



the private sector, and relevant government entities. It is divided into four sub-programmes as follows:

Out of School Children (between the ages of 9 -15 years):

The objective of this sub-programme is to train 200,000 out-of-school children in the 9-15 age bracket by giving them a second chance to develop acceptable literacy competencies. It also provides a training opportunity for children who had never attended school and were above the primary school admission age. Assistance for apprenticeships such as the provision of light kit equipment will be provided upon completion of their training.

Teenagers and Young Adults (between the ages of 16-24 years):

The focus in this category is to improve the employability, earning capability and literacy competency of the poor, unemployed youth population in this category by:

- i Empowering them with literacy proficiency;
- ii Giving them market-oriented vocational and entrepreneurial skills; and
- iii Providing access to decentralised financial and business counselling services.

This will facilitate their integration into the local and national labour market, reduce the economic dependency on their families and increase opportunities to “upgrade” their core skills. It is expected that 400,000 teenagers and young adults will eventually benefit from the Interventions. By the end of the programme, about 60 percent of the trainees will be assisted with micro-finance for self-employment, preferably in organised groups, to foster solidarity and collaborative entrepreneurship.

Women Workers Groups:

The objective of this sub-programme is to provide 500,000 women workers with on-the-job functional literacy competencies and improve their skills in their specific line of work. 50 percent of the women, preferably in groups, will have access to working capital or light investment financing to help modernise and/or increase their productivity.

Adult Groups:

The set of Interventions aims to benefit one million people, mainly in the rural and marginalised urban areas, with the objective of providing adult functional literacy in countries with large illiterate populations.

Key Outcomes of the VOLIP

1. The VOLIP has reduced illiteracy by providing a second chance to children, adults, and women who did not have the opportunity to go to school.
2. It has trained several thousand teenagers, young adults, and women with technical and vocational skills in order to enhance their productivity, as well as, employability in the local job market.
3. It has contributed to the reduction of unemployment and poverty, and increased economic growth.
4. It has enhanced governments’ ability to hire skilled labour for its development projects.
5. It has also strengthened the role of women, vulnerable groups and the youth who would otherwise have been marginalised due to a lack of start-up funding and training opportunities to prepare them for the job market.
6. More importantly, the VOLIP has brought hope to the poor who have now learned new skills and developed competencies. They can now have an easy access to finance to start their own small businesses.



About the 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;
- Emphasising human development, and especially reducing illiteracy 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, 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).



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

**Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP)
 for Poverty Reduction**



An ISFD initiative to provide the poor with functional literacy competencies and notional skill coupled with microfinance, to fight poverty in the Muslim world

Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP) for Poverty Reduction

An ISFD initiative to equip the poor, particularly women and youth, with functional literacy competencies and notional skills, coupled with microfinance to combat unemployment and escape the poverty trap.

Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP) for Poverty Reduction

The US\$ 500 million Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP) is to be implemented over five years, seeks to simultaneously address two key challenges faced by poor illiterate families: (i) a gap in knowledge, functional literacy, and skills required for employment; and (ii) lack of access to financial resources that can help them start their own businesses. The VOLIP contributes through notional functional literacy projects linked to the achievement of the education-related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the OIC Member Countries. It is reaching out to more than 2 million people, 25 percent of whom will be provided access to microfinance.



The Board of Directors (BOD) of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) has earmarked US\$100 million as seed money for VOLIP. The remaining contribution will be raised from development partners in the public and private sectors.

The Framework

The Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP) was established in line with the recommendations of the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the OIC Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al Mukarramah, in December 2005 (Dhul Qadah 1426H), which mandated the Fund to reduce poverty through the eradication of illiteracy, building capacities and skills. The VOLIP is among the first programmes launched under the Strategy of the ISFD. It is also consistent with the IDB 1440H (2020G) Vision and constitutes a powerful tool for the implementation of the IDB Policy Paper on Poverty Reduction adopted in April 2007.



skills, and by giving them access to microfinance resources to help increase households' income. The Programme will contribute to the attainment of the education component of the MDGs.

The VOLIP emphasises vocational literacy training, rather than academics, to help people improve their skills and capacities in practical ways, leading to an increase in their productivity or lead to job opportunities for the jobless.

To complement the provision of knowledge in the form of literacy training and also to provide incentives to get benefit from the training, the VOLIP facilitates training in, and access to, microfinance programmes for teenagers, young adults, and women workers.

Beneficiaries of the VOLIP

The main beneficiaries of the VOLIP are the poor and vulnerable groups in the OIC Member Countries. The Programme is expected to reach more than 2 million people, 25 percent of whom will have the access to micro-financing. The VOLIP focuses primarily on those children and adults (men and women) who would have otherwise "missed the boat" in terms of conventional educational programmes. Secondly, it combines a package that aims to benefit whole families, create synergy and add intra-family incentives to learn.

Sub-Programmes and Target Populations

The VOLIP is implemented in partnership with bilateral, regional and international development institutions, local communities, NGOs, organised groups, associations,



Illiteracy in the OIC Member Countries

Illiteracy is wide spread in the OIC Member Countries where one out of every three people is illiterate. Adult illiteracy is 41 percent, and is more pronounced among females who constitute 24 percent of the total. Among the 57 OIC Member Countries, 24 are lagging behind in achieving the education MDG. Moreover, out of the 29 countries in the world with the lowest Education Development Index (EDI, 2008 [get the latest stats]) 18 (62 percent) are OIC Member Countries. Among the 62 countries with high EDI, only 9 (14.5 percent) are members of the OIC [get the latest stats].

The average primary education net enrolment in Sub-Saharan Africa is barely 64 percent, while Northern Africa

records 94 percent. Sub-Saharan Africa is also home to an estimated 40 percent of the out-of-school population (with girls representing 60 percent of the total), a similar figure for South Asia, compared to 15 percent in the Middle East and North Africa. In other words, most of the out-of-school children in the World live in the OIC Member Countries. With regard to youth literacy, it is estimated that more than 36 million youth aged between 15 and 24 in OIC Member Countries are illiterate. 63 percent of this segment are females.

Objectives of the VOLIP

The main objective of the Vocational Literacy Programme (VOLIP) is to reduce poverty in the rural populations, particularly among women, by equipping them with relevant functional literacy competencies and national