due to the impacts of COVID-19, more than 71 million people worldwide were pushed into extreme poverty, causing the first rise in global poverty in decades. Since March 2020, Mozambique has faced a steady increase in cases and lives lost to the virus. Rural livelihoods rely on natural resources for food production and income generation, sustained by the local provision of public services. In Mozambique, livelihoods are already tested by severe climatic and environmental changes. The COVID-19 pandemic, with its associated economic and social lockdowns, has only exacerbated this further, triggering higher poverty and hunger rates, as well as a reduction in the ability to recuperate.

Local governments in Mozambique are ideally placed, due to their proximity to their citizens, to meet local and socio-economic needs. Through further community consultations, urgency was voiced for local action to go beyond mere preventive, health and safety measures, but to also protect rural livelihoods in climate-affected areas from COVID-19's impact. However, local governments have limited fiscal tools and capabilities to generate their own financing, further exacerbated by the pandemic.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Led by the Government of Mozambique, since 2014 the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has supported local governments through the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL). The initiative's methodology is designed to increase local governments' access, strengthen their accountability and effective use of climate funding at the local level. It promotes the integration of climate change adaptation in local government planning and budgeting systems in a community-participatory, socially-inclusive and gender-sensitive manner. Additionally, through the provision of Performance-Based Climate Resilience



### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Mozambique, Sweden

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.5, 11.5, 11.C, 13.1, 13.B

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Mozambique; Government of Sweden, UNCDF

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

District Local Governments, Provincial Services of Economy and Finance, the Provincial Service of Environment, the Provincial Services of Public Works and Housing in the Gaza and Inhambane Provinces of Mozambique

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

September 2020 – Ongoing, within the context of the LoCAL Programme (January 2015 – Ongoing)

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://www.uncdf.org/local/homepage>  
– <https://bit.ly/3esOw4N>  
– <https://bit.ly/3EztpbD>



Grants (PBCRGs) it motivates local governments to implement good governance, enhancing performance and capacity, thus guaranteeing the programming and verification of adaptation investments. LoCAL contributes to the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 13 (Climate Action). The initiative also contributes to IPoA Priority Areas 6 and 7.

Learning from the LoCAL experiences in pilot countries (e.g., Cambodia, Bhutan, and Benin) and tailoring them to local needs, LoCAL was launched in Mozambique with support from the government of Belgium, to complement the Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS) Programme. By working in partnership in the Gaza Province, LoCAL and BFFS were able to address the realities of both climate change and food insecurity, strengthening the resilience of communities in reducing their vulnerability to climate-related, economic and social shocks. Currently, LoCAL Mozambique has been scaled up to five provinces with donor support from the Government of Belgium, the Government of Sweden, the Government of Switzerland, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, and the European Union (EU).

While LoCAL Mozambique originally transferred financial resources to the provincial level to be managed on behalf of the districts, once these local governments meet the required minimum conditions of accountability supported by LoCAL capacity building, funds are directly transferred to them through the national public financial management system. Additionally, the process of prioritizing and selecting adaptation investments is carried-out in joint dialogue between local governments and communities, thus giving voice to all strata and needs of communities, ensuring local ownership and inclusion.

It is through LoCAL's programmatic framework of contextualizing local capacities and response that it can also be tailored to address other local challenges, one being most relevant today: COVID-19 adaptation in climate affected districts.

With an US\$ 1 million top-up from the Government of Sweden, in 2020, together with flexible national procurement regulations, local governments - applying LoCAL's methodology - were able to provide quality public services and relief measures to their citizens, in 13 districts in the Gaza and Inhambane provinces, during the pandemic. Through increased, quick access to adaptation financing, the hardest hit sectors were supported, both securing and building up the resilience of local economies and livelihoods, and preventing the most vulnerable from being disproportionately affected. The objective was to reach one million beneficiaries. Local small-scale actions provided (1) community COVID-19 awareness raising and mobilization; (2) COVID-19 protection equipment and isolation centres; (3) reliable safe multifunctional water sources, hygiene and cleaning products as well as infrastructures; (4) sewing machines, essential agricultural and farming tools and products (solar-run irrigation systems, horticultural production, seeds, small livestock); supporting (vulnerable) families in need. All actions were prioritized, decided on and implemented by local governments in consultation with communities.



Quick wins have been achieved through this flexible approach of LoCAL to the pandemic, proving its adaptable and replicable nature to different local contexts. Given LoCAL's global presence in 27 countries, the Mozambique experience is a possible COVID-19 response and recovery model for other least developed countries to support local governments in planning and budgeting for socio-economic and resilient development. The strong capacity development and locally-rooted ownership as well as central government and continued donor support for the methodology ensures the long-term sustainability of LoCAL, allowing it to shape and strengthen through different - and complementary - experiences in-country and worldwide.

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# Cross-border Market for Transforming the Local Economy and Empowering Women in Tanzania



## Inclusive and Equitable Local Development (IELD) Programme



### CHALLENGE

Traditional cross-border markets in the Kigoma region of the United Republic of Tanzania, which lies on the border with Burundi, often lack proper infrastructure and facilities that are critical for local traders, especially women. The Kakonko District is one of six administrative districts in the region. The border between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania is a traditional economic corridor that provides important economic opportunities to the border communities on both sides.

Even before the two countries existed, the people of Kakonko traded freely with the culturally similar communities to the west through local markets such as Muhange cross border market. Local women are actively engaged in cross-border trade, trading farm produce and livestock and selling food to vendors. However, the bare-bones venue was unhygienic and insufficient in multiple ways. There was no shade, warehouse, running water or toilets. Where markets are not formalized and secure, women traders are vulnerable not only to the physical environment, but also to sexual harassment and rape, being cheated out of payments or simply being shut out of the market economy.

Women's empowerment and sustainable economic development are often very closely linked. Therefore, when developing cross-border markets, it is critical to envision new infrastructure that puts women at the core of design planning.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address this challenge, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), under the Inclusive and Equitable Local Development (IELD) programme, provided grant funding of US\$ 120,000 to the Kakonko district government to expand and upgrade the existing market by developing a modern cross-border market in Muhange village.

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Burundi, Norway, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2, 5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.4, 5.a

#### SUPPORTED BY

UNCDF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, Government of Switzerland, Government of Norway

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF, UNDP, UN Women, Kakonko District Council (KDC)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

April 2018 – April 2022

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/342Elws>

The IELD programme, a joint programme by UN-Women, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provides funding through grants, loans and guarantees to local governments to finance public infrastructure projects, and businesses to support “missing-middle” small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including women-owned SMEs, in select programme countries in Africa and Asia <sup>1</sup>. The Muhange cross border market project was implemented by the district government, which managed crucial tasks from land acquisition to the supervision of construction, in close collaboration with UNCDF. UNDP and UN-Women provided important input in the project assessment, selection and design to make sure that the market layout was gender-responsive and provided a work environment conducive to women traders.

The Muhange Market expansion's objective was to increase income for local government revenues, improve food security and livelihoods, and trigger local economic activity. By addressing extreme poverty and vulnerability among local women and girls through better access to economic resources and basic services, the project contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty) and 5 (Gender Equality). The project also contributes to IPoA Priority Areas 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), and 5 (Human and social development).

The new Muhange Market provides a safe space for traders from Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania to participate in economic activity, and yields significant positive impacts for the local area, especially for women. The project also improves access to water and sanitation, leading to health benefits for women and their communities. Other significant outcomes include:

- ▶ **Supporting women's livelihoods and security:** The project stimulates entrepreneurial and enterprise development among small-holder producers, livestock and poultry keepers and SMEs to establish businesses in the market as tenants, middlemen or other market actors/operators. A total of 2,120 women traders have benefitted from the new market, while the new facilities constructed provide safe and secure stalls and storage room for women traders. The project also created jobs for women during the construction phase.
- ▶ **Access to water and sanitation:** Restrooms built as part of the market for female vendors and traders provide a clean facility for the local women. The market provides sanitation access to over 3,000 members of the local community, 67 percent of whom are women. These facilities are especially important for women with children. With water supply installed as part of the market, the community now has access to a proper source of water, which is expected to improve health and hygiene conditions by reducing the spread of communicable diseases, including cholera.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uncdf.org/ield/homepage>

<sup>2</sup> The East African Community is an intergovernmental organization comprised of six countries in the African Great Lakes region in eastern Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.



- ▶ **Women's ownership and leadership:** The Muhange Market's special purpose vehicle (SPV) board of directors includes 25 percent female members. This is critical to ensure that women's voices are heard in decision-making processes for local economic development.
- ▶ **Increase in revenue for local and central Government:** Revenue generated from the market activities are subject to various taxes and levies due to the central and local governments. The Kakonko District Council (KDC) now generates more revenues and benefits from a reduced dependency on central government transfers, which are often insufficient and untimely.

Muhange is one of the five cross-border markets planned by the Kakonko District Council (KDC) that intends to promote regional economic cooperation, attracting traders from neighbouring wards, divisions and districts within the border area of about 200 km on both sides. The Muhange market has been growing rapidly due to the improvement of road infrastructure from Kakonko town to the market site. The road on Burundi side is accessible all year long and provides easy access for local traders to purchase commodities from producers in the United Republic of Tanzania, the majority of whom are women. The market also plays an important role in enhancing border security between the two countries, which is an important priority for the member states of the East African Community<sup>2</sup>. This is a replicable model for cross-border trade and could be implemented in other LDCs through South-South cooperation.

The Muhange Market was designed to address structural gender inequalities by prioritizing women's economic empowerment, their leadership role, participation in market governance, ownership of stalls as well as their safety and security, and access to water and sanitation. The project takes into account women as individual workers in their community, members of households (care-givers) and as traders playing a crucial role in the local economy. The holistic approach of the project provides important lessons for replicating a model for gender responsive cross-border markets in LDCs.

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# UN Rome-Based Agencies Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C)



## Emergency and rural development in the Sahel+Senegal

### CHALLENGE

A number of significant developments have emerged in the Sahel and create many challenges, which affect livelihoods. (i) Climate change is negatively affecting agricultural productivity. The degradation of the natural capital is accelerating due to the effects of recurrent droughts and extreme floods, the prevalence of high temperatures combined with the increasing pressure on natural resources (land, forests, and water); (ii) Conflicts and Insecurity: the majority of the Sahel countries have experienced severe insecurity and armed conflicts. This situation affects the rural transformation by limiting trade, including the sale of inputs and agricultural products, in particular cross-border transactions; (iii) COVID-19 affects agricultural productivity and production: non-availability of agricultural inputs, reduction of mobility because of restrictive measures, etc. Consequently, small producers, especially in least developed countries (LDCs), have exhausted their stocks (low price) and their income has fallen dramatically. Food security for the poorest social strata is further deteriorating, due to the rising prices of basic food.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The UN Rome-Based Agencies Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C) aims to consolidate the livelihoods of small producers, in particular women and young people living in cross-border areas of the six targeted LDCs countries: Burkina Faso, Chad; Mali, Mauritania; Niger, and Senegal. With an expected contribution to poverty reduction of around 10 percent in its intervention area, the programme aims to revitalize socio-economic and commercial spaces plagued by insecurity and climate variability and impacts that weaken the resilience of small producers. It will contribute to SDGs targets 1.5, to build resilience to environmental, economic, and social disaster; 2.4, to sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices; 2.b, to prevent agricultural trade restrictions, markets distortions, and

#### NOMINATED BY

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2, 3, 6

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.5, 2.4, 2.b, 13.1, 13.3

#### SUPPORTED BY

Green Climate Funds (GCF)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

G5 Sahel Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

February 2021 – December 2026

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/-/project/2000003361>



export subsidies; 3.1, to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters and 13.3, to build knowledge and ability to meet climate change. The SD3C is also aligned with IPoA priority area 2, on agriculture, food security and rural development.

The methodological approach creates synergy at the regional level between the five Sahel countries and Senegal under the leadership of the G5 Secretariat with the technical assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the financing of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which defines and implements actions following a participatory approach. Thus, the programme structure responds to a double logic:

- ▶ a horizontal logic of regional scope and impact, guaranteeing alignment and consistency in the implementation at the country level. It is based on designing, sharing, and ownership of approaches, methods of joint actions, and on the performance of regional strategies of the G5 Sahel, under the coordination of its executive secretariat, ensuring the regional contracting authority;
- ▶ a vertical logic, which concretizes in each country the objective of the programme by articulating national investment priorities with regional orientations of the G5 Sahel in connection with resilience and economic development in cross-border areas, in a context of climate change, insecurity, and sanitary crisis.

The programme intends to scale up good practices in resilience and adaptation to climate change in the participating countries, building mainly on the experiences developed by FAO, IFAD, and WFP, with their local partners contributing to SDGs 1, 2, and 13. At the regional level, the programme intends to broaden knowledge management, capitalization, and the development of methodological tools in IFAD's portfolios. The initiative will adopt an innovative approach in terms of cross-border economic integration focused on promoting business opportunities in the corridors and dialogue with the ECOWAS authorities involving agro-pastoralists. This initiative is replicable to the following extent:

- (i) a clear willingness of governments of countries facing the same challenges and that also have common characteristics;
- (ii) the existence of technical and financial partners willing to accompany these governments in the design, funding, and implementation of this initiative. The project has just been launched, and activities are in the process of starting. Impacts and lessons learned will be documented and shared soon. Still, the main highlight is the innovative new approach of IFAD intervention in partnership with a regional organization to implement a joint initiative with FAO and WFP covering six countries. In addition, FAO and WFP will use their experience in community development approaches for:

- ▶ Soil reclamation/protection and water conservation through the "cash-for-assets (CFA)" approach.
- ▶ Promotion and dissemination of improved and resilient practices, socio-economic inclusion initiatives, and strengthening of rural organizations and institutions.
- ▶ Strengthening cross-border markets and securing border transactions.
- ▶ The "Cash+" approach aimed to provide two complementary interventions, cash transfers and production assistance, to create synergies, thereby increasing their respective impacts.

The "Resilience Funds" approach, aimed at linking technical, social, and financial interventions, respectively, through agro-pastoral field schools, women's listening clubs, and village savings and credit associations.

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# Technical Demonstrations of a Standardized Rice-fish Farming System in Myanmar



Increasing fish output and farmers' income from the selected rice field

## CHALLENGE

Aquaculture in rice-based farming systems plays an important role in food security and poverty alleviation. Myanmar has extensive rice field resources, and rice-fish culture has been practised in the country since the mid-1990s. The government observed that aquatic production, in addition to the rice crop, was a critically important product for rural livelihoods. However, despite the vast available resources that can be utilized for rice-fish farming in Myanmar, this industry has not been highly successful. Its development has progressed at a slow rate, mainly due to several major constraints, e.g., lack of skilled technicians for selecting optimized fish species; lower farming management expertise; poor design of rice fish farming facilities; insufficient qualified technicians in rice-fish culture; insufficient fish seed supplies; and a lack of funds for rice-fish farming and other related projects.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenges, the China South-South Development Centre, together with the Freshwater Fisheries Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (FFRC) and the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development (DoF/MLFRD), carried out technical demonstrations of a standardized rice-fish farming system in Myanmar. This can help increase farmers' income and fish supply, promote rice-fish industry development and create more job opportunities in Myanmar, which are closely in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). It can also help prevent overfishing by providing an alternative option in the fishing sector, which helps to achieve SDG 14 (Life below water). Through the active participation of various fishery institutions, enterprises and farmers, it helps to achieve SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals). In the Istanbul Programme of Action, the project addresses Priority 1 (productive

### NOMINATED BY

China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Myanmar

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.A, 5.4, 5.A, 8.2, 8.3, 8.6, 14.3, 14.4, 17.7, 17.9, 17.16

### SUPPORTED BY

China South-South Development Centre Project

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Freshwater Fisheries Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (FFRC), Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development (DoF/MLFRD), Myanmar

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – 2016

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.ffrc.cn/info/1066/5261.htm](http://www.ffrc.cn/info/1066/5261.htm) (in Chinese)

capacity infrastructure, energy, science, technology and innovation, private sector development), Priority 2 (agriculture, food security and rural development); Priority 5 (Human and social development) and Priority 7 (capacity-building).

A total of eight Chinese experts in two groups from FFRC were dispatched to conduct two ten-day technical missions in Myanmar to advise on rice-fish farming. They helped in selecting farmers in the standardized restructuring of paddy fields and in the improvement of farming techniques and management skills. Classroom lectures, laboratory works and technical consultations were combined to help farmers acquire the basic theory and practical techniques of a standardized rice-fish system. Moreover, nine technical officers, programme managers and farmers from Myanmar were invited to China for a ten-day study tour and training on rice-fish farming. They became the key persons in assisting the demonstration project and in following the expansion of the innovative culture model.

This project helped establish two technical demonstration farms as a standardized rice-fish farming system in Yangon and Naypyitaw, focusing on making a valuable contribution to building the capacity of rice-fish farming technicians and officers from the DoF/MLFRD. It ultimately contributed to attracting more people to engage in this kind of enterprise, promoting the development of rice-fish farming, and improving household food and nutritional security in the country.

Throughout the project, the FFRC team focused on five aspects:

- ▶ increasing understanding of the rice-fish production system;
- ▶ conducting training for technical staff of DoF/MLFRD on rice-fish farming technology, including the design of the rice-fish farming system, stocking of recommended species, feeding technology, etc.;
- ▶ providing technical consultation on rice-fish farming system design, disease prevention, feeding management and paddy field management to help technicians and farmers better manage farms and improve the productivity of the rice-fish farming system;
- ▶ facilitating Chinese fishery institutions and enterprises to cooperate with local fishery institutions for the improvement of fishery facilities;
- ▶ sharing with participants more funding channels for developing the rice-fish farming industry.

In addition, in order to ensure sustainability and leadership of the project, a National Programme Officer (NPO) was appointed. The NPO was in charge of carrying out a series of coordination, consultancy and liaison activities, under the overall supervision of the China South-South Development Centre Project and FFRC in China, and the Myanmar Department of Fisheries. Around 40 technical staff and local farmers under DoF/MLFRD were the target beneficiaries of this project. In 2016, the mission team examined a demonstration farm, which was redesigned in 2015. Among other species, the Yangon demonstration site stocked summerlings in 1.6 ha of paddy fields. After feeding for four months without reducing the rice yield, an additional harvest of 160 kg of large-sized fingerlings was obtained, for a value of over USD 120.



The demonstration site of 0.8 ha in Naypyidaw was even more effective. An integrated farming model was adopted. Banana trees, tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables were planted on the field ridges. The rice yield increased by more than 60 percent at the end of the year. The average size of the stocked fingerlings exceeded 15 cm each, and total output exceeded 260 kg. FFRC experts have been actively committed to improving the economy of the rice and fishery industry in Myanmar, and specifically helping the people of Myanmar to increase their income from rice fields and enrich the supply of aquatic products. Great interest was raised among many more of the local farmers.

This project taught the concept of “single land with a double income” to rice farmers in Myanmar. Through the project, the beneficiaries are not only able to obtain income from the rice crops, but can also earn more from the additional fish products from the same land. The successful stories of beneficiaries attracted more rice farmers in Myanmar to engage in this industry, which is good example of poverty reduction for less developed countries. And, due to the very rich resources of paddy fields and waters, *Association of South-East Asian Nations* (ASEAN) countries, including Myanmar, have great potential for rice-fish industry development. Moreover, the project encourages the full integration of women and the promotion of gender equality at all stages of rice-fish industry chain in Myanmar. The report on rice-fish industry development in Myanmar was drafted, providing a helpful reference for those who expect to cooperate with various stakeholders in agriculture in Myanmar.

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# The Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Centre of Excellence



Establishing a regional horticulture demonstration centre of excellence for building local capacities and alleviating rural poverty

## CHALLENGE

Agriculture is considered the backbone of the economy of Rwanda, contributing significantly to the country's GDP and employing over 80 percent of the country's labour force. Yet, it is characterized primarily by subsistence farming and low productivity, which relies heavily on erratic and unpredictable rainfall.

Transforming the agricultural sector in Rwanda is essential to further reduce poverty and drive economic growth. This would include the intensification of sustainable production systems in crop cultivation; the promotion of programmes for building technical and organizational capacity of farmers; the development of commodity chains and agribusiness, and the strengthening of the institutional framework of the sector at the national and local levels.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In its "2013 Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy II", Rwanda gave a central role to developing the country's agricultural sector. The Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Centre of Excellence was conceived as part of this strategy, which sees agriculture as a sector having great potential to reduce poverty and ensure that growth is inclusive. Rapid agricultural growth requires the introduction of new technologies and the dissemination of agricultural know-how, together with a strong emphasis on increased agricultural yields and crop diversification, particularly by smallholder farmers. To reach this goal, the centre was equipped with advanced horticultural technologies in order to provide a suitable platform for a rapid transfer of know-how on modern Israeli agro-technologies and agricultural best practices to farmers, as well as the introduction of improved quality varieties, applied agricultural R&D, capacity building in agriculture and agricultural entrepreneurship, including connecting farmers to agribusiness.

### NOMINATED BY

Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

India, Israel, Rwanda

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.5, 1.a, 1.b, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.a, 8.2, 8.3

### SUPPORTED BY

MASHAV

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

MASHAV, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) of Rwanda

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – 2020



Aiming to tackle SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, based on the proven agricultural expertise of Israel, in 2014 the governments of Rwanda and Israel signed an agreement for the establishment of a Horticulture Centre of Excellence in Mulindi, near Kigali. The implementing partners are Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) of Rwanda.

The Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Centre of Excellence (HCoE) is based on the principle that agriculture as a sector has great potential to reduce poverty and ensure that growth is inclusive. Conceived as part of its national plan to modernize its agricultural sector (SDG Target 2.a), Rwanda outlined the need to stimulate agricultural growth by increasing agricultural production and income-generating activities (SDG Targets 2.3; 2.4), as well as by strengthening the technical skills of Rwandan researchers, extension agents and farmers, to create a cadre of local professionals who will, in turn, transfer the knowledge they acquired to promote local economic development and achieve the overall goal of alleviating rural poverty (SDG Targets 2.1; 2.a). Within this framework, the project also addresses several Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas, including: Enhancing productive capacity (Priority 1), Transferring modern agricultural and sustainable practices to ensure food security and rural development (Priority 2), Human and social development through training, water management, gender equality and empowerment of rural women (Priority 5), Addressing emerging challenges such as climate change and environmental sustainability (Priority 6), Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building (Priority 7).

In order to achieve the agreed goals, MASHAV appointed a long-term Israeli expert who monitored the project for more than three years, from its construction phase until the centre became operational and fully managed by local experts.

The Centre provides a suitable platform for a rapid transfer of know-how on modern Israeli agro-technologies and sustainable agricultural best practices, among them, the introduction of improved quality varieties, production of vegetables in greenhouses, walk-in-tunnels, net houses and open areas. Moreover, capacity building also focuses on post-harvest techniques for improved quality and longer shelf life, modern irrigation and fertigation systems, which take into consideration adaptation to local conditions and farmers' requirements, and agricultural entrepreneurship. Quality training and consulting and professional training programmes were conducted in both Israel and Rwanda.

From June 2016 to March 2020, the Centre of Excellence trained close to 1,500 agricultural professionals from government institutions, NGOs, higher learning institutions and private companies, students and farmers.



Since September 2017, about 49 varieties of 16 different types of vegetables have been tested in three cycles for adaptability to Rwandan conditions, and over 220,000 vegetable seedlings and 150 tons of vegetables have been produced during 2019-2020. The first modern source-plantation of mango, avocado and citrus under a drip irrigation system was established on three hectares for the purposes of demonstration and training, and for serving as a source for nursery quality materials (scions, rootstock).

The guiding principles of all of MASHAV's projects are sustainability and replicability. MASHAV projects include establishing demonstration infrastructures, which serve as a platform for training, extension and transfer of new Israeli technologies, and are designed in host countries in cooperation with local and international partners, based on a training-the-trainers approach.

Following this concept, the Rwanda-Israel Horticulture Centre of Excellence was based on the existing Indo-Israel Agricultural Project model, which promotes the transfer of knowledge and capacity building through on-site demonstration, as well the establishment of agro-inputs, such as nurseries for the production of better seedlings and fruit and vegetable varieties. In April 2016, a delegation of agricultural experts from the newly established centre in Rwanda, and part of the Centre's professional cadre, arrived in India to visit the Centres of Excellence established within the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project and examine the possible adaptation of the successful model to the centre in Kigali. This proven model can be replicated in additional geographical areas, with appropriate adaptation to local and specific conditions.

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# Incentive Mechanism for Agriculture Financing Based on Risk Sharing (MIFA)



An innovative tool for financing and structuring the agricultural sector in Togo

## CHALLENGE

Togolese agriculture contributes 38 percent of the GDP and employs nearly 70 percent of the working population. However, this sector is poorly financed by banks and financial institutions. This situation is explained by an insufficient organization of value chains, poor knowledge of the agricultural sector by financial institutions, a poor perception of the level of risks in the agricultural sector, the complexity of credit assessment procedures, the high level of transaction costs and a funding mismatch.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address these challenges, the Incentive Mechanism for Agriculture Financing Based on Risk Sharing (MIFA) aims to promote financial and insurance products adapted to the agricultural sector. The MIFA initiative, launched in June 2018, aims to: (i) address fragmentation in agricultural value chains; (ii) promote financial and insurance products adapted to the agricultural sector; (iii) facilitate risk sharing between the various actors in the agricultural sector; (iv) provide technical assistance to financial institutions, SMEs and agricultural producers; and (v) reduce the cost of borrowing for agro-industries.

The initiative is supported by the Nigerian Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL); Banque Africaine de Développement; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank Group; International Monetary Fund (IMF); West African Development Bank (WADB); Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development (KFED) of the United Arab Emirates; African Guaranteed Fund based in Kenya; Ecobank based in Togo and Bank of Africa based in Mali. It has been implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Togo.

### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of Development and Cooperation Planning, Togo

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Nigeria, Togo, United Arab Emirates

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 3, 4, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.3, 8.3

### SUPPORTED BY

Nigerian Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL), African Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund (IMF), West African Development Bank (WADB), Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development (KFED) of the United Arab Emirates, African Guaranteed Fund based in Kenya, Ecobank based in Togo, Bank of Africa based in Mali.

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development of Togo; Ministry of Economy and Finance of Togo

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://bit.ly/32A1bjl>  
– <https://bit.ly/3qmgwN2>

MIFA is based on an integrated and multi-actor approach which provides a holistic solution to the problem of financing in the agricultural value chain. Beyond the mobilization of financing, MIFA works to organize producers into cooperatives, to strengthen their capacities and their mastery of techniques, and to help smallholders develop business plans. This approach is based on five cornerstones, namely risk sharing, insurance, technical assistance, interest rate subsidies and the establishment of incentives. Based on risk sharing, MIFA allows the State and its partners to act as a guarantor for producers, thus reassuring banks so that they agree to grant financing to farms considered to be "too high risk" and which, in the absence of collateral, had until now little chance of benefiting from loans.

The project instruments are mainly:

- ▶ Capacity building and training of farmers;
- ▶ Organization of the primary sector: accredited suppliers, quality and quantity assurance, payment after delivery, elimination of the holding of liquidity;
- ▶ Real-time information collection, geographic information system, drone mapping and multisectoral remote sensing;
- ▶ Guarantee of product purchases through aggregators, processors and structured markets;
- ▶ Office for project monitoring, reporting and coordination of integrated projects.

The Togolese government has mobilized the expertise of the existing agricultural risk sharing and financing mechanism in Nigeria, the Nigerian Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL), in order to capitalize on the successful agricultural transformation experience found in this country. Studies and consultations were carried out involving national actors (banks, financial and guarantee institutions, insurers, producers, actors in the agroindustry, actors in the public and private sectors) in order to take an inclusive approach for the formulation of MIFA.

After three years of implementation, MIFA has allocated 27 billion CFAF (approximately US\$ 47 million) of credits to various agricultural actors. This funding has made it possible to create and consolidate more than 274,000 jobs, support more than 200,000 producers and structure 1,450 cooperatives. With a funding target of CFAF 50 billion (approximately US\$ 87 million) to be facilitated in 2020 for 400,000 actors, MIFA has already introduced a portfolio of projects worth CFAF 30 billion (approximately US\$ 52 million) with partner financial institutions.

These results help to achieve SDGs 2 and 8, in particular targets 2.3 and 8.3. They also made it possible to fulfil certain commitments of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), in particular in the following priority areas: production capacity; agriculture, food security and rural development; mobilization of financial resources for development capacity building; commodities and trade.

MIFA has brought about a paradigm shift in the agricultural finance sector. Its sustainability is guaranteed by the inclusion of different actors, including private banks, the Togolese Government and local SMEs. The success of the approach made it possible to privatize the structure, which allows it to set up an appropriate and more incentivizing framework in order to further mobilize private sector investments. This concept of risk sharing can be applied to the agricultural sectors of other countries which have the same realities as Togo, or in other fields of activity where the perception of risk works against the productivity of the actors.

The lessons learned are as follows:

- ▶ The intervention of the State and its leadership is necessary to instil a qualitative change in the processes in a given sector of activity;
- ▶ The mainly technical support of a country of the South for the realization of a project of another country of the South is possible, mainly through the sharing of experiences.

Maintaining a multi-stakeholder dialogue makes it possible to find innovative solutions for development issues.

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# Improving Cotton Cultivation in Benin



Cotton cultivation capacity increased through equipment grants, capacity building and experience sharing

## CHALLENGE

Cotton is extremely important to developed economies, but for developing and least developed countries (LDCs), it serves as a safety net. It is a major source of livelihoods and incomes for many rural smallholders and labourers, including women, providing employment and income to some of the poorest rural areas in the world.

The population of Benin relies heavily on cotton farming. Forty percent of the country's GDP comes from cotton cultivation, which accounts for 80 percent of all exports<sup>1</sup>. Farming communities in Benin have long had to develop weather and climate hazard mitigation techniques or so-called “endogenous” practices including crop diversification, irrigation, disaster risk management, etc. However, human-induced climate change is posing new risks for these communities. Agricultural modernization that does not destroy social and ecological balance, yet ensures food security for the poor, has remained a challenge for the country. There is a need to improve such practices to increase existing production.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address this challenge, the Cotton Growing Programme was implemented with the support of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), in order to modernize production techniques and ensure the sustainability of cotton production. Turkish technical experience in the cotton sector was shared with the Beninese producers living in rural areas soil preparation and cultivation techniques, harvesting and agricultural mechanization. The project aimed to improve sustainable agriculture and foster rural development in Benin, thus contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty) and 2 (Zero Hunger),

### NOMINATED BY

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Benin, Mozambique, Turkey

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4

### SUPPORTED BY

TİKA

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Benin, Beninese Agricultural Research Institutes, TİKA

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2012 – 2015

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://bit.ly/3mwAFyT>  
– <https://bit.ly/32sJYsM>  
– <https://bit.ly/3qAd4P8>  
– <https://bit.ly/341Hcv3>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/benin>



as well to Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area 2 (Agriculture and food security).

In order to promote cotton growing, in the initial phase of the project, 500 back sprayers, hand hoses, masks, gloves and glasses were provided to the producers by TİKA. Then, a training programme was organized to share the technical details related to cotton growing and the experience of Turkey as a leading grower by yield in the world. Fifteen experts from Benin participated in the training course. In addition, five experts from Togo took part in these courses on topics such as soil preparation, procurement of the right inputs, cultivation techniques, biotechnology, diseases and pests, fibre and seed quality, agriculture economy and harvest, and agricultural mechanization, as well as theoretical classes. Exemplary plantations and enterprises in the surrounding region were also visited. Following training in Turkey, equipment was provided to the Bohicon and Parakou Research Institutes in northern Benin, where experts were able to work efficiently.

Under the project, the laboratory materials, computer, projection device and motorcycles to be used for on-site transport were provided by TİKA. In Benin, during the 2012-2013 cotton production season, a total of 250,000 tons of cotton were harvested on an area of approximately 300,000 hectares. During the 2013-2014 cotton production season, cotton was planted on an area of approximately 450,000 hectares. TİKA also provided four tractors and other agricultural equipment that helped producers obtain higher yields. Eight cotton species from Turkey were also shared with Benin. A total of 12 types of test studies were carried out in the established test areas, consisting of the aforementioned species and local cotton species. Later, observations were made by Turkish experts in terms of morphological and physiological characteristics and plant health at the test areas. As a result of the observations and tests in each phase of the production process, it was found that some species sent from Turkey were compatible with the region.

Hands-on training was also provided by experts on pest control in the test area. In this context, various chemicals, back sprayers and personal protectors to be used with pesticides were delivered to the authorities. Practical training was also provided on the appropriate use of the tools and chemicals supplied. In order to improve production capacity, 10 motorcycles, four seeders and one motor pump, a submersible pump, a generator, a water tank, water pipes and accessories were donated for use in the test areas. The yield per hectare in Benin increased significantly compared with the previous seven years, from 250 kg/ha to 350 kg/ha.

Experts from the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry continued to communicate with their colleagues in Benin to provide information and transfer knowledge when needed, ensuring the sustainability of the project. In addition, seeds from Turkey are regularly donated to Benin by Turkish institutions.

With the project's success, between 2018 and 2021, the cotton growing project was replicated by TİKA in Mozambique. As in the previous project, after analysing cotton productivity in the country, TİKA provided seeds suited to Mozambican climate, organized vocational training sessions and donated agricultural equipment.



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# Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for Integrated and Climate-Smart Straw Residue Management



Promoting mechanization-based solutions for integrated and climate-smart management of straw residue

## CHALLENGE

The burning of straw residue after crop harvesting is a common concern, including in many least developed countries (LDCs) like Cambodia and Nepal. Apart from accelerated greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, straw burning causes loss of soil carbon and micro-nutrients in the long term, while adversely affecting soil temperature, pH, moisture, organic matter and agricultural production and farmers' income. In order to address its adverse impacts, various approaches are being applied to sustainably utilize straw as fertilizer, fodder, base material and so forth. LDCs like Cambodia are also actively promoting conservation agriculture in which maintaining a permanent soil cover is an important agenda. However, the lack of suitable agricultural machinery is one of the main constraints. There is hence a need to test integrated straw utilization models through enhanced application of machinery in specific country contexts, and scale-up the innovative approaches identified via South-South and triangular cooperation.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with the support of ESCAP's Environment and Development Division, is implementing the Regional Pilot Project on Mechanization Solutions for Integrated Management of Straw Residue in Asia and the Pacific to identify, test and promote an integrated model of straw management using agricultural machinery. The model contributes to relevant targets under SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) as well as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 12 (Sustainable Production and Consumption) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), while addressing Priority 2 of IPoA (agriculture, food security and rural development).

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Viet Nam

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2, 6

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 2.4, 12.2, 13.1

### SUPPORTED BY

Ministries/Departments of Agriculture in target countries and other local partners, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China through China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), ESCAP

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

July 2018 – February 2023

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://www.un-csam.org/taxonomy/term/166>

Since launching the project in 2018, positive results have been obtained from the initial pilot countries (China and Viet Nam). The regional initiative has now leveraged the South-South and Triangular Cooperation modality and successfully secured additional donor funding to expand coverage to two LDCs (Cambodia and Nepal) in addition to Indonesia.

Prior to the launch of the Regional Pilot Project, CSAM provided preparatory support to Cambodia by co-organizing a regional workshop on mechanization for conservation agriculture<sup>1</sup> (in 2018 in Phnom Penh), followed by regional training<sup>2</sup> (in 2019 in Siem Reap) which highlighted the importance of permanent soil cover maintenance and crop residue management in the context of crop residue burning. Among the key outcomes of the training was the collaboration between international partners and the General Directorate of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia for the introduction and demonstration of an eco-friendly planter from India in Cambodia, namely the Happy Seeder. This was an important step towards promoting sustainable crop residue management in Cambodia through South-South cooperation.

The Regional Pilot Project has identified and tested a model to utilize straw as fertilizer, fodder, base material (e.g., for mushroom growing) and clean energy production in a circular manner to apply to the farming-livestock system while customizing the model for specific local conditions. The pilot in China is being implemented in Laixi in the Shandong Province in collaboration with China Agricultural University, local government agencies and a local farmer cooperative, while in Viet Nam the pilot has been implemented in Can Tho City in collaboration with the Sub-Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology and local farmers. The main activities - including field experiments involving agricultural machinery, data collection and analysis, optimization of the machinery and technical patterns, and training for local farmers - have contributed to improving current practices and have provided an alternative to straw residue burning, thus supporting climate-smart agriculture. For instance, as of August 2021, the pilot in China has demonstrated the following ecological and economic benefits:

- ▶ 72 tons of wheat straw and 99 tons of maize straw were utilized as fertilizer rather than burning away last year at the 10-ha pilot site, thus successfully reducing an estimated 220 tons of carbon dioxide emission;
- ▶ Over the same period, in comparison to the pre-intervention levels in 2018, maize and wheat yield increased by 509 kg/ha and 1,300 kg/ha, respectively, while the net income of the farmer cooperative under the various technical patterns increased by up to US\$ 602/ha;
- ▶ Soil Organic Matter increased from 2.1 percent in 2018 to 2.24 percent in 2021.

The good practices of the pilot in China were reported by the China Central Television (CCTV) in 2020. The Regional Pilot Project has also engaged India as a knowledge-sharing partner, where a regional study



tour was organized in 2019 to demonstrate best practices and technologies for crop residue management to participants from Cambodia, Nepal and other countries.

The notable outcomes of the Regional Pilot Project, including sharing of good practices and knowledge among the pilot countries as well as Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, and India, have contributed to an integrated approach, with evidence-based project design that emphasizes effectiveness and sustainability, and mutual learning.

Building upon its success and positive results, as noted above, the Regional Pilot Project is now being expanded to two LDCs (Cambodia and Nepal) and Indonesia in 2021 with funding support from China, embodying the spirit of South-South cooperation. The initiative will sustain its outcomes by mainstreaming the integrated model of straw management by engaging pilot country partners and decision-makers, as well as testing and replicating the model in varied contexts and sub-regions, with a particular emphasis on LDCs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/33FdtHU>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bit.ly/3A148Xf>



# Inclusive Livestock Value Chains Bringing Prosperity to Rural Areas - Experiences from Eswatini, Cambodia, Brazil and China



## Financial inclusion of smallholders

### CHALLENGE

The livestock subsector in Eswatini is the biggest contributor to the country's agricultural GDP (51 percent) <sup>1</sup>. Livestock-keeping is an integral part of Swazi culture and livelihood systems, providing employment and income generation opportunities for rural communities. However, farmers continue to fall short of consistently producing sufficient quantities to supply the markets. The scale of production remains low due to limited production infrastructure, particularly for chicken production. Accessing better markets is limited by low feed efficiency resulting in poor weights. Reliance on outgrower arrangements is proving costly for the farmers, which negatively affects the profitability of their enterprises. Additionally, the piggery industry in Eswatini is limited by low-value addition and limited food quality standards.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To find innovative solutions to challenges in the smallholder livestock sector, in April 2021 the IFAD country programme in Eswatini organized a SSTC knowledge-sharing event to learn from countries that had globally recognized livestock models that were improving productivity and profitability of smallholder livestock enterprises. The event shared knowledge on production and marketing innovations in small livestock value-chains, including issues on climate change, women, young people, and nutrition, in alignment with SDGs 1 and 2 as well as IPoA priority area 2.

#### NOMINATED BY

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Brazil, Cambodia, China, Eswatini

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.3, 5.1

#### SUPPORTED BY

IFAD

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Agriculture Eswatini, Eswatini Water and Agriculture Development Enterprise (ESWADE), Financial Inclusion and Cluster Development (FINCLUDE), Centre for Financial Inclusion

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

SMPLP: 02/2016 – 02/2022 | FINCLUDE: 09/2019 – 03/2026

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3Jltx1U>

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of agriculture strategic plan (2018- 2023): <https://bit.ly/3FConeW>



The event brought together globally recognized IFAD-supported live-stock projects with outstanding innovative livestock models to share their experiences on one platform. Four countries from three continents participated in the event. These are Eswatini (Southern Africa), Cambodia and China (Asia), and Brazil (South America). Over two days, a total of 58 participants managed to join the event.

The knowledge-sharing event was scheduled during the COVID-19 lock-down period, limiting participants' ability to gather at the same physical venue. The Eswatini country programme organized the virtual event to enable effective participation of projects in different geographic areas. The event was held on an online video conferencing platform on which participants could make presentations of their innovative livestock models in real-time. Field visits were conducted through video documentaries, which enabled participants to understand how the livestock models are operationalized by hearing directly from the farmers.

Participants learned from the experiences of the Zhenba Bacon Traceability Project from China, GIC Solar Powered Chicken Models from Cambodia, Embrapa Goat Value Chain Innovations from Brazil, Youth Inclusion Models in the Indigenous Chicken and Goat value chains of Smallholder Market-Led Project (SMLP) and Innovations in the Financial Inclusion and Cluster Development Project (FINCLUDE) from the host country, Eswatini. The event brought to light the commonalities between the countries present and the value of exchanging evidence-based technologies that have shown success in improving the lives of smallholder farmers. These commonalities showed that the innovations from Asia and South America were replicable in Eswatini.

The indigenous chicken models from Cambodia showed potential for application to address the productivity challenges that Eswatini farmers were facing. In Cambodia, the models have reduced the mortality of indigenous chickens by up to 20 percent, thereby increasing the profitability of the enterprises. With incubator capacities of 300 or 500 eggs, farmers are earning US\$ 300 to US\$ 400 per month. In addition, the models have drawn greater interest and high participation from women, the elderly, and disabled segments of the population, thereby increasing opportunities for income generation among these vulnerable groups. Following the knowledge-sharing event, the SMLP project in Eswatini developed a concept note for bilateral engagements with GIC from Cambodia for deeper engagement and mutual support on the transfer of the solar-powered hatchery and chicken finishing housing technology to Eswatini.

Due to its low cost and high impact, the bacon traceability system has the potential to improve the pig value chains in Eswatini. For example, this system implemented in the Zhenba province, China, which had an investment of US\$ 590,000 has generated the following results:

- ▶ Smallholder farmers' income increased by 40 percent
- ▶ 1,500 rural household participants
- ▶ 20,000 specialized pig for bacon production
- ▶ 1,200 metric tons of bacon worth 210 million yuan (US\$ 32 million)

This innovation could enable smallholder pig farmers in Eswatini to improve the quality of their products to access new high-value markets and boost their incomes, as it did in China. A follow-up bilateral engagement is in the pipeline to explore the transfer of the innovation to Eswatini.

This event demonstrated that virtual SSTC knowledge-sharing events are a low-cost way of bringing together projects from different countries/continents, making it a sustainable innovation. Moreover, such events can also be held from anywhere globally, even under and in compliance with COVID-19 regulations making it easily scalable and replicable.

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# Benin Agribusiness Development Programme



Setting up an innovative approach to support young female entrepreneurs in the agribusiness sector to obtain bank financing

## CHALLENGE

Over the last few decades, several initiatives have been implemented in Benin to promote youth agricultural entrepreneurship. However, most of these efforts have focused on training and, to date, there is no effective support system for young people who have already been trained. In fact, despite the results of various initiatives to promote agricultural entrepreneurship, such as the Agricultural Entrepreneurship Promotion Project (PPEA), achievements in terms of making the integration of unemployed youth into agriculture sustainable remain fragile and precarious.

Drawing lessons from experiences to date, the weak link remains establishing an effective mechanism for access to financing, markets and land for young people, women and small producers. It is therefore imperative to design and implement innovative mechanisms that will effectively promote the development of agribusiness.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenges, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the India-UN Development Partnership fund, implemented the Benin Agribusiness Development Programme (PDAB). The project builds on the experiences of various past entrepreneurship support projects to coordinate the various structures involved in each link of the support chain and assist entrepreneurs to obtain bank financing. That includes preparation for entrepreneurship by the Territorial Agency for Agricultural Development (ATDA); development of business plans by the structures that support and supervise small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the Structures d'Appui et d'Encadrement (SAE); setting up of credit by the National Fund for Agricultural Development (FNDA), financial intermediaries (IOBs) and banks; positioning on the market

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Benin

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Benin

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.2, 2.3, 8.2, 8.5, 8.10

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Benin, UNDP Benin, India-UN Development Partnership Fund- managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP Benin

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

January 2018 – December 2022

by the Beninese Agency for Food Security (ABSSA) and the Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEx); and development of the post-financing mechanism. The support is based on the development of a contract-based public-private partnership and on synergistic interventions, ensuring quality support throughout companies' development process.

The aim of the project to support youth and women entrepreneurs through increased knowledge, agricultural value-chain activities, and the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship could only be achieved through the involvement of national institutions and project stakeholders. The project strongly engaged national stakeholders in the selection of young entrepreneurs, the formalization of agricultural enterprises, the training on enterprise management tools, the support for the elaboration of business plans, the linking young entrepreneurs to financial institutions, the support for product standardization and certification, and access to the market. The project contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 1 (No Poverty) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). It also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development).

The innovation of this approach lies not only in the plurality of expertise around SMEs to address competency needs, but above all in the structuring of financing and post-financing mechanisms. Beyond the highly participatory character of the approach, the segmentation of the support process and the search for specialization of the SME support structures also constitute an important innovation.

The perennial nature of these support structures, all of which are governed by laws, ensures the project's sustainability. Among the public structures involved, the Territorial Agencies for Agricultural Development (ATDA) provides training and advisory support to SMEs on production and processing techniques; the Directorate of Rural Legislation, Support to Vocational Organizations and Agricultural Entrepreneurship (DLROPEA) addresses issues related to the security of land rights; ABSSA ensures compliance with standards and certifies the quality of production and processed products; and FNDA provides guarantees for establishing credit. The involvement of private structures, such as IOBs, ensures negotiations with banks for the setting up of credit, while the SAEs provide training and monitor SMEs in drawing up their business plans.

As a result of project intervention:

- ▶ 1,000 young entrepreneurs were selected, trained on entrepreneurial paths, and affiliated with various networks or associations of producers and processors;
- ▶ 450 youth-led SMEs were set up, and entrepreneurs were trained in business management tools and business plan development. Over 400 of them developed business plans that were promoted by financial intermediaries, facilitating negotiations with banks and financing institutions. As a result, 185 of these business plans were considered by financing institutions.



The PDAB approach to support young and women entrepreneurs in accessing bank financing is a pilot scheme, the replicability of which is limited and dependent on certain conditions. Indeed, the cost of support is high, involving the support of the government and technical and financial partners (TFPs) to resolve the issue of youth employment and entrepreneurship. This experiment can only be replicated if young people and women entrepreneurs acquire the capacity to finance the support they receive. To do this, it is important that they become involved in profitable sectors supported by the government. This is why business plans have been drawn up for products that offer comparative advantages. The second important condition for this experiment to be replicated is banks' flexibility or specialization in financing SMEs in the agribusiness sector. For commercial banks, it is not easy to take big risks by lending to SMEs. Although the government has created a special fund to guarantee loans to young entrepreneurs, the operating conditions of this fund and methods of disbursement remain unconvincing to banks.

Several lessons can be learned from this pilot scheme:

- ▶ Supporting SMEs requires the intervention of competent structures to effectively ensure the establishment of efficient and profitable companies capable of raising bank financing and repaying it;
- ▶ In the absence of flexible bank financing, it is difficult for SMEs set up by young people and women to ensure a competitive and profitable business;

Support for contracts with institutional markets (public or private) is crucial to ensure the return on investment of enterprises set up by young people and women entrepreneurs.

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# Enhancing Agricultural Capacity in the Union of the Comoros



## Identifying the natural capital and unlocking the agricultural potential of Comoros



### CHALLENGE

Agricultural production in the Comoros faces major challenges. Although annual precipitation is relatively high at over 2,000 millimetres, insufficient reservoirs and dams mean that surface water for irrigation purposes is scarce in many parts of the country. This constrains food production during the dry season. Despite having good agricultural potential and a growing number of initiatives to promote it, food production remains hampered by low levels of mechanization, a lack of infrastructure, difficulties in transport between islands and foodstuff preservation techniques.

The country also has insufficient skills to handle post-harvests, which leads to huge post-harvest losses in the sector. Furthermore, available information on the country's agricultural potential and soil capability was outdated, leading to inefficiency and haphazard techniques.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The government of the Comoros, in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) of South Africa and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), identified possible areas where assistance could be provided to address these challenges. A preliminary joint qualitative survey was conducted, which updated country's Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy document describing its macroeconomic, structural, and social policies.

Based on this preliminary work, the project "Enhancing the agricultural capacity in the Union of the Comoros" was developed to improve production conditions and added value of agricultural products, thus contributing to poverty reduction, as well as food and nutrition security of the population. The project's objective is to adapt successful farming systems and agricultural practices, develop a crop

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Comoros

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

the Comoros, India, Brazil, South Africa

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 1.5, 2.3, 2.4, 12.2, 15.4, 15.5

#### SUPPORTED BY

India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) - managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Agriculture Research Council, South Africa, UNDP the Comoros

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Agricultural Research Council, UNDP the Comoros

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2018-2021



model for production and support the added value chain, to be achieved through coordinated activities for enhanced soil fertility, selection of vegetable varieties, development of an irrigation system at the selected site of Mimbani on the island of Mohéli, and promotion of commercialization. The project is contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 15 (Life on Land). It also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity) and Priority 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development). This was achieved by establishing a pilot agricultural hub in a rural centre for economic development (CRDE) in the island of Mohéli, where organic agricultural practices were demonstrated to smallholder farmers.

The project has supported crop suitability analyses for 37 crops in 273 locations. Farmers were trained and introduced to organic agricultural techniques which significantly reduced the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The organic farming school has brought together the indigenous knowledge of farmers and new practices based on accurate scientific data to improve agricultural production in Mohéli. Fifteen farmers were trained as tractor operators. Composting techniques were introduced, resulting in the establishment of 20 composting units producing an average of 450 kg of compost per unit. Additionally, an irrigation system was successfully established in Mibani, representing a key component of the project's sustainability. It included the completion of construction of a 30-metre dam across the Mibani River, the installation of a pump station and a 1.2 km main water pipeline, the construction of a 480 m<sup>3</sup> water reservoir, and the provision of 1.5 km of electrification and diesel-powered generators that will ensure an uninterrupted water supply for irrigation. Finally, 11 hectares of land were brought under a drip and sprinkler infield irrigation system. To increase crop and water productivity under semi-controlled conditions, the project supported the construction of a 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> shade net structure. In order to protect equipment from the elements, a shed was also constructed for a tractor and implements. Finally, supported by UNDP and the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment (INRAPE), ARC developed a tool for data collection which will support the market strategy and market access for the agro-processing unit

This innovative infrastructure completely changed the lives of farmers working at the CRDE; they now produce crops throughout the year. The construction of the infrastructure was also a great opportunity for local engineers to build and strengthen their capacity. Provision of mechanization and infrastructure has imported new sets of skills now available in the country.

The agricultural learning hub continues to serve as a centre for teaching and demonstrating sustainable, modernized and commercial farming practices. The project collaborated with 1,140 farmers from eight villages, 36 percent of whom are women, while 10 percent are youths.

Capacity building of local experts and smallholder farmers was an essential cornerstone for the project's success and sustainability. Irrigation training for local experts was conducted in South Africa. This ensured that skills were available on each island to design and run irrigation infrastructures. INRAPE was part of all training module designs, and translated



training materials into local dialects to ensure that contents and expertise were better assimilated. Another key component was the promotion of locally-made solutions. The project promoted the production and use of compost, biofertilizer and other natural products replacing most of the chemicals usually used by farmers. Lead farmers visited other villages and taught them how to make compost and neem-based biopesticides so they too can keep teaching and passing on this knowledge. The project adopted a "train-the-trainer" approach to ensure its sustainability.

A request will be made for the next phases of the project so that the Comoros can continue with the same approach and benefit from the experience of India and Brazil in agriculture.

It is important to mention that replicability goes along with sustainability. A key part of this process is that expertise and training are being strengthened on all three islands. The project ensured that all activities successfully implemented in Mohéli are replicated on the two other islands. The objective was to ensure that the same activities are implemented successfully under different climatic and other organizational conditions and circumstances. The same crops will be introduced and evaluated in other regions in Mohéli, on Grande Comore and Anjouan so comparisons can be made. The adaptability of the crops can be then approved on a broader scale, at a national level.

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# Lesotho and Ethiopia Knowledge Exchanges for Resilience and Shock- Responsive Social Protection



Enhancing social protection programmes, including shock-responsiveness and public works for the most vulnerable

## CHALLENGE

Lesotho, a least developed country, has deep poverty, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition problems. Almost one out of every two people in Lesotho lives below the national poverty line, with more than one in three people below the national food poverty line (extreme poverty) of M138 per adult a month. Lesotho is the 10th most unequal country in the world<sup>1</sup>.

Poverty is compounded by food insecurity caused by the effects of climate change, including droughts and floods<sup>2</sup>. As of May 2020, 500,000 people were at risk of food insecurity due to drought in Lesotho<sup>3</sup>. Before this time, the impact of adverse climatic conditions on agricultural production placed more than 700,000 people in food insecurity in 2015/16, while over 200,000 people needed humanitarian assistance in 2017.

In view of these ongoing challenges, Lesotho sought to learn from the experiences of Ethiopia in resilience and shock-responsive social protection policies and programmes.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In view of these challenges, the government of Lesotho assists vulnerable populations through a social protection programme known as *Fato-Fato*, which includes public works programmes, through cash-based transfers and income generating activities. Since 2015, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been supporting the government of Lesotho in enhancing the shock responsiveness of Fato-Fato to respond to increasing shocks by leveraging the experience of the government of Ethiopia with the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) through South-South

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/3lOUvKW>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bit.ly/3qvKmjh>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bit.ly/3frHnCe>

### NOMINATED BY

World Food Programme (WFP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Ethiopia, Germany, Lesotho

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.1, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 17.1, 17.6, 17.9, 17.19

### SUPPORTED BY

European Union (EU), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), WFP

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

WFP, Ministry of Social Development (MSD) of Lesotho, Ministry of Forestry Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) of Lesotho, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoA) of Ethiopia

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2010 – Ongoing

and triangular cooperation (SSTC). Ethiopia has long-standing experience using the PSNP as a social protection programme that integrates public works, food security and nutrition approaches. Its public works promote resilience building in view of mitigating a wide range of hazards, particularly droughts and floods, which have a significant impact on the food security and nutrition of local populations<sup>4</sup>.

A 2015 study visit of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) of Lesotho to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoA) in Ethiopia aimed to learn about the PSNP social protection policies and programmes, such as shock-responsive social protection (including cash for work programmes, food for assets and more) and disaster management strategies/interventions.

The mission enabled dialogue between both countries, which provided the government of Lesotho with insights on how to improve the quality of Fato-Fato's public works programmes and witness first-hand how shock-responsive social protection benefits the most vulnerable.

As a follow up to the mission, WFP supported the government of Lesotho in incorporating the knowledge acquired in Ethiopia by providing technical assistance and supporting the development of a national resilience framework for integrated programming for communities' livelihoods. The framework incorporates lessons learned from the Ethiopian PSNP model, as well as WFP's participatory planning and programming tool known as the 3-pronged approach (WFP 3PA) – a corporate tool to strengthen the design, planning and implementation of programmes in resilience building, safety nets, disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

The South-South partnership continued in 2019, when WFP facilitated a second mission from officials of the Ministry of Forestry Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) from Lesotho to Ethiopia to learn about the public works element of the PSNP, which provides cash for work and food-based payments. Among key activities, local communities in Ethiopia were encouraged to work on the conservation of soil and water structures, which helps build resilience against climate shocks.

This second mission enabled a dialogue between ministry officials in Lesotho and Ethiopia on key topics, including how to implement public works initiatives and engage government partners in the process of scaling up social protection programmes such as the PSNP. Discussions with peers in Ethiopia, along with WFP's technical assistance, helped the MFRSC of Lesotho to realize the need to develop guidelines for the implementation of public works programmes, and reinforced the willingness to scale up the public works programme as a safety net to increase resilience at the community level. For instance, the government of Lesotho learned about greater benefits that prolonged assistance for the public works programme may have on the people it serves, allowing more time to save and pay back debts incurred, as well as sustain their families through food and other basic needs.

As a follow-up activity to the mission, WFP deployed a public works expert from WFP country office Ethiopia to Lesotho to assist the MFRSC in designing and executing appropriate soil and water conservation techniques to strengthen country capacities in this area. This support provided by WFP enabled interlinkages between the work that WFP, other development partners and line ministries do on Fato-Fato initiatives, including integrated catchment management (a government programme for natural resource conservation). The series of South-South exchanges between Ethiopia and Lesotho also helped to create a strong network between peers in the governments of both countries.

In 2020, the MFRSC continued its dialogue with the MoA in Ethiopia, with support from WFP, in order to respond to crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, through social protection programmes. The support to the MFRSC enabled sourcing of multi-year funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Organization (ECHO) for the execution of resilience-building programmes improving the adaptive capacity and livelihoods of vulnerable and food insecure populations in Lesotho.

To date, the collaboration with Ethiopia, combined with complementary technical assistance from WFP, contributed to improving the following areas: 1) The *technical knowledge* of the government of Lesotho in implementing resilience-building, public works, DRR and EPR initiatives. 2) Supported advocacy and *policy support* for a national resilience framework and public works guidelines which resulted in political commitment to food security and nutrition. 3) Supported a *network of experts* for implementation and promoted their international connections. 4) Facilitated the *mobilization of resources* for food security, resilience building and social protection by tapping into the Humanitarian Response Plan in Ethiopia. This collaboration has contributed to SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals). In addition, the collaboration has addressed the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas 1 (Productive capacity), 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), 5 (Human and social development), 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges) and 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building).

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ethiopia.un.org/en/13746-un-resilience-framework>

# National COVID-19 Intelligence Platform



An evidence-based platform for policy and decision-making

## CHALLENGE

COVID-19 has exposed glaring gaps in public health preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks in developing countries. The lack of a robust infectious disease surveillance and control system is particularly evident.

In Bangladesh, a country of 165 million people, the fight against COVID-19 began with only one testing facility, highlighting the country's lack of capacity to trace infections and prioritize interventions in terms of additional ventilators, doctors, ICU units, etc. As of September 2021, there were more than 1.4 million confirmed cases across the country, with over 24,000 deaths. Similar to what happened in other countries, lack of testing capabilities, limited health care capacity and absence of a system for data-driven monitoring and response to the epidemic hampered the response at the beginning of the crisis. The scarcity of urgent data, inaccessibility to data, absence of common data-sharing platforms, different data collection standards, formats and conventions for recording data plagued the decision-making process.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In the face of all these crises, Bangladesh integrated the efforts of many epidemiologists, data scientists, economists and researchers, resulting in the "National COVID-19 Intelligence Platform." The platform was created to equip policymakers with crucial data-driven information, allowing them to make data-driven decisions. The system was developed in collaboration with public and private partners, including the Ministry of Information & Technology, the ICT Division, and the Directorate of Health, as well as telco companies and hotline services. Big data is being collected in several streams, through citizen self-reporting from different telecom services, from websites and mobile apps, from community health workers, etc. Analysis and analytics generated from the system has allowed tracking of

### NOMINATED BY

Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.4, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18

### SUPPORTED BY

ICT Division, Bangladesh, Cabinet Division, Bangladesh, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

a2i Bangladesh, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

April 2020 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://dashboard.corona.gov.bd/national-dashboard>



the disease's progression 7-10 days ahead of any kind of lab testing and has introduced many new methods in terms of prioritization and intervention in health services for the most affected areas (e.g., mass testing, oxygen supply, etc.). In its later days, the COVID-19 Intelligence System integrated COVID-19 case data, test data, test positivity, death data, hospitalization capacity, equipment availability, etc. into the system.

A number of fragmented technology solutions have been developed by Access to Information (a2i) of the Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) to monitor the nationwide COVID-19 scenario and make timely policy responses and decisions. Specific initiatives include:

- ▶ Syndromic surveillance
- ▶ Mortality surveillance
- ▶ Contact tracing
- ▶ Epidemiological modelling
- ▶ Health response planning and management

All these solutions have been integrated into a single platform called the "National COVID-19 Intelligence Platform", which has eased the accessibility for policymakers, resulting in timely decision making. The initiative helps to achieve SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as well as IPoA Priority Area number 5 (Human and Social Development).

The platform not only visualizes the analytics, but also generates policy recommendations for field administrators. The Risk Matrix generated at the platform clearly shows which districts have a high infection rate, allowing policymakers to take quick action. This platform provides real-time disease progression monitoring, policy guidance for field administration and field health administration, and real-time policy advocacy on resource allocation. Therefore, the platform has become one of the priorities in national COVID-19 decision-making. It assists the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Division, Health Ministry and field administration at the division and district levels, and the National Public Health Advisory Committee to take prompt, needs-based, high-impact interventions to help citizens and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This platform has been developed in reference to the recommendations of DGHS with the support of donor funds, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and technical support from a2i. Since this platform is being used by DGHS every week for policy decisions, and they have been using this platform for more than one year, the capacity of the relevant authorities has already been developed. In this context, the platform can now be run by the in-house capacities of DGHS, and the DGHS and IEDCR authorities are also highly interested in taking over this platform, since they are using it regularly to monitor the COVID scenario countrywide and initiate necessary intervention. This platform can also be used for dealing with any health crises in the future.

This platform was developed based on open-source platforms, so that any country interested can replicate it through South-South knowledge exchange. The only concern will be the willingness of data providers to utilize it for reporting. Since this platform integrates data from different public and private platforms, the willingness of the concerned authorities would be important.

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# Productive Capacity Construction in the Pesticide Industry



Promoting the development of the green crop protection industry in Sudan

## CHALLENGE

Sudan has been classified by the United Nations as one of the world's least developed countries (LDCs). It is an agrarian country whose economy is heavily dependent on subsistence agriculture, which accounts for 27.5 percent of GDP (2013). The use of pesticides has become a necessary tool to protect crops from pest damage and save human and animal lives from vector-borne and other diseases. However, there were no pesticide manufacturing plants for agriculture due to its poor agricultural technology, according to a senior official from Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Sudan; one hundred percent of pesticides are imported from abroad, often highly toxic agrochemicals using old, unsafe pesticide formulations of varying toxicity to control pests, diseases and weeds.

Since the first generation of pesticides in the world was born in 1940s, pesticide pollution had been criticized. It has taken almost five decades to estimate the serious effects of these chemicals, which not only caused drift and introduced organic pollutants to the environment, but also was hazardous to food safety and the health of applicators, workers and farmers, according to the World Health Organization.

Research and development in agrochemicals in developed countries played a key role in bringing highly active, broad spectrum, less toxic pesticides and their user- and environmentally-friendly pesticide formulations to the market. These have vastly reduced the problems associated with the production and use of pesticides. However, all these benefits are mainly available to developed countries. Hence, there is an urgent need to introduce and promote environmentally friendly and safe pesticide formulations in developing countries, especially in LDCs, as most of them have no access to these products due to high cost and patent protection.



## NOMINATED BY

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

## COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Sudan

## CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.4, 2.a, 3.9, 9.5, 9.b, 13.b

## SUPPORTED BY

China South-South Development Center Project

## IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Nantong Pesticide Formulation Development Centre (NPFC) China  
Senal Agricultural Industry and Chemical Company Ltd. Sudan  
(SAICC) Company Ltd. Sudan (SAICC)

## PROJECT STATUS

Completed

## PROJECT PERIOD

November 2011 – October 2013

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To promote the national development of the green crop protection industry in Sudan, the China South-South Development Center Project and its partner, the Nantong Pesticide Formulation Development Center (NPFC), designed a technology transfer package for commissioning an environmentally-friendly pesticide formulation plant in Sudan. The plant was intended to produce products that were supposed to replace old polluting pesticide formulations in the market based on persistent organic pollutants and organic solvents, with benefits for environment protection, food safety and human health, while also increasing agricultural productivity.

The project contributed to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 13 (Climate action). It also contributed to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity - infrastructure, energy, science, technology and innovation, private sector development) and 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development).

As the implementing unit, NPFC is a state-owned, non-profit, self-sufficient organization with years of experience in research and development of environmentally-friendly pesticide formulations and plant construction, which was helpful in assisting Sudan to get access to new green technologies in agriculture. The construction investment was provided by Agriculture Organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture, Sudan. The project was a pilot project of technology transfer among developing countries, and also a demonstration project of South-South cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit. The project was executed under the National Execution modality (NEX) within the South-South development cooperation project framework, and contributed to environmental protection, food safety and human health, while also increasing agricultural productivity.

Experts from NPFC visited Sudan to collect information on pesticides and their formulations used in Sudan, and had a feasibility study report to establish an environmentally-friendly water-based pesticide formulation plant in Sudan. A research and development team was assembled for this project. Two formulation chemists from NPFC worked on three new environmentally-friendly formulations for about 12 months, involving a recipe, process, study of physical and chemical properties product, analytical method and quality standardization of the formulation. The project products were all microcapsule formulations.

Compared to older traditional formulations, Microcapsule is an important water-based formulation which is produced and sold in developed countries at an increasing rate. Its usage and efficacy are superior to Emulsifiable Concentrates (EC), and it is safe and easy to use. As the next generation of major formulations to replace EC, the manufacturing cost of Microcapsule is lower than that of EC, which is helpful to farmers in Sudan, who often cannot afford the high cost of pesticides.



Through its implementation, the project trained more than 10 technicians, helped them establish an environmentally-friendly pesticide factory and popularized new pesticide preparation technology. This is of great significance. On the one hand, it has improved the research and development level of agricultural research institutions in Sudan, and on the other hand, it has helped to establish a pesticide factory locally, changing the situation of having no local pesticide factories so that pesticides can only be imported. Since then, farmers have had the opportunity to use affordable, low-toxic, environmentally-friendly pesticides. The project has been instrumental in improving the level of agriculture in Sudan, increasing crop productivity, and thus increasing farmers' incomes.

The implementation of the project helped to replace the persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which in line with the Stockholm Convention on POPs and "Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent" and, to a certain extent, contributed to restoring the local and surrounding ecological environment, as well as ensuring food security, biological safety and the sustainable development of the agricultural community. The research results of the project and empirical models of technical cooperation could be disseminated as good practices in developing countries, particularly in LDCs.

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# Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE)



Initiative to strengthen international networks to tackle infectious diseases

## CHALLENGE

Millions of people die every year from infectious diseases. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the COVID-19 pandemic are recent examples of infectious diseases that have caused enormous socio-economic damage and threaten human safety. Infectious disease control requires a global network among researchers, policy makers and organizations such as governments and laboratories. For several decades, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has cooperated with core laboratories in Africa and Asia, which have become important institutions for infectious disease control in their respective countries. JICA's Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE) aims to strengthen the network for tackling infectious diseases with these collaborative partners and international organizations.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In order to effectively respond to national, regional and global health emergencies, it is essential to build testing capacity and a disease surveillance system. To achieve this and further contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Good health and well-being (SDG 3) and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority area 5 (Human and social development), JICA has been implementing the "Partnership for Building Resilience against Public Health Emergencies through Advanced Research and Education (PREPARE)" project together with local laboratories and academic institutions in developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs). This project entails the following three components:

### NOMINATED BY

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.3, 3.8, 3.c, 17.6, 17.16

### SUPPORTED BY

JICA, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), Ghana, Suez Canal University, Egypt, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya, Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), Zambia

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

JICA, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), Ghana, Suez Canal University, Egypt, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya, Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), Zambia

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2016 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/publications/j-world/2010\\_06.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/publications/j-world/2010_06.html)  
– <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/publications/j-world/1904.html>  
– [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2017/171211\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2017/171211_01.html)  
– [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wV9b\\_qfWKCY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wV9b_qfWKCY)  
– <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sU8Iz9QZHWY>  
– <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsBRvMpTicw>



► *Strengthening the capacity of core national laboratories*

Preparedness for health emergencies, such as outbreaks of infectious diseases, is an important element in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). For many years, JICA has cooperated with several core laboratories, especially in Africa and Asia (e.g., the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam), to develop facilities to address infectious diseases through grant aid and technical cooperation. As a result, human resource capacity and laboratories' operational capacity have been strengthened and expanded.

One outstanding example is the Institut National de la Recherche Biomédicale (INRB) in DRC. JICA provided grants to construct testing, research and training facilities including level three biosafety laboratories, in addition to necessary equipment. This has enabled INRB, the only existing national institution in the DRC for fighting infectious diseases, to upgrade its technical platform, shorten diagnosis times and improve its preparedness for epidemics. JICA and INRB also have implemented technical cooperation projects to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance system to promote infectious disease control in DRC.

► *Strengthening the capacity of disease control experts*

To enhance specialized human resource development, JICA launched a long-term training programme in Japan in 2017, in which participants aimed to acquire a doctorate or master's degree, or conduct research as a post-doctoral researcher in the field of infectious disease control in Japanese universities. Approximately eight participants per year from developing countries, including LDCs such as DRC, Zambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Viet Nam, join the programme provided by Nagasaki University and Hokkaido University.

Moreover, to widely strengthen surveillance systems in Africa, regional training programmes are offered at four institutions in Africa, namely the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in Ghana, Suez Canal University in Egypt, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), to train laboratory technicians and government officials from a wide range of countries in Africa which include LDCs. In January and February 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, JICA assisted the NMIMR of Ghana to host third-country online training for nine countries in West Africa, which include LDCs, on countermeasures against infectious diseases, including COVID-19, with the participation of 15 experts as trainees. Through triangular cooperation, JICA and partner organizations with a long-term collaboration history were able to scale up the development impacts accumulated in Ghana, Egypt, Kenya and Zambia to almost all of sub-Saharan countries.

► *Networking with regional and global disease control initiatives*

Strengthening regional and global partnerships with international organizations is also an important element in enhancing preparedness for health emergencies. JICA is seeking more collaboration with organizations such as WHO, Africa CDC and OIE (the World Organization for Animal Health) because they have specific roles and expertise in norm setting, global/regional strategy formulation and action implementation. JICA is strengthening ties with these organizations to share



common objectives towards achieving UHC and building more resilient health systems to respond to health emergencies.

The initiative has strengthened developing countries' (including LDCs') surveillance systems, human resources and networks. With better preparedness, countries have been able to respond quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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# Training on Strategic Partnership with Muslim Religious Leaders



## Better partnerships for prosperity

### CHALLENGE

Around 214 million women in developing countries who want to avoid pregnancy are not using safe and effective family planning methods, for reasons ranging from a lack of access to information or services to a lack of support from their partners or communities. Religious leaders and institutions can play significant roles by affirming a religious basis for the concept of family planning, and by providing information and services to their communities. Yet, many religious leaders and institutions have yet to realize their full potential role in advocacy, since many oppose family planning. Failing to address women's unmet needs for family planning may endanger the achievement of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), as well as hamper economic progress and reproductive rights in countries with low contraceptive prevalence.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Developing and promoting international cooperation has become a key element of the development policies of Indonesia. One of these policies is providing capacity-building programmes for developing countries through South-South and triangular cooperation, with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as the development partner.

Since 2015, the Government of Indonesia, represented by the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) and the Ministry of State Secretariat, has collaborated with UNFPA to implement programmes in the field of family planning, reproductive health and gender equality, with a particular focus on the involvement of Muslim religious leaders. The programme entitled "Training on Strategic Partnership with Muslim Religious Leaders in Family Planning" aimed to provide participants with knowledge on the role of Muslim religious leaders in promoting family planning programmes for the community.

#### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of State Secretariat, Indonesia

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Guinea, Indonesia, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Sudan

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.7, 17.9, 17.16

#### SUPPORTED BY

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of State Secretariat, National Population and Family Planning Board of the Republic of Indonesia

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – Ongoing

Indonesia has implemented six training programmes for 167 beneficiaries from 20 countries. In this training, participants have the opportunity to discuss issues related to family planning and reproductive health with experts and Muslim religious leaders.

To facilitate the systematic cross-country transfer of good practices and knowledge, the South-South and triangular cooperation training used unique, innovative methodologies. In-class orientations were used for discussions on Islamic teachings about family planning. Outreach in the field was used to interact directly with grassroots resource persons on how Muslim religious leaders and Islamic institutions implement Islamic teachings on family planning. Sharing experiences among participants from various countries was also facilitated. This multi-country cooperation was designed to share experiences among all participants from different countries. They developed lessons learned and their own plans of action for implementation in their respective countries upon return.

As a part of its international development policy, the Government of Indonesia provides scholarships to other developing countries to join the South-South and triangular cooperation training on yearly basis. In some cases, Indonesia also sends its officials to carry out follow-up actions with Muslim religious leaders in the recipient countries. The recipient countries, with the support of their respective UNFPA country office, conduct follow-up actions to apply and replicate the Indonesian experience and lessons learned with local communities having similar background characteristics, i.e., a majority Muslim population.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, these training programmes have been implemented online in the form of webinars. Despite not having field visits due to the programmes being online, participants are still able to discuss family planning, reproductive health and gender equality with experts from Indonesia.

Strategic partnership between the government and Muslim religious leaders is the key to Indonesian successes in family planning programmes. The endorsement by influential Muslim religious leaders of new ideas about family planning has helped communities accept and adopt these new approaches.

For example, the Government of Guinea followed up on the South-South and triangular cooperation mission with workshops for religious leaders (Muslim and Christian) in family planning. The workshop produced a statement by religious leaders in Guinea supporting the national family planning programme. While it is difficult to determine causation, contraceptive prevalence in Guinea is increasing, albeit very slowly. The Government of the Philippines is implementing the lessons learned from Indonesia in five municipalities of the Autonomous Regions of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Many Muslim religious leaders in the regions are also taking actions to promote family planning through local radio stations.



The implementation of these programmes is in line with Indonesia's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3, SDG 5 and SDG 17. The programmes are also relevant to achieving the Istanbul Programme of Action's (IPoA) priority area of human and social development, since effective family planning programmes are associated with lower maternal mortality, thus improving the health of women and providing more opportunities to empower them in taking more control over their lives and well-being.

From this programme, it can be seen that Indonesia and fellow developing countries share similar issues and challenges in family planning. The programmes have helped participants to learn best practices from Indonesia on the involvement of Muslim religious leaders in family planning programmes and the promotion of family planning to a wider community. Nurturing collaboration among Muslim religious leaders from Indonesia and the recipient countries is necessary to ensure that the lessons learned can be applied smoothly in-country, and that planned outcomes are fully attained.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Using ICT to Promote and Enhance Accessibility and Quality of Health Care for Older Persons

Strengthening Asia-Pacific countries' capacities to develop policies and strategies to promote health and long-term care to older persons through ICT

## CHALLENGE

Countries with rapidly ageing populations in the Asia-Pacific region face diverse economic and social challenges, including how to respond to the health care needs of older persons. Challenges persist in the context where older persons, particularly older women, cannot access necessary medical treatment, given high costs, a lack of health-care providers, poor transportation, or difficulties in accessing health care in general.

Some countries in the region are already addressing limited access to health care for older persons, while in others this issue will be a growing challenge, with population ageing directly affecting the implementation of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Countries, especially least developed countries, with limited financial resources need to adopt innovative methods to support older people in accessing health care. In this respect, the enhanced and more effective usage of information and communication technology (ICT) can help expand access to health care services and promote the rights of older people.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the challenge of limited access to health care for older persons, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), supported by the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea and in collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), IDD, UNFPA and HelgAge International, conducted or contributed to analytical studies to identify the specific needs of older persons, particularly women, in accessing health care, and identified good practices in using ICT to access health care services. In particular, studies were conducted in Cambodia, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam. Through sharing the findings with Member States at a series of regional workshops and consultations



### NOMINATED BY

Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI), Republic of Korea

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 7, 8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 3.4, 3.6, 3.8, 5.b, 5.c, 8.2, 8.5, 9.5, 9.c, 10.2

### SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) of the Republic of Korea, APCICT, IDD

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ESCAP, IDD, Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), HelgAge International

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

December 2016 – December 2020

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://bit.ly/32A2nUe>  
– <https://bit.ly/33RtwTa>



with the engagement of UNCTs and RCOs, participants from LDCs, for example Cambodia and Lao PDR in particular, were able to learn about good practices and experiences from other countries.

This project aimed to strengthen the capacity of selected developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to develop policies and strategies for promoting the delivery of health and long-term care services to older persons using ICTs. The project contributed to SDGs 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10, with the greatest emphasis on SDGs 3 and 10. It also contributed to Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas 1 and 5.

The project's main knowledge product entitled "Using Information and Communication Technologies to Address the Health-care Needs of Older Persons Managing Chronic Disease: A Guidebook and Good Practices from Asia and the Pacific" (ST/ESCAP/2972) <sup>1</sup> was published and disseminated as an e-guidebook to provide Member States with a resource for formulating innovative solutions to address these demographic shifts and related health care challenges. It is a useful reference tool for LDCs to learn how ICTs can enable equitable access to high-quality health care services for older persons facing chronic diseases.

The guidebook has been translated into different national languages, aiming to enhance its wider use by national government officials for addressing health-care challenges in their countries. So far, a Vietnamese version has been released. The Thai and Khmer versions will be available by January 2022.

In addition, findings from this project have been shared at a workshop and webinar held in Cambodia and Thailand. Private sector representatives were invited to share the use of ICT in health care, contributing to the success of these meetings. Many of the good practices in the guidebook have enhanced the competitive advantage of countries, including those of the South. The guidebook was further shared in a workshop organized by the China Academy for Information and Communications Technology (CAICT) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on how to harness digital technologies to promote healthy ageing in West Asia. These events, by leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation, increased the knowledge of government officials in identifying the health care needs of older persons and how to use ICT to promote the accessibility and quality of health and long-term care; and in applying the good practices and experience in using ICT to increase access to health care among older persons.

Inspired by this project, ESCAP APCICT is currently developing training material on ICTs and the education/digital literacy of older persons based on the guidebook. Recognizing the potential of ICTs to promote the healthy ageing and well-being of older persons, the results from this project will also inform the Fourth Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), to be held in 2022. Once the guidebook is further publicized at the upcoming regional review of MIPAA, more replication of good practices by developing countries is expected.

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/3quZBsY>



To ensure meaningful and successful project design and implementation, regional cooperation and the engagement of all stakeholders from the national government, local communities, academia, health practitioners, private sector representatives and elderly groups were important. Moreover, the evaluation of workshops, meetings and events organized by ESCAP proved useful in drawing on lessons learned and enhancing the effectiveness of these events, as well as reporting on project progress.

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# Improvement of Maternal and Child Health on the Northern Border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti



Advancing towards achieving SDG 3 by strengthening health services to reduce maternal and child mortality

## CHALLENGE

Between 2014 and 2016, 32 percent of the pregnant women who received care at the Dominican Hospital of Dajabón, Cibao Occidental Region were Haitian, representing 44 percent of the total number of women who gave birth in the hospital. Additionally, this region has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the Dominican Republic. The main causes of maternal death are hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and postpartum haemorrhage, which are preventable in more than 80 percent of cases through the provision of quality and people-centred care. To address the health problems of pregnant women, the two neighbouring countries embarked on a binational cooperation project supported by Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). The project aims to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by focusing on improving prevention, early detection and adequate management of its main causes of death, in health facilities and at the community level.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Improvement of Maternal and Child Health on the Northern Border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti project was developed as an initiative for the northern Dominican-Haitian border, planned by the national and regional authorities of both countries, with the support of PAHO/WHO. It also included the local coordination and full participation of health authorities in project implementation, supervision and monitoring. The aim is to reduce maternal and child mortality (particularly neonatal mortality) in the region by strengthening the resolute capacity of the public health establishments coordinated with community interventions, as well as strengthening binational coordination on health. This project directly contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority area 5 focusing on Human and social development. In terms

### NOMINATED BY

Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Dominican Republic, Haiti

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.7, 3.8, 3.c, 5.6, 17.9

### SUPPORTED BY

PAHO/WHO

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Health and National Health Service of the Dominican Republic, Ministry of Health of Haiti

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

April 2018 – 2020

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.paho.org/cchd](http://www.paho.org/cchd)

of methodology, the authorities and health workers from both countries conduct coordination meetings, maintaining smooth communication. The health team from the three levels of care (i.e. departmental, health facility and community levels) participated in collaborative learning, which allows the sharing of good practices, with follow-up from the local and regional health authorities who participated in the project. Their experience could be used to provide technical cooperation in replicating such initiatives in other cross-border regions. The methodology of training facilitators has strengthened the local health centres, ensuring the sustainability of the interventions through functional mechanisms that will remain within the institutions and structures after the project has ended.

The initiative used a three-level care approach to lead the transnational transfer of good practices. At the departmental level, a bilateral joint commission of the coordination mechanism for referral and counter-referral between Haiti and the Dominican Republic was created to establish operational links to deliver the best possible care to pregnant women with obstetric complications. At the level of the health facility, the rehabilitation of health services along the border allows pregnant women to give birth with dignity in a respectful, safe environment, while receiving quality maternal care by qualified health personnel. At the community level, joint meetings are held with youth and adolescents from both countries to raise awareness on the prevention of early pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and their right to receive sound care at the hospital. Binational networks of the two countries for integrated actions for adolescent and maternal health care for Haitian migrant women are being set up. In addition, joint meetings were held with community leaders and community health workers (CHW) from both countries to ensure joint ownership of the project, and to motivate and inform women of childbearing age on the availability of quality maternal health and family planning services in their respective communities. In addition, the Servicio Regional de Salud Cibao Occidental [Regional Health Service of Western Cibao] (SRSCO) has successfully coordinated efforts to improve maternal and childcare at its 16 hospitals, including the regional maternal and child hospital Francisco Peña Gómez de Mao-Valverde. This has strengthened their resolute capacity to comply with the maternal and neonatal protocols established by the Ministry of Health (MSP), using the collaborative learning methodology that employs a check list with explicit criteria for measuring compliance.

The exchange of experiences between the two countries takes place in binational meetings scheduled according to their needs. Binational integration remains fundamental to the success of this project; it serves as a basis for maintaining and adding initiatives that benefit both sides. This project can serve as a reference for replication and upscaling in other countries with the same border population challenges.

From 2018 to 2020, the project achieved the following results:

- ▶ The number of maternal deaths was reduced by 23 percent, and the maternal mortality rate by 18 percent (from 13 to 10, and from 209 to 171 per 100,000 live births in 2019 compared to 2018).



- ▶ The number of neonatal deaths was reduced by 26 percent (from 148 to 110), and the neonatal mortality rate was reduced by 39 percent (from 23 to 14 per 1,000 live births).
- ▶ 595 health workers were trained in: triage; emergency and obstetric urgent care; obstetric haemorrhage and red code; helping mothers survive pre-eclampsia/eclampsia; and care for infant diseases (AIEPI), among other topics.
- ▶ 199 health workers, mainly from the community, were trained in priority topics identified in the intervention strategy designed from a baseline of recognizing and seeking professional care during pregnancy and childbirth; identifying danger signs (evidence and symptoms) during pregnancy, childbirth, puerperium and for neonates; and reproductive health and reducing barriers to accessing health services.
- ▶ Health service capacity was improved in activating and handling the obstetric red code. This included the training of 15 obstetricians and gynaecologists, and 35 health workers who were not specialized in gynaecology and obstetrics. In addition, 20 non-pneumatic anti-shock garments were assigned to the health services. In 2019, 33 red code cases were recorded, in which all of the mothers and children survived.
- ▶ Blood supply and management were improved, including test equipment and supplies for screening and transfusion. In 2019, 421 units of blood were screened.
- ▶ The Perinatal Information System (SIP Plus) was implemented in six hospitals in the region.
- ▶ Compliance with obstetric and neonatal protocol improved in 16 hospitals.

The Integrated Health Services Delivery Network (RISS) evaluation methodology was used.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Challenging the Youth Bulge Phenomenon in Zambia



Providing local youth with a space to meet, skate, socialize, and learn in a safe environment, regardless of their background

## CHALLENGE

Zambia, with 46 percent of its population under 15 years old <sup>1</sup>, faces the youth bulge phenomenon – a demographic pattern where a large share of the population is comprised of children and youth. In the Western Province and its capital Mongu, this number is estimated to be even larger due to region's economic conditions, which negatively impacts social relationships. Since Zambia ranks among the poorest countries experiencing the youth bulge, this poses challenges to youth's access to education, as well as extracurricular and leisure activities, including sports. Consequently, many young people, especially those from underprivileged families, have very limited options for personal development.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Skate World Better NGO (SWB) from the Czech Republic aims to react to the youth bulge phenomenon by creating opportunities for young people to spend leisure time and develop their skills in a safe environment. For SWB, skateboarding serves as a platform for engaging children of all ages. Having previously completed two projects in Mozambique in 2019, the SWB team cooperates with a large network of global volunteers from Wonders Around the World. The project in Mozambique was the first of its kind for SWB, allowing it to gain experience working in an LDC environment. SWB's latest project in Zambia, which won the support of Czech-UNDP Partnership's Challenge Fund, builds on the lessons learned and experiences obtained in Mozambique. Thanks to the Fund, the project in Mongu allows We Skate Mongu (WSM), a local Zambian partner, to increase the impact of its activities with a world-class Lukaba Hande <sup>2</sup> skatepark on a relatively modest budget.

1 International Labour Organization (ILO). Support to employment policies, jobs and skills for youth in Zambia. <https://bit.ly/3nvMMwz>

2 The park is called "Lukaba hande" which means "Everything will be alright" in the local Losi language: <https://bit.ly/3l6U0is>

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Zambia, Mozambique, Uganda, and the Czech Republic

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.d, 4.7, 4.a, 10.2, 11.7

### SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Skate World Better Czech NGO, We Skate Mongu Zambian NGO, Maputo Skate NGO, Uganda Skateboard Society, Wonders Around the World global NGO, UNDP

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2020 – 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3qtBgIz>



The Youth Community Centre in Mongu, Zambia provides a multifunctional community space, where similar youth-focused infrastructure was missing. The project's goal is to give local youth a space to meet, skate, socialize and learn in a safe environment, regardless of their background. Lukaba Hande is open to all children who wish to participate. On average, 700 boys and girls come to the park every week to skate and socialize, using the shared skateboards available.

More than a skatepark, Lukaba Hande has become a meeting hub. For instance, a local hospital uses the location to hold seminars on HIV prevention, and a local craft shop organizes workshops to teach youngsters about their region's traditions and history. The involvement of local actors helps to ensure project's sustainability.

The new facility is the first of its kind in Zambia, and one of the largest on the African continent. It consists of an 800 m<sup>2</sup> skatepark, an elevated stage and an adjacent building, with the latter two also serving as a space for educational activities, seminars, lectures and discussions. The project addresses SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and others such as SDG 4, SDG 10 and SDG 11. By providing a safe space for youth to socialize and learn, it also supports the IPoA Priority Area 5 (Human and social development), particularly when it comes to youth development, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

All four participating countries (the Czech Republic, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia) played a key role in supporting the project in Zambia:

- ▶ The Czech NGO SWB facilitated triangular cooperation and networking between We Stake Mongu (WSM) in Zambia and Maputo Skate in Mozambique. SWB also played a key role in the construction itself, and in obtaining funding from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the UNDP's Challenge Fund modality.
- ▶ After completing the first skatepark in Mozambique with Skate World Better, the Maputo Skate NGO (Mozambique) was eager to help with the Mongu project. Although the COVID-19 pandemic impeded the visit, Maputo Skate NGO provided online guidance and mentoring to We Skate Mongu (WSM), both in the planning phase and later during construction, based on the lessons learned while implementing their similar project. Social media was used for communication.
- ▶ The Uganda Skateboard Society visited Mongu and worked with SWB and WSM for three weeks at the construction site, learning some of the construction techniques during the implementation in Mongu. Back in Uganda, they are constructing a similar project – a mini skatepark.
- ▶ Local Zambian partner We Skate Mongu (WSM) is a grassroots organization dedicated to skateboarding and working with children. During the project, WSM's soft skills, such as its knowledge of local conditions and relationship-building efforts, were crucial to the project's execution and sustainability. WSM found the most suitable location for the park and facilitated negotiations with local authorities, while its sheer voluntary involvement in the construction helped to convince the local community to accept and support the project. WSM is also responsible for skatepark maintenance and scaling up its impact, via curating the extracurricular activities in the space, and gives lectures on topics such as community responsibility, equality, HIV prevention, etc.



A pioneer since 2018, the Czech-UNDP Partnership's Challenge Fund (CF) helps to achieve SDGs and tackle specific developmental challenges in partner countries. Via the CF, innovative solutions from the private sector, NGOs, universities, public institutions, research centres and individuals are supported with up to 80 percent funding. All CF projects consist of solutions applicable both at the country and sub-regional level.

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# Upgrading Midwifery Education in Sudan



## Sudanese policymakers and experts visit Morocco to learn about their midwifery programme

### CHALLENGE

In Sudan, nearly three quarters of birth deliveries occur at home, and most of these are assisted by midwives. The country, however, lacks a skilled and competent cadre of midwives that meets the International Confederation of Midwives global standards for midwifery education. The capacity of “community midwives” is limited and, hence, is not capable of providing the full range of family planning services or any type of emergency obstetric care in the absence of medical professionals in the field. Gaps exist in the quality of care provided by midwives in villages, as well as in health facilities.

At 311 deaths per 100,000 live births, Sudan has a very high maternal mortality ratio, and it is higher for women living in rural areas and among poorer communities. The neonatal mortality rate is also high, ranging from 34 to 47 per 1,000 births. Studies revealed that the majority of neonatal mortality occurred at home, where unskilled birth attendance was utilized. The Government of Sudan recognizes that it is imperative to build local midwifery capacity to provide quality maternal and newborn health care services.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Aware of the need to ensure that midwives can provide skilled quality attendance, the Government of Sudan, with technical and financial support from UNFPA, embarked on a South-South Cooperation initiative with Morocco to help build its midwifery education programme and services.

Morocco had been successful in improving maternal health in general and, more specifically, in delivering improved midwifery services. Having some culture similarities with Sudan, Morocco sharing its experience with Sudanese counterparts through study tours, was deemed beneficial, especially in addressing the



#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Morocco, Sudan

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.1, 3.7, 3.c

#### SUPPORTED BY

UNFPA

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Federal Ministry of Health of Sudan, Sudan Academy of Health Sciences, Ministry of Health of Morocco, Mohammed VI University of Health Sciences in Casablanca

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2018

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://sudan.unfpa.org/en>

three pillars of the midwifery programme: education, regulation and association.

The interactions between the countries involved many institutions. A team of technical experts and decision-makers from Sudan, including representatives from the National Reproductive Health Programme, the Academy of Health Sciences, the Primary Health Care Expansion Project of the Ministry of Health and midwifery educational institutions, participated in exchange and learning visits to Morocco that included meetings with relevant departments in the Ministry of Health of Morocco, the Higher Institute for Nursing and Health Techniques, the Maternity Hospital and the midwifery and family planning associations.

Following the exchange and learning visits to Morocco, the Ministry of Health of Sudan, with technical support from UNFPA, developed an action plan for strengthening the midwifery programme. A series of meetings were organized with policy-makers in the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Higher Education to advocate for adopting the Moroccan model of midwifery education. The efforts succeeded, and a decision was made to discontinue the community midwife education programme and replace it with a professional education programme that follows the International Confederation of Midwives global standards.

The learning visits covered various aspects of a midwifery programme, including educational institutions and curriculum, regulatory frameworks, work settings, quality assurance and supervision, practice standards, retention and motivation of midwives, as well as organization and activities of midwifery associations. Strategic and guiding documents on midwifery were shared by the Moroccan team with permission to use them to guide the development of similar programmes in Sudan. Furthermore, the two governments agreed to further strengthen their collaboration in midwifery and other health programmes.

A midwifery programme gap analysis was conducted and specific areas that need improvement have been identified. The Ministry of Health of Sudan mobilized resources from the Carter Center, in addition to UNFPA resources, to support the preparation of the new midwifery programme. A new midwifery curriculum was developed and four schools in different states of Sudan were selected and equipped to host the new programme, which was launched in September 2018. In addition, two universities have started a midwifery diploma programme.

Shared culture, values and norms between two collaborating countries, such as Sudan and Morocco, is important particularly in dealing with sensitive issues relating to sexual and reproductive. This initiative contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), as well as Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) Priority Area 5 (Human and social development).



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# COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention and Control Knowledge Sharing



Support to civil society organizations in China and Sierra Leone to share knowledge and practical experience on preventing and controlling COVID-19

## CHALLENGE

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Sierra Leone a decrease was experienced in patients/clients attending health facilities to access essential services, such as those for maternal and child health, immunization, family planning, etc. Clients often believe that if they go to health facilities, they will get infected with COVID; unfortunately, this means that more mothers and children could die from preventable deaths.

Sierra Leone was already grappling with the challenges of maternal, newborn and child mortality prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a concern arose that if mothers and children did not continue accessing essential services maternal, newborn and child health indicators could further deteriorate. COVID-19 is more than a health crisis; it is also an information and socio-economic crisis. Under these circumstances, there was an unprecedented need to elevate the role of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) to break the chains of transmission of the virus and mitigate the pandemic's impact on communities, including children. Gains in maternal and child health could be reversed if people did not receive accurate information, while appropriate and efficient dissemination of information gives people courage and confidence to continue positive health seeking behaviours even during the pandemic.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Civil society organizations (CSOs) can play a critical role in engaging communities, raising awareness and bringing desired changes to health behaviours. In Sierra Leone, UNICEF, in partnership with the government, collaborates with CSOs in various RCCE activities. Sierra Leone CSOs had been successful in creating awareness among communities during the Ebola outbreak in 2014-2015, which helped stop the outbreak in a timely manner. In collaboration with UNICEF, CSOs

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Sierra Leone

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 6

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 17.9

### SUPPORTED BY

UNICEF

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNICEF, China NGO Network for International Exchanges

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

August 2020

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3JjH6yZ>



in Sierra Leone are now using their rich experiences and lessons learned during the Ebola outbreak to help communities learn about COVID. Similarly, China has been successful in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and Chinese CSOs played an important role supporting the government in this endeavour, including creating awareness in communities and engaging them effectively during the COVID crisis.

With this backdrop, UNICEF, together with the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), organized a virtual session to support CSOs in China and Sierra Leone to share knowledge and practical experiences in preventing and controlling COVID-19. More than 30 practitioners participated in the exchange, including representatives from CSOs in China and Sierra Leone and a Chinese medical team in Sierra Leone.

The participants discussed the critical role of CSOs in RCCE, sharing examples of using digital, radio and interpersonal platforms and social media and engaging youth volunteers, traditional leaders and other influencers to raise public awareness for positive behaviour change in the context of COVID-19. The practitioners stressed the importance of evidence and data in shaping these approaches. The exchange facilitated knowledge sharing across CSOs and inspired all to explore more opportunities for in-depth South-South cooperation for emergency and development programmes in the best interests of children. For example, Sierra Leone's innovative RCCE approaches and experiences that were shared included:

- ▶ CSO engagement with a focus on interactive radio programmes (60 radio programmes at national and district level reached 3.2 million people);
- ▶ empowerment of community structures through training and capacity development led to better local governance and social accountability; and
- ▶ creation of the "Kombra Network," a social group of inter-connected community-based actors that engage and support families and communities to provide care for children; the network comprises religious leaders, market women, traditional healers, youth representatives and media practitioners to facilitate action planning and advocacy.

Since 2020, the CSO engagement methodology in Sierra Leone has yielded impressive outcomes, including: 6,602 social and community mobilizers oriented and engaged across 16 districts; over 4 million people reached with life-saving COVID-19 related information and essential services through remote and direct engagement; and 1,115 communities supported for participatory response. As of July 2020, more than 96 percent of the target population knew at least three symptoms of COVID-19 compared to 88 percent in May and people were more willing to take prevention and control measures, like washing hands more often and going to health services if they have symptoms.

This good practice has contributed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as well as Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 5 (Human and social development) and 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges).

Some lessons learned from CSO engagement in China and Sierra Leone include: 1) community engagement is critical to build and maintain trust and confidence in the delivery of health care services in health emergencies and for reduction of community transmission; 2) policy and guidelines for community engagement in health emergencies should be formulated to clarify roles and responsibilities and support coordination; and 3) use of community data and feedback should be strengthened for dissemination processes of data and participatory assessments.

Building on the successful experience of the exchange between CSOs in China and Sierra Leone, UNICEF and CNIE will explore opportunities for additional knowledge sharing under the framework of South-South Cooperation and engagement with CSOs for the benefit of children in China and countries in Africa. Partnerships and interactions between international CSOs through South-South and Triangular Cooperation could be highly participatory. The CSO engagement approach has the potential to be transferred to other Southern countries, especially where there is a growing demand for more formalized and integrated interventions to facilitate communication and community engagement. CSOs, as active actors more than ever, can contribute their respective strengths towards COVID-19 prevention and control, as well as humanitarian and development programmes more broadly, for the benefit of children and communities.

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# South-South Cooperation to Benefit Maternal, New-born and Child Health



Improving the survival chances of new-borns, children and mothers through China-Africa cooperation

## CHALLENGE

Over the past three decades, the world has seen remarkable progress in child survival, cutting the number of children worldwide who die before their fifth birthday by more than half. But there has been slower progress for newborns. Babies dying in the first month accounted for 47 percent of all deaths among children under 5 in 2018, up from 40 percent in 1990. In 2018, 2.5 million newborns died in their first month of life, with around a third of these children dying on their first day. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest under-five mortality rate in the world, with an average under-five mortality rate of 78 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018. This translates to 1 in 13 children dying before their fifth birthday – 16 times higher than the average ratio of 1 in 199 in high income countries.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To help address maternal, newborn and child health challenges, UNICEF and the Government of China signed a funding agreement on "Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Eight African Countries." China committed to providing US\$ 8 million to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Zimbabwe to increase access to quality health facilities and essential medicines for mothers and newborns. The programme helped build the capacity of health workers and communities, including by sharing China's technical knowledge and best practices in this area.

This best practice addressed and contributed to SDG3, namely ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. The intervention also contributed to other SDGs related to child health and wellbeing, such as SDG 2 on eradicating hunger and malnutrition and SDG 6 on ensuring access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation for all.

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, D.R. Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Zimbabwe

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 17.6, 17.9

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of China

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNICEF

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

January 2020 – September 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

[www.brhth.com](http://www.brhth.com)

Projects in the countries focused on the below approaches and activities:

- ▶ Procuring and delivering essential maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) supplies.
- ▶ Improving maternal and newborn services, including the rehabilitation of hospital units, referral services and vaccinations.
- ▶ Capacity building and awareness raising activities for health workers, midwives, community health volunteers and families.
- ▶ Conducting training in MNCH for health workers and practitioners in partnership with China.

Initially, the plan was to organize in-person visits and training to share China's experiences in MNCH with the eight countries. However, the COVID-19 pandemic restricted travel, thus China's International Health Exchange and Cooperation Center of the National Health Commission and UNICEF China jointly developed an online learning platform ([www.brhth.com](http://www.brhth.com)) to deliver courses in MNCH and to conduct South-South knowledge sharing with the programme countries.

Training included a pre-training survey, six weeks of online learning in three modules, four online interactive sessions with trainees, a quiz, a post-course assessment and development of an action plan for each country. Second-phase projects will be pursued to support implementation of the action plans.

Replicability and ease of scale-up is embedded in the programme's design. While the needs and projects in each of the countries differ, the modality of cooperation is replicable for other developing countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries. The technical exchange and knowledge sharing platform will continue to contribute to multilateral and bilateral cooperation. It will also be used more widely and will benefit a broader range of participants in the future.

By the end of 2021, the programme provided lifesaving MNCH supplies, services and training opportunities that benefited more than 4.6 million people as below:

- ▶ Improved availability of essential medicines, equipment, consumables and expanded coverage of services to contribute to treating more children for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea and to reduce neonatal and child mortality rates.
- ▶ Rehabilitated maternal health facilities and newborn care units, including new Special Baby Care Units and Centres of Excellence of neonatology.
- ▶ Health workers with more skills and capacity at various levels, including in Integrated Community Case Management, emergency and referral services and skilled birth attendance.
- ▶ Stronger exchanges and sharing among China and the eight countries in MNCH.

Additionally, to strengthen the capacities of health workers, the project intended to organize in-person visits and training sessions to share China's experiences in MNCH. However, the COVID-19 pandemic



restricted travel. In response, China's International Health Exchange and Cooperation Centre of the National Health Commission and UNICEF China jointly developed an online learning platform ([www.brhth.com](http://www.brhth.com)) to deliver courses in MNCH, and to conduct South-South knowledge sharing with the project countries.

The training on maternal, newborn and child health included a pre-training survey, six weeks of online learning in three modules, four online interactive sessions with trainees, a quiz, a post-course assessment as well as development of an action plan for each country; 138 policy makers and health workers benefitted from the courses. Second-phase projects will be pursued to support implementation of the action plans.

Replicability and ease of scale-up is embedded in the programme design. While the needs and projects in each of the countries differ, the cooperation model is expected to be replicated for other developing countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries. The technical exchange and knowledge sharing platform will continue to contribute to multilateral and bilateral cooperation. It will also be used more widely and will benefit a broader range of participants in the future.

The initiative contributes to goals of Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) Priority Area 5 (Human and social development), in particular in ensuring primary health for all, especially the most vulnerable. Through South-South and triangular cooperation supported by the Government of China and UNICEF, eight countries in Africa, five of which are LDCs, can strengthen the capabilities of health sector workers through the exchange of knowledge and expertise, mutual learning and partnerships. Through financial contributions provided by China, the initiative further promoted the IPOA Priority Action on mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building.

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# Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)



## Towards a skilled workforce

### CHALLENGE

Economic growth and employment opportunities in Bangladesh are restricted, among other things, by skills shortages. The current skills supply systems do not meet the skills demand because of inadequate throughput and a mismatch between supply and demand. The current production of skilled workers is not focused on industry demand and is segmented and poorly coordinated. The traditional skills training programmes produce a small number of graduates who tend to have inadequate pedagogical and technical skills. The process of selection and deployment of instructors in the public skills training institutions is also slow and inefficient.

The nature of the employment market in Bangladesh, with 87.5 percent of all employment being informal<sup>1</sup>, has neither encouraged industry to engage significantly in formal training, apprenticeship or employment nor inspired potential workers to explore formal training to seek employment in domestic and foreign markets. As a result, the role of industry has remained largely marginal. There is a need to build a network of industry sectors, chambers of commerce, businesses, training institutions, potential employees and the government, and to earn their trust. In this respect it is essential to use the services of private sector think tanks and organizations, which enjoy solid linkages.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In order to accelerate its economic growth rates and establish link between education and employment, the government committed to improve skills development and training. It developed the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) – a skills development program for skilling new entrants and upskilling existing workforce to enhance the productivity and growth of priority industry sectors. A major component of the program is a partnership between the

#### NOMINATED BY

Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.2, 4.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3

#### SUPPORTED BY

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – Ongoing

<sup>1</sup> <http://data.bbs.gov.bd/index.php/catalog/191>



government and the private sector through the country's various industry associations.

The overall objective of the Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP) is to increase the qualitative and quantitative capacity of public and private sector training institutions in Bangladesh to provide skills. It aims to do this by setting up and putting into operation a responsive skills ecosystem and delivery mechanism through a combination of well-defined funding triggers and targeted support. The programme supports training providers from different vocational institutions in meeting industry skills requirements. It is implementing a vocational trainer development programme and developing a skills assessment, certification and quality assurance system. Activities cover the whole of Bangladesh through both public and private sector training providers.

The programme targets key priority economic growth sectors identified by the government to improve entry-level job skills, as well as improving the skills of the existing workforce to bring them into line with industry standards. Training providers are encouraged to work with industry to address identified skills shortages to bring about economic growth and to increase employment by providing training in these skills. Eleven priority sectors have been identified to adopt a demand-driven approach, with effective input from Industry Skills Councils (ISCs), employer associations and employers. Training is provided by institutions from both the public and private sectors, and by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) partner NGOs are also being used to provide training through their well-established arrangements.

Initially, public training providers and associations are offering the courses available with them aimed at achieving the training target specified in the business plans that they have submitted to the Skills for Employment Investment Programme of the Skills Development Coordination and Monitoring Unit (SDCMU), using funds provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Courses will be gradually reviewed and updated and will involve combinations of skill competencies aligned with standards for competency-based training, reflecting National Training and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF) requirements. Training courses are designed to ensure compliance with industry standards, government policies and regulations. Laws and regulations concerning occupational health and safety, workplace relations and employment conditions, life skills, teamwork, communication, technology usage, will be integrated into specific modules in all training courses.

The project will establish and implement a strategy to address the special needs of disadvantaged groups, such as women and ethnic minorities, and to ensure their participation. The plan is to support about total 841,680 trainees under the project, with additional funding allocations to support key target groups and innovative projects. This project addresses Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality Education) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity) and 5 (Human and social development).



This is a very innovative initiative taken by the Government of Bangladesh to ensure a skilled workforce for the national and international market can be replicated in other countries through South-South exchanges, in accordance with their need assessments and infrastructure. This programme is an excellent example of a joint initiative of public and private sectors with the support of Development Partners. The engagement of all government agencies related to skills development and the participation of local NGOs ensure the sustainability of the project, as government has the main responsibility for improving the skills of the workforce.

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# Nelson Mandela Scholarship Programme for Professionals from African Countries



People and knowledge at the centre of transformation for sustainable and inclusive development

## CHALLENGE

While countries of the global South have made tremendous advances in terms of offering higher education opportunities to their citizens, least developed countries (LDCs) still lack sufficient capacity in postgraduate training in areas that are crucial for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as public service and policy, public finance, agricultural development, local development, etc.

South-South knowledge exchanges can serve as a powerful tool for these countries to share experiences, learn from one another, and support mutual development. Particularly, providing postgraduate training to youth can be an important tool for improving the development prospects of LDCs such as Angola and Mozambique.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Within the framework of Chile's International Development Cooperation Policy, capacity development is a key element in strengthening institutions towards a more inclusive and sustainable development. One of the specific strategic manifestations of Chilean cooperation is the strengthening of capacities through the granting of scholarships and linking students to universities and national public institutions.

Chile's "Nelson Mandela" Scholarship Programme, aimed at professionals from Angola, Mozambique, and South Africa, supports the strengthening of human capacities. Professionals from the public sector, or from academia with work experience, are prioritized for a two-year master's degree in Chilean universities, to contribute to the strengthening of sectors such as agriculture, energy, public policy management, environment, mining and geology, astronomy, information technology, education, engineering, business and economics, public health and science.

### NOMINATED BY

Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation (AGCID)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Angola, Chile, Mozambique, South Africa

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4b, 17.9

### SUPPORTED BY

AGCID with the support of the Chilean Embassy in South Africa

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Chilean universities with postgraduate accreditation

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.agci.cl/becas/becas-para-extranjeros>

As a country from the Global South, Chile shares technical and academic knowledge with professionals in Africa, as a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (Quality Education) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The initiative also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area number 6 (Education and training). To this end, the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCID) continues to strengthen its work in Africa.

Financed by the Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation (AGCID), this scholarship programme was initiated through a Presidential visit to Africa in 2015, with the aim of building closer ties with the continent and contributing to tackling its development challenges. According to scholarship holders, this type of educational opportunity has not only allowed them to immerse themselves in an academic environment but has also enriched the exchanges of cultural experiences between the Chile and the continent.

Since 2015, 70 scholarships have been granted to students from Mozambique, of which 12 were women, with a total of 43 professionals completing their studies, mainly in public policy, human settlements and the environment, agriculture and animal health. For Angola, a total of 47 scholarships have been awarded, of which 18 were women, and 40 professionals have received degrees in the areas of education, animal health, rural development and public policy. The scholarship recipients have returned to their countries at the end of their studies to contribute to local development in their areas of specialization.

Chilean universities value this programme as it has helped them in incorporating new ideas and perspectives, deepening diversity and interculturality among post-graduate students. Additionally, students from Angola and Mozambique were able to link with the Network of Alumni allowing them to deepen their links with Chilean professionals through knowledge exchanges and training opportunities.

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# Strengthening Africa's Television Dubbing Skills



## Promoting cultural and technological exchanges

### CHALLENGE

Africa is on track towards rapid development and its cultural industries need to be developed simultaneously. As a key component of the broadcasting and television industry, dubbing is important not only to introduce outstanding overseas programmes into Africa, especially least developed countries to promote knowledge and learning, but also to develop the African television and broadcasting industry as a whole. Currently, dubbing in Africa faces two challenges: the lack of professional voiceover actors and the lack of professional dubbing technology. These challenges can be observed particularly in the United Republic of Tanzania. Given economic and social development advances, demand is rising for wider television broadcast coverage and richer programme content, especially for learning. The translation of foreign TV programmes is an important source for content providers. Therefore, international support in dubbing, including technologies and skills, is greatly needed.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To help improve the capacity of voiceover acting and its relevant technologies in the United Republic of Tanzania, the China-Africa Business Council (CABC), together with its partner, the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation, proposed a practical training programme to promote the United Republic of Tanzania's broadcast television dubbing skills. This will not only bring excellent overseas programmes to the country and promote knowledge and learning, but also be of great significance to the overall development of the African broadcasting and television industry.

In 2016 and 2017, in cooperation with the United Republic of Tanzania's national television network and other relevant agencies, StarTimes (a Chinese multinational media company), member of the China-Africa Business Council, sent



#### NOMINATED BY

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, United Republic of Tanzania

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.4, 8.1, 17.8

#### SUPPORTED BY

China South-South Development Center Project

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

China-Africa Business Council (CABC)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

November 2016 – October 2017

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://en.cabc.org.cn>



Chinese technical experts to Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania. Through research and analysis of the local media environment, development status, and the translation programme and dubbing market, a set of technical solutions was designed to improve the level of voiceover services in the country. In addition, dubbing actors and recording technicians from the United Republic of Tanzania were selected to visit China for technical training, guidance in dubbing and recording, and support in voice and recording technology. As a result, they mastered China's voice and recording technology at the highest level.

For example, a body of Swahili-language dubbed works was developed. As part of the training programme, by the end of December 2017, the students produced a number of Swahili-language dubbed works, including 19 television series, nine films, two cartoon shows and one documentary. After revision, fine-tuning and mixing, they met broadcast requirements and some were broadcast in Africa. Furthermore, the students' activities and the programme gained significant renown. As the training course proceeded, students' skills improved greatly. They then participated in two forums - the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and the Seventh African Digital Television Development Forum - and gave a performance that was praised by both the actors and the training class.

The United Republic of Tanzania dubbing technology training has achieved positive results and has become increasingly popular. Indeed, it has been recognized by other African countries on account of the design of its training standards, the training of professional voices and recording engineers, and sound design. Besides, the dubbed works can serve as useful templates and tools to help African audiences understand the dubbing process and learn techniques that can be used for replication in other countries and to ensure programme sustainability. What is more, African local language dubbing training was designed. During the teaching process, a set of well-established training standards for local language dubbing techniques was established that can be replicated and promoted in dubbing training in other parts of Africa.

The training programme boosted cultural and technological exchanges between China and Africa. The programme also provided trainees with a platform for cultural exchanges between China and Africa, thus attracting more attention to Africa's dubbing sector. Indeed, cultural industries play a pivotal role in boosting economic and social development. And these industries need technology and education as a foundation. Therefore, technological communication and personal exchanges among South countries are of great importance. China and the United Republic of Tanzania's dubbing training programme can be an example for other LDCs to replicate.



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# Workshop on Teaching Factory



Improving skills of school graduates as key drivers of individual well-being and the essential foundation of human capital

## CHALLENGE

In Myanmar, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) has not been fully effective in producing graduates that match the needs and expectations of industry. If economic growth continues at 8 percent a year and real GDP reaches 220.6 billion by 2030, a projected labour force of two million people will be insufficient. While skilled and semi-skilled labour is lacking, it is estimated that a surplus labour force of 11 million people in low-skilled labour will be generated (McKinsey). Vocational education in the country is very fragmented, often falling under the management of many different departments. Lack of coordination is a challenge when tackling TVET and seeking to ensure that the demand for skilled labour is met with appropriately trained workers.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Indonesia has also faced the challenge of filling the gaps between TVET and market demands, and successfully tackled these issues by implementing approaches to encourage industry to become involved and contribute to educational development through the Teaching Factory Programme. Teaching Factory is an industrial-based learning concept that seeks to create synergies between vocational institutions and industry with the aim of improving the matching of graduates with industry needs.

The Workshop on the Teaching Factory was organized as part of the implementation of development cooperation between Indonesia, Myanmar and the Government of Germany through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) under the South-South and Triangular Cooperation - Networks for Global Governance (SSTC-NGG) project. Through this workshop, Indonesia shared its knowledge and experience in implementing the Teaching Factory concept as an effective approach in closing the gap between vocational institutions and industry and enhancing the capacity of relevant actors in Myanmar.

### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), Indonesia

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Indonesia, Myanmar, Germany

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.3, 17.6

### SUPPORTED BY

German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology; Ministry of Industry, Indonesia

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

March 2017

The project aimed to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The active participation of women in the workshop also had the indirect effect of supporting SDG 5 (Gender Equality). This initiative is also aligned with the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), particularly Priority Area 5, which focuses on (Human and social development), specifically on education and training.

To achieve the above-mentioned goals, the project implementation focused on some key approaches:

- ▶ The workshop was held through a demand-driven principle. The implementation of the workshop is based on the demand from the Government of Myanmar to close the gap between vocational institutions and industry needs through the teaching factory. The knowledge provided by Indonesia is more relevant and applicable to Myanmar due to similar development challenges faced in both countries.
- ▶ The workshop consisted of benchmarking to vocational schools experienced in the teaching factory concept. It provided a series of modules covering concept introduction, product determination, block learning system and exercise in job-sheet development. This type of knowledge sharing uses attractive learning methods, including practically oriented module arrangement, systematic series of activities using varieties of media to encourage active participation, and individual projects.
- ▶ Total participation in the workshop was 50 people, comprising 10 participants from the Ministry of Education of Myanmar, five from the Ministry of Industry of Myanmar and 35 vocational teachers from Indonesia. This mixed-class style aimed to enrich various problem-solving and benchmarking activities to bring about better understanding on the part of participants.
- ▶ The workshop used a strong multi-stakeholder partnership approach. It involved various stakeholders such as the Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia (Bappenas), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology and the Ministry of Industry in cooperation GIZ as well as three vocational schools in three cities in Indonesia (Surakarta, Makassar and Tasikmalaya). It is part of the effort to create a sustainable and inclusive development cooperation by all stakeholders involved.

The cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar has benefitted both parties. Myanmar benefitted from the capacity-building, while Indonesia took the opportunity to promote its expertise on education, notably regarding the teaching factory methodology. The cooperation also helped improve the capacity of Indonesia's vocational schools in implementing international workshops and increase their international branding. Furthermore, the implementation of the project has become a reference model in delivering development cooperation activities.

Following the self-evaluation report of the project, it has successfully enhanced the partnership between Indonesia, Myanmar and GIZ under the SSTC modality (SDG target 17.6). It has also supported efforts to improve the quality of vocational education (SDG target 4.3) and indirectly supported SDG 5 (Gender Equality). The project was regarded as



one of Indonesia's development cooperation good practices by implementing an innovative, result-focused approach involving practical and concrete peer-to-peer learning, tailored to the partner's needs. An innovative approach, the initiative ensures mutual benefit so that it not only improved Myanmar's capacity on vocational education, but also enhanced Indonesia's knowledge as a SSTC provider. The sustainability aspect was highlighted since the project established a cooperation network among relevant stakeholders on education from both countries to develop further technical activity. Therefore, there is an opportunity to replicate similar workshops in other developing countries, as there is development proximity on vocational education sectors in terms of similar challenges faced among Southern partners.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Capacity Development for Technical Vocational Education and Training for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam



Investing in technical vocational education and training for sustainable development

## CHALLENGE

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is one of the main drivers of economic transformation, and many developing countries have committed substantial resources to it. However, countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV) still face some challenges such as the shortage of qualified TVET trainers, absence of standard curricula for particular vocations, lack of skills upgrading programmes on teaching techniques and lack of safety procedures and obsolete training facilities. In addition, people in CLMV countries generally have a low perception of TVET training as enrolment to vocational institutions is considered the least preferred choice.

Through continuous TVET education and awareness, CLMV can address multiple economic, social, and environmental challenges by helping youth and adults develop their skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. Eventually, this will promote equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in keeping with the rapidly changing modern world.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Since 1980, Malaysia has been organising capacity-building programmes for countries of the global South through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). In line with the spirit of South-South Cooperation, Malaysia, through MTCP, has been sharing its development experiences and expertise with other developing countries through technical cooperation programmes. MTCP has emphasized human capital development through training in various areas such as agriculture, economy, finance and trade, education, environment, industrial technical training, diplomacy, public management and administration, professional services, science and technology, social development, and information and communications technology (ICT). To date, Malaysia has extended training to 144 recipient countries and trained more than 35,000 participants.

### NOMINATED BY

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cambodia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Viet Nam

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.4, 8.2

### SUPPORTED BY

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

MTCP Training Institute - Center for Instructor and Advanced Skill Training (CIAT)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.ciaat.gov.my>



TVET is viewed as a catalyst for productivity enhancement and poverty reduction. TVET played a crucial role in socio-economic development, especially for countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, based on a bilateral request and fact-finding mission from 8 to 21 January 2017, CLMV countries requested the support of Malaysia in strengthening their existing TVET programme, upgrading Train the Trainer institutions, and improving TVET facilities in accordance with the current technologies and practices. Malaysia also supported CLMV countries in structuring a flexible TVET syllabus that catered to industrial demands and labour markets.

In addressing the challenges in TVET for CLMV countries, MTCP, in collaboration with its training institute, the Centre for Instructor and Advanced Skill Training (CIASST), and development partner, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), jointly organized a programme entitled “Capacity Development for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).” This programme focused on three fields in TVET: mechatronics, automotive, and welding technology. Furthermore, the programme was aligned with SDG Target 4.3 – to offer quality education in the technical and vocational areas – and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) Priority 5 – Human and social development (education and training).

The objectives of the programme were to:

- ▶ improve TVET trainers based on the needs for the economic growth in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam;
- ▶ share information and good practices by promoting conducive collaboration and networking among TVET trainers with the Malaysian and Japanese counterparts;
- ▶ expose the participants to Malaysia's experience in strengthening the existing TVET; and
- ▶ equip participants with technical skills appropriate to their trade as well as provide teaching techniques to deliver TVET skill training.

This programme was conducted in three phases for maximum impact, focusing on the top three TVET fields. The training comprises lectures, presentations and field visits to several technical institutions and industries in Selangor, Putrajaya, and Kuala Lumpur. Twelve participants enrolled during the first and second phases of the programme. These participants were selected based on their technical background, previous involvement in the TVET programme and suitability for the skills programme offered at the time. As a result of the programme, the participants acquired theoretical and hands-on working knowledge in industrial automation, including troubleshooting automation software and assembling procedures. In the final stage of the programme, participants strengthened their understanding of Welding Procedures Specification related to Code & Standards application.

The programme also focused on teaching techniques, primarily understanding different learning styles and skills for effective delivery. In addition, during the field visits, participants gained insights into industrial practices and processes at the operational level, which would help them conduct appropriate training methodologies and teaching techniques later.

Moreover, by analysing information from the fact-finding mission in 2017 and feedback from alumni of the programme, partners strived to improve the course to match the current needs of participating countries. Japanese experts were also invited to share Japan's best practices and experience developing their curriculum and implementing TVET.

As part of the training requirements, participants had to prepare and present an institution report relevant to their organization at the beginning of the course and prepare an Action Plan to be implemented in their respective countries. During the report and Action Plan presentations, participants highlighted challenges and shared valuable knowledge about the current TVET situation in their respective institutions. This experience created a meaningful opportunity for all parties involved to learn from one another. Furthermore, based on participants' feedback, the majority agreed that the programme gave them a better understanding of TVET materials, which they can disseminate and implement in their home countries.

Participants acquired comprehensive practical and theoretical pedagogical skills to prepare their human resources for developmental growth through this programme. All participants received positive feedback from the programme and scored significant improvement compared with their pre-test results. Furthermore, the positive outcome of the post-test (knowledge and performance assessment) proved that participants' understanding of the subject had improved throughout the programme. Participants also demonstrated competency when preparing the Written Instructional Material (WIM), including the lesson plan, information sheet, assignment sheet, and worksheet relevant to their respective industries. CIASST also encouraged participants to develop their creativity when completing the assignment to promote a more student-centred teaching approach in TVET. Now, the participants could improve existing learning material and systems in their institutes and upgrade their teaching approach with their trainees.

In addition, this programme would continue to enhance the technical and practical skills needed for the specific requirements of each country's labour market. Strengthening the capacities of trainers would ensure sustainability as TVET education would continue to develop new skills in required fields for a country's development.

Malaysia understood that improving the TVET system, which was the core of a country's human resource development, significantly would help to elevate the nation's socio-economic conditions, which ensured the sustainability of this initiative. Therefore, Malaysia, through its training providers, CIASST, would continue to educate, empower, and equip itself and other countries of the Global South with new advancements in TVET.

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# Primary Science and Mathematics Educators' Training for African Countries



Enhancing constructivist-based pedagogy for quality education

## CHALLENGE

It is generally accepted that intervening at the school and classroom levels is crucial in raising the quality of primary education, since ultimately educational quality is obtained through pedagogical processes, whereby knowledge, skills and attitudes are acquired. In traditional classroom setting, teachers usually give direct instruction and explanations on a subject matter, and students learn passively. As a result, students are burdened with large volumes of facts and content matter to memorize. Furthermore, remote learning can hardly help them to relate what they have learned in the classroom to real life situations and therefore the subject matter is of little applicability in daily life, especially in science and mathematics. Hence, there is a strong need to enhance the overall quality of classroom interaction.

In Africa, according to a wide range of regional, national and international assessments, despite recent improvements, science and mathematics education is still lagging. Additionally, there are many challenges that contribute to poor learning and performance due to teaching methods. Thus, improvements are needed in order to ensure that the individual potentials of children in the region will be unlocked and subsequently help in achieving long-term national economic growth.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Recognizing the crucial need to enhance the quality of education (SDG 4) in Africa, particularly in science and mathematics, the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) training institute and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization-Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (SEAMEO RECSAM) collaborated with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP)



### NOMINATED BY

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, Zambia

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.C, 17.2, 17.6, 17.9

### SUPPORTED BY

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

MTCP Training Institute - Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (RECSAM), SEAMEO RECSAM

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – 2017

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://www.recsam.edu.my>

to design a programme targeting primary science and mathematics teachers and educators from African countries. The programme was built to provide opportunities for teachers and educators to explore a wide range of teaching and learning methods, strategies and activities that encourage active learning situations, thereby stimulating gradual construction of new knowledge and enhancing understanding in science and mathematics, anchored on the philosophy of constructivism-based pedagogy.

The programme, which also contributed to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority 5 – Human and social development (education and training), – further provided opportunities to the participants from African countries to exchange experiences in conducting relevant and meaningful science and mathematics lessons among themselves and with their counterparts in RECSAM. A fundamental feature of this programme is its three-year structure, aimed at ensuring maximum impact and continuous development of the teachers and educators in the region. The first year of the programme was conducted from 7 to 27 October 2015 for 26 participants, the second from 10 to 30 August 2016 for 24 participants, and the third from 9 to 29 August 2017 for 16 participants from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Eswatini, Uganda and Zambia. They were all conducted in Penang, Malaysia.

Throughout the three-year programme, participants were exposed to various theoretical and practical applications of enquiry-based and problem-based learning, as well as outdoor studies and the incorporation of information and communications technology (ICT) and non-ICT instructional technologies that support effective teaching and learning of science and mathematics at the primary level. Participants were also exposed to a wide range of topics covering research-based constructivist science and mathematics teaching strategies, such as science process skills, assessment for learning, problem-based learning and constructivism in science and mathematics education as a means to improve instructional practices in their school. Apart from that, participants also had the opportunity to try out some of the teaching strategies, instructional materials and teaching aids developed by participants themselves to be used in active teaching and learning in science and mathematics in their home countries.

A JICA senior volunteer was engaged as a specialist in science education for two years, to share expertise on non-ICT instructional materials for science teaching.

The programme has been successful in enhancing the understanding of constructivist pedagogy; contextualizing content knowledge of science and mathematics; improving skills for improvising teaching materials utilizing discarded/ inexpensive material such as straws, rubber bands, cards, etc. and widening participants' perspectives via sharing of national development experiences and taking cues from good classroom practices in Malaysia and other ASEAN countries.

The effectiveness of the programme was indicated by pre- and post-tests of participants' perception of new knowledge acquired during the course, which showed significant improvement in scores. In addition, to ensure that the outcomes in relations to the SDG targets and relevant



priority area(s) of the IPoA can be achieved, RECSAM required that participants' learned knowledge and techniques be shared and further disseminated among their colleagues. through an Individual Multiplier Effect Action Plan, which outlines their plan to disseminate the activities, skills and content knowledge that they have learned throughout the duration of the programme. This ensures the sustainability of the programme.

Feedback from the last cohort of participants in the programme indicated that students have started to take charge of their own learning by actively constructing new knowledge and integrating it into their existing cognitive framework. Students are more engaged in learning and they find the learning process interesting, albeit challenging. It is therefore clearly demonstrated that a sound grasp of the teaching approaches and strategies together with the teaching resources would enrich the educators' teaching repertoire as they work towards raising the quality of science and mathematics teaching and learning in their countries.

In conclusion, this triangular cooperation programme by Malaysia and Japan has been successful because it has identified the best combination of strengths and strategies to construct programmes that are results-oriented to help raise the current social and development status of the target countries. Furthermore, RECSAM as a registered training institution under MTCP, has been recognized for its role as a catalyst for the advancement of science, mathematics and technology education, more than ten thousand key teachers and educators having passed out from RECSAM Training.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Afghanistan Capacity Building Programme for Teachers



Improving the learning and teaching capabilities of Afghan teachers for better education

## CHALLENGE

Afghanistan has been suffering from conflicts and instability for many years. Due to fragile security conditions, teachers were often unable to receive training, develop their skills and keep their knowledge up to date. The fragmentation of the society along ethnic and cultural lines prevented unified and centralized training opportunities for teachers, which meant teaching was not a standardized occupation requiring a selection and eligibility process and/or a certification programme.

Subjects such as mathematics, physics and chemistry had an overloaded and advance-level curriculum at school, which was difficult to grasp for both students and many teachers alike. Afghan teachers had very limited access to international standards in education and good examples from other countries on quality teaching and learning. This has implications for the quality of education received by school children, which is critical to national economic growth and the future of Afghanistan.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The “Afghanistan Capacity Building Programme for Teachers” was designed by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), to help the country overcome most of these challenges by providing a very convenient training centre. The centre hosts teachers from all backgrounds and all parts of Afghanistan and equips them with skills and knowledge in line with today’s high-standard teaching models through extensive practical and theoretical learning and teaching modules. The Programme has also facilitated the sharing of Turkey’s experience in education through study visits and peer learning activities in Turkey.



### NOMINATED BY

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Afghanistan, Turkey

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.c, 4.d

### SUPPORTED BY

TİKA

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Afghanistan Ministry of Education, Turkish Ministry of National Education, TİKA

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2016 – 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3pvhRli>



Considering the well-being of the future generations and capacity-development needs of teachers in Afghanistan, in 2016 TİKA provided teacher-training programmes in support of the efforts of the Ministry of National Education of Afghanistan, which aimed to offering on-the-job training for 3,000 teachers. Since then, thanks to the convenient accommodation and training facilities built by TİKA in Kabul, over 4,500 teachers from all over the country have upgraded their teaching skills in a safe environment. The programme provided 1,152 hours of training sessions in the first year alone. To build on this success, in the following years TİKA allocated more of its resources and created the “Education and Teaching Support Programme,” a cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of National Education and Turkish universities, which aims to benefit all its partner countries. Initiatives under this programme include:

#### **Afghanistan - TILT (Training on Integrated Learning and Teaching):**

This initiative enables teachers in Afghanistan to maximize the use of available resources and turn subjects taught in schools into project-based classroom experiences, making students familiar with and curious about science and technology. In order to equip teachers with the necessary skills, a programme was designed and successfully implemented. Under TILT, there are two concepts, STEM (global approach) and HAREZMİ (Turkish model):

► **STEM:** From 18 to 29 March 2019, in cooperation with Trakya University, TİKA provided applied STEM training for 24 Afghan teachers in Edirne, Turkey. The training eliminates the distinction between science, technology, engineering, and mathematics lessons, and represents an interdisciplinary approach. Of the teachers who successfully completed the training in Turkey, 23 conducted basic STEM training as trainers with the guidance of two Turkish expert teachers in December 2019 and March 2020 in Kabul. Over 160 Afghan teachers participated in these training sessions.

► **HAREZMİ:** In March 2021, an interdisciplinary training module developed and executed by the Turkish Ministry of National Education and the Istanbul Provincial Directorate was offered to 25 education experts from Afghanistan’s Ministry of National Education to complement the STEM training. As an innovative aspect, the HAREZMİ programme includes social sciences and encourages challenge-based learning, i.e. how to teach by having students find solutions for real-life challenges.

#### **Other training for teachers:**

Learning Teacher, Curriculum Development and Education Management training sessions were all conducted in 2019 in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of National Education and the Afghan Ministry of National Education:

- **Learning Teacher Training** was carried out twice and a total of 210 teachers participated in this training in Afghanistan and received a certificate.
- **Curriculum Development Training** (one-week) was provided for 40 Afghan experts.
- **Education Management Training (12 days)** was conducted for 100 managers working at 12 pilot schools in various parts of Afghanistan.

The Education and Teaching Support Programme aspires to ensure that on-site teacher training is provided by local teachers following the training of trainers (ToTs) in Turkey and Afghanistan, which would greatly serve the sustainable development of the country. For facilitating the Afghan trainers’ first steps as trainers, Turkish experts have provided guidance for their first training programme in Kabul.

The training programme can easily be replicated in other LDCs and developing countries as it was designed in structured modules that are appropriate for all geographical regions and cultures. Also, close collaboration with local authorities as well as Turkish partners is a significant element in terms of project success and sustainability. Empowerment of the local teachers by providing them with trainer’s skills is another sustainability aspect that would make the national education system more self-sufficient and lifelong learning more accessible for schoolteachers.

This initiative is a good example of South-South cooperation as it made the transfer of Turkish experience in the field of education possible. It is also innovative, as all the training sessions are conducted by using only locally-available materials, so that both urban and rural teaching settings would easily adapt the newly acquired skills and methods to their teaching practice. This practice contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 4.c by increasing the supply of qualified teachers in Afghanistan through international cooperation. By providing support to Afghanistan’s efforts to train and retain teachers and trainers, particularly in rural and underserved areas, the initiative also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority area 5 (Human and social development).

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# Increasing Capacity of the Parwān University Faculty of Journalism



Establishment of a photographic laboratory and radio studio to increase educational opportunities and support higher education for future journalists

## CHALLENGE

A better future is created through better education, and applied education is the best way to prepare young people for the professional life. Long periods of instability in Afghanistan have led to a lack of investment in education infrastructure. This challenge is affecting all levels of education, including universities, and is detrimental not only to the future of individual students, but also to the socio-economic development of the country. This project meets the needs of Parwān University in terms of technical infrastructure and materials, contributing to overcoming the obstacles that hamper the development of applied education in Afghanistan.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In order to help tackle these challenges, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) established a photographic laboratory and a radio studio in the Faculty of Communication and Journalism of Parwān University in Kabul, equipping them with the latest technologies. The project was carried out in the form of a grant by TİKA.

The project aims to provide journalism students with practical knowledge and experience on which to build their careers and enable them to progress to higher levels of the media and journalism industries. It also aims to provide students with the opportunity to increase and broaden their journalism skills. Considering the importance of practical education and the latest technology in all fields of broadcasting, the radio studio and photographic laboratory are expected to make significant contributions to the training of qualified personnel at the university level for the media sector.



### NOMINATED BY

Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Agency (TİKA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Afghanistan, Turkey

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.4

### SUPPORTED BY

TİKA

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Parwān University, TİKA

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

October 2020 – February 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://bit.ly/3FCqcta>  
– <https://bit.ly/3sx2RFE>

Contributing towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 (Quality Education), this project was carried out in line with the demand and guidance of the partner institution (Parwān University). In accordance with the goal of increasing the professional and technical skills that will contribute to employment, which is mentioned in SDG Target 4.4, the journalists of the future will receive practical training with the appropriate technical infrastructure. The project was initialized in accordance with the principle of ownership, which is one of the basic principles of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA). Local ownership and partner’s education expertise also ensures its sustainability. This project contributes to the framework of “Support least developed countries efforts to improve higher educational and technical and vocational education and training”, which is among the actions determined for development partners within the scope of IPoA Priority Area 5 (Human and social development).

Since this project is completely grant-based, it is important that the requesting partner has the technical knowledge to make local ownership and the infrastructure sustainable.



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# The Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development



## Education for sustainable development and global citizenship

### CHALLENGE

Among the greatest challenges facing the Global South today are the eradication of poverty and inequality and the need for sustainable development. Since a knowledge-based economy and society have become vital drivers of development, education plays an ever more important role in the preparation of high-quality human capital for developing countries, especially for least developed countries (LDCs).

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

On 26 September 2015, at the United Nations, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China would establish an Institute for South-South Cooperation and Development (ISSCAD). With strong support from the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance and relying on Peking University's solid strength in the humanities and social sciences, ISSCAD was officially established on 29 April 2016. ISSCAD is a national-level example of China's participation in South-South cooperation that has clear development goals for human and social development in education and training.

ISSCAD is a new educational platform devoted to promoting equitable, inclusive, and sustainable growth by sharing knowledge and experience on matters of public leadership and national development, with developing and especially LDCs. Through education and training, ISSCAD builds an effective learning community for the Global South and contributes to their effective integration into the world economy. By contributing towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 in enhancing quality education, ISSCAD is a leader among institutions of higher education. It prepares students for transnational careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, and it offers a customized curriculum integrating practical and theoretical approaches so that graduates can apply their learning and contribute to the economic, social, and environmental development in their own countries.



#### NOMINATED BY

Peking University, China

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4,7, 4.b

#### SUPPORTED BY

Peking University, China

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Peking University, China

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

April 2016 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.isscad.pku.edu.cn/>



The long-term goal is to build a training base for developing countries' most talented young people in a national development research institution. In ISSCAD's dynamic global exchange platform, students are able to share the experiences of national development between developing countries, strengthen international cooperation, and contribute to the construction of a community with a shared vision for mankind.

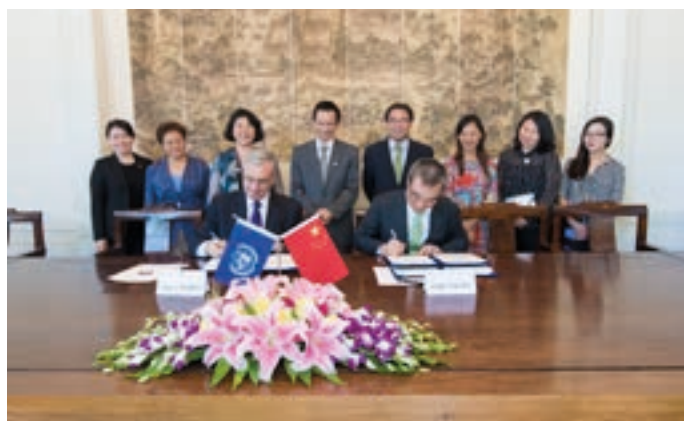
The core faculty of ISSCAD is from Peking University, which has an established reputation both as an outstanding academic institution and as a policy think-tank in China. The core faculty is supported by selected faculty and professional associates from other schools and departments within Peking University and beyond, the purpose being to nurture a vibrant interdisciplinary learning environment that encourages intense inquiry, open dialogue, and cross-cultural learning, which serve as a bridge between theory and practice.

As well as developing an extensive national development degree curriculum, ISSCAD has also carried out research in four sustainable development areas: agriculture and poverty reduction; education and innovation; public health; and climate change and environmental protection. ISSCAD offers both degree and non-degree executive education programmes.

Students are carefully selected from a pool of Global South applicants who meet the institute's admission requirements. The most outstanding students and students from LDCs are financially supported by ISSCAD. Regular courses are supplemented by fieldwork and workshops in various domains (such as education and poverty reduction, population and public health, social security and public safety, urban development and land reform, energy and environment, industrial upgrading and technological innovation, and global governance and foreign policy). As well, students are expected to develop knowledge and understanding in cross-disciplinary fields for actions appropriate for local or context-specific conditions.

ISSCAD creates an innovative educational space to examine the success and challenges experienced in China and other developing countries, and to exchange good practice between them. The ISSCAD "good practice" model is sustainable as a formal educational institute and is a model that could be replicated and adapted in other Global South countries who aim to create an educational institute to strengthen South-South cooperation through education and training. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, admitted students from the Global South had to engage in the programme virtually from their homeland. However, some have encountered internet connection problems which may have impacted their learning. Additionally, ISSCAD had to accommodate students from different regions and different time zones for online teaching and learning during the pandemic.

ISSCAD focuses on contributing to SDG4 and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority 5, human and social development. It provides affordable higher education to students from the Global South, offered education for sustainable development and fostering global citizenship, and provided higher education scholarships for students. As of September 2021, ISSCAD has enrolled nearly 300 students (over 50



percent from LDCs) from more than 60 developing countries and trained more than 150 master's and doctorate graduates to return to their home countries. In the future, ISSCAD will continue to expand the enrolment of students from developing countries and build a broader exchange platform for national development theory and practice.

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# Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship



## Creating a gender-responsive entrepreneurial ecosystem



### CHALLENGE

Women's role as job creators, employees and contributors to economic expansion is clear. It is estimated that advancing women's equality in the Asia-Pacific region could add as much as US\$ 4.5 trillion – a 12 percent increase to the region's GDP annually by 2025. There is widespread recognition that women's entrepreneurship is a key pathway for advancing women's economic empowerment and can, in turn, have a multiplier effect on family well-being, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth. Yet, women's potential as business owners is greatly undermined by numerous challenges such as discriminatory legislative frameworks, lack of or limited access to finance, information and communication technologies, lack of access to markets and business networks, discriminatory socio-cultural norms as well as limited opportunities for capacity development. Furthermore, women entrepreneurs have disproportionately borne the brunt of the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, putting them and their businesses in an even more vulnerable position.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is implementing a five-year regional programme on "Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE) - Creating a Gender-Responsive Entrepreneurial Ecosystem" in six countries, to support member States in their efforts to enhance women's entrepreneurship as a strategy for poverty reduction, social well-being and sustainable economic growth. The programme is supporting the fulfilment of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and many related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is contributing to priority area 5 of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) (Human and social development). It undertakes on-the-ground implementation activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Viet Nam.

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa, Viet Nam

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 6, 7

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.C, 5.B, 5.A, 5.1, 8.1, 8.4, 8.6

#### SUPPORTED BY

Global Affairs Canada

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ESCAP (Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam, Ministry of Industry Science Technology and Innovation, Cambodia, Ministry of Women Affairs, Cambodia, Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji, Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation, Bangladesh, Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour, Samoa.

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

March 2018 – December 2023

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.unescap.org/projects/cwe>

The programme has been structured around three interconnected pillars of work:

- **Policy and Advocacy:** strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks that provide an overarching enabling environment to support women entrepreneurs. Through in-depth national and sub-regional research, systematic technical advisory and capacity development efforts, the programme assists policymakers in developing gender-responsive policies and programmes.
- **Innovative Financing:** leveraging public and private capital to pilot, test and scale financing models that support women entrepreneurs. Utilizing multiple affordable, regulated and tailored financial services enables the programme to address the financial access and usage challenges of women entrepreneurs from start-up to growth-stage businesses.
- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT):** strengthening the capacity of policymakers to create an enabling environment for ICT-empowered women entrepreneurs and enhancing the capacity of women entrepreneurs to adopt and utilize ICT tools in support of their businesses.

The programme has locked in commitments from seven Ministries comprising leading SME agencies, women's machineries, and Central Banks to design and implement targeted interventions for women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, Fiji, Samoa, Viet Nam and Cambodia. Notably, non-gender Ministries have committed to play a significant role in promoting women entrepreneur centric reforms. The participatory and human-centred approach of the programme has informed the solution design at many different levels (community, institutional and sub-regional). Examples of key achievements include:

- Research has been undertaken to enable a better understanding of national policy environment for women led MSMEs and assist policymakers in identifying current gaps. These include studies on the impact of COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Samoa and Viet Nam that have generated actionable recommendations to address challenges in the short and long term.
- Evidence showed that women entrepreneurs are facing numerous barriers in accessing information and services. The programme developed a discussion paper on 'Innovations and Good Practices on One-Stop Shops to support Women Entrepreneurs' to showcase various one-stop shops and portals in the Asia Pacific region and how they address the contextual needs of women entrepreneurs. A regional exchange has been organized to facilitate good innovations and lessons learned from operationalizing these one-stop hubs in different countries. Based on the learnings from the paper, work is underway to improve and/or launch one-stop hubs for women entrepreneurs in partnership with SME Ministries, including in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

- The programme has leveraged sub-regional partnerships to scale women entrepreneur-centric policies beyond CWE programme countries. For example, ESCAP has partnered with ASEAN coordinating committee on MSMEs (ACCMSME) to develop a toolkit for ASEAN policymakers to integrate targeted provisions for women entrepreneurs in national SME policies and action plans. This will include a self-assessment tool to help policymakers understand the entrepreneurship ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in their country, identify gaps and facilitate action planning for fostering an enabling ecosystem in the long term.
- As a regional commission, ESCAP has facilitated cross-country exchange of knowledge and data sharing under the programme. Examples include a sub-regional expert group consultation in partnership with the ASEAN Committee on Women on enhancing women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in ASEAN. Promising practices and progressive initiatives on women's entrepreneurship, including addressing legal barriers for women entrepreneurs, were deliberated on by ASEAN policymakers.
- SME policies and laws in Cambodia, Fiji, and Viet Nam have been reviewed to include women specific provisions and improve overall implementation effectiveness at the national and provincial levels. The process of review and revisions has also contributed to developing the capacities of national stakeholders.

Focusing on context specific and human-centred solutions and building a range of partnerships are notably the most innovative aspects of this programme. Programme advisory committees have been established at the country level that serve as institutional mechanisms for direct exchange and collaboration among various stakeholders affecting women entrepreneurs. The sustainability of the initiative is demonstrated in the institutionalization of these advisory groups, for example in Fiji, Samoa, and Viet Nam that will ensure stakeholders' capacities to respond to future changes and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.

The regional integration efforts under the programme promote South-South cooperation by sharing dynamic practices, lessons learned as well as presenting an opportunity to member States to work together towards realizing the collective vision of advancing women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

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# Empowering South Asian Women Entrepreneurs through Digital Technology



Using e-commerce and digital marketing to make women-led SMEs in South Asia part of the regional and global supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic

## CHALLENGE

South Asia is recognized as a dynamic sub-region, but its potential is undermined by gender inequality in all aspects of economic and social life. In South Asia where women labour force participation is among the lowest in the world, women entrepreneurship is a widely untapped source of economic and social progress, and job creation. According to statistics, only eight or nine percent of formal SMEs are owned by women in south Asia compared with 38 percent to 47 percent in other regions (East, Central Asia and East Europe). Women entrepreneurship, through its positive multiplier effects on society, such as job creation, increase in labour force participation and lifting families out of poverty, can in turn lay the successful path towards achieving SDG 5 and Priority Area 5 of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA).

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

"If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation". Keeping this in mind, this project "Empowering South Asian women-led SMEs" supported by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), aims to enhance the knowledge and capacity of women entrepreneurs belonging to micro, small and medium enterprises, in the application of e-commerce platforms to expand their business exports and participate in local, regional and global supply chains. Strengthening and promoting women entrepreneurship in South Asia will bring many positive ripple effects including its ability to boost job creation with productive employment (SDG 8), alleviate poverty (SDG 1) and thus facilitate inclusive and sustainable growth. The activities under the project would help in gender equality and empowerment of women (SDG 5) and would also promote networking among women entrepreneurs to build relationships, share resources and knowledge (SDG 17). This also supports the IPoA priority area on gender equality and

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 3, 5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 5.1, 5.5, 5.A, 5.B, 5.C, 8.5, 10.2, 12.8, 12.A, 17.16, 17.17

### SUPPORTED BY

ESCAP-SSWA, New Delhi; Enhanced Integration Framework (EIF), Geneva

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ESCAP-SSWA, New Delhi

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

July 2019 – July 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.unescap.wesellonline.org/>



empowerment of women.

The project followed a step-by-step approach on building capacity at a national level first followed by a series of regional training. Use of social media like Facebook and Instagram by women entrepreneurs to promote their business were included in training materials. An online e-learning course on e-commerce and digital marketing has been developed and is available at <https://www.unescap.wesellonline.org>. A web-site for hands-on training on how to link up with e-marketplaces was also developed (<https://www.wesellonline.org/>). Wesellonline (Women entrepreneurs sell online) is a platform where women entrepreneurs can register their business and upload their company profile and product/service catalogues.

The initiative has trained around 1200 women so far from 10 member States, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. About 300 women entrepreneurs have registered on the platform. The idea of “minimum investment maximum profit” in e-commerce business is helping women entrepreneurs, especially those from LDCs, to start and grow their businesses while working from home and at their convenience. It has helped the buyer and seller to be better connected and expanded the opportunity of forming new supply chains. With these emerging trends, we see this programme as being sustainable and continuing in the medium to long term, allowing women entrepreneurs in the South, in particular those from LDCs, to learn from each other.

COVID-19 also brought an opportunity for e-commerce business. This initiative during the pandemic has recognised the significance of e-commerce as a medium to conduct business and paved the way to be an important tool for women-led MSMEs to become part of wider supply chain. Due to lockdown and restrictions, people changed their buying habits and started ordering more online. These workshops are also acting as a regional networking platform for women entrepreneurs from South and South-West Asia to showcase their products and services, thereby helping creation of regional networks. WhatsApp and Facebook groups among these entrepreneurs were also created to further facilitate relations and share any issues, technical difficulties faced for faster resolution.

There have been many good lessons that have been learnt during the project. Effective partnerships have been built between policy makers, civil society organizations, chambers of commerce and industry and women's chambers. The project's partners have been the Governments, UN country teams, South Asia Women's Development Forum, Apex chambers of commerce and industry and self-help groups working on women's empowerment. A collective effort by all in giving this training has encouraged women to shift to e-commerce and some changes in policies by Governments were made, as Bhutan, Nepal and India came out with their e-commerce policies.



The positive long-term impact of this project on empowerment of women in the participating countries would surely result in more countries replicating this project in other countries of the world due to strong partnership with other international organizations such as APEC, ComSec and WTO Secretariat, which have appreciated this work and reaching out to ESCAP to replicate for their members. Also, ESCAP has developed a strong network with regional Civil Society Organizations and self-help groups as well as Chambers of Commerce which are promoting the training. At the same time, ESCAP has developed an open online e-learning course on e-commerce and a manual detailing a step-by-step guide to start online business is being published, which can be used and accessed from any part of the world. The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Commonwealth Secretariat have also shown interest in partnership using the project's knowledge products for countries beyond South Asia.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at the National Level in the Arab Region



Mainstreaming gender action within national institutions in the Arab region



## CHALLENGE

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>1</sup> outlined the need for National Women's Machinerys (NWMs) to ensure the 'mainstreaming' (bringing into public debate as a priority issue) of gender equality and the empowerment of women in government institutions, policies and programmes. Since then, the number and scope of NWMs has grown exponentially, including in the Arab region. However, despite their near ubiquitous presence, NWMs in the region have faced unique and trying challenges since the Arab uprisings of 2010/2011. As well as the usual constraints faced by such institutions, such as weak internal institutional structures, limited human and financial resources and cultural and societal resistance, NWMs in the Arab region must contend with contexts in which conflict, occupation, political upheaval and severe humanitarian crises have become the norm.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is leading an initiative to implement an "Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at the National Level in the Arab Region". The objective of the initiative is to accelerate achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (Gender Equality), by providing NWMs with a concrete Action Plan to bring gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) into a prominent position in their own internal procedures and those of government and other institutions. It also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 5 (Human and Social Development), 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building) and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 7, 8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.1., 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c

### SUPPORTED BY

UN Women, International Labour Organization (ILO)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ESCWA

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2016 – 2020

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/01/beijing-declaration>

In consultation with NWMs in the Arab region, in 2016 ESCWA developed a tailored accountability framework comprising 15 performance indicators. To support the implementation of the Action Plan within as many institutions as possible and to ensure its sustainability, ESCWA carried out the following actions:

- ▶ Development of the necessary knowledge products to support reporting and monitoring;
- ▶ Putting together a pool of experts in facilitating women’s participation from NWMs in the region, following International Labour Organization (ILO) methodology;
- ▶ Building needed national capacity through tailored programmes and technical assistance missions to advance the achievements of the indicators and required reporting processes; and
- ▶ Establishment of an online platform to facilitate proper reporting and monitoring.

ESCWA has successfully implemented the Action Plan, with proven initial results, in the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and the Family of Mauritania. The Action Plan was rolled out through an institutional gender audit and an organization-wide capacity-building programme supported by Jordanian and Moroccan NWMs, which yielded immediate results and confirmed the relevance of the initiative. A ministerial budget increase was approved for promoting gender equality and mainstreaming in Mauritania’s NWMs annual budget for 2021. Increase in institutional capacities and budget is a key driver to acceleration in the implementation of SDG 5 at the national level, and this positive change is a major policy influence that is attributable to this initiative and ensures its sustainability.

The initiative aims to build the capacities of NWMs as a first step, so that they can then implement the Action Plan in other national institutions, expanding the scope of the potential change considerably. This scalable approach is thought to be the most appropriate and practical way of achieving the ultimate goal of gender equality in the region. It is also expected to contribute to the sustainability and facilitate the replicability of the initiative over time, and to its expansion to as many national institutions as are interested.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to pilot the implementation of a gender audit online in addition to a capacity-building programme. This was a successful experience that provided lessons for future audits in large national institutions, particularly as funds are likely to be curtailed with the financial crisis resulting from the pandemic. It demonstrated the feasibility of online audits relying on expertise and experience from different countries and provided insights into how to conduct them with high quality and reduced budgets.



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# Blended Finance Investment for Women's Sustainable Economic Empowerment



Bringing prosperity and empowerment to women in Bangladesh through blended finance investment

## CHALLENGE

Only 8 percent of Bangladesh's entrepreneurs are women <sup>1</sup>, and only 25 percent of women have an account with a formal financial institution <sup>2</sup>. More than 60 percent of women are not able to access bank finance. Furthermore, at least 20 percent of income in Bangladesh is lost due to gender gaps in entrepreneurship and labour force participation <sup>3</sup>. In addition, existing financial services in Bangladesh neither address adequately the needs of women entrepreneurs nor promote women entrepreneurship specifically at local levels. Women's access to capital is severely limited due to various factors including a) capacity and skills to develop a formal business plan for start-up or scale up of their business, b) lack of collateral, c) banks are less likely to trust women than men and ask for male personal guarantors, d) weak bookkeeping and documentation preparation practices, and e) lack of strong relationship/networks with banks. These barriers for women tend to exclude women from the formal banking system and all banking services and facilities.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenges, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNWOMEN are implementing the Inclusive and Equitable Local Development (IELD) Programme aimed at unlocking local financing from public and private sources for women's economic empowerment in LDCs.



### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Mali, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 5.4, 8.5

### SUPPORTED BY

SIDA, SDC, Luxembourg

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNWOMEN, Women-led SMEs, social enterprises, women development forum, women-led cooperatives

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/ield/bangladesh>

1 Shituma Zaman. 2013. "Women in Business: A Study on the Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh". World Journal of Social Sciences. 3 (6) November. 175-188.

2 The World Bank, 2015. The Global Findex Database

3 Cuberes, D., and M. Teignier, 2012, "Gender Gaps in the Labor Market and Aggregate Productivity," Sheffield Economic Research Paper SERP 2012017.



Access to a well-functioning financial system can empower individuals economically and socially, in particular poor women, allowing them to better integrate into the economy and actively contribute to development.

The IELD Bangladesh initiative was designed to facilitate local, targeted public and private investments through private sector development, entrepreneurship and the integration of women into the labour market. It addressed SDG 5 for achieving gender equality by recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work (indicator 5.4). It also addressed SDG 1 (indicator 1.4) by facilitating women's access to economic resources and new technology and financial services. It addressed SDG 8 (indicator 8.5) of providing productive employment and decent work for women. The programme also contributes to IPoA priority areas 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.

This programme identified, designed and contributed to the “de-risking” of the local pipeline of investable projects, focusing on women-led enterprises and gender-responsive businesses that have a transformative impact on the livelihoods of women. The programme's approaches to fostering women's economic empowerment included:

- ▶ **Women's Economic Empowerment Index:** IELD designed and used this tool to assess the gender impact of private sector businesses and to identify those that are considered gender-responsive.
- ▶ **Design and implement pipeline of investments:** UNCDF provided a range of support such as project preparation, project structuring, financial instruments, transaction facilitation and credit guarantee schemes. Projects were sourced by a call for proposal through four channels including women development forum (an organization of elected women at local government bodies), women-led SMEs, NGO social enterprises, and women-led cooperatives.
- ▶ **Enhanced business development support:** Based on the assessment using the Women's Economic Empowerment Index, IELD provided technical assistance and capacity building support for project developers to improve their gender-responsive business planning and performance.

The programme used a catalytic investment model that leveraged UNCDF's seed capital grants to unlock commercial loans from domestic banks, local government contributions, the Corporate Social Responsibility fund from the private sector and the developer's equity. The investments were channelled through SMEs, NGO-led social enterprises, cooperatives and Women Development Forums (a body of elected women representatives). They helped in providing developer's equity, bringing blended finance from multiple sources and creating new jobs for women. Since 2018, IELD has initiated eight investment projects related to women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh with a total project size of US\$ 1.4 million. The total grant amount of US\$ 287,238 provided by UNCDF unlocked an additional US\$ 1.1 million from local partners, including governments, private companies, banks and village communities. Against every dollar of seed capital invested, US\$ 4 was unlocked from domestic sources, both public and private. Over 1,014 women have benefitted directly from these projects as suppliers, traders and employees.



The programme is sustainable because it has supported the growth of women-led businesses, women's improved access to formal and informal productive employment opportunities, and their retention in the labour market and linkage with the market value chain. The approach has been institutionally mainstreamed in Bangladesh by setting up a Gender-Responsive Investment Platform (GRIP) in the SME Department of Bangladesh Bank.

The programme approach also has a range of innovative aspects including financial product innovation through the blended finance investment model, sectoral innovation through the project assessment by the Women's Economic Empowerment Index, procedural innovation through the UNCDF investment assessment for both impact and financial feasibility, institutional innovation through the credit guarantee support by the Bangladesh Central Bank, and digital innovation through the e-commerce platform, IT-based financial transactions and technology-based business value chain.

The pilot programme in Bangladesh has led to the cross-country transfer of knowledge, lessons and experiences in Mali, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania. The approach can be further replicated in other least developed countries for South-South Cooperation because it has focused on creating assets and lifting women out of poverty by connecting them with institutional finance and market through SMEs, social enterprises, cooperatives and women's development forums. Building on the lessons learned and results from this pilot phase, the programme has entered a new phase named Women's Empowerment for Inclusive Growth (WING) programme in Bangladesh, funded by the Netherlands and three UN agencies (UNCDF, UN Women and UNDP). As a tri-agency initiative, the other UN agencies such as UNDP and UNWOMEN can also replicate this model in other countries they are working in.

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# Economic Recovery of Women SMEs through Credit Guarantee Schemes



## UNCDF's rapid response to COVID-19 in partnership with central banks



### CHALLENGE

Women continue to face gender bias in banking due to low financial literacy. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) headed by women contribute to economic growth, but their access to finance remains limited. Socio-cultural reasons such as the lack of support from men make it difficult for women to own the kind of assets that commercial banks look for as collateral to reduce credit risk. In Bangladesh, as in many LDCs, women are also subject to discriminatory attitudes, norms and stereotypes. The same challenge exists for the Gambia, a mainly agrarian society in which women are largely engaged in subsistence agriculture. Additionally, young people make up 64 percent of the population and 40 percent of owners of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), yet 77 percent remain financially excluded due to lack of collateral. This leads to inequalities in access to and control over resources for women and young people.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Despite the significant contribution of SMEs to Bangladesh's economic growth, their access to finance remains limited, especially for those owned by women. Therefore, in 2016, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) piloted a Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) to open access to finance for women entrepreneurs unable to expand viable enterprises through commercial loans. By designing a scalable solution for the Bangladesh Bank (BB), UNCDF was able to drive SME credit growth through an inclusive allocation of financial resources towards women's economic empowerment (WEE), thus contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 (Gender Equality) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The pilot was a partial guarantee scheme established with initial funding of US\$ 200,000 from UNCDF to BB for operating the CGS under its SME & Special Programmes department. The CGS guaranteed up to 30 percent default risk at the portfolio level and provided two financial institutions

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, the Gambia

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 6, 7

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.5, 8.3, 8.10

#### SUPPORTED BY

Financial Institutions and Non-Banking Financial Institutions

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Bangladesh Bank (via IDLC Finance Limited and National Bank Limited), Central Bank of the Gambia

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 - 2022

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/guidelist>

with up to 80 percent coverage on loans extended. At the end of the pilot scheme, the CGS had unlocked US\$ 440,476 of bank loans (US\$ 2.20 for every dollar committed) to 21 women-led SMEs (including 12 first-time bank borrowers) in eight districts and 16 sectors. This resulted in the creation of 620 jobs (70 percent of them for women) and an increase of 33 new suppliers (20 percent women).

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, BB has allocated US\$ 260 million from the Prime Minister’s stimulus package to support SMEs. Thus, the CGS facility ensures that women employment is retained during COVID-19 recovery, aligning with Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity), 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), 5 (Human and social development) and 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building).

Demonstrating that CGS can be successfully piloted and scaled up by central bank with funding from the national government, UNCDF received a similar request for support from the government of the Gambia. Currently, the same model, with a US\$ 200,000 grant from UNCDF, is being replicated in the Gambia and is in the development phase with the central bank.

The CGS model is replicable across LDCs and scalable within national platforms given that it has been expanded through government-supported funds. Central banks are a safe platform for testing the instrument, given their regulatory supervisory mandate. Once the processes were adopted, it was beneficial to establish an independent entity to host and manage the funds within national platforms. For the Bangladesh experience, none of the women-owned SMEs defaulted on their loan backed by the guarantee, indicating that riskier SMEs can also be serviced through the scheme. For LDCs, managing risks related to lending to those left behind creates not only inclusive financial markets but also inclusive enterprises with growth capital to create formal jobs and skills for women and young people.



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# Unlocking Cambodian Women's Potential through Fiscal Space Creation



Establishing an occupational lifeline for women in Cambodia during the COVID-19 pandemic through a credit guarantee scheme

## CHALLENGE

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted a number of LDCs, graduating and middle-income countries in Southeast Asia. Cambodia is one such country where its growth has stemmed from an export-led growth strategy, which placed heavy reliance on global value chains. The pandemic hit the Cambodian labour-intensive industries associated with the garments and tourism sectors, which have a workforce employing 80 percent women, the hardest. As orders were delayed and cancelled, global value chains stalled, and tourism halted, employees were at best furloughed and at worst were made redundant. In addition, it is estimated that three informal jobs (primarily held by women) in Cambodia are reliant upon a single garment sector job.<sup>1</sup>

As the global impacts of the pandemic deepened, many garment and tourist companies became debt-distressed.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenges, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) supported the Royal Government of Cambodia in establishing a national credit guarantee scheme, a first for the country, to provide low-cost and reliable financing to women-owned Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) as a response to the economic impacts of COVID-19. Cambodia embarked on a far-reaching policy response that included the rapid extension of social security and also looked at the economic sectors in terms of the retention of production capacity through firm-level survival. As a part of this concept, the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) reached out to the UN and UNCDF to support the establishment of the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia (CGCC).

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Singapore, Thailand

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 3, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.a, 5a, 10.1

### SUPPORTED BY

UNCDF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) COVID Fund

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF (Lead), UNDP and IOM

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2020 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3psrHo5>

<sup>1</sup> Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC) Decent Work in the Informal Economy in Cambodia: A Literature Review Bangkok, International Labour Office, 2006



The project is designed to maximize the participation and benefits of women-owned MSMEs, contributing to SDG 5 (Gender equality). Businesses that are more labour intensive or require lower skilled labour, including for economic migrants, will also be targeted to ensure the investments have the maximum effect in reducing poverty and increasing employment, contributing to SDGs 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 1 (No Poverty). In addition, the project will primarily address the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) through Priority Areas 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges) and 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building) while also contributing to Priority Areas 1, 3 and 8 at the national level.

Building on the initial work of Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNCDF and the UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO) in Cambodia initiated with the MEF an international deep-dive policy consultation that brought in South-South expertise from the Bangladesh Bank, Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation and Moody's Analytics (Singapore and Hong Kong of the People's Republic of China) to provide advisory services for the establishment of a credit guarantee facility in an emerging and graduating economy. Supported by an underpinning knowledge of all participants about the common challenges being faced by Southern countries regarding the far-reaching socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, a coalition of like-minded institutions and individuals was formed based on mutual understandings and similar socio-economic backdrops created by the pandemic.

As traction was gained from these early South-South exchanges between the MEF and counterparts from government, central banks, and the private sector, it became evident that the near neighbourhood experiences of credit guarantees provided a more suitable vehicle to assist the RGC to expedite their decision-making process.

The deep dive dialogues fully supported the RGC to finalize the policy framework and pass relevant legislation to establish the CGCC as an independent government agency some two months after the initial dialogues with a public sector capitalization of US\$ 200 million. UNCDF's support includes the development of a legal framework and articles of association to establish the CGCC, a risk management solution for CGCC in partnership with Moody's Analytics, legal processes and due diligence of CGCC clients, and technical training for CGCC staff through placement with Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Underpinned by the "leave no-one behind" principle, the objective of the UNCDF credit guarantee scheme in Cambodia is to provide low-cost sustainable financing to women-owned MSMEs, predominantly operating in the informal sector, to support their recovery from the COVID-19 and to serve as the driving force accelerating Cambodia's recovery from COVID-19 and SDG achievement.

With the proactive support of the RCO and Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UNCDF, UNDP and IOM through continued South-South partnerships have assisted the CGCC to operationalize, partnering with seven financial institutions to become operational. As of June 2021, the CGCC has issued 53 guarantees supporting 53 commercial loans, ranging from US\$ 10,000 to US\$ 1 million with an average size of US\$ 137,464. The total



value of loans is US\$ 7.1 million, and the value of guarantees is US\$ 5.1 million. The average loan to guarantee ratio is 72 percent. A total value of US\$ 669,600 of guarantees were issued to women owned businesses (13 percent of total by volume) and a total loan value of US\$ 929,000 has been unlocked for women businesses to date.

This innovative financial model (government-supported credit guarantees) is quickly becoming a leading COVID-19 recovery policy trend in the region. With deepened South-South cooperation and dialogue, the inclusive and sustainable credit guarantee schemes that are fully financed and able to offer in excess of 70 percent loan coverage to participants can be further introduced by LDCs as a proven COVID-19 recovery instrument.

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# Women's Economic Empowerment Fund (We!Fund)



## Unlocking financing for women's economic empowerment

### CHALLENGE

Women and girls in Senegal face barriers in the supply of and in their demand for financial products and services, the wider enabling environment as well as in their socio-cultural context. On the supply side, the low number of financial access points disproportionately affects women. This is in a context where women and girls' mobility is constrained due to socio-cultural norms, whereby they undertake the majority of unpaid care responsibilities in the household and may face restrictions in leaving the house without a male relatives' permission. While mobile money could overcome these mobility and access point constraints, barriers remain related to access to a mobile device, and knowledge of mobile money accounts. Further, low literacy rates among women, (43.8 percent) hamper their digital literacy skills.<sup>1</sup>

In terms of the enabling environment, social norms related to inheritance and land and property ownership result in the majority of women in Senegal, 85 percent (aged 15-49), not owning a house or land that could be used as collateral to access credit. For example, in the agricultural sector, women account for 70 percent of the labour force, but they hold only 3 percent of cultivated land. Consequently, women resort to informal mechanisms for credit access and savings, which lack any form of consumer protection.<sup>2</sup>

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Aiming to help overcome the constraints women face in their economic activities, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) – with its capital mandate – has designed a joint programme with the Sovereign Fund of Senegal (FONSIS). UNCDF is assisting FONSIS in structuring, creating and managing an independent financial vehicle in the form of a capital investment fund called Women's Economic Empowerment Fund or We!Fund.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uncdf.org/power/senegal>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uncdf.org/power/senegal>

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Senegal

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 7

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.5, 5.a, 5.c, 8.3

#### SUPPORTED BY

UNCDF, Senegal Sovereign Fund (FONSIS)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Senegal Sovereign Fund

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

May 2019 - Ongoing

The Fund invests in gender-sensitive SMEs and PPPs in the missing middle by providing equity and subordinated loans. Through this innovative approach, UNCDF is unlocking national public and private capital for women's economic empowerment (WEE) and helping FONSIS build its capacity for gender-sensitive investment and impact measurement based on internationally recognized monitoring systems. To qualify for funding from the We!Fund, enterprises are assessed via UNCDF's WEE Index <sup>3</sup>, which measures to what extent the company impacts gender equality.

We!Fund has a pipeline of around US\$ 10 million. It made its first investment with leverage of x2 at project level, leveraging UNCDF investment x6. The Fund made its first investment in May 2021 in PATRIA/Mburu, an innovative bread manufacturing and retail chain, which makes bread and pastry from local cereal and fruits. Based on data updated in November 2020, the WEE Index score was 0.93/1 for this project, due in particular to the 96 percent feminization rate within PATRIA and 100 percent within the Mburu Network. As for the managerial staff, it is 100 percent female for the entire project. The total investment made was US\$ 0.45 million in equity and shareholder loan. Around half of the investment is from the We!Fund and the other half is from Women's Investment Club (WIC) Capital, which is the first investment fund that targets women-led companies in Francophone West Africa. In addition, UNCDF continues to support Mburu and enables it to share its experience in a spirit of South-South cooperation. A UNCDF delegation accompanied the founder of Mburu, to a forum in Bamako, Mali on women's entrepreneurship in the agri-food sector in the Sahel to share the good practices of this project with entrepreneurs in different countries to access financing. The forum concerned the entire West and Central African zone, and the funds and banks of other countries were able to see the success of Senegal, which opens the way to replication in other countries and South-South Cooperation. UNCDF wishes to promote this logic of South-South experience sharing between entrepreneurs as an accelerator of local development.

Reducing gender inequalities in Senegal requires alleviating the barriers women face in workforce participation and access to finance. Locally driven gender-intentional investment funds are a potent means to these dual goals because they channel capital to the most impactful and viable businesses responding to women's needs. UNCDF's partnership with FONSIS on the We!Fund provides an example of how investment and technical assistance improve women's economic empowerment. Working with local governments and government entities, and within existing mechanisms to develop a dedicated fund that invests with a gender lens creates meaningful impact within and across the country.



These funds invest in projects and organizations with women at the centre to support job creation, access to finance to start or grow businesses, better working conditions, overcoming food security, improved sanitation, jobs and skills training and other country-specific needs. National governments and development banks have an important role to play in bringing about gender inclusivity in breaking down stereotypes, cultural bias and providing opportunities to create real economic empowerment for women in the local context.

Investments and projects are expected to result in 1,250 new full- and part-time jobs. The gender responsiveness criteria ensures that the employment opportunities created meet the needs of women in terms of policies, such as maternal leave, harassment prevention and practices related to hiring and career development.

Through this work on women's empowerment and economic development, UNCDF has contributed to the domestic financial sector, raised awareness of SDGs 1, 8, 9, 17 and more specifically 5 and IPoA Priority Areas 5 & 7. Implementation of this programme was challenged by difficulty in developing a pipeline that met gender impact and financial criteria to qualify for funding. It took one year to find potential investments, assess them, and start the investment process. The current challenge is to find additional funding to ensure long-term sustainability and impact. UNCDF is addressing the long-term financing challenge by developing a resource mobilization strategy to capitalize the fund.

3 <https://www.uncdf.org/article/6685/wee-financing-tools-womens-economic-empowerment-index-weei-tool-and-guidance-note>

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# Strengthening Police Response to Gender-Based Violence



Experience sharing between Bangladesh and the Philippines in mobilizing the police to help address gender-based violence



## CHALLENGE

Socio-cultural factors present challenges in working with uniformed services, especially in the context of gender-based violence (GBV). In Bangladesh, there is an overall shortage of female police officers, which also limits the number that can be deployed to Women's Help Desks (WHDs). Women report feeling uncomfortable accessing GBV services managed by male police officers. There are also preconceptions in local communities stigmatizing women seen accessing these services at police stations as "not good women". Recently, this project lost momentum due to the lack of initiative on the part of the Bangladesh police in replicating the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in police stations across the country. While advocacy efforts continue with the Bangladesh Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to deploy more women officers to the WHDs and to replicate the SOPs, progress has been slow.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Based on available information, the Bangladesh Police identified the Philippines as the most relevant country to learn from when it comes to GBV services being provided to survivors. The two countries exchanged information which eventually led to the establishment of this South-South cooperation initiative with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) country offices. This project contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), as well as to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area 5 (Human and social development).

It was agreed by both country offices that an in-country visit should be organized to get first-hand knowledge about the experience with the police in both countries. In September 2019 a team of six members from the Bangladesh Police, MoHA and UNFPA undertook a six-day visit to the Philippines. The team observed

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, the Philippines

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.1, 5.2, 5.c

### SUPPORTED BY

UNFPA

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Bangladesh Police, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2020

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en>



Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) activities, reviewed relevant documents, and engaged with WCPD officers. Of particular interest to the Bangladeshi group were the experience of Philippine police officers as first responders in handling GBV cases, the management of GBV data through its Management Information System software, and the way cases are handled from the community up to the national level.

The Bangladesh initiative titled ‘Sustainable initiatives to protect women and girls from GBV (STOP-GBV)’ is being implemented in 51 Police Stations, in four districts, including the Dhaka metropolitan area. The project aims to increase the availability of information about GBV services and to address other harmful practices. Specifically, it aims ensure a women-friendly environment at WHDs by deploying additional women police officers to run them, following SOPs developed by the Bangladesh Police and to replicate the WHD model in all 659 police stations throughout the country. As part of this initiative, there were also efforts to explore collaboration opportunities with other neighbouring countries such as India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.



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# Proposal for Comprehensive Solution for City Waste Management in Senegal



## China and Senegal win-win cooperation on waste management

### CHALLENGE

Africa is on a rapid economic growth path and its sustainable development needs to be taken into consideration. The concept of sustainability is, however, rapidly expanding to include environmental, economic and social equity. The environment, whether natural or built, is a unique form of capital since all goods, services and human health conditions relate to it and its quality. These components must be sustained through conservation and proper management. Senegal has experienced a rapid pace of urbanization. The dynamics of urbanization are challenging the capacity of municipalities to effectively provide basic urban services and manage scarce resources. Like many other countries, Senegal suffers from a chronic lack of access to waste management services.

Currently, key issues in Senegal's environmental problems lie in management, infrastructure and regulation. The management of household waste is mostly done by private companies or civil society organizations, with inefficient, underpaid workers. Waste collection is disorderly and manual, transport old and slow, and treatment simple and polluting, all of which leads to the pressing need for a highly efficient and effective solution to waste management.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In order to address these challenges, starting from December 2019, a project supported by the Global South-South Development Center (GSSDC) and implemented by the China-Africa Business Council was initiated. The main objective of this project was to provide a comprehensive waste management solution plan as a policy reference for the Government of Senegal and to benefit the local community by helping to create employment and bring about a cleaner environment. This project contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and

#### NOMINATED BY

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Senegal

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 6

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

6.3, 11.6, 12.a

#### SUPPORTED BY

Global South-South Development Center (GSSDC) Project

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

China-Africa Business Council

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

December 2019 – June 2021

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://en.cabc.org.cn>

12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). It also contributes to Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity); 5 (Human and social development); 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges) and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

Through field investigation on the sanitation situation in key cities of Senegal, technicians employed by the project provided a report on the country's status-quo and existing problems, thus creating a database for the Senegal government as a policy reference. In order to achieve comprehensive solutions, seminars and workshops bringing together local and international experts from government, academia, and the private sector, promoted the exchanges of ideas on policies, risks, finance etc.

During the implementation process, data were collected through public resources and conversations held on waste management practices, relevant policies and local examples. Chinese experts conducted field research through field visits and conversations with Chinese waste management companies and Senegalese officials, site workers, management people, service institutions and policy makers. This served as preparation for an analysis of raw materials and first-hand investigation, in order to produce a summary of the status quo. Also, seminars in China and workshops in Senegal were held, bringing together engineers, technicians, government officials and workers from environment companies, public institutions and service agencies in order to have an in-depth understanding of local conditions and waste management knowledge. This was followed by a meeting between Chinese, Senegalese and other international personnel met to discuss a solution plan. A clear structure and content of a solution proposal was achieved based on analysis on the take-aways from seminars, workshops and conversations. Finally, specialized environmental institutions, government officials, international experts and relevant parties held assessment meetings and shared feedback and adjustments with Chinese and Senegalese companies.

As a result, a more viable and comprehensive solution and an official project are in development. These will help Senegal to achieve effective and highly efficient waste management. Therefore, water quality will be greatly improved and the environment can be properly protected.

In addition to the achievements this project will bring, it is also adaptable and sustainable. The project highlights the significance of waste management and environmental protection in the process of fast urbanization, which meets the conditions in many least developed countries (LDCs) and in neighbouring African countries. The paradigm of information collection, analysis, exchanges of knowledge and experience, solution-finding and adjustments according to feedback can be applied to relevant issues for African sustainable development. Besides, these workshops and seminars are especially beneficial for Senegalese people to find their own solutions to environmental problems with skills and knowledge.



Senegal has great attraction and holds out much promise for Chinese companies looking to invest in technologies and infrastructures, which means that both Chinese and Senegalese can benefit from waste management and environmental protection programmes. This project also proves that South-South cooperation is necessary and effective in dealing with challenges faced by developing countries and the international community.

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# Lesotho Highlands Water Project



Changing lives through improved access to water, sanitation and clean energy



## CHALLENGE

Lesotho is among the world's poorest countries, with over 50 percent of the population living below the poverty line. The country is relatively devoid of most natural resources, particularly arable land. However, it has abundant water resources, which exceed requirements for possible future irrigation projects and development. Meanwhile, South Africa, which borders Lesotho, is a semi-arid country characterized by low rainfall, limited underground aquifers, and heavy reliance on water transfers from Lesotho. The Lesotho Highlands area is one of the primary water sources of the Vaal River, which provides water for Gauteng, Free State, Northwest, and Mpumalanga provinces, together representing roughly 60 percent of South Africa's GDP and 45 percent of its population. Water supply shortages in this area now pose a significant threat to South Africa's sustainable development.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is a multi-phased project intended to provide clean water and sanitation to the Gauteng region of South Africa and to generate hydro-electricity for Lesotho. It was established by a 1986 Treaty signed by the Governments of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. The project entails harnessing the waters of the Senqu/Orange River in the Lesotho highlands through the construction of a series of dams for the mutual benefit of the two countries. LHWP aimed to utilize the vast abundance of water in Lesotho to combat the water shortage experienced by the densely populated Gauteng Province in South Africa, and to foster industrialization in Lesotho. This initiative is a solution to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for South Africa while simultaneously providing reliable and sustainable energy, decent jobs, equitable income, and resilient infrastructure to Lesotho, thus promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth

### NOMINATED BY

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Lesotho, South Africa

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.A, 6.B, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.A, 7.B

### SUPPORTED BY

The World Bank

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

LHDA, Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority of South Africa

### PROJECT STATUS

Phase I: Completed – Phase II: Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

October 1995 – November 2026

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3sKMRQe>



for both countries. The initiative virtually extends across all 8 Priority Areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and primarily covers nine SDGs, namely, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17.

This South-South cooperation project between Lesotho and South Africa is supported by the World Bank Group. It is a contractual agreement governing the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, as well as the export of water to South Africa overseen by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority and Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority referred to as implementing and borrower agencies respectively. The Joint Permanent Technical Commission (JPTC) has a monitoring, advisory and approval function with regard to the project implementation in Lesotho.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) was set up to manage that part of the project that falls within Lesotho's borders; the construction, operations and maintenance of all dams, tunnel power stations and infrastructure as well as secondary developments such as relocation, resettlement, compensation, supply of water to resettled villages, irrigation, fish hatcheries and tourism.

The Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) in South Africa manages the delivery tunnel transporting the water over (or rather, under) the border (the Caledon River) to the As River, as well as all structures required to integrate and control the flow of Lesotho water in the river.

The LHDA reports to the JPTC on all matters concerning the project. However, TCTA, with its structures now complete, is accountable to the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) with regard to operations and maintenance issues.

The contribution of the LHWP to the socio-economic activity of Lesotho has been remarkable. There are compensation programmes for affected communities (including resettlement), income restoration and rural development, biodiversity conservation, and the construction of health clinics. Royalties from the sale of water, the sale of electricity, and construction activities (road networks, technology transfer, and other infrastructural developments) and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues have provided an important economic boost to Lesotho. For South Africa, the water cools the Eskom power stations, keeps Sasol and the Free State gold mines operational and supplies the vast industries and sprawling urban areas and cities of Gauteng with clean water and sanitation. It also supplies water to some of the southern towns of Limpopo and the platinum mines of Northwest, as well as the diamond mines and people of Kimberley and surrounding areas. These are semi desert regions with sparse annual rainfall of 50 mm – 400 mm (2 to 16 inches) per annum.

The early involvement of the World Bank has been beneficial in many ways. It provided credibility to the project and also greatly assisted the engineering and environmental aspects through the Engineering and Socio-environmental Panel of Experts.



This project can be replicated to other countries, that have similar context, by ensuring the following: the oversight and implementation responsibilities on a large development project should be clearly delineated and be separate functions; costs and benefits need to be shared in an equitable and clear manner; contracts and financing arrangements require careful planning; tight procurement processes should be institutionalized to prevent corruption, while whistle-blowing should be encouraged. The maintenance of the welfare of the persons and communities directly benefitting from the project is a powerful guiding principle for socio-environmental policies.

Additionally, such socio-environmental programmes require careful planning, rigorous implementation, and phased exit strategies that are clear to all involved stakeholders. It is important to do the environmental impact assessments and action plans before any construction starts. Also, the resettlement and compensation policies should be clear, transparent, and adaptable. Communication channels to the affected communities need to be established and utilized at the outset. A rigorous complaints procedure has to be in place too, so that any concern or grievance can be dealt with as soon as possible. Compensation officers have to be empowered to settle minor claims immediately.

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# Blue Peace Financing Initiative



## Investing in South-South cooperation and peace through water

### CHALLENGE

Globally 2.2 billion people do not have access to safe domestic water supply services and 4.2 billion do not have access to safely managed sanitation services.<sup>1</sup> In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, accelerated action and multiple resources are required for financing sustainable water management. According to the World Bank, in Sub-Saharan Africa, 315 million people remain without access to clean drinking water and recurrent water scarcity and drought lead to chronic food insecurity, environmental migration and civil instability affecting millions living in the region.<sup>2</sup>

Non-sovereign entities such as river basin organizations and local governments do not have direct access to international capital markets. The current financing approach to water and related investments is overly administrative, country-based and sectoral. At present, these non-sovereign entities mainly obtain financial resources for their projects from individual member state contributions. The process is usually slow and inefficient for regional non-sovereign entities, resulting in a complex web of conditionalities and contracts for oversized projects, and with a lack of holistic planning. In addition, there is a peace dividend that comes along with transboundary, cross-sectorial and intergenerational water management, which is currently overlooked or undervalued by policymakers and investors. Especially in times of increasing water stress, joint and inclusive water management is vital to promoting peaceful cooperation and sustainable development.



### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Switzerland

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 7, 8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

6.5, 11.3, 11.a, 16.6

### SUPPORTED BY

UNCDF, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG), Geneva Water Hub (GWH)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF, OMVG, BRL

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

January 2020 – December 2023

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3qvczpb>

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, WHO (2019). *News: 1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water*. Retrieved from World Health Organization: <https://bit.ly/3nvuQC2>

<sup>2</sup> World Bank Group, Water Partnership Program (2018). *Assessment of Groundwater Challenges & Opportunities in Support of Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Washington DC: The World Bank.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenges, UNCDF together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG) designed the Blue Peace Financing Initiative to promote access to capital for non-sovereign entities using water as an entry point for cross-border multi-stakeholder cooperation frameworks, leading to more sustainable economies and peaceful societies. This initiative aims to invest in peace through water and thus creates a peace dividend by giving value to peaceful and sustainable agreements between stakeholders. This initiative directly contributes to SDGs 6, 11 and 16 as well as Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8. This innovative approach provides a new financial incentive for countries and sectors to cooperate for more sustainable management of shared resources, reducing social, political, health and economic risks.

The initiative offers impact investment opportunities by promoting access to the investment ecosystem for non-sovereign entities such as local governments and regional organizations and facilitating access to financial capital for joint investment schemes. Currently the financial ecosystem works well for sovereign states and big private companies. However, non-sovereign entities such as river basin organizations do not have access to this financial ecosystem. The Blue Peace financing initiative will change this by using water as the entry point to create transboundary and multi-sectoral cooperation frameworks and transform them into investment platforms through joint investment plans (portfolio approach) and a new financial instrument (Blue Peace Bond). From an investor's perspective, multi-sector investment plans offer very attractive risk reduction properties. Indeed, the likelihood of political, social or economic conflicts driven by divergent interests can be reduced if all interested parties are involved in negotiating an agreement based on the reality of water availability.

The Blue Peace financing initiative is a co-creation by SDC and UNCDF as the main implementing agency. It provides long-term capacity development to the non-sovereign entity, allowing it to have access to new forms of capital by issuing a Blue Peace Bond. The capital thus raised is used to implement the projects of a joint investment plan, including infrastructure projects. This allows the non-sovereign entity to upgrade the livelihood assets and hence its own creditworthiness, and in turn to scale up its capital mobilization activities.

As a follow-up to the recommendation by the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace on innovative financing for transboundary water cooperation, SDC together with UNCDF and the Geneva Water Hub (the Secretariat of the Panel) reviewed different RBOs and their cooperation frameworks (including legal agreements). After this reconnaissance phase, OMVG was identified as a pilot case to demonstrate the Blue Peace financing initiative and how water can be used as an entry point to strengthen South-South cooperation, particularly in the LDCs.

The OMVG was created in 1978 for the coherent management of shared resources in the Gambia, Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal river basins with the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal as member states. With its strong political support from member states and having four LDCs as member countries, OMVG showed a “high degree of readiness” to demonstrate the Blue Peace financing initiative. An MoU between OMVG and UNCDF, signed in January 2020, kick-started the implementation phase (led by UNCDF) in two stages:

- ▶ Technical assistance to support OMVG in developing its master plan and gaining capacity to issue a financial instrument on the capital markets and absorb the financing;
- ▶ Support for OMVG during the process of issuing the financial instrument on the capital markets (fund raising).

The OMVG master plan is a strategic plan for the integrated development of its basin aiming at food self-sufficiency for the populations, and the reduction of the vulnerability of the economies of the Member States to climate hazards and wider economic trends. It also contributes to the strengthening of resilience to climate change, the sustainable development of the territories of the Gambia River basin and the consolidation of peace, stability and cooperation between the member states – all four of which are LDCs. Key achievements so far include:

- ▶ A resolution signed by the Council of Ministers of OMVG, allowing OMVG to explore new financing mechanism to implement its master plan, including the Blue Peace financing initiative.
- ▶ A diagnostic study for sectoral plans and the OMVG master plan conducted.
- ▶ The Blue Peace financing initiative for OMVG has been declared a certified project for the World Water Forum in Dakar 2022.
- ▶ Technical assistance including the financial model, review of legal and institutional framework and a joint investment plan for OMVG is being provided.

Through the implementation of this pilot project, the initiative is a global model replicable for other transboundary basins, particularly in Southern countries. There are almost 300 transboundary aquifers and 263 transboundary river and lake basins in the world; 145 states have part of their territory within the boundaries of these basins and 30 countries are fully included.<sup>3</sup> And two-thirds of these transboundary rivers do not have a cooperative management framework. The Blue Peace Financing Initiative will be able to provide financial incentives for such cooperative management frameworks, including South-South and Triangular cooperation.

3 UN-Water (2021). Transboundary Waters. Retrieved from UN Water: <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/transboundary-waters/>

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# Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) Interconnection Project



Overcoming electricity challenges by interconnecting the countries of the Mano River Region into the same electricity market

## CHALLENGE

The rate of access to electricity in the Mano River Union countries is among the lowest in the world (about 28 percent overall with 2 percent in Liberia and Sierra Leone and 10 percent in Guinea). Côte d'Ivoire's electrification is more favourable however is still low at 34 percent is more. Liberia's and Sierra Leone's electricity infrastructures have been practically destroyed by conflict. What infrastructure there is in the region is largely obsolete and the quality of service therefore very poor.<sup>1</sup> Inadequate electricity supply has been one of the main challenges to economic development and poverty reduction in the region, especially in Liberia.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) Interconnection project is intended to integrate the four post-conflict nations into the same regional electricity market. Interconnecting these countries with Côte d'Ivoire would allow mutually and beneficial exchanges of power and to reliable electricity supply necessary to facilitate economic growth alleviate poverty and consolidate peace.

The CLSG Interconnection Project was established to provide additional electricity to meet the growing demand and to create an incentive for the development of hydroelectric power, particularly in Liberia and Sierra Leone. It seeks to improve electricity access and development of industries as well as improve the quality of life of both rural and urban communities. The project is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), as well as SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). In the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the project addresses Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity infrastructure, energy, science, technology and innovation, private sector development) and 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), which are critical for poverty alleviation.

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/321TXVE>

### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.1, 7.3, 7.b, 9.1, 9.4, 9.A, 9.B,

### SUPPORTED BY

European Investment Bank (EIB), African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and CLSG Governments

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Regional Electricity Transmission Company for CLSG (TRANSCO CLSG), Énergie de Côte d'Ivoire (CI-Énergies), Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), National Power Authority (NPA) of Sierra Leone, Électricité de Guinée (EDG), West African Power Pool (WAPP)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

November 2013 – December 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://bit.ly/3pwamuB>  
– <https://youtu.be/cd4ug8gLv0M>



This is a South-South cooperation project with stakeholders' participation being the core approach used. More than 30 consultation meetings were held in Abidjan, Monrovia, Freetown, Conakry and areas crossed by the power lines. Stakeholders participating included ministers, representatives of local communities, civil society organizations, donors and development partners involved in the energy sector. During these meetings and consultations, information and data were made available to analyze the situation in the sector, establish the project institutional framework, prepare draft legal documents, facilitate donor coordination and to strengthen project ownership between the countries involved. The meetings also helped to define project components and share solutions to any challenges that may arise. During the implementation stage of the project, collaboration with stakeholders continued and included the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan, the Resettlement Action Plan, and the infrastructure component of the project.

The project is one of the priority projects of the West African Power Pool (WAPP) Master Plan. It will assist in establishing a dynamic electric power market in the West African sub-region and secure power supply for countries, which do not have a comparative advantage in producing power. Liberia has one of the highest electricity tariffs in the world. Currently, electricity is sold at US\$ 0.35 per kWh,<sup>2</sup> and during the dry season, there are always electricity shortages, thus, increasing the cost of running businesses in Liberia. With the coming of the CLSG, Liberia Electricity Corporation has developed a business plan that will see the cost of electricity reduce to US\$ 0.25 per kWh.

This South-South cooperation initiative seeks to address the shared interests of Mano River Union Member States when it comes to bringing energy to the doorsteps of their citizenry. Overall, it has been 93 percent completed<sup>3</sup>. Man to Monrovia line section is fully energized, the synchronization with Mount Coffee Hydro Power Plant is ongoing. Line sections from Monrovia to Mano (Liberia), Mano to Kenema, Bikongor and Bumbuna, and up to Yiben in Sierra Leone are fully completed at 100 percent and awaiting sequential commissioning before being energized by Liberia. Additionally, line section from Yiben to Kamakwie and Linsan in Guinea is about 74 percent completed, while the section from Yekepa to Nzerekoreh is around 95 percent. 132KV connection between the CLSG sub-station in Monrovia and the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) Mount Coffee Hydro Power Plant is completed at 100 percent. The sub-station at Man in Côte d'Ivoire is completed and energized. Construction of sub-stations at Mano (Liberia), Kenema, Bikongor and Bumbuna sub-stations in Sierra Leone have a completion rate of 99 percent.

This is a form of good practice and solidarity, enabling Liberia and Sierra Leone to receive energy from a neighbouring nation. Today, the CLSG is bringing energy to Liberia passing various villages and hamlets that did not expect to have energy soon. Without the project, Liberia would have not been able to single-handedly manage and implement such an endeavour in a short timeframe, given the enormous development challenges confronting the country.

2 <http://lecliberia.com/?p=2675>

3 <https://bit.ly/3A1MylK>



The project is very innovative because it serves to provide cheap energy to remote regions of Liberia, without the Government having to invest millions of dollars into developing mini hydro plants or related sources of energy generation. The financial resources saved can be redirected towards other sectors, such as education, health and national security.

Energy infrastructure is generally long lasting and has the capacity to serve the current generation without compromising the best interest of generations yet to come. The CLSG energy infrastructure is contributing to sustainable development (businesses, education, health, security etc.) and has the ability to impact future prospects. This project has improved regional integration between Liberia, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. Today, the citizens of the nations concerned are enjoying trade and related benefit from the CLSG, ensuring medium to long-term socio-economic sustainability.

The project built on an existing regional organization among the four countries called the Mano River Union (MRU), which ensured its sustainability. A key lesson learned is to implement development initiatives on existing regional platforms by leveraging the comparative advantages of each participating Member State.

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# Desert to Power Initiative



## Expanding electricity supply in the Sahel through renewable energy



### CHALLENGE

The Sahel, consisting mainly of least developed countries (LDCs), is highly affected by climate change and fragility, which undermines the region's food security, the countries' long-term development prospects and opportunities for youth. Climate shocks such as droughts are becoming increasingly frequent and are affecting more people, while shorter, more intense and less predictable rainy seasons increase the risk of floods. Climate change represents a severe threat to the livelihoods of more than 80 percent of the population living in rural areas and it has placed additional stresses on the region's fragility, increasing internal displacement and migration.

Moreover, Sahel countries face common challenges that pose serious risks to the development of their energy sector:

- ▶ Significant energy deficit, mainly located in rural areas and distant from the national grid;
- ▶ Saturated network due to insufficient investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure with limited capacity to manage an extended network;
- ▶ High reliance on fossil fuels, posing a threat to the life of millions of women and children, and
- ▶ Business environment that is not attractive enough to induce the private sector to invest in renewable energy.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Sahel is one of the world's regions with the highest amounts of sunlight. The Desert to Power (DtP) initiative aims to harness that solar energy to generate 10 GW of additional capacity to provide clean electricity for 250 million people via public, private, grid and off-grid projects by 2030. The DtP Initiative contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 while paving the

#### NOMINATED BY

African Development Bank (AfDB)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.1, 7.2, 7.a, 7.b, 8.2, 8.3, 8.a, 9.1, 9.a, 13.2, 13.3, 13.

#### SUPPORTED BY

AfDB and other technical and financial partners such as Agence Française de Développement, Power Africa, European Commission, International Renewable Energy Agency, Africa 50, ACWA Power, the Tony Blair Institute and the Green Climate Fund

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

AfDB, Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2019 – 2030

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3FNCwah>

road to achieving other development goals (8, 9, and 13). It also contributes to Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The project is phased, its initial focus being on the G5 Sahel countries, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, all of which are LDCs.

The distinctive strategic values of the DtP initiative are: 1) it brings together countries with similar degrees of energy poverty, facing severe climate change risks yet with great opportunities and 2) it also brings together an international coalition of donors to tackle climate change by overcoming policy and regulatory barriers in order to attract the massive private sector investments required for solar energy development. Thus, the main challenge of the DtP initiative is to mobilize US\$ 30 billion by 2030 for the deployment of 10 GW of additional solar energy capacity in the 11 Sahel countries, of which US\$ 3 billion for the G5 Sahel countries.

The DtP initiative has set clear processes and procedures to secure the participation of key partners. In fact, despite the fact that the initiative has secured the endorsement of the Heads of State of each of the G5 Sahel countries, annual G5 Sahel countries ministerial meetings are held to inform the Ministers of Energy on the DtP initiative's implementation milestones and to make key DtP decisions. On the operational front, the DtP Taskforce has been established with the support of other technical and financial partners for the timely execution of the DtP initiative and a local contact person from each country has been assigned to work closely with key local stakeholders to ensure the streamlined execution of the initiative. The Taskforce provides support to the countries by leading resource mobilization efforts, driving project preparations, providing technical assistance and capacity building activities, engaging partners, consolidating skills, and facilitating the efficient deployment of resources. The Taskforce is composed by Country Leads, (one from each country), regional leads and a pool of experts dedicated to environmental and social issues, project structuring, procurement and resource mobilization. The technical and financial partners, such as the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (Masen) and Africa50 have also seconded people to this taskforce.

The basic aim of the DtP initiative is to create the right environment for solar energy investments in the Sahel countries by capitalizing on the sharing of good practices, experiences and expertise of one another and of other, Southern countries, which have been successful in implementing similar initiatives and to adapt them with the aim of accelerating access to energy. In this regard, Masen, which is chairing the steering committee of the initiative is focused on providing technical assistance to Sahel countries in order to duplicate the success that it has shown in Morocco.

In addition, the expansion of the regional electricity grid is another important aspect of this South-South cooperation, which will not only pave the way for power trading among Sahel countries but will also unleash each country's solar energy generation capacity.



Currently, the combined work of the taskforce and the technical and financial partners, under the supervision of the steering committee, has made it possible to obtain the validation, by the heads of state concerned, of the national roadmaps, the adoption of a regional roadmap as well as the mobilization of US\$ 170 million, coming from the Green Climate Fund and the Swedish Government, which will be used to initiate the project preparation phase.

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# Islamic Development Bank–Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy Renewable Energy Project



Using the Reverse Linkage Approach and Masen's expertise to support IsDB's member countries in developing utility-scale renewable energy projects

## CHALLENGE

The African economy is chronically energy deficient, with over 600 million people without access to electricity and a relatively high dependence on fossil fuel consumption. Africa has an undeniable advantage in renewable resources, particularly solar, hydroelectric and wind power, and should see future energy development geared towards these resources.

The development of renewable energies on an African scale requires the establishment of adequate mechanisms to ensure the mutual sharing of know-how and expertise mainly based on the principle of South-South cooperation. It also requires a strong commitment from the various actors operating in the field of renewable energy.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the challenges above, the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (Masen) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) launched a joint initiative to develop strategic renewable energy (RE) projects in Africa, with a special focus on least developed countries (LDCs) such as, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Niger, Senegal and Togo along with non-LDCs such as Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon.

Masen, with its experience and its position as a reference in Africa in the development of renewable energies, and IsDB, whose mandate includes the promotion of social and economic development of its member countries, seek through this project to build capacity for electricity production from renewable sources and develop local know-how capable of autonomously carrying out future projects in Africa.

### NOMINATED BY

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (Masen)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Niger, Morocco, Senegal, Togo

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.1, 9.1, 9.4, 13.b, 17.6, 17.7

### SUPPORTED BY

IsDB, MASEN

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

IsDB, MASEN

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

April 2019 – 2023

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/32DVEIS>



The objective of the IsDB/Masen Initiative is to:

- ▶ Facilitate the development of competitive and solid energy production infrastructures.
- ▶ Contribute to increasing the share of green energy production in the recipient countries.
- ▶ Help new users of renewable energy leverage the experience accumulated by Masen and allow extensive cooperation in the field of energy between Morocco and other African countries.
- ▶ Enable access to the latest technologies while selecting the most suitable technical configurations.

To achieve the objectives set, Masen and IsDB will support renewable energy projects in the above African countries through the mobilization of the necessary resources and the establishment of appropriate mechanisms, incorporating the benefits of South-South cooperation.

The project is carried out by:

- ▶ capitalizing on the experience and expertise acquired by Masen to accompany the countries concerned in identifying the best sites for the development of renewable energy capacity in these countries;
- ▶ conducting preliminary technical, economic, financial and environmental studies to identify bankable projects;
- ▶ developing and structuring the qualified projects according to international best practices; and
- ▶ sharing Masen's expertise and know-how on renewable energy.

This partnership reinforces Morocco's bilateral South-South cooperation with African countries through a tripartite cooperation embodied by the Reverse Linkage Approach, a technical cooperation mechanism whereby member countries exchange knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to develop their capacities for autonomous development. Through this mechanism, IsDB plays the role of a facilitator and connector to mobilize resources and identify development solutions from around the world to meet the challenges of its member countries.

Masen, on the other hand, will work to transfer its expertise and know-how and to address certain capacity gaps to be mutually agreed upon by the local counterpart in line with the Reverse Linkage mechanism. The recipient countries will engage in the peer-to-peer approach in the genesis of all deliverables to enable effective and efficient transfer of know-how.

In order to implement the initiative in the most efficient and effective way, transparent and participatory consultations were conducted with key stakeholders in the targeted countries.

In 2019 Masen and the Government of Djibouti signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a partnership for the development of renewable energy. This entails the sharing of expertise and increased cooperation between stakeholders and investors in energy sectors of the two countries.

The renewable energy projects to be supported will contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions and avoid air and soil pollution, while contributing to additional productive capacity in terms of energy production infrastructure. The Initiative contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7, 13 and 17. It also contributes to Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority 1 (Productive capacity); Priority 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges); and Priority 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building).

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# Transitioning to Sustainable Energy Uses in the Agro-Industry in China, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka



Addressing challenges related to access to energy and sustainable resources consumption

## CHALLENGE

In Ethiopia, limited access to modern energy sources is a barrier to socioeconomic development, and a centralized renewable energy model is lacking. Between 2016 and 2019, only 43-48 percent of the population had electricity coverage (approximately 33 percent through on-grid electrification and 11 percent through off-grid service provision).<sup>1</sup> While around 93 percent of urban households were connected to the grid,<sup>2</sup> only 36 percent of rural households had access to electricity in 2019.<sup>3</sup> Most new initiatives on renewable energy development have targeted off-grid and household electricity uses. However, public institutions and productive energy uses may require different technology answers.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

UNDP Ethiopia is supporting the Government of Ethiopia to implement a Trilateral Cooperation project bringing together China and Sri Lanka to promote Biogas, Biomass, and Solar technologies for productive uses. This project is piloting an integrated and innovative Trilateral Cooperation scheme through co-financing, joint design, and collaborative implementation at both the management and technical level — involving three southern countries – China, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka.

The project derives from the need to disseminate renewable energy technology and to scale up for climate-resilient growth. It supports access to energy and sustainable resource consumption through trials and demonstrations of biogas and solar energy for productive uses. The cooperation serves as a learning platform for China, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka to engage and collaborate at the international level on renewable energy technology and skill transfers. The project contributes



### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.2, 7.a, 7.b, 13.3, 13.b, 17.6, 17.7

### SUPPORTED BY

Ministry of Commerce of China, Government of Ethiopia, Government of Sri Lanka, UNDP

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP in China, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka, Ethiopia's Ministry of Water and Energy, Sri Lanka State Energy Authority (SLSEA), China's Ministry of Science and Technology - Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (MOST-ACCA 21), China Agricultural University (CAU)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2019 – 2022

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3sDINBA>

1 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS?locations=ET>

2 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.UR.ZS?locations=ET>

3 ibid

to SDGs 7, 13, and 17, as well as to Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1, 6 and 7. It is aligned with national priorities, supporting Ethiopia's National Electrification Programme which targets 65 percent of its population with on-grid electrification and 35 percent of off-grid access by 2025, and Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy vision by introducing and scaling up relevant technologies.

The project is co-funded by the Ministry of Commerce of China, the Ministry of Water and Energy of Ethiopia, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Water and Energy of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Science and Technology of China - the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (MOST-ACCA 21), China Agricultural University (CAU), as well as UNDP country offices in China and Ethiopia.

The project has achieved two key outcomes: 1) capacity for the transfer of renewable energy technology, built through the demonstration of biogas and solar systems for productive uses (including in hospitals, universities, condominiums, and industrial zones); and 2) South-South knowledge and experience exchange.

The five aspects and approaches below ensure the successful outcomes, sustainability, and replicability of the project.

The first key aspect is national implementation. Ethiopian government institutions directly execute the project, which ensures local ownership and buy-in, and mutual learning among the involved countries.

Stakeholder coordination is also considered fundamental, including the establishment of linkages, mutual understanding and deep collaboration among research institutes, private sector entities and government counterparts, through UNDP's facilitation of study visits and matchmaking between enterprises and establishing online and offline communication platforms.

A third aspect which contributes to the successful implementation of the project, is a multi-layer coordination and management mechanism – involving UNDP, governments, experts, and local counterparts – was established, to ensure accountability for quality deliverables and to streamline communications on both horizontal and vertical levels. This strengthened cross-country mechanism can be replicated and adapted to other similar initiatives.

Fourth, the project employs UNDP's five-step methodology for effective capacity-development: 1) engage stakeholders on capacity development; 2) assess capacity and needs; 3) formulate a capacity-development response; 4) implement the response; and 5) evaluate capacity development.

Lastly, public institutions selected as beneficiaries are tasked with demonstrating the multiple benefits of the interventions, which has attracted more private entities to install photovoltaic and/or biogas systems, contributing to the acceptability and sustainability of the initiative. The knowledge and skills acquired through the project contribute to enhanced personnel capacities to facilitate timely maintenance for the



installed systems and to further expand those systems across the country. Furthermore, the Joint Research and Extension Centre (JREC) that will be established in collaboration with Chinese partners will cater to capacity-building needs and provide continuous technical support when and where required, including through the adoption of a long-term research agenda.

The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 has constrained cross-country travel and physical meetings and training programmes. Mitigation measures were jointly explored to better conduct activities in Ethiopia, including the development of joint action plans taking account of COVID-19 constraints, strengthened communication and coordination through multiple virtual channels and leveraging Chinese expertise, technologies and networks with local partners.

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# China-Ghana-Zambia South-South Cooperation on Renewable Energy Technology Transfer



Clean energy, clean future

## CHALLENGE

Although more than 70 percent of households in Ghana today have access to electricity, this national average belies a striking urban-rural disparity, as only 40 percent of rural households have such access. Similarly, in Zambia, most rural areas are not connected to the national grid and only 3 percent of the rural population has electricity. In trying to address the insufficient access to electricity, the government of Ghana had several policies and instruments in place to regulate the energy sector and promote renewable energy. However, significant challenges remained, which revolved around remaining gaps in the institutional and regulatory framework, the capacity of executors to develop and run viable renewable energy businesses, inadequate functioning of technical and research institutions, and scepticism towards renewable resources due to cultural reasons or perceived business risks.

In Zambia, a National Energy Policy was developed in 2008, and steps were taken to strengthen regulations and institutional frameworks for Renewable Energy (RE). However, as in Ghana, despite these efforts, significant barriers remained. The main barriers concerned the ineffective regulatory framework, lack of technical capacity for Renewable Energy Technology (RET) and weak government capacity to evaluate technical and financial proposals, compounded by lack of administrative coordination and the sparseness of the RET market in Zambia.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To help rural communities in Ghana and Zambia gain access to electricity, Denmark funded two trilateral projects on renewable energy technology transfer (RETT) between China, Ghana and Zambia. The projects have a strong focus on enabling coherent South-South cooperation between China and African countries to promote the UN's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative, and on

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) China

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Denmark, Ghana, Zambia

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.a, 17.6

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Denmark

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP China, UNDP Ghana, UNDP Zambia

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

June 2014 – december 2019

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

– <https://bit.ly/3HkvKZT>  
– <https://bit.ly/3Jyh4ID>



adapting Chinese experiences and technical skills to promote the production of renewable energy technologies in Africa. The projects take a holistic approach by operating both at: 1) the upstream level, supporting the creation of an enabling environment for technology transfer and invigorating the capacity for South-South Cooperation between China, Ghana and Zambia; and 2) the downstream level, in terms of actual transfer and demonstration of technologies with potential scaling up by the private sector. The project contributes to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) and to IPoA priority area 1 (Productive capacity).

The Ghana-Zambia-China Renewable Energy Technology Transfer Project is a flagship project in piloting UNDP's approach to trilateral cooperation. By combining the partner country's needs and expertise with Chinese experience and technical know-how, the trilateral approach transfers knowledge and skills to promote mutual benefits for the countries involved. Through this approach, UNDP serves as a knowledge broker, a capacity developer and a facilitator to respond to the countries' needs and provide a platform for knowledge exchange visits and events.

- ▶ Many relevant partners from China, Ghana, and Zambia, are collaborating on these projects and facilitating the exchange of expertise and technology among the three countries, including the Energy Commission of Ghana, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of China and the Department of Energy in Zambia, together with the UNDP Country Offices in Accra, Beijing and Lusaka. The following initiatives were taken via a participatory approach:
- ▶ Workshops and matchmaking sessions were held in the three countries to facilitate the exchange of good practices and establish solid foundations for stakeholder alliances that include the private sector;
- ▶ Several delegations from China visited Ghana and Zambia at the behest of MOST to engage in face-to-face meetings to coordinate the development of the demonstration projects;
- ▶ The Energy Commission in Ghana and the Department of Energy in Zambia have dispatched several delegations to China to obtain know-how, facilitate demonstration projects and participate in match-making events; and
- ▶ UNDP Country Offices in Accra, Beijing and Lusaka have served as bridges among all parties involved, coordinating with all relevant parties to facilitate and supervise the entire RETT process.

The projects have achieved the following outcomes:

- ▶ The pre-feasibility study and selection of transferable renewable energy technology were completed and a database for RETT solutions was established;
- ▶ The project website, an online matchmaking platform, was launched in both Chinese and English;
- ▶ Alliance technology companies and research institutes supporting RETT in Ghana, Zambia and other African partner countries were set up in China;
- ▶ Annual training sessions on solar, hydro and biogas technologies and key processes of system design for stakeholders in China and Zambia have been held to remove knowledge barriers for RETT;



- ▶ The National Level Renewable Energy Master Plan for Ghana was finalized and submitted for parliamentary approval;
- ▶ In Zambia demonstration projects are being built in solar, biogas, cookstove (biomass) and hydro power;
- ▶ In China a South-South cooperation centre for renewable technology exchange was developed and anchored in MOST.

Trilateral cooperation, an integral part of South-South cooperation, is an emerging and innovative modality that enables countries to share and exchange knowledge and experiences. Trilateral projects identify specific added value and comparative strengths among partner countries (China-Ghana-Zambia) and UNDP in a South-South cooperation format in which all partners contribute and benefit from the cooperation.

Furthermore, the projects have enabled the formation of a learning platform for China, Ghana and Zambia to engage and cooperate at the international level in renewable energy technology and skills transfer. Future engagements to accelerate sustainable development and demand-driven South-South cooperation in the energy sector are achievable through further discussion and cooperation between relevant stakeholders.

The trilateral cooperation model is itself replicable and the lessons from the project, on creating enabling environments for renewable energy technology transfer, can be adapted to benefit other country settings. In 2019, UNDP launched two new trilateral projects on RETT with Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and China. They are now cost-shared by the Ministry of Commerce of China and are based on the same trilateral model, experience and know-how drawn from the China-Ghana-Zambia projects.

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# The Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC)



Promoting the sustainable energy and climate transition in least developed countries

## CHALLENGE

By looking at the moderate growth rates of sustainable energy product and service markets in developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), we can see that SDGs 7, 9 and 13 cannot be attained by 2030 in business-as-usual scenarios. The deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions remains hindered by a broad range of demand and supply-side barriers, including policy and regulation, qualification, knowledge management, as well as investment and business promotion. Regionally, energy transition tends to remain uncoordinated between LDCs and common barriers and opportunities are not addressed jointly for the benefit of all. Duplication, fragmentation and lack of regional agenda-setting lead to inefficient use of international funding. Moreover, in a number of LDCs the inability of the domestic private sector to supply quality sustainable energy products and services is questioning the inclusiveness of energy transition in terms of local job and income generation.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To make regional cooperation a priority, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in partnership with various regional economic communities (RECs), and with initial seed funding from the Government of Austria, launched the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC). Since 2010, UNIDO has assisted RECs in the creation and operation of sustainable energy centres, which serve 38 of 46 LDCs in Africa, Himalaya-Hindukush, the Caribbean and the Pacific. From the very beginning, the centres have been in the ownership of the RECs. Under a joint platform, the centres implement South-South and triangular activities, projects and events.

Soon the network will cover the entire African continent. In a historic meeting on 3 June 2021, in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, the eleven Energy

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Mauritania

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

7.1, 7.a, 7.b, 9.1, 9.a, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Austria

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNIDO

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2010 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.gn-sec.net/>

Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) approved the establishment of the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Central Africa (CEREAC) as a specialized institution. Under the umbrella of the African Union (AU), ECREEE (from the Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS), SACREEE (from the Southern African Development Community - SADC), EACREEE (from the East African Community - EAC), RCREEE (from the Arab League) and CEREAC (from ECCAS) will promote an inclusive energy and climate transition.

GN-SEC contributes to achieving SDGs 7, 9 and 13, as well as Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area 1, particularly in the field of energy. In particular, the IPoA sets a strong focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency, regional cooperation and the strengthening and creation of regional institutional capacities. The GN-SEC provides the RECs with a dedicated technical capacity to lead, coordinate and implement sustainable energy and climate policies in partnership with Governments and other regional energy institutions, such as the power pools and regulator organizations. The centres quickly become a platform for manifold domestic and international partnerships.

The GN-SEC centres aim to address the existing barriers for sustainable energy product and service markets by promoting economies of scales, equal progress and spill-over effects between countries. Through cross-border approaches and methodologies, the centres complement and accelerate national efforts particularly in LDCs in the areas of policy, regulation, standards, qualification, knowledge and facilitation of investment and entrepreneurship. Moreover, they serve as a knowledge resource facility, and provide advice to Member States on how best to manage the transition towards sustainable energy.

Some of the centres have achieved remarkable progress to the benefit of LDCs. For example, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) has developed regional renewable energy and energy efficiency policies, which triggered the adoption of national action and investment plans in fifteen countries, most of them LDCs. Moreover, ECREEE has developed an internationally unique regional policy for gender mainstreaming in the sustainable energy sector, which is approved by ECOWAS Governments and is currently under implementation through national action plans. ECREEE has also established the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX), the first regional sustainable energy information system in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Another good example for triangular cooperation is the Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) project, which is being implemented by UNIDO in partnership with the Southern African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) and the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE). The centres support the development and adoption of regional Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for lighting and appliances (e.g. refrigerators, air conditioning) in the SADC and the East African Community (EAC). Regional efficiency standards are a valuable tool to accelerate the clean energy transition and create economies of scale. The harmonized standards will have a positive impact for more than 450 million African



energy consumers. As a result of the project, SADC has already approved MEPS for lighting products in April 2021.

The GN-SEC has proven to be a scalable model that achieves global results with limited resources, particularly to the benefit of LDCs and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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# National Intelligence for Skills, Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship (NISE<sup>3</sup>)



Comprehensive data platform for skills, employment and entrepreneurship



## CHALLENGE

Bangladesh has a labour force of 82 million, with 2 million young people joining the workforce every year and a projected labour force growth rate of 2.2 percent over the next 10 years (ILO, 2016).<sup>1</sup> Young people often fail to find jobs because they are not aware of the skills requirements. Although there are approximately 13,000 public and private skills service providers, their training is mostly supply-driven and therefore inefficient. Without market analysis, they fail to identify the right target groups for their courses, or which courses are needed according to employers. Consequently, employers often cannot find workers who match their requirements, despite investing considerable time and resources in lengthy recruiting procedures. Finally, data-driven decision-making by the relevant government ministries and departments is difficult, because their data are manually stored and it therefore takes time to sort and analyse them.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The National Intelligence for Skills, Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship (NISE<sup>3</sup>) was launched by the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh, in partnership with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA), the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, the Department of Youth Development and other government & private skills institutes. It aims to build national coordination among unemployed young people, public and private skills service providers, industries, and government, with a view to contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and 4 (Quality education), as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area 5 (Human and social development).

### NOMINATED BY

Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Jordan, Somalia

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.3, 4.4, 8.5, 8.6

### SUPPORTED BY

ICT Division, Cabinet Division, and UNDP Bangladesh

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Access to Information (a2i) Programme, Bangladesh

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

January 2018 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://skills.gov.bd>

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/34JLk31>



Developed under the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme of the Government of Bangladesh, NISE<sup>3</sup> is a one-stop data platform bringing stakeholders together to ensure effective data-driven policy planning and thus economic growth. It is a matchmaking platform, which aims to ensure balance between the skills, education, employment and entrepreneurship supply and demand sides.

The platform has 25 ministries, 32 government departments and 13,000 skills service providers on the supply side and 40 industrial associations/chambers of commerce, industries and recruiting agencies on the demand side. It facilitates economic growth by:

- ▶ Encouraging skills service providers to initiate market demand-driven skills training with minimal TVC requirement by facilitating dissemination of digital instructional contents from this platform; interconnecting all e-learning platforms so that inclusive and equitable quality education can be provided through a digital solution.
- ▶ Enabling young people to gain easy access to career counselling and guidance, job forecasting, business and migration suggestions, guidance to entrepreneurship pathways, etc.
- ▶ Enabling the ministries and government departments involved in skills and education to devise data-driven policies using real-time data from this platform.
- ▶ Facilitating industry's access to the youth database and creating linkages between industries and skills service providers so that they can share information with one another on emerging job opportunities and market-driven skills.

NISE<sup>3</sup> coordinates all the data collected from portals of various agencies and interprets them for policy makers to initiate a comprehensive approach to developing capabilities. It connects public and private skills providers under a single umbrella and gives young people an overview of the current market situation, helping them to acquire relevant market-driven skills by applying for skills courses, obtaining access to job opportunities, and developing entrepreneurship skills. Companies also use the NISE<sup>3</sup> platform to advertise their job vacancies, receive applications and build up a supply-demand relationship with multiple skills providers.

To date, 312,728 young people are registered with NISE<sup>3</sup> along with 602 training centres and 1,551 industries. Under the umbrella of NISE<sup>3</sup>, 30,657 young people have started employment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NISE<sup>3</sup> hosted over 1,400 digital video contents on different online skills development initiatives, resulting in 2,000,000 views so far. Due to the significant impact of NISE<sup>3</sup> on skills development, it has received the 2020 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prize, in the "e-Employment" category.

Since the establishment of the platform, various Southern countries have started looking to replicate it in their contexts. UNDP Jordan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Economy & Entrepreneurship (MODEE) Jordan, is currently replicating the NISE<sup>3</sup> platform with funding support from the UNDP Crisis Bureau office. Also, the UNDP Chief Digital Officer (CDO) has supported UNDP Somalia in replicating the initiative in its context with technical guidance from a2i. Other southern countries in the pipeline to replicate the platform include Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Nigeria.

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# Africa Kaizen Initiative



Japanese management approach of continuous improvement to enhance quality and productivity

## CHALLENGE

Innovative products and services have the potential to change our lives on a global scale. Some of these innovations are the result of continuous problem-solving activities. These activities are often supported by skills and knowledge that are endogenous to firms: in other words, firm capabilities. However, in many countries, such innovations are hindered by inefficient workforce and working environments. For example, in many manufacturing factories in least developed countries (LDCs), old equipment is often used without proper daily maintenance or correct knowledge of how to use it. As a result, machines keep having operational problems and produce defective goods, which leads to less profit and thus affects employees' motivation. Ways to identify technical problems and to improve the productivity are needed to scale up economic activities in developing countries.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been supporting development of the manufacturing industry and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in more than 30 countries by introducing the Kaizen philosophy and providing capacity development to consultants and organizations that support SMEs. JICA's first Kaizen project was introduced in Singapore in 1983 and later replicated to Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. It is currently spreading and evolving in Africa.

The word "Kaizen," a general term meaning "techniques and tools for improvement of quality and productivity," was first used in Japanese manufacturing industries, but is now recognized worldwide. The core value of Kaizen is an attitude shared among all members of an organization to consistently pursue improvement in quality and productivity, and not just applying it as a top-down



### NOMINATED BY

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Japan, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

8.2, 8.3

### SUPPORTED BY

JICA, African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

JICA, African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

- <https://bit.ly/3py9fuu>
- <https://bit.ly/3Hh88W0>
- <https://bit.ly/3z2Kycr>
- <https://bit.ly/33VjvEt>

management method. It provides various techniques that can be used flexibly according to the size of the company and its particular situation. Also, required investment is minimum because the approach encourages utilization of existing resources. Furthermore, the enhanced capabilities that firms acquire through Kaizen contribute to their endogenous capacity that others cannot imitate: thus becoming their exclusive competitiveness. There are five characteristics to this approach: “participatory”, “continuous”, “scientific approach”, “economical” and “universal”.

Since 2017, JICA has implemented technical cooperation projects in nine countries in Africa. Every year, more than 60 officials from Africa participate in Kaizen-related trainings conducted in Japan and in Malaysia. Since 2009, JICA has received officials from 25 countries for Kaizen trainings.

In 2017, JICA and the African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) launched the Africa Kaizen Initiative (AKI), a region-wide 10-year programme to roll out Kaizen throughout Africa. AKI was also endorsed at the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Nairobi in 2016. AKI's goals are threefold: 1) to accelerate industrialization and economic transformation, 2) to create employment and decent work, and 3) to develop human resources that have capacity to innovate. The four implementation activities are: 1) advocacy at policy levels, 2) strengthening the function of centres of excellence, 3) standardizing certification and training, and 4) networking Kaizen promoting institutions.

As part of the initiative, JICA and AUDA-NEPAD have held the Africa Kaizen Annual Conference since 2018. The 2021 conference was held on 24-25 August together with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, under the theme of “Opportunities to Accelerate Industrialization and Trade in Africa: Streamlining Kaizen / Quality and Productivity Improvement (QPI) with Digital Technologies, Start-ups, SMEs Development and Home-Grown Economic Activities in Africa”. The conference ended with a joint communiqué that expressed the firm commitment for Kaizen institutions to play a meaningful role in learning, adapting and disseminating Kaizen/QPI tools and systems, and to strengthen their role to advocate and coordinate the implementation of AKI. To further scale up Kaizen/QPI benefits at national and continental levels, JICA and AUDA-NEPAD agreed to work on the following five issues: i) establishment of a certification system for Kaizen consultants, ii) set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of Kaizen effects, iii) development of monitoring methodology for Kaizen effectiveness, iv) utilization of E-learning for efficient Kaizen study, and v) strengthening of partnership among member countries, local communities and donors.

Furthermore, during the COVID-19 pandemic, JICA's Kaizen project in Cameroon contributed to business continuity of client companies, product development such as masks, medical equipment etc. and productivity improvement. Cameroonian Kaizen consultants trained by JICA hosted a virtual South-South capacity development training session for 41 textile firms in Mali and in the Central African Republic to ensure quality mask production, which met standards required by the WHO, through a UNDP funded programme. Although it was difficult to dispatch lecturers and experts to the recipient countries for hands-on training due to



COVID-19, the demand for mask production and for the Kaizen method were instantly identified. JICA, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Cameroon, was able to provide training to local firms in Mali by utilizing virtual technologies such as ZOOM and YouTube. The project resulted in capacity building of 252 direct young beneficiaries of 41 textile cooperatives and enterprises and production of 267,289 masks for the most vulnerable groups in the community. Involving multi-stakeholders such as UNDP and Cameroon contributed to fostering knowledge sharing, and the projects responded to all partners' objectives and the need for urgent mask production under COVID-19.

As the above example demonstrates, even in constrained circumstances, the triangular cooperation approach allows the Kaizen initiative to expand to other countries. JICA and AUDA-NEPAD aim to focus on supporting activities to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on African MSMEs through the implementation of AKI, by developing and implementing different solutions such as digital platforms and remote/distance training and consultancy services.

The initiative is contributing to SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority 1 (Productive capacity).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Accelerator Labs Network



Following collective intelligence methods to address emerging sustainability challenges and the growing demand for local solutions

## CHALLENGE

Developing countries face complex needs, including multidimensional poverty as well as global phenomena such as climate change, pollution, energy, and rising extremism, which can only be addressed through a local lens.

Over the last 10-15 years, the number of social enterprises, impact hubs and innovation labs from the public, private and philanthropic sectors have increased. Individual innovators are a largely untapped resource. Nationally representative household innovation surveys show that many individuals innovate to solve their own problems- at their own expense. We are also seeing iterative approaches including design thinking and adaptive management become more widely adopted in the business and social spheres. While these efforts have generated learning and networks, their collective impact has been hampered by the lack of scale and limited uptake in the places that need them the most – such as local communities in least developed countries (LDCs), including conflict-prone or climate-vulnerable regions. Although data are sparse, innovation labs, impact hubs and social enterprises seem to involve and benefit women less than men.

It will take new solutions that are locally relevant and locally driven, and crucially that can be adapted, sustained, and replicated to address these complex needs.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Accelerator Labs Network is the world's largest and fastest growing learning network on sustainable development challenges, powered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) as founding investors. The Labs aim to address the toughest development challenges, supporting governments with actionable insights. The Labs work in

### NOMINATED BY

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Zambia

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 13.1, 13.3

### SUPPORTED BY

QFFD financial contribution of US\$ 20 million

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

June 2019 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://acceleratorlabs.undp.org/>



partnership with partners at the global and local levels from governments, academia, private sector, social innovators, UN System, and NGOs, capitalizing on the power of grassroots and youth, empowering them to search and experiment with solutions developed as those dealing with the problems. The Accelerator Labs are designed to close the gap between the current practices of international development and the accelerated pace of change.

The Initiative has three objectives:

- ▶ Increase UNDP Country Offices and partners capability for scanning, sense making, and experimentation for sustainable development solutions
- ▶ Scale new sustainable development solutions at country level through UNDP's country programme and operations, national policy and/or local markets
- ▶ Establish a global learning and scaling network

In terms of the methodology, each Lab has three members - Head of Solutions Mapping, Exploration, and Experimentation which are embedded in UNDP Country Offices generating a virtuous circle, absorbing the existing knowledge and experience while bringing and infusing new skills, innovative methodologies, and untapped partners to the table. The Labs' approach has been designed to be sensitive to emerging signals of changes and react in a short period of time, experimenting and proposing tested solutions to address complex and interconnected challenges, with the potential to be scaled either through UNDP programmes and operations, governments, and/or private sector. After scanning new data sources and in consultation with a network of local partners, the Labs decide which challenge(s) and SDG(s) to focus on at the beginning of each Action Learning Plan, which lasts approximately 100 days.

During the cycle, Labs apply the following protocols to generate breakthroughs and accelerate learning towards what works and what does not to achieve the Agenda 2030:

- ▶ **SENSE-MAKING:** this helps assess whether there is a fit between current investments and the changing environment.
- ▶ **COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE:** The Labs use the power of various sources of intelligence, including the crowd and machine learning to understand problems, develop new solutions, promote more inclusive decision making, and provide better oversight of what is done.
- ▶ **SOLUTIONS MAPPING:** The Labs identify local solutions that have the potential to accelerate development.
- ▶ **PORTFOLIOS OF EXPERIMENTS:** Experimentation helps the network learn whether assumptions are accurate before deploying solutions at scale, especially in uncertain or volatile conditions that often dominate development progress. Finally, a global team oversees the Network, monitors the progress, consolidates results and aggregates learnings, helping to generate an enabling and conducive environment to facilitate cross-pollination, while supporting dissemination of knowledge to the broader development ecosystem.

The Labs Network brings to the fore and reinforces locally sourced solutions on a large scale while mobilizing a wide and dynamic partnership of actors contributing knowledge, resources, and experience. Besides, they introduce a new way of working within UNDP that identifies crucial learning questions and a roadmap of activities (e.g., experiments, explorations, mapping grassroots solutions, and partnerships) to better understand sustainable development challenges and generate learning faster.

The initiative started in 2019 with 60 Lab teams covering 78 countries and is currently expanding to 90 Labs covering 114 countries. With a concentration in the Africa region, the initiative covers 79 percent of all LDCs and 66 percent of small island developing states (SIDS).

For example, in Lao PDR and the United Republic of Tanzania, the labs are using big data to improve and address waste management issues. In Guinea-Bissau, the lab has mapped out grassroots innovations to identify gaps and coordinate COVID-19 response.

In 2020 alone, the Labs:

- ▶ Addressed 147 development challenges, covering all 17 SDGs.
- ▶ Documented over 1,700 grassroots solutions and used 48 different innovation methods and approaches.
- ▶ Published 360 blog pieces – one a day – on critical development challenges and learning processes.
- ▶ Eighteen government counterparts adopted a selection of Accelerator Lab's tools and methods.
- ▶ Established 520 partnerships with the government, private sector, civil society organizations, academia, and the UN system.

The application of the labs has ensured the correlation between current investment and the changing environment that allows decision-makers to discover, build and grow portfolios of multi-reinforcing answers to tackle complex challenges from multiple angles.

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# Making Access to Financial Services Possible (MAP)



Country evidence-based policy making emphasizing local ownership and national level stakeholder platforms for financial inclusion to support inclusive growth

## CHALLENGE

Financial inclusion policymaking often lacks an evidence base in the form of robust diagnostics, and reliable, inclusive data, rooted in people's daily lives and realities, resulting in most of the population remaining unseen by both financial service providers and policy makers to facilitate financing to low-income market segments. By understanding the real needs of consumers, i.e., education, health, energy and productivity needs, governments and the private sector can ensure a conducive financing environment that builds markets for low-income consumers, thus contributing to broader national development objectives and the SDGs. Least developed countries (LDCs) lack both detailed data to understand the market demand of consumers for businesses to invest in and at the same time lack the financing to facilitate better investments for growth, especially at the low-income end of the spectrum. Providing consumer data on the use of financial services for their economic needs allows the financial sector to better understand and quantify the market for financial and other services, while allowing government to develop evidenced-based policies.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Given these cross-linkages to national development objectives linked to building domestic financial markets, financial inclusion policymaking cannot be confined to a discussion with the central bank and the Ministry of Finance but needs to include a much larger set of institutional and private sector actors at a country level, resulting in long-term sustainable local ownership to enhance domestic financing. By providing in-depth data on livelihoods, diagnostics, and national level stakeholder platforms, the Making Access to Financial Services Possible (MAP) programme, implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), solves a multifaceted problem, and ensures longevity through local ownership, in spearheading the development of domestic financing.

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, eSwatini, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 7, 8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.2.1, 1.3.1, 1.4.1, 3.8.2, 8.10.2, 10.c.1, 17.3.2

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of the Netherlands

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – 2024

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/map/homepage>

MAP is a multi-country initiative to enhance financial inclusion in LDCs in support of inclusive growth, through a process of evidence-based analysis feeding into a financial inclusion roadmap jointly implemented by a range of local stakeholders. It is implemented in LDCs such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Togo, and Zambia, as well as non-LDCs such as Botswana, Eswatini, Thailand and Zimbabwe. It seeks to enhance participating countries' productive capacity (SME development, access to energy), human and social development (education, healthcare, gender equality, social protection) and mobilize financial resources for broader national development objectives and the SDGs. As such, the programme contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), while indirectly contributing to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity), 5 (Human and social development), 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building) and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

The programme integrates the strengths of two development approaches, successfully linking them as part of a common goal of achieving the SDGs at national level: the sustainable livelihoods approach, which focuses on helping the poor harness their own resourcefulness in alleviating poverty; and the making markets work for the poor (M4P) approach, which focuses on improving people's lives via market systems development. MAP places the consumer at the centre while working to improve the enabling institutional and political environment, to grow the market ecosystem. MAP uses nationally representative, inclusive, livelihoods data on consumers, combined with other in-country data and analytics to anchor its initial diagnosis in the country and to conduct ongoing monitoring and measuring. Along with this, the programme provides a platform for highly effective stakeholder engagement and iterative testing and trialling of financial inclusion innovations based on evidence and aimed at real-world improvement. The approach relies on local ownership by ensuring the buy-in of key national entities at the earliest stage, as well as full government endorsement, which ensures the initiative has longevity for continued implementation.

The MAP framework was designed to convene a wide range of stakeholders to participate in and own the development of national financial inclusion roadmaps and their implementation in 18 countries throughout Africa and Asia. This critically requires a deliberate focus on stakeholder engagement and buy-in from the outset, prior to initiating any data collection or diagnostic work. Therefore, responsibility for oversight of roadmap implementation is allocated to a committee of local stakeholders, led by the Ministry of Finance or the Central Bank, with the mandate and ability to influence the financial inclusion landscape, to ensure that they become active participants in the implementation of the roadmap. This also requires a well-defined technical framework and data validation and analysis for stakeholder coordination, to monitor sequencing, prioritizing, and budgeting for activities, usually provided by UNCDF.

The programme ensures systemic, cross-country transfer of good practice and knowledge in four ways: 1) participating in global cross-country workshops where policy makers exchange learning on policy formulation and implementation; 2) engaging regional bodies responsible for financial inclusion to implement regional level monitoring and evaluation, which

provides an additional channel for sharing learning, and puts pressure on countries to implement and deliver their strategies; 3) replicating and scaling successful proof of concept implementation projects that demonstrate viability of roadmap actions across other participating countries; and 4) producing global level cross-country synthesis notes on lessons arising from country-level work.

Findings from the use of the MAP tools have challenged conventional assumptions around financial inclusion and use by the low-income market, in the process contributing to the global pool of financial inclusion metrics. Furthermore, expanding the evidence base and understanding of the low income and particularly the informal segment in the 18 MAP countries, has pushed the boundaries of thinking in financial inclusion beyond just products but rather determining the extent and types of financing needs to create long-term pathways out of poverty. In terms of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the programme helped improve financial inclusion in all countries where follow-up data has been collected (SDG 8.10.2), as well pilot projects such as the widely successful cross-border remittance product between South Africa and Lesotho (SDG 10.c.1/SDG 17.3.2). The programme also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 Productive capacity), 5 (Human and social development), 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building), and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

In 2020 alone, the programme benefitted nearly 2.5 million mobile money savers with newly allowed interest on mobile savings in Malawi. In addition, the programme supported the formulation of two MSME strategies (eSwatini and Malawi) through its diagnostic processes, and five clean energy investment case diagnostics (eSwatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique) in support of productive capacity and mobilization of finance. The programme also raised parallel funding for government policy implementation of at least US\$ 8.4 million across all participating countries. More recently, the programme has been working with governments in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region to link financial inclusion to inclusive growth, in support of the SDGs and the ASEAN 2025 Blueprint. Furthermore, the programme hosts global workshops on financial inclusion bringing together MAP participating countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), West Africa and ASEAN regions, which further supports South-South cooperation.

The single greatest challenge facing development is turning research and strategies into implementable solutions. However, accurate research and diagnosis of a country's problems, while crucially important, were not enough: they called for a means of supporting governments to forge strategic partnerships around solving their most pressing problems, to achieve their national ambitions. The MAP tools are central to supporting government and stakeholders in evidence-based decision-making towards smart, consumer-focused solutions. The programme partners extensively with the private sector to pilot innovative solutions for MSMEs, remittances, savings etc. However, for these to reach scale in order to achieve the SDGs, extensive public-private partnerships are required to adequately build vibrant local financing markets.

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## A locally made non-invasive ventilator for COVID-19 patients that runs without electricity

### CHALLENGE

The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed hospital systems to their limits in many countries, including Bangladesh. In most low-resource setting hospitals, the general wards do not have the facility to provide more than 15 litres/min of oxygen. However, this is not sufficient for severe COVID-19 patients, who need an elevated treatment pathway using high-flow nasal oxygen (HFNO) or Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy. HFNO devices can cost up to US\$ 5,000, and traditional CPAP devices can cost up to US\$ 1,000. Furthermore, electric power is often unreliable in many hospitals, and the technical expertise required for device maintenance is also limited. With a shortage of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds, this is a significant problem, since intermediate treatments are not available in the general wards that can provide patients with a higher flow of oxygen.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the need for high-flow of oxygen in COVID-19 wards, the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) has developed an innovative, low-cost CPAP flow-generator device named OxyJet. It is a precision Venturi-based flow-generator that can provide up to 60 litres/min with up to 100 percent concentration of oxygen in the general hospital wards without any electric power. The device can operate from a central oxygen line or a cylinder. The device was made using 3D printing technology and available manufacturing techniques in Bangladesh, at a cost of about US\$ 20. The full CPAP system consists of non-vented C-PAP masks and HEPA filters that reduce aerosolization. Pressure settings can be changed using a traditional PEEP valve between 5-20 cm H<sub>2</sub>O. A full setup can cost up to US\$ 200 including all accessories.

#### NOMINATED BY

Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

3.b, 9.b

#### SUPPORTED BY

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Bio-medic Engineering Department, BUET

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

July 2020 – Ongoing



The OxyJet CPAP device addresses a critical need of reducing ICU admissions during this crisis period. Thus, it contributes towards the achievement of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Due to its lower cost, portability and ease of use, it can have a significant impact if deployed in low-resource setting hospitals in underserved regions of the country. The device is an example of successful innovation in biomedical engineering design, and thus also contributes to achieving SDG 9 and Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority 1.

At the beginning of the project, the clinical needs were assessed and it was determined that the simplest device that can serve the highest number of patients should be developed. Through long discussions with clinicians and surveying the hospital settings, it was determined that a Venturi-CPAP device would be the most effective solution. However, a high-flow Venturi-system requires precision manufacturing, which is not available in Bangladesh. The research team came up with an innovative solution by using off-the-shelf industrial needles that can be used as a high-precision nozzle. This approach combined with a 3D printed body resulted in a Venturi flow-generator that can provide high-flow of air oxygen mixture comparable to similar devices with a much higher cost.

The OxyJet device has been tested according to the UK-MHRA Rapidly Manufactured CPAP systems guideline. Afterwards, it has successfully passed phase-1, phase-2 and phase-3 clinical trials in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The trial was approved by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) and is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov. In phase 2, it was observed that the device can significantly increase the oxygen saturation of patients by 11.2 percent on average. The phase-3 was designed as a randomized controlled trial to determine whether the CPAP can be considered non-inferior to HFNO treatment. The trial studied how many days the patients can be free of mechanical ventilator in the ICU (ventilator-free days up to 10 days). After analysing the data, it was concluded that the CPAP treatment was similar (non-inferior) to HFNO treatment. In addition, it was also observed that the OxyJet CPAP device uses 30 percent less oxygen than HFNO while treating these two similar groups of hypoxaemic patients. Thus, overall, the OxyJet CPAP solution can provide a treatment similar to HFNO at 4 percent of the cost while saving 30 percent oxygen.

The device has been approved for limited use by the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), which is the regulatory authority for medical devices in Bangladesh. In total, the device was used on about 30 patients at DMCH during the clinical trial. As the device is made using 3D printing and available machine-tools in Bangladesh, the process can be easily replicable in other countries though South-South knowledge exchanges, especially where there is a shortage of HFNO and ICU facilities.



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# Affordable Prefabricated Housing for Everyone



## China assists Liberia to facilitate sustainable infrastructure development



### CHALLENGE

With fast-growing populations and rapid urbanization processes, many African countries, especially least developing countries (LDCs), face increasing pressure to provide adequate housing for their citizens.

Over the past 10 years since the end of the civil war in Liberia, the country has been vigorously developing its infrastructure, attracting foreign investment, developing production and aiming to achieve long-term peace and stability in order to revitalize the economy and improve livelihoods. As one of the important components in infrastructure construction, the development of civil, commercial and industrial buildings and other projects is essential to improve livelihoods and stimulate economic development. However, the lack of local construction materials and the small size of the manufacturing sector, with only one cement factory in Liberia, have held back infrastructure development. Therefore, there is a great need of support in providing construction materials and skills training. Developing Liberia's infrastructure is essential to revitalize its economy, improve livelihoods, and achieve long-term peace and stability.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In 2017 and 2018, the China Africa Business Council (CABC), together with the China South-South Development Center and Hengtong Lux Wood of China, designed an affordable housing construction scheme to address the obstacles and improve the status of Liberian construction, by providing one-stop services, including architectural design, building material production, centralized procurement, logistics and transport, as well as on-site technical training. With innovative prefabricated building skills, the main components of the project include training on walls, floor slabs, windows, doors and structures prefabricated at the factory, where they are assembled quickly, based on drawings.

#### NOMINATED BY

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Liberia

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 9.1, 9.a

#### SUPPORTED BY

China South-South Development Center Project

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

China-Africa Business Council (CABC), Hengtong Lux Wood of China

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

April 2017 – March 2018

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://en.cabc.org.cn>

The programme started with on-site research into prefabricated housing in Liberia, which aimed to identify feasible technologies for prefabricated homes in the country. Demonstration and capacity-building activities were then carried out in Monrovia using existing prefab projects; finally, experience-sharing and workshops for housing officials and technicians were organized in Liberia and China. The capacity-building workshops were provided to local workers, who were taught building methods and skills through demonstrations of prototypes. The training focused on construction methods, structural stability, waterproofing, moisture-proofing and anti-corrosion treatments.

The programme makes a positive contribution to Liberia's economic development and improvement of livelihoods. It coordinated the participation of more than 200 people specializing in design, production, procurement, logistics and construction, etc. Furthermore, it created more than 300 jobs for Liberians in fields such as construction, retail, catering and service industries, increasing their average income by over 30 percent. The project contributed to Sustainable Development Goals 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 1 (No Poverty). It also contributed to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity) and 5 (Human and social development).

The project highlights the advantages of affordable assembly-type buildings in terms of construction speed, comfort, safety, economy and practicality, which constitutes a new construction technology system that is suitable for Liberia and meets the basic demand of the poor both there and in neighbouring African countries. Housing is the basis for a country to improve people's livelihood and boost economic development, and African countries, taking Liberia as an example, need technological assistance to build their own construction industry.



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# Industrial Construction Technologies in Ethiopia



## China assists Ethiopia with sustainable construction in industrial zones

### CHALLENGE

As urbanization in Ethiopia is accelerating, the projected demand for new housing far exceeds the annual supply. As a result, affordability is a major issue in the housing market. Most households cannot afford formal housing solutions, and the high prices of construction materials and land add to the difficulty to low-income urban residents. Furthermore, the local industrial base is weak; the country is dependent on imports for components, parts and raw materials, and the availability of construction technology and expertise does not meet market demand. Therefore, promoting low-cost prefabricated construction technology to improve housing conditions and investment climate in Ethiopia is a key initiative which can help Ethiopia to upgrade industrial construction technology, train related technicians, and improve the local housing and investment environment.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Supported by the China South-South Development Centre and implemented by the China-Africa Business Council, the Industrial Construction Technologies in Ethiopia project helped to improve housing conditions and the investment environment in Ethiopia by training construction professionals and promoting low-cost wood-frame housing technologies. The project contributed to the achievement of SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity) and 5 (Human and social development).

To ensure the successful implementation of the project, a special committee of five Ethiopian professionals and seven Chinese experts was set up and several meetings and mini seminars were held. The Chinese experts presented the principles of wood frame construction and its application in China. Experts from Ethiopia discussed the types of buildings and building techniques used in their

#### NOMINATED BY

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Ethiopia

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

9.1, 9.4, 9.5, 9.a, 11.c

#### SUPPORTED BY

China South-South Development Center Project

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

China-Africa Business Council (CABC)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

#### PROJECT PERIOD

December 2017 – November 2018

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<http://en.cabc.org.cn>



country and the challenges that exist. The project also provided four skilled Ethiopian construction workers with the opportunity to study at the headquarters of the China Construction Group in Guangdong Province, China. During the month-long training, these Ethiopian workers mastered the theoretical concepts of wood-frame construction and were able to perform some practical operations. Upon their return, they conducted technical training for the Ethiopian technicians, sharing the wood construction techniques they had learned in China with the entire team. Huajian also invited three officials from Ethiopia's Construction and Housing Development Authority and the Ministry of Industry to visit China and discuss rapid manufacturing and low-cost wood housing technologies. Surveys were done to identify viable technologies for prefabricated buildings in Ethiopia. Also, demonstrations and on-site construction practices were performed in the Huajian Industrial Park in Ethiopia to collect feedback and make adjustments and improvements for better wood structure. The project highlights the advantages of cost-effective assembled buildings in terms of construction speed, comfort, safety, economy, practicality, and environmental friendliness.

This new timber-frame technology system is applicable to Ethiopia and meets the basic needs of low-income groups in the country and neighbouring African countries. During construction, the project created hundreds of jobs for local workers in the construction, retail, restaurant, and service sectors, and increased their wages by 30 to 50 percent. It not only boosted local economic development, but also helped the African public understand China and improve public opinion on China-Africa cooperation.

Compared with the existing traditional construction technology in Africa, the rapid production and low-cost wooden house technology has obvious advantages in ensuring construction quality, increasing production efficiency, improving working conditions, reducing the requirements for operators and production costs, and ensuring environmental protection. The technology was presented to government agencies during several workshops. It has helped improve living conditions in Ethiopia and has been recognized by government officials and Chinese companies in Ethiopia. Therefore, the project is sustainable in the long run and contributes to the continued effectiveness of China-Africa cooperation.

In addition, the project is replicable in that it has trained workers in the prefabricated construction industry and promoted rapid manufacturing and low-cost wood housing technology. The project is well positioned for replication from Ethiopia to neighbouring African countries with similar conditions.



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# Capacity Building Programme on Enhancing the Development of Small and Medium Industry



Promoting the growth of small and medium industry to achieve sustainable development

## CHALLENGE

Socioeconomic development often relies on a country's production structures and dynamics. Economic diversification in the form of value-added production and employment in higher productivity sectors often brings about GDP growth and other socioeconomic gains. Industry drives economic growth, provides opportunities for entrepreneurship, skilled jobs and stimulates the expansion of both agriculture and services sectors.

Despite recent gains, the economies of least developed countries (LDCs) such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Nepal still largely rely on unmechanized agriculture and other low-value-added activities. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and support the development of vibrant and diversified industrial sectors, these countries need to invest in capacity development, including in government agencies and officials, entrepreneurs and improve their overall investment environment.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Capacity Building Programme on Enhancing the Development of Small and Medium Industry (SMI) is a South-South cooperation initiative by the Government of Indonesia, in collaboration with the Colombo Plan. Indonesia has been an important player in South-South cooperation by making beneficial contributions to international development through various means. One of them is by conducting capacity-building programmes for fellow developing countries. Indonesia has implemented capacity-building programmes in various fields, such as small and medium industry, climate change, agriculture, health, gender equality, women's empowerment and others. Particularly, in the field of small and medium industry, Indonesia has implemented the Capacity Building Programme since 2016 and has implemented five programmes for 109 beneficiaries from



### NOMINATED BY

Ministry of State Secretariat, Indonesia

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

9.2, 9.3, 17.9, 17.16

### SUPPORTED BY

Colombo Plan

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministry of State Secretariat and Ministry of Industry of Indonesia

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2016 - 2024

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://colombo-plan.org/capacity-building-programme/>

18 countries (including some LDCs, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Nepal). Through this collaboration, Indonesia's objective is to contribute to the achievement of SDG 9, to promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation as well as SDG 17 to strengthen partnerships for sustainable development. This is also in line with the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority area 5 on human and social development.

The Capacity Building Programme provides capacity building for participants, which include government officials and entrepreneurs, to improve their knowledge in developing small and medium industry in their home countries. In implementing the programme, the Government of Indonesia, represented by the Ministry of State Secretariat and the Ministry of Industry, collaborate with the Colombo Plan<sup>1</sup> under a triangular cooperation scheme. The training features various speakers from government institutions dealing with small and medium enterprises as well as sharing of experience from small and medium business owners. In addition to lecture session, the programme also takes participants to visit various small and medium businesses in Indonesia to directly observe their business process and learn about their success in running their businesses.

At the end of the programme, participants are expected to create an action plan on the actions that they will take to address the issues in their countries. By carrying out this action plan, the participants implement what they have learned from the programme and transfer the knowledge that they have gained to their home countries. The programme has been carried out every year since 2016, and each year, it incorporates different themes in order to widen its scope and accommodate other topics related to it. For instance, the theme of the 2019 was "Small and Medium Industry Empowerment through Business Development Services" and the theme of the 2020 programme was "The Impact of Industry 4.0 in Enhancing the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic". The programme has been beneficial for the participants, as they gained new knowledge and ideas on how to improve small and medium industry in their countries.

Initially, the programme was implemented offline where participants were invited to Indonesia to attend it. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme has been implemented online as international travel is restricted to curb the spread of the virus. Online programmes enable the Government of Indonesia to accommodate more participants as travelling is not required. Although the programme is delivered online, participants' enthusiasm is undiminished from previous years. Nevertheless, Indonesia is looking forward to implementing future programme offline as they are more effective in engaging the participants so that they can gain more insights and directly observe small and medium industry in Indonesia. Additionally, as an effort to assess the effectiveness of the programme, participants are asked to provide their feedback



and suggestions to improve the programme in the future. Communications with programme alumni are also maintained in order to follow up on the progress of their action plan implementation and to measure the impact of the programme in beneficiary countries.

The programme has highlighted the challenges faced by the participants in developing small and medium industry in their countries. It has also shown that each country faces similar issues regarding the development of small and medium industry, such as lack of access to financial aid and lack of technological utilization among small and medium businesses. Therefore, countries can learn from each other and implement best practices from fellow country participants so that they can gain similar benefits. Through this programme, Indonesia and fellow developing countries are able to identify each strength and weakness, as well as potential collaboration in the future.

<sup>1</sup> The Colombo Plan is an intergovernmental organization consisting of 27 countries, which aims to promote economic and social development among its members  
<https://colombo-plan.org/overview/>

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# Addressing the Transboundary Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific



Promoting co-deployment of ICT and transport infrastructure corridors in Central Asia region

## CHALLENGE

With increasing worldwide digitalisation, the need for access to high-speed, reliable, and affordable Internet in least developed countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) is critical. One of the major challenges is the lack of adequate physical infrastructure, including electricity, transport and ICTs. Furthermore, costs of laying fibre-optic cables are not always economically viable for telecom operators. LDCs and LLDCs, especially those with sparsely populated expanses of land, face consistent connectivity challenges within and beyond their borders, thus hampering the achievement of the SDGs. The fixed broadband penetration rate in Afghanistan is less than 1 percent, in Bangladesh it was around 20 percent in 2020, while in Kazakhstan it was 78.9 percent, illustrating unequal levels of ICT infrastructural development. Moreover, transport corridors across LDCs and LLDCs are lengthy and it is difficult and costly to construct shorter routes, especially due to high altitude terrains. Connectivity challenges and the widening digital gap in these countries also limit development opportunities in cultivating cross-border and intercultural ties.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Supported by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the initiative "Addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration (RECI) in Asia and the Pacific" aims to contribute to IPoA Priority Area 1 (Productive capacity). The focus is on promoting public-private partnerships for the development and maintenance of transport and modern ICT connectivity infrastructure, and on increasing access to telecommunication services. Regarding the SDGs, the proposed solution addresses the development of infrastructure and increased access to ICTs (SDG 9), the strengthening of resilience and adaptation, together with promoting mechanisms for increasing capacity to combat climate-related

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

9.1, 9.a, 9.b, 9.c, 13.1, 13.b, 17.6, 17.8, 17.9

### SUPPORTED BY

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ESCAP, Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://drrgateway.net/>



hazards and natural disasters (SDG 13), and enhancement of regional and international cooperation, to support national plans to implement the sustainable development goals (SDG 17).

The approach and methodology used to optimise the economic costs and resource allocation for building ICT infrastructure is co-deployment. It is defined as the concomitant deployment of ducts and/or fibre-optic cables during the construction of infrastructure, such as new roads, highways, railways, and power transmission lines. Co-deployment and sharing of infrastructure have numerous economic benefits and enable the efficient use of limited resources. There are 62 land borders between UN ESCAP Member-States in Asia and the Pacific with a total length of more than 75,000 km where more than 100 Integrated Infrastructure Corridors, including in LDCs and LLDCs, exist or can be developed.

Considering these benefits, some ESCAP member States, from the LDCs and LLDCs such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia, actively participated in the implementation of ICT infrastructure co-deployment. For example, in Bhutan (both an LDC and LLDC), there were significant cost savings on the installation of fibre-optic cables over transmission power lines, since minimal civil works were required, and the rights of way were already granted. Furthermore, the time required to begin network operations was significantly reduced and the damage to the natural environment was minimal. In Bangladesh (an LDC), special guidelines for infrastructure sharing were developed by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

The experience in Bangladesh and Bhutan were then shared and promoted through a series of capacity-building workshops and South-South exchanges with key stakeholders from Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan (LLDCs) as pilot countries. Other countries from the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), like Afghanistan (LDC/LLDC), would leverage from these toolkits, outputs, and best practices. The outcomes could be justified and incorporated within their respective co-deployment strategies, in order to seize more opportunities for sustainable projects in the future.

In 2021, ESCAP launched a new Web Toolkit that targeted the Integrated Planning of Infrastructure Corridors. The toolkit consists of two innovative products designed to provide potential solutions: the Infrastructure Corridors Simulator and the Partnership Portal on Co-deployment of ICT infrastructure with road-transport and energy infrastructure. First, the simulation tool determines the most appropriate model for the development of new Integrated Infrastructure Corridors and it draws from knowledge products, which include in-depth research and methodologies for identifying and developing promising infrastructure corridors. It also includes the software for implementation of the model. Second, the Partnership Portal supports ICT infrastructure co-deployment with road transport and energy infrastructure. It provides developers and owners of ICT, roads, railways, and energy infrastructure and other stakeholders with an opportunity to explore the knowledge base on co-deployment of infrastructure and create partnerships and cooperation networks.

Both parts of the Web-Toolkit are actively supported via a network of international and national experts and through a series of training and constant updates that make the solution sustainable in the long term. Currently, this solution has been tested to calculate three infrastructure corridors that connect Almaty (Kazakhstan) with Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan), Semey (Kazakhstan) with Rubtsovsk (Russia), and Urzhar (Kazakhstan) with Chuguchak (China). However, the solution is easily replicable and can be adapted for LDCs and LLDCs and other countries in the world, using the parametric data inputs in the system.

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# Mozambique-China Post Disaster Restoration after Cyclone Idai



## Restoration for building back better



### CHALLENGE

On 14 March 2019, Intense Tropical Cyclone Idai, equivalent to a category 4 hurricane, struck provinces in Mozambique violently with tempestuous gales and heavy downpours, causing widespread destruction to houses, communities and livelihoods. According to a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 65 percent of the buildings in Beira City, Sofala Province were destroyed, and over 103 out of 235 schools were affected. The loss caused by Idai is estimated to be over US\$1.4 billion in total. In addition to the damage to infrastructure and the disruption to people's livelihoods, the pre-existing vulnerabilities of the affected areas, including poverty, social inequality and frequent epidemics, brought even more challenges to the post-disaster recovery.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Since 2019, UNDP has been working with the Government of China and the Government of Mozambique at the national and local levels to enhance the resilient recovery efforts for the affected population in Sofala Province through South-South Cooperation. With strong support from China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF), the Mozambique-China Post Disaster Restoration Initiative after the impact of Cyclone Idai focuses on the rehabilitation of community infrastructure, including schools and markets, as well as the construction of new housing units for the most affected households. The initiative has contributed to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 4 (Quality Education). It has also contributed to Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas 5 (Human and social development) and 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges).

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) China

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

China, Mozambique

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 6

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

4.a, 9.a

#### SUPPORTED BY

China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP Mozambique

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

October 2019 – October 2021

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3EBtziG>

For the purpose of effective intervention, a comprehensive methodology was applied during the project implementation. UNDP first conducted the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) to evaluate the impact of Cyclone Idai on different socio-economic sectors, institutions and households. Based on the results of the assessment and a uniform set of criteria, the most vulnerable households and infrastructure were selected, including eight schools, three markets and 17 households. Once selected, all of these buildings started the process of construction with Building Back Better (BBB) standards and climate-resilient construction methods, so as to reduce the vulnerability of target groups to future climate-related extreme weather events. To ensure active and inclusive involvement of local communities, a significant amount of work was conducted with local resources, including local contractors. A gender lens was also employed to ensure the participation of female local contractors, and that the specific needs of girls in schools and women beneficiaries would be met.

Following continuous efforts by implementation agencies and project partners, the resilient refurbishment of eight schools, three markets and 17 new housing units is currently at the final stage. By the end of the project, when all the resilient construction is completed, an estimated 25,483 beneficiaries will have been reached in total. This joint response between UNDP, the Government of China and the Government of Mozambique through South-South Cooperation has served as a strong model of cooperative assistance after the cyclone emergency.

A critical element to the success of the initiative is the close collaboration between partners from both China and Mozambique throughout the project. With strong support from the UNDP China office in coordination and monitoring, close liaison between the Government of China and the UNDP Mozambique office has been established to ensure the effective implementation of the project. Also, as the executing agent of the project, UNDP Mozambique manages and monitors the progress of the project, and works collaboratively with the Cabinet for Post-Cyclone Reconstruction (GREPOC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC), the Ministry of Education and Human Development and other key government entities in Mozambique. Through this cooperation mechanism, timely coordination is ensured on project progress and challenges encountered.

The project is an example of good practice that is sustainable and replicable. Given that Mozambique is not the only country hit by recurrent cyclones, two other post-disaster recovery projects, also supported by China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, are also currently under implementation in Zimbabwe and Malawi. In order to co-share the experience on resilient recovery among three countries, UNDP facilitates periodic communication and promotes mutual learning among the relevant countries. Not only are videos, photographs, press releases, and beneficiary stories on the project's progress disseminated through social media and other media channels, but also meetings are regularly held to conclude and share the experience of overcoming post-disaster recovery challenges.



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## Accelerating the design and implementation of inclusive digital economy policies

### CHALLENGE

Women still lag behind men in usage of financial services. In 2017, only 59 percent of women had a formal bank account, compared to 67 percent of men.<sup>1</sup> That meant women are missing out on the benefits of financial inclusion, and national economies are not benefiting from their participation.

The lack of enabling regulation hampers women's financial inclusion and the overcoming of this gender gap. A deep understanding of the specific constraints that low-income women face in accessing and using financial services is necessary to design inclusive policy frameworks. Barriers include limited financial capability; lack of assets to borrow money; geographical distance from a financial institution; lack of formal identification and limited ownership of mobile phones. While there is no one-size-fits-all policy prescription, some of these barriers can be alleviated with an appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional framework and a supportive environment.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Policy Accelerator programme is collaborating with central banks in more than 20 LDCs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific to create the conditions in which digital financial services can benefit everyone. These include Bangladesh, Mauritania, Malawi, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Uganda, among others. The Policy Accelerator team works directly with central banks to provide open and transparent technical assistance that improves the use of digital financial services, especially for the most marginalized members of society. UNCDF provides technical assessments, capacity building, market consultation, and other services that collectively accelerate the policy design process.

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/322olzd>

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mauritania, Malaysia, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, France

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.a, 10.5, 17.14

#### SUPPORTED BY

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, French Ministry of Finance, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), European Commission and the Organization of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), Women's World Banking, Data2X, Digital Frontiers Institute, African Development Bank, CGAP, Tufts University Fletcher School, The Better than Cash Alliance, Alliance for Financial Inclusion, United Nations Secretary General's Special Advocate for Financial Inclusion

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

January 2018 – December 2024

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://policyaccelerator.uncdf.org/>



The collaboration in Mauritania and Sierra Leone exemplifies the Policy Accelerator's work. Mauritania <sup>2</sup> sought support to develop a licensing arrangement for non-bank financial service providers. Sierra Leone <sup>3</sup> was developing a consumer protection regulation that required consultation with customers and broad harmonization across other legal statutes. In both cases, the Policy Accelerator worked closely with the central bank to accelerate enabling reforms.

Importantly, the Policy Accelerator works closely with other development partners so central bank counterparts benefit from higher quality, better coordinated support. In Ethiopia<sup>4</sup>, the Policy Accelerator worked with the World Bank, Better Than Cash Alliance and H.M. Queen Máxima of the Netherlands to support the country's Central Bank in developing several intersecting legal reforms for inclusive finance.

The initiative contributes to SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). It also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity), 5 (Human and social development), 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building) and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

Currently, there are several intersecting multi-year projects<sup>5</sup> that serve as the foundation of the project portfolio of the Policy Accelerator. These are:

- ▶ The Africa Policy Accelerator, a collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, with a specific focus on the basic regulatory enablers for digital financial services (DFS) in African markets. By 2023, the Africa Policy Accelerator will have improved the regulatory environment for inclusive DFS in 14 African countries and trained over 100 regulators to prepare for future change.
- ▶ The G7 Partnership<sup>6</sup> for Women's Digital Financial Inclusion in Africa, a collaboration with the G7 and the Ministry of Finance of France. By 2024, the Policy Accelerator will have facilitated gender-intentional policy reform in key francophone African countries, such as Cameroon, Gabon, and Senegal, while also developing an advisory group of women leaders<sup>7</sup> to champion ongoing change.
- ▶ DFS4 Resilience, a collaboration with the European Commission and the Organization of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), with a focus on inclusive digital finance as COVID-19 recovery and resilience. UNCDF's Policy Accelerator will support key policy reforms for digital transformation, tailored to the needs of women and young people, including innovative savings products and credit.

2 <https://policyaccelerator.uncdf.org/whats-new/mauritania-regulatory-framework>  
3 <https://policyaccelerator.uncdf.org/whats-new/bank-sierra-leones-consumer-protection>  
4 <https://policyaccelerator.uncdf.org/whats-new/financial-inclusion-ethiopia>  
5 <https://policyaccelerator.uncdf.org/projects>  
6 <https://policyaccelerator.uncdf.org/projects#g7>  
7 <https://policyaccelerator.uncdf.org/whats-new/increase-financial-inclusion-women-central-africa-voices>

In addition to working directly with governments, the Policy Accelerator Toolkit is available online in an interactive digital format that can be used, replicated, and adapted by policymakers to fit the needs of their market. The practical guides for each step in the policy design process help take a systematic and inclusive approach to design digital financial services regulation. This platform was initially designed as a response to COVID travel restrictions and has emerged as a critical lifeline for UNCDF's network of technical experts. A key lesson learned is the power of such digital tools to unlock transparent and empowering technical assistance.

Another lesson has been the universal need for innovative capacity building, specifically around consumer protection regulation. The Policy Accelerator team developed a programme with the Fletcher School at Tufts University to bring together policymakers in Egypt to co-learn about policy solutions with a focus on consumer protection. Virtual South-South exchange visits between central banks have also proven to be an effective tool for improving capacity and knowledge. The Bank of Sierra Leone and the Bank of Malaysia collaborated on a virtual visit to share their respective consumer protection supervision approaches. As a result of these engagements, Egypt has fostered stronger public sector alignment through a common vision and training experience. Meanwhile, Sierra Leone has identified concrete solutions from direct engagement with peers, and Malaysia has tested and validated its supervision models by observing its utility in a new context.

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# Contribution to a Training Model for Firefighters in Haiti



Ensuring emergency response personnel have certified and standardized competencies



## CHALLENGE

Haiti is exposed to a wide spectrum of natural disasters such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and landslides. Although many Caribbean countries are exposed to the same threats, the potential destruction and loss of life and livelihood is not comparable with the level of devastation that Haiti regularly experiences. The physical, social, economic, and environmental conditions in Haiti, the only least developed country (LDC) in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, create a vicious cycle that renders it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. The National Police of Haiti has the function of extinguishing fires and executing rescues during and after natural disasters. However, they lack the equipment, training and capacity to deal with such emergencies.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address this challenge, a decree was issued to reorganize the fire service in Haiti, merging functions carried out by the police and volunteer firefighters who respond to local emergencies. In 2017, the Government of Chile received a request from the President of Haiti to strengthen the country's capacity to manage and respond to natural disasters.

An exploratory mission carried out by Chilean experts in Haiti identified actions to improve public response to emergencies and in 2018, a programme was created to strengthen capacities, through three projects:

- Basic and advanced training: including specialities and instructors for beginner and operational levels.
- Instructors and administrators for the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) course for the National Civil Protection System of Haiti
- Basic and Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS) and trainers for personnel of organizations of the Haitian civil protection network.

### NOMINATED BY

Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation (AGCID)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Chile, Haiti

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 6

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

11.b, 17.9

### SUPPORTED BY

AGCID, Academia de Bomberos de Chile (Chilean Firefighters Academy)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Academia de Bomberos de Chile

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – Ongoing

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.agci.cl/>

The programme aims to generate a training model for firefighters in Haiti through the creation of an academy and to ensure the presence of emergency response personnel with certified and standardized competencies throughout the country. Specific objectives of the programme include:

- ▶ Training Haitian firefighters, including beginner, operational and professional firefighter levels;
- ▶ Training firefighters in vehicle rescue, urban rescue and bomb corps operation specialties;
- ▶ Training firefighters on the methodology course to become instructors;
- ▶ Enabling instructors to teach all levels of beginner and operational firefighter training in Haiti;
- ▶ Delivering all the teaching material (manuals, guides, presentations, evaluations) of the beginner and operational firefighter levels translated into French and with authorization to be used in firefighter training.

In 2020, a team of 10 people from the Haitian police and firefighters were trained for two months in Chile, with a view to becoming instructors and training other nationals as firefighters upon their return to Haiti. That delegation included three female volunteers who became Haiti's first female firefighter instructors. Their role will be to train firefighters back in Port-au-Prince and strengthen their capacity to face various emergency situations. This training offered knowledge at three levels: beginner, operational and professional firefighter, and included specialties of vehicular rescue, urban rescue and fire department operation as well as tools for taking this knowledge forward.

While the programme was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the process is expected to continue with another 24 Haitians to be trained as firefighters at the beginner and operational levels, accompanied at first by Chilean firefighters, and then continuing independently. The programme is part of the thematic axis of South-South Cooperation in disaster management promoted by Chile, with a focus on training of trainers, as a hallmark component of knowledge transfer.

The programme contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 5 (Human and social development) and 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges). The focus on training of trainers and ensuring the knowledge transfer is continued ensures the sustainability and impacts of the programme. The initiative can be readily replicated in other relevant contexts.



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## Strengthening Member States’ ability to prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity as a result of conflicts and disasters

### CHALLENGE

World Heritage properties and cultural and natural heritage resources, including intangible expressions, are increasingly affected by disasters and conflict situations throughout the world. These threats to cultural heritage can result from a variety of underlying factors, including natural hazards, climate change and political instability, which often reinforce each other.

Many countries, especially, least developed countries (LDCs), are both unaware of the risks affecting their heritage and unprepared to address them. Typically, heritage site managers are preoccupied with day-to-day issues, or with raising funds for ongoing restoration or conservation work. Little opportunity or leeway is provided for disaster risk management concerns and even less for possible situations of armed conflict. Despite preparation for potential disasters, they do often occur and inflict considerable damage.

Once disaster strikes, the capacity to respond quickly is often lacking. This results in lost opportunities to control and reduce the extent of the damage. When a disaster occurs or when conflict situations arise, heritage is indeed often exposed to greater and unforeseen risks, which may lead to catastrophic consequences, unless immediate safeguarding measures are taken. These risks include the collapse of destabilized structures, the looting of materials or collections and the loss of precious archival records.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In order to be able to assist governments in responding to the critical situations mentioned above and in managing disaster and conflict-related risks to their heritage, the UNESCO established the Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF).

#### NOMINATED BY

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

LDCs, LMICs in emergency contexts, Qatar

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

5, 6

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

11.4, 13.1, 17.9, 17.16, 17.17

#### SUPPORTED BY

QFFD

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2015 – Ongoing



It is a multi-donor and non-earmarked funding mechanism established in 2015 to enable organizations to respond quickly and effectively to crises resulting from armed conflicts and disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards all over the world, with the Qatar Fund for Development as a co-founder. The Fund supports activities in UNESCO Member States, focusing in particular on: LDCs as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy; Lower-middle-income Countries as defined by the World Bank; Level 3 emergencies as designated by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) in consultation with the Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC); and countries where a mission coordinated by the United Nations Department of Peace-Keeping Operations (UNDPKO) is based.

The Fund contributes to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It also contributes to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) priority areas 5 (Human and social development) and 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges).

The Fund works on helping Member States prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity in emergencies and by advocating for the incorporation of the protection of culture into humanitarian action, security strategies and peace-building processes, including by harnessing the potential of culture to strengthen resilience and support recovery.

The Fund finances activities in the area of emergency preparedness and response within the domains of the UNESCO Culture Conventions. This includes immovable cultural and natural heritage, movable cultural heritage, cultural repositories, underwater cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural goods.

HEF fills a strategic gap, as it supports critical interventions that rely upon funding immediately available and in standby and that in consequence cannot be sustained under traditional financing mechanisms, which are based on time-consuming planning processes. By filling this gap, the HEF acts as a catalyst for further funding, as those interventions provide the necessary baseline information for the development of recovery projects.

The programme supports short-term small-scale activities in three main areas:

## 1. Preparedness

Typical activities include:

- ▶ Provision of technical assistance for the implementation of emergency preparedness and risk mitigation interventions on cultural heritage and diversity
- ▶ Development of capacity-reinforcement materials on the implementation of emergency preparedness and risk mitigation interventions on cultural heritage and diversity

- ▶ Organization of training workshops in different Regions, on the implementation of emergency preparedness and risk mitigation interventions on cultural heritage and diversity, for professionals in cultural heritage as well as disaster risk reduction, crisis response and emergency management, including women
- ▶ Development of studies on cultural heritage and diversity in emergencies
- ▶ Development or update and dissemination of awareness-raising materials on culture in emergencies
- ▶ Advocacy for the importance to protect and promote cultural heritage and diversity in emergencies at information and statutory meetings, or promotional and fund-raising events.

## 2. Response

Activities in the context of response include:

- ▶ Deployment of rapid assessment and advisory missions, including Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) and Recovery and Peace-Building Assessments (RPBA)
- ▶ Implementation of urgent interventions on the ground
- ▶ Implementation of Post-Conflict or Post-Disaster training activities targeting professionals in cultural heritage as well as disaster risk management, crisis response and emergency management, including women
- ▶ Temporary staff support to UNESCO Field Offices for emergency response.

## 3. Mobilization of resources

- ▶ Development or update and dissemination of promotional and fund-raising materials related to the Heritage Emergency Fund

The Fund provided assistance to a number of LDCs. For example, in Nepal, the HEF provided technical assistance on a number of ongoing restoration projects after the devastating earthquake in 2015. This also included the hiring of specialists including restoration architects, IT professionals, structural engineers, conservation specialists and archaeologists, among others – to undertake the implementation of key activities in support of the post-earthquake recovery process. In Yemen, the Fund also supported the emergency monitoring via satellite imagery of cultural heritage sites to assess and analyse the damage.

The HEF fulfilled its mandate to support critical interventions that cannot be sustained under traditional financing mechanisms. The Fund notably demonstrated its added value by filling a strategic gap: covering the critical needs that arise between the occurrence of an emergency and the implementation of long-term recovery projects, through short-term, first-aid activities.

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# Municipal Investment Finance (MIF)



## Municipal credit rating assessment in Bangladesh and Nepal

### CHALLENGE

Key development challenges faced by least developed countries (LDCs) include managing increasing urbanization and municipalities' access to sustainable sources of capital financing. Achieving SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) requires a sustainable flow of resources. Urban local governments in the LDCs need access to finance for investing in service and revenue generating projects for its citizens. Access to domestic commercial finance can be an alternative source of infrastructure investment. There are a number of market instruments for municipal borrowing. However, infrastructure financing needs long-term borrowing, which can be possible by issuing municipal bonds to raise funds from the market.

Urbanization provides South Asian countries with the potential to transform their economies to join the ranks of richer nations in both prosperity and liveability. However, providing quality jobs, housing, urban infrastructure and public services for increased urban population and supporting sustainable development of the region's large metropolitan areas would be a significant fiscal challenge for many governments.

For countries in the graduation process from LDC status, such as Bangladesh and Nepal, strengthening domestic resource mobilization to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection and mobilizing additional financial resources from multiple sources are essential to ensure sustainable sources of capital finance for urban infrastructure development and structural transformation.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The key purpose of a municipal bond is to raise funds in the market to finance municipal infrastructure. To address the above challenge, municipalities and sub-sovereign entities need to improve their financial management as per commercial standards to earn the confidence of market investors for investing in financial instruments such as municipal bonds. A World Bank study found that only a

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Nepal

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 6, 7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

11.3, 17.1, 17.3

#### SUPPORTED BY

Selected municipalities in Bangladesh and Nepal

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund, Town Development Fund, Nepal

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2016 – 2022

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/mif>

small percentage of the 500 largest cities in developing countries could be deemed creditworthy—about 4 percent in international financial markets and 20 percent in local markets.<sup>1</sup>

With the aim of piloting the issuance of municipal bonds and subnational debt financing in Bangladesh and Nepal, a municipal credit rating methodology was developed by UNCDF. The credit quality, diversity, and concentration of loans of municipalities are essentially the credit quality of the municipalities who are the underlying and eventual obligors to potential investors in municipal bonds, both institutional and individual. This will help in achieving SDG 11, target 11.3 on enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization. This will also help in strengthening domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection (SDG 17, target 17.1) and mobilizing additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources (Target 17.3). Similarly, this would also facilitate in achieving Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority 7 in Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building while facilitating Priority 8 - Good governance at all levels.

Using the methodology, credit ratings were assigned to ten A-grade municipalities in Bangladesh and five municipalities in Nepal. In Bangladesh, nine of the ten municipalities received an investment grade from a commercial credit rating agency. In Nepal, the assessment was used as a baseline for the five pilot municipalities to internalize their areas of strengths and gaps to build on to attract investments from financial institutions in future.

While developing the credit rating assessment methodology, a participatory process was followed in both countries. In Bangladesh, the finance executives and engineers of municipalities and local partner Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund were trained on municipal creditworthiness and credit rating methodology. Following the training, the trained personnel supported the process of developing a municipal credit rating methodology and actual credit rating of municipalities was done. In Nepal, the UNCDF and the Town Development Fund oriented 10 municipalities on alternative sources of finance and on credit rating assessments of subnational governments, following which five pilot municipalities shared their expression of interest to partake in the credit rating scoring assessment.

Drawing on the lessons and process followed in Bangladesh on municipal credit rating, UNCDF Nepal partnered with the Town Development Fund, used the methodology applied in Bangladesh and contextualized it to fit the assessment of municipalities in Nepal. The respective offices of South-South cooperation in the countries were informed of the good practice replicated in two countries. The credit rating scoring assessment process has helped provide evidence-based assessment of the financial strength of municipalities and identify gaps that municipalities need to address to access long-term debt required to finance municipal infrastructures in Nepal. The process has also supported the Town Development Fund and UNCDF to orient and sensitize municipalities to broaden the scope beyond grants for municipal investment finance.

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/3nv9W6n>

The practice was innovative because municipalities of Bangladesh and Nepal were rated and assessed for their creditworthiness for market financing. Banks like Standard Chartered and CITI NA showed interest for the first time in investing in municipal infrastructure. They expressed interest in issuing municipal bonds as one of the new financial products. While national large-scale infrastructures are being financed by loans, supplier credit and bonds, municipal credit rating will open opportunities for municipal infrastructure financing by international private sector investors. This will create an advantage for graduating LDCs in attracting foreign private investment in municipal infrastructure financing.

The government of Bangladesh in its National Urban Development Policy has included bonds as one of the financing tools for municipal infrastructure, which will require a credit rating. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has permitted one city corporation to issue a project-specific municipal bond and UNCDF is in discussion with that city corporation to offer the credit rating support for the bond and the municipality. In Nepal, technical assistance is being provided to support pilot municipalities in strengthening areas identified in the municipal credit rating scoring assessment and extend support to the Town Development Fund to leverage funds from the market to finance municipal infrastructure.

To further promote South-South cooperation in the LDCs, UNCDF, through its global Municipal Investment Finance programme, has already started applying the municipal credit rating process and tools in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. UNCDF is facilitating the knowledge exchange between these countries and applying the lessons learned from Asia to Africa including:

- ▶ Municipal credit rating has some common elements but needs to be locally contextualized.
- ▶ Contribution and participation of the municipalities and key institutions such as municipal development banks that finance municipalities are essential to build ownership.

The participatory approach has made municipalities aware of financial processes and products available in the market. They have understood that dependency on municipal tax or inter-government fiscal transfer cannot ensure financing for service infrastructures. When investable resources are available in the market, preparing and building capacity to capture those resources can be helpful for them to face the challenge of post-LDC graduation and achieve the SDGs. Thus, a change in mindset of subnational governments has taken place on alternative sources of financing for municipal investments and areas to build on to access such funds to achieve SDGs at the local level.

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# The Regional Pacific Green Entrepreneurs Network (PGEN)



Offering green sustainable jobs that have long-term positive effects on the Pacific community

## CHALLENGE

Climate change represents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and well-being of the Pacific region and its people. In particular, the region is continuously affected by climate change threats that challenge sustainable development progress. Pacific islanders have huge economic and cultural significance, with economies centred on the oceans and agriculture. However, the risk of losing land and their exclusive economic zones due to climate change continues to create bigger challenges, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To address the above challenge, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) launched the Pacific Green Entrepreneurs Network (PGEN), which aims at enhancing community resilience through building local capacities of small island developing states and least developed countries (LDCs) by promoting mitigation and adaptation solutions to climate change. It is a multi-year, multimillion-dollar programme funded by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) to support entrepreneurs in Kiribati, an LDC, and other countries in the Pacific such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. The project contributes to SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). The project is also contributing to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priorities 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development); 3 (Trade); 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges) and 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building).

PGEN is a 3-year project, which aims to promote green and inclusive job growth by supporting entrepreneurs (particularly women and youth) in developing their green and sustainable businesses whose business models include solutions aimed at contributing to their country's climate and sustainable development

### NOMINATED BY

Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Fiji, Kiribati, Qatar, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

2, 3, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

8.3,8.4,8.5, 8.6, 13.1,13.3

### SUPPORTED BY

QFFD

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Global Green Growth Institute

### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

### PROJECT PERIOD

August 2021 – August 2024

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3sAMUhw>



goals. Overall, the initiative is targeted at directly facilitating the creation of 3,130 green jobs in the countries over a 13-year period, and indirectly improving the lives of over 12,520 people in those employees' households. The three main components of PGEN are the Regional Ecosystem, Greenpreneurs Incubator and Greenpreneurs Accelerator programmes.

The programme works with local institutions supporting green entrepreneurship at the national level and supporting entrepreneurship in the region, through networking and knowledge-sharing events in collaboration with stakeholders in the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region.

The incubator programme targets existing innovative early-stage green micro, small, and medium-enterprises (MSMEs) with demonstrated growth potential that are still in pursuit of a scalable and repeatable business model through localized virtual and physical training and courses, a mentorship programme, in-person events, and networking opportunities. Successful entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to participate in a business competition to secure grant seed fund capital of US\$ 5,000.

The incubator programme will consist of the following activities:

- ▶ 360 early-stage entrepreneurs
- ▶ Annual training programmes
- ▶ Pitch competition
- ▶ US\$ 5,000 seeds grants
- ▶ Local mentorship programme

The accelerator programme will consist of the following activities:

- ▶ 16 growth stage entrepreneurs
- ▶ Networking & pitch events
- ▶ Local mentorship programmes
- ▶ Training programme
- ▶ Repayable grants up to US\$ 50,000

The accelerator programme will target high-potential green enterprises in growth stage and offer interest-free loans in amounts up to US\$ 50,000 as well as a structured programme for providing links with investors, training and mentorship programme, in-person events, and networking opportunities.

Greenpreneurs incubator and accelerator participants will also have the opportunity in year 3 of the project to be selected to participate in an exchange visit to Qatar to visit and engage with Qatari businesses in the green sector.

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# Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)



## Financing for locally led adaptation

### CHALLENGE

Communities in least developed countries (LDCs) contribute the least to the world's climate change crisis, yet they are bearing the brunt of the fallout. Local governments in LDCs face several obstacles to addressing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 (Climate Action) and building the climate adaptation and resilience of their constituencies, including:

- ▶ insufficient resources and budgetary allocations from the national level, leading to unfunded mandates for action;
- ▶ weak or inadequate institutional capacities to deal with climate change issues;
- ▶ difficulty accessing climate finance, which is often only available through national or international structures and funds.

Addressing these issues requires mechanisms that enhance the effectiveness of adaptation finance at the subnational level, including accountability, building the capacity of local stakeholders, increasing ownership and participation of local communities, and strengthening transparency and accountability. This must ultimately empower local governments and their communities to contribute towards Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plan implementation and address asymmetries, in particular gender inequality.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

A standard, internationally recognized mechanism designed and hosted by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) promotes climate change resilient communities and local economies, helping local governments and their communities in LDCs to access the finance and assistance they need to adapt to climate change and deliver on SDG 13, as well as SDGs 1 (No Poverty) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Jamaica, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, São Tomé and Príncipe, Solomon Islands, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Zambia

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.5, 1.a, 1.b, 11.3, 11.b, 11.c, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.a, 13.b

#### SUPPORTED BY

European Union, Sweden, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNCDF, NDC-Partnership, Italy, Republic of Korea, Belgium, Benin, Mali, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Local Government of Catalonia, Spain

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Ministries of local government, finance and environment and climate change

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

2014 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/local/homepage>

LoCAL also supports LDCs in achieving the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity), 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), 5 (Human and social development), 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges), 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building) and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

The LoCAL facility increases awareness and capacities, integrates climate change into local government planning and budgeting in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner and increases the financing available for locally led adaptation. It combines performance-based climate resilience grants (PBCRGs) – which ensure programming and verification of climate change expenditures at the local level and offer strong incentives for performance improvements in enhanced resilience – with technical and capacity-building support. PBCRGs are channelled through existing fiscal transfer mechanisms in the countries where LoCAL is involved, thereby strengthening national appropriation and accountability. By being disbursed as part of a local government's regular budget, PBCRGs can finance the adaptation element of larger interventions, allowing for holistic responses to climate change and/or for climate specific measures. The grants support local governments in maximizing existing revenue streams, while also facilitating access through national governments to new sustainable sources of funding, such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund.

Building on experience from the two earlier LoCAL pilot countries, Cambodia and Bhutan, from 2012 to 2014, LoCAL is now engaged in 29 countries worldwide, mostly LDCs – Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Gambia, Guinea, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia – and has mobilized over US\$ 125 million to finance more than 1,660 locally led adaptation investments, benefiting some 11.5 million people in 304 local government areas.<sup>1</sup>

All LoCAL countries are part of a South-South networking platform, with member states taking an active part in the LoCAL Board, putting South-South and triangular cooperation into the very fabric of the LoCAL facility. The LoCAL Board defines and must collectively agree on the future priorities of the LoCAL mechanism. Experience from participating countries is shared among all participants, creating a virtuous circle of learning and development. In 2018, LoCAL member countries set the vision for LoCAL to be “a standard and recognized country-based mechanism” for developing countries, LDCs, SIDS and African nations, in support of access to climate finance for resilience at the local level. This process resulted in the UNFCCC's LDC Expert Group endorsement of the LoCAL experience as supplementary material to the National Adaptation Plans (NAP) Technical Guidelines of the UNFCCC; the recognition of LoCAL by the NAP Technical working Group, Adaptation Committee and Standing Committee of Finance of the UNFCCC; the initiation of a process to develop the PBCRGs as a Standard under the International Organization for Standardization, and the development of LoCAL training courses.

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/33EPitg>



LoCAL's use of performance-based climate resilience grants is innovative as it rewards improvement, learning and good practice. For local governments to be eligible for the grants, they must meet and remain in compliance with a set of minimum conditions that ensure a certain level of capacity is in place to handle the funds and that they are adequately used year to year. Performance measures are applied through an annual assessment to incentivize local governments to meet climate change adaptation objectives. This makes the individuals and institutions involved stronger and better able to drive investment in green and resilient economies.

The LoCAL model works because it is systemic and scalable and uses existing country systems. It is flexible and sustainable because it is tailored to local circumstances, yet standardized in its design, quality assurance, monitoring and reporting. The LoCAL facility supports prospective countries in designing and further deploying the LoCAL mechanism, upon official request by governments.

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# Integrated Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods



Empowering communities in the Mount Elgon region of Uganda to manage their production landscapes for improved livelihoods and ecosystem resilience

## CHALLENGE

Located on the Uganda-Kenya border, Mount Elgon has the widest volcanic base in the world and is the oldest and largest solitary volcanic mountain in East Africa. Mount Elgon offers a variety of ecosystem goods and services essential to the livelihoods of the rural communities settled there. However, the ability of the ecosystem to continue providing these goods and services has been substantially diminished. This is mostly due to land degradation driven by insecure land tenure, overexploitation of natural resources, use of unsustainable agricultural practices, soil erosion, lack of integrated land-use planning and deforestation to create land for agriculture and settlement for the growing population. All these factors are exacerbated by climate change, jeopardizing the livelihoods and economic activities of the communities that depend on Mount Elgon's agricultural landscape.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The Integrated Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods project supported the transformative shift from unsustainable to integrated sustainable land management in the Mount Elgon region of Uganda. It sought to systematically reduce land degradation and risks of nature-induced disasters (notably floods and mudslides), whose economic losses can be significant. The project followed a landscape approach, whereby integrated land use management practices were reinforced by gender-responsive resource management principles and by an enabling environment (bylaws and ordinances) developed through community participation. This project has contributed to SDGs 1, 13 and 15, as well as Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 5, 6 and 7.

The project was implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda and the District Governments of Bulambuli, Manafwa

### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Germany, Kenya, Uganda

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 2, 5, 6, 7

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.4, 1.5, 1.a, 13.1, 13.3, 13.b, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4

### SUPPORTED BY

Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP, District Government of Bulambuli, District Government of Manafwa, District Government of Mbale, Uganda's National Forest Authority, Government of Uganda (Operation Wealth Creation), Uganda Coffee Development Authority, Office of the Prime Minister (Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund), ECOTRUST, Uganda Women Environment Project, Mount Elgon Tree Planting Project, Kyagalanyi Coffee Limited, UNEP (UN-REDD Programme), Government of Germany (Low Emission Capacity Building project), European Union (Low Emission Capacity Building project)

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, District Government of Bulambuli, District Government of Manafwa, District Government of Mbale

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2017 – 2020

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/12638>



and Mbale. The project received support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the National Forest Authority of Uganda, the Government of Uganda (Operation Wealth Creation), the Coffee Development Authority of Uganda, the Office of the Prime Minister (Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund), ECOTRUST, the Uganda Women Environment Project, the Mount Elgon Tree Planting Project, Kyagalanyi Coffee Limited, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN-REDD Programme, the Government of Germany and the European Union (Low Emission Capacity Building Programme).

Project activities included a South-South learning visit to the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund Project in Kenya, attended by Ugandan farmers and technical officers from district governments and from ministries of the national inter-ministerial committee on sustainable land management. The host introduced the participants to Kenyan farmers involved in fish production, fruit tree nurseries and coffee irrigation, and to the project partners overseeing and providing technical support and services to the related value-chain players (World Agroforestry (ICRAF), the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, the Kenya Water Resource Authority and the Kenya National Roads Authority).

During the visit, the Ugandan farmers learned that in the mountain areas they can channel runoff water from roads into cheaply made water reservoirs reinforced with polythene dam liners. They can then use the water for fish and yam production, while protecting the soil from landslides by planting bamboo around the reservoirs. The bamboo later provides good charcoal for household use and for income generation. Up to now, three groups of farmers (each with 25 members, half of whom are women) are implementing the lessons learned around three water reservoirs. In addition, Self Help Africa, an indigenous NGO working in Mount Muhabura in Southwestern Uganda, supported 52 farmers (including 29 women) to attend a learning event in the Mount Elgon region, focusing on community-level methods used to halt land degradation and landslides.

To avert climate change effects (notably a higher incidence of heavy rains leading to floods and mudslides), the project established 1,142 kilometres of contour bunds (embankments), 525 kilometres of grass bunds, 30 kilometres of stone bunds, 44 hectares of woodlots, 330 hectares of agroforestry (mainly fruit and fuelwood), 30 kilometres of bamboo rows and 50 kilometres of hedgerows in the districts bordering Mount Elgon (Sironko, Mbale, Manafwa and Bulambuli). The planting of Napier grass and Calliandra on contour bunds reduces soil erosion while increasing fodder available for livestock. Alongside the use of composite manure, these practices improved soil fertility and water retention capacity. The project also constructed 3,150 energy-saving stoves, contributing to reductions in the firewood used by the communities for cooking. Furthermore, the establishment of 33 demonstration plots of coffee-banana systems showcase and support the uptake of sustainable land and forestry management, climate-change mitigation technologies and household level approaches.



These initiatives are easily replicable as they require accessible materials and can be carried out by local community members who benefit from the activities through increased availability of food and income.

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# Accelerating the Implementation of African Union Treaties in São Tomé and Príncipe



South-South learning from the Beninese judicial system's experience in the application of human rights treaties to its national law

## CHALLENGE

The judiciary in São Tomé and Príncipe has been building the necessary skills and knowledge to implement the principles and norms embodied in the international human rights treaties it has signed, in general, and, more specifically, those enshrined as part of its obligations under African Union Treaties. Therefore, the country and its judges, prosecutors and lawyers are working to implement the interpretation and application of international human rights documents into their daily routine, which would allow to further harmonize and implement in the country's legal structure, through its internal judicial system, the legal provisions contained in international treaties.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

In the framework of the joint African Union-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, "Accelerating the Ratification and Domestication of African Union Treaties" was a regional initiative supported by the Government of Sweden, anchored in the UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa and implemented by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa. This South-South cooperation initiative contributes to SDGs 5 and 16, as well as to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Area 8.

A familiarization visit to Benin by members of São Tomé and Príncipe's judicial bodies took place in December 2019. The main objective of this three-day South-South exchange visit was to promote the exchange of Beninese good practices in dealing with and interpreting cases based on ratified African Union human rights treaties by gathering inputs in the "domestication" (meaning application to the home country) and implementation of regional treaties. This initiative was implemented by the Government of Benin, the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe and UNDP country offices in São Tomé and Príncipe and Benin.



### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Benin, São Tomé and Príncipe

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

5.5, 16.3, 16.6

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Sweden, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

Government of São Tomé and Príncipe, Government of Benin, UNDP Benin, UNDP São Tomé and Príncipe

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

2018 – 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3EvtX2k>

The São Tomé and Príncipe delegation was composed of judges representing the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, as well as a prosecutor. The programme of the visit was drawn up jointly by the two countries with UNDP support. Benin accepted the Court's jurisdiction to receive complaints brought by individuals and NGOs with observer status before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on 8 February 2016. The country's judiciary has earned significant and important experience in human rights cases as a result of the individual access of citizens to the direct implementation of African Union treaties.

The Santomean delegation had working sessions involving several Beninese entities, including authorities in charge of penitentiary administration, of human-rights protection and of supervised education and social protection of minors, as well as the Cotonou Court, the Cotonou Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court.

The exchange of experiences enabled the São Tomé and Príncipe representatives to familiarize themselves with how human rights violations claimed by common citizens are legally addressed in compliance with ratified African Union treaties. The visit helped raise awareness among the judges on the importance of fulfilling their international commitments, in view of their key law enforcement role.

To ensure the sustainability of the initiative and the achievement of practical results in terms of democratic governance and rule of law, the project is supporting São Tomé and Príncipe to create a favourable environment for good practices to be adapted and replicated. One of the measures taken in this direction was the institutionalization of a national committee and an observatory for the transposition of African Union treaties.



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# Turkey-UNDP Partnership in Development (Phase II)



Cooperating with the least developed countries in their development journey together with UNDP

## CHALLENGE

As a significant emerging player in development cooperation, Turkey substantially provides its development aid bilaterally, while also utilizing multilateral mechanisms and platforms. Since hosting the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs in 2011, which resulted in the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), Turkey has been a global advocate for the least developed countries (LDCs).

Countries such as Angola, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lao PDR and Rwanda are examples of LDCs that face a wide range of challenges. These include the lack of vocational training to close the gap between existing skills and the demand from the private sector; deficiencies in smart governance and the lack of adherence to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) tools to improve administrative procedures; insufficient infrastructure for electrification and electric power distribution; weak early warning systems for natural disasters and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) risk education; and the lack of gender accountability in the private sector.

## TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The aim to enhance the variety of Turkish development cooperation together with the intention to address the development challenges of the LDCs where there is no Turkish Cooperation Agency (TIKA) presence resulted in a triangular cooperation initiative involving the Government of Turkey, the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (UNDP RBEC), and UNDP Country Offices and implementing partners in five LDCs. Within this framework, five projects in Angola, Rwanda, Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Lao PDR were funded and implemented:

### NOMINATED BY

Presidency of Strategy and Budget, Turkey

### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Angola, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lao PDR, Rwanda, Turkey

### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 8

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.1, 1.5, 4.3, 4.4, 7.1, 7B, 8.6, 16.6, 17.16

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Turkey, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

### PROJECT STATUS

Completed

### PROJECT PERIOD

January 2020 – October 2021

### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/3HwbDln>



- ▶ Smart governance implementation in Benin;
- ▶ Building renewable energy distribution network in DRC;
- ▶ Enhancing gender equality in the private sector in Rwanda;
- ▶ Strengthening early warning systems and unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk education in Lao PDR; and
- ▶ Vocational training for women and youth in Angola.

The goal of the initiative is to address the priority challenges determined by the LDCs themselves. Turkey as the donor and UNDP RBEC as implementing partner achieved this by carrying out a monitoring and evaluating role. TİKA also participated in the activities of the UNDP Country Offices where possible. Within this context, Turkey's support is basically financial, allowing capacity development, improvement of governance systems, building infrastructure, awareness-raising, and contributions to national regulations.

The initiative addressed IPoA Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity development), 5 (Human and social development), and 8 (Good governance). In addition, SDGs 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) were addressed within the scope of the programme. SDGs and IPoA priorities played a crucial role from the very beginning; in evaluating project proposals and implementation. This initiative provided an opportunity to concurrently address the development challenges of the partner countries through a demand-driven approach, and to test new modes of development cooperation (triangular cooperation) for Turkey. The programme was also designed in a participatory approach among stakeholders, including the relevant public entities in partner countries, Turkish embassies, and UNDP country offices in those countries.

Through the programme, 100 young people completed apprenticeships in different areas in public and private companies and 165 young entrepreneurs and informal workers benefitted from capacity development activities within the scope of SDG 8 in Angola. In accordance with the targets set in SDG 5, 25 companies and public institutions completed gender organizational diagnoses and implemented their gender equality action plans. Over 600 Rwanda Private Sector Federation members were trained in gender equality.

The cross-country transfers have proven successful and sustainable when the recipient country is willing to scale up the efforts regarding challenges. The initiative resulted in a concrete policy impact in the vocational training area, in which Turkey has significant global experience. For example, a Presidential Decree numbered 300/20 related to apprenticeship was issued in Angola within the technical support of the project. Rwanda has also adopted a gender mainstreaming strategy. It is important to work with the actors that have the ability to influence policies in the recipient country.



This regional programmatic instrument to facilitate cooperation between Turkey and UNDP in third countries that enable the participation of other partners has been an innovative partnership and a replicable model for triangular cooperation. Receiving applications for support under this programme from countries faced with different challenges made a flexible and tailored contribution possible. Gathering around an agreed priority makes triangular cooperation successful. Therefore, it is not difficult to internalize this principle and replicate it. This innovative aspect is manifested through a wide range of partnerships established during the implementation of the specific projects, including beneficiary country governments, UNDP Country Offices, TİKA Cosponsoring Organizations (CCOs), and Turkish embassies.

As both a recipient and donor country, Turkey knows the importance of demand-driven projects. Rather than being decided by donors in advance, development partnership priorities need to be determined together with the recipient countries. Therefore, there is a need for the donors to be more flexible regarding the areas on which they cooperate. One lesson learned from the programme is about the roles of the donors when it comes to multi-donor projects, which require more attention in terms of monitoring. Moreover, communication between the actors in the field is very important in terms of both visibility and effectiveness.

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# Subnational Finance to Accelerate the COVID-19 Response and Recovery



## Policy support on local government finance for COVID-19 response and recovery

### CHALLENGE

Local governments are leading the COVID-19 response around the world. They are on the front lines of citizen engagement, service delivery and management of public space. However, preventive and containment measures require resources and have fiscal implications. Therefore, local governments are faced with significant financial difficulties, including the decline in local economic activity, increasing demands on local government expenditure, and reduction in local government revenue. The resulting contraction of the fiscal space and concurrent expansion of local expenditure have left local governments' finances in deficit, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs).

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

To finance their pandemic response, local governments rely on three major sources: their own revenues, intergovernmental transfers, and subnational borrowing. In this context, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) provides policy and regulatory support to local government finance for LDCs to ensure that local governments can rebuild their local fiscal space and local economies for pandemic response and recovery by channelling necessary resources to meet the needs of the health and financial crises, and strengthen their capacity to continue delivering essential services to their citizens. The support contributes to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) on financial resource mobilization and SDG 1 (No Poverty) as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) Priority Areas 1 (Productive capacity), 2 (Agriculture, food security and rural development), 5 (Human and social development), 6 (Multiple crises and other emerging challenges), 7 (Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building) and 8 (Good governance at all levels).

In March 2020, UNCDF launched the Guidance Note for Immediate Local Government Finance Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is based on UNCDF's expertise in local government finance, lessons learned from China and

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Bangladesh, Uganda, Ghana, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Mozambique, Somalia and beyond

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

1, 5, 6, 7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.a, 17.1, 17.3, 17.5, 17.14

#### SUPPORTED BY

UNCDF, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), European Union (EU)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

UNCDF, ODI, Dege Consult ApS

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

March 2020 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.uncdf.org/article/5452/covid-19>

the Republic of Korea, and experience from country pilot schemes in Bangladesh and Senegal. Five editions were published, and each was translated into the six UN official languages and shared widely with partners and government counterparts in LDCs and developing countries through UN networks, UNCDF local government finance blog and podcast .

Key recommendations for local governments include own source revenues (OSRs) and financial management, performance-based intergovernmental fiscal transfers (IGFTs), Operational Expenditure Block Grants (OEBGs), Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) economic recovery support, subnational borrowing, and philanthropic finance. For example, UNCDF provided technical support in Bangladesh to modify the formula-based fiscal transfer system to include a COVID-19 protocol certified by the relevant authorities. With resources from Sweden and the European Union, UNCDF has successfully channelled US\$ 169,000 through the fiscal transfer system to 72 local governments as an Emergency OEBG to purchase sanitizing materials, masks, and gloves as well as to print publicity materials on COVID-19 and social distancing. This model has been shared and replicated in other countries including Uganda, Mozambique and Somalia, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

Furthermore, UNCDF launched the Rebuilding Local Fiscal Space initiative in September 2020. Experiences have shown that four factors have impacted local government fiscal space – 1) loss of OSR, 2) a non-conducive IGFT system with insufficient tools and instruments to respond, 3) loss of local economic development, and 4) increase in costs of service delivery and additional mandates for local governments. The objective of this initiative is to provide tools and recommendations on the improvement of local fiscal space in light of the COVID-19 challenges through a case-by-case review and analysis of the four factors above in six participating municipalities: Chandpur (Bangladesh), Kumasi (Ghana), Chiapas (Mexico), Telița (Moldova), Chefchaouen (Morocco) and Gulu (Uganda).

This initiative includes three phases: 1) the diagnostic phase, consisting of a preliminary study on the impact of the pandemic on the fiscal and economic health of the participating cities; 2) designing and testing new mechanisms and tools to enhance fiscal space and strengthen local economies based on phase 1 results; and 3) stakeholder engagement to validate the revenue mechanisms developed and piloted in phase 2 for national roll-out.

UNCDF and ODI actively engaged the participating local governments while undertaking consultations and data collection. Phase 1 culminated in a global knowledge sharing conference in November 2020 where key findings were presented. The study validated the considerable contraction of local fiscal space and local economy, such as significantly reduced OSR, decreases and lack of flexibility in IGFTs, and limited opportunities to mobilize additional funding in the short term. Participants further shared their perspectives on the fiscal challenges they face in light of COVID-19 and exchanged knowledge on their coping mechanisms with other Southern countries at the event. The conference resulted in the addition of Harare (Zimbabwe) to the initiative given their similar situation and extensive exchanges with Uganda.

This initiative is currently in phase 2 with the aspiration to include more local governments from developing countries to accelerate their economic and fiscal recovery. South-South cooperation and exchange is an important element of the initiative because participating local governments can seek synergies and learn from each other through knowledge products and the annual knowledge sharing conference. As most local governments are confronted with the contraction of fiscal space, particularly in developing countries and LDCs, this initiative would be a highly replicable model for other interested local governments to design policy reforms and mechanisms that rebuild local fiscal space for pandemic recovery. It is also an excellent platform for knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation in local development finance.

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# World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment



## Increasing access to data and enhancing capacity in multi-level governance and subnational government finance

### CHALLENGE

Subnational governments are key economic and social players at both local and global levels. They represent around one quarter of overall public spending and 37 percent of total public investment worldwide.<sup>1</sup> There is a growing demand worldwide from national and subnational governments, academics, development banks, donors, and NGOs, for relevant, reliable, objective, and comparative information and data presented in a systematic way on different topics regarding multi-level governance and finance. Previously, there was very limited data in standardized and comparative forms, particularly in the least developed countries (LDCs). Without reliable and comparable facts and information on the structure, responsibilities, and finance of subnational governments in the LDCs, it is difficult to assess their fiscal capacity, local development needs and efficient local financing mechanisms. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the importance and the fragility of local fiscal space. Therefore, it is necessary to collect local fiscal data and design targeted, data-driven and evidence-based mechanisms to enhance local fiscal capacity.

### TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG-WOFI) is a solution to addressing the above-mentioned data gap. By collecting and analysing standardized indicators and information, it aims to raise the level of knowledge on multi-level governance and finance and strengthen the dialogue across all levels of government, at the international, national, and subnational levels.

<sup>1</sup> OECD, UCLG and UNCDF (2019). World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment 2019 Report. See [https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/Key\\_Findings\\_2019.pdf](https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/Key_Findings_2019.pdf)

#### NOMINATED BY

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

#### COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

122 countries including 23 least developed countries: Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia

#### CONTRIBUTING PRIORITY AREAS OF THE ISTANBUL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (IPoA)

7, 8

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

1.a, 16.6, 17.1, 17.18, 17.19

#### SUPPORTED BY

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UNCDF, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), The Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG)

#### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

OECD, UCLG, UNCDF

#### PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

#### PROJECT PERIOD

NOVEMBER 2017 – Ongoing

#### URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://www.sng-wofi.org/>



Covering over 120 countries and territories, the SNG-WOFI initiative is the world's leading source of internationally comparable data and analysis on subnational government structure and finance. It was launched in November 2017 as a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation (OECD) and the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), supported by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the Development Partners Network on Decentralization and Local Governance (DeLoG). The initiative contributes to SDG 17 on financial resource mobilization and capacity building, SDG 1 on poverty reduction and SDG 16 on accountable and transparent governance. It also contributes to IPoA priority 7 on mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building, priority 8 on good governance at all levels and priority 1 on productive capacity.

The overall goal of the SNG-WOFI initiative is to increase knowledge of multi-level governance and finance by collecting and analysing standardized indicators and information. More specifically, its objectives are three-fold:

- ▶ Ensure standardized, reliable, and transparent access to data on subnational government structure, finance, and investment;
- ▶ Support international dialogue and decision-making on multi-level governance and subnational finance;
- ▶ Serve as a capacity-building tool on subnational governance and finance.

The initiative is guided by a Steering Committee, consisting of national governments, in particular members of the Regional Development Policy Committee and the Fiscal Network of the OECD, subnational governments, international organizations and networks, development banks, donors and think tanks. The Committee meets on a regular basis to provide feedback on the work of SNG-WOFI and guidance on future directions such as the improvement of the methodology, the potential sources of data, the expansion of countries, and the regularity of data collection. The steering committee meeting was crucial to build a common understanding about data collection, analysis, and interpretation. It also allowed for important progress on building a global network of experts and institutions in all regions to enhance North-South and South-South exchanges.

The 2016 pilot study was the first attempt to build a systematic data compilation on local finance across the world, based on quantitative and qualitative data. It confirmed that there is a growing demand worldwide for reliable, objective and comparative information and data on different topics regarding multi-level governance and finance, particularly in the LDCs. Therefore, UNCDF as UN's capital investment agency in the LDCs has been actively providing technical support for the LDCs to contribute to the SNG-WOFI. The purpose is to achieve: (1) recognition of subnational governments' role in helping in the monitoring of global agendas, including achieving SDGs, mitigating climate change, and Financing for Development; (2) measuring the contribution of local government fiscal space and decentralization to the countries' graduation from the LDC status; (3) spotlighting the role of fiscal decentralization in regional development.

UNCDF and UCLG oversaw LDC data collection and analysis for the 2019 SNG-WOFI report. There are 23 LDCs in the database, including 20 from Africa and three from Asia-Pacific. During the exercise, a group of LDC experts received training and capacity building on the methodology. The experts exchanged different challenges faced by each LDC and agreed on the best approach for standard data collection through South-South exchanges. Data and information collected include subnational government structure and territorial organization and subnational finance including expenditure, revenue, investment, and debt. The first SNG-WOFI report was launched in 2019 at the First International Conference of SNG-WOFI. Representatives from all sectors and various stakeholders in both developed and developing countries participated in the conference. LDC Ministers emphasized the importance of this initiative and fiscal data in promoting local development and the critical contribution of local governments. The SNG-WOFI report has been presented in several international conferences and helps to demonstrate the importance of data collection on local public finance, understand the trends and engage national stakeholders in discussions on realities and comparison in local government finance.

Among the 23 LDCs in the database, 10 have basic subnational finance data while the other 13 lack such data due to the lack of technical and financial capacity, despite the significant efforts made by UNCDF and UCLG to collect data on the LDCs. There is clearly a need for better data on subnational governments in Africa, and beyond in LDCs. Therefore, as an ongoing initiative, SNG-WOFI is sustainable good practice that can bridge the statistical gap, thereby promoting fiscal decentralization, subnational finance, and governance accountability. It calls for increased mobilization of the international community, donors, and national governments to improve budget and reporting frameworks and establish a robust public finance statistical system, collecting data at national and subnational levels, in line with international standards.

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