An ISFD initiative to help the poor and impoverished communities, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by end of 2015 through boosting their socio-economic development and improving rural households livelihoods.

**Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP)**

**Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD)**

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) is the poverty alleviation arm of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group. It is a primary vehicle for the following activities in IDB Member Countries:

- Fighting poverty and hunger and promoting pro-poor growth;
- Providing financial support to enhance the productive capacity and sustainable means of income generation for the poor;
- Emphasizing human development, and especially reducing poverty and addressing diseases/epidemics such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS;
- Emphasizing human development, and especially reducing poverty and eradicating diseases/epidemics such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

The decision to establish the ISFD was taken at the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit held in Makkah Al Mukarramah, 5-6 Dhul Qadah 1426H (7-8 December 2005G).

The ISFD was officially launched during the 32nd Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors (BOG) held on 12-13 Jumad-I 1428H (29-30 May 2007G) in Dakar, Senegal. The headquarters of the Fund is in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Fund has been established as a Waqf (i.e. Trust/Endowment), with a principal target capital of US$10.00 billion. All IDB Member Countries are expected to announce their financial contributions to the Fund and extend technical and moral support to its operations. The Fund’s priorities include:

- Human development (education, health, water and sanitation);
- Agricultural and rural development;
- Basic rural infrastructure development;
- Capacity building (cross-cutting theme);
- Women’s empowerment (cross-cutting theme).
This will address the needs of villagers in terms of essential services that impact their daily communities in selected countries. As part of its continuing efforts to combat hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy in rural Sub-Sahara and in other needy countries of the OIC, the ISFD has recently launched the Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP). With the help of new advances in science and technology, and the support of local and international experts, the integrated, inclusive, and innovative initiative offers a “big push” to rural communities in selected countries.

### Vision

The SVP is inspired by the IDB 1440H Vision which aims to transform the landscape of comprehensive human development in the Muslim World. The primary objective of this SVP is to target the poorest IDB Member Countries, utilizing the integrated, multi-year, and multi-sector strategy envisaged as part of the ISFD 5-year Strategic Plan.

### Rationale

The Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP) is embedded within the IDB’s 1440H Vision, which aspires to transform the landscape of comprehensive human development in the Muslim World. The primary objective of this SVP is to target the poorest IDB Member Countries, utilizing the integrated, multi-year, and multi-sector strategy envisaged as part of the ISFD 5-year Strategic Plan.

### Objective

The Sustainable Villages Programme (SVP) is targeting six of the IDB’s LDMCs in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia. In 2011, the programme was implemented in Chad and Tajikistan; in 2012, it is planned for Mozambique and Kyrgyz Republic, and two more countries will be selected in 2013. The SVP, in close consultation with stakeholders, identifies a cluster of villages comprising a total population ranging between 45,000-80,000. Suitable Executing and Implementing Agencies of the projects are selected from within the beneficiary countries. The prevailing conditions within the cluster of villages allows the SVP to demonstrate to national level policy makers how limited resources can be used to achieve demonstrably and insurmountable successes in the achievement of the MDGs.

### Scope

The scope of the SVP includes multi-sector investments in the following areas that directly feed into the process of achieving of the MDGs:

- Agriculture and livestock;
- Primary education;
- Primary healthcare;
- Rural infrastructure;
- Business development;
- Trade for poverty reduction;
- Empowerment of women;
- Preservation of the environment; and
- Access to finance.

The SVP concept is embedded within the IDB 1440H (2020G) Vision to promote comprehensive human development, as well as the IDB’s 5-year Strategic Plan and the ISFD’s 5-year Strategic Plan.

### Cost and Leverage of Financing

The tentative total cost of the SVP in each site is USD 20.20 million over a period of four to five years. The total cost of the programme is USD 121.20 million (including US$61.20 million from the ISFD and US$60 million dollars for the duration of the programme). The remaining amount of US$60 million will be raised from other partners.

### Design and Implementation

The SVP uses cost sharing with stakeholders to identify a cluster of villages using poverty mapping and other selection criteria. The SVP uses a baseline survey (with control samples included) and a robust monitoring and evaluation system. The progress of achieving the MDGs to be measured, as per the Community-driven Initiative (CDI) approach and implementation of various projects and activities within the SVP. Local governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector, are also encouraged to be heavily involved to ensure long-term sustainability of the programme.

### Implementation Agencies of the SVP

The SVP has seven Implementation Agencies: the ISFD; the IDB; the Islamic Bank; the Islamic Development Bank; the Islamic Development Bank; the Islamic Development Bank; and the Islamic Development Bank.