

July 2024
Edition #2

SOLIDARITY

ISDB

الرياض
Riyadh



ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
مجموعة البنك الإسلامي للتنمية



ISFD Joins Forces with UN Women to
Empower Women in MENA Region

ISDB & ISFD
Award Tadamon
Grants to Nine NGOs

ISFD Supports 200,000
Out of School Children in Nigeria

Launch of National Fund
for Economic Empowerment
and MSMEs Development in Libya

**Lives and
Livelihoods Fund:**
Impact through Collaboration

GIFR:
A Lifeline for Forcibly
Displaced Persons

<https://isfd.isdb.org>



معاً لمكافحة الفقر
REDUCING POVERTY

ISFD

صندوق التضامن الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development

Contents

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| 3 | Director General's Message | 18 | Strategic Thinking & Planning Workshop Concluded for NGOs in Yemen |
| 4 | Lives and Livelihoods Fund: Impact Through Collaboration | 19 | High-Level Meetings during IsDB Annual Meetings |
| 6 | Ayesha Reza's Success Story | 21 | GIFR: A Lifeline for Forcibly Displaced Persons |
| 8 | Signing Ceremonies during IsDB Annual Meetings | 23 | Launch of National Fund for Economic Empowerment and MSMEs Development in Libya |
| 14 | ISFD Director General Participates in DIHAD Conference | 25 | ISFD Unveils New Website |
| 15 | ISFD Director General Visits BINA Business Incubator in Libya | 26 | Economic Empowerment : An IsDB-ISFD Innovative Approach for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development |
| 16 | Agricultural Training Program Launched in Yemen to Enhance Market Access for MSMEs | 28 | ISFD Newcomers |
| 17 | Tadamon Workshop to Chart the Program's Second Phase | 30 | Sangimoh: A Midwife's Story of Care & Empowerment in Tajikistan |

Director General's Message

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to welcome you to this second edition of our Solidarity newsletter. This issue delves into the ISFD's impactful activities, keeping you informed about our ongoing efforts to empower communities and alleviate poverty.

The newsletter also highlights the ISFD's active participation in the recent 2024 Annual Meetings of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). These meetings provided a valuable platform for productive discussions with delegations from IsDB member countries. They fostered stronger relationships and opened doors for potential future collaboration in critical development areas. We believe that by working hand-in-hand with member countries, we can maximize our collective impact in achieving shared goals of poverty reduction and community empowerment.

The ISFD is committed to forging strategic partnerships to amplify our reach and effectiveness. This edition showcases the signing of several new agreements with key partners. These collaborations will play a vital role in advancing our mission.

In addition, the newsletter dives deep into the many ways we fight poverty and foster empowerment. We are highlighting initiatives across numerous member countries, from supporting education and bringing children to school to empowering youth and women through MSMEs. Furthermore, we showcase our dedication to collaborative efforts through the Lives and Livelihoods Fund, and supporting local innovation through the Tadamon Grants program, which helps Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to implement creative poverty reduction solutions in their communities.



Dr. Hiba Ahmed
Director General





Lives and Livelihoods Fund: Impact through Collaboration

At the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, we are committed to supporting initiatives that empower individuals and communities to break free from the cycle of poverty. The Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF), a truly transformative initiative by IsDB, ISFD, and other development partners, embodies this commitment in a remarkable way.



A Vision for Uplifting Lives in IsDB Member Countries

Launched in 2016 by the IsDB and its development partners, the LLF has a singular vision: to alleviate poverty for the most vulnerable populations within IsDB member countries. As the largest development initiative of its kind in the Middle East, the LLF currently serves 33 member countries.

Eight Years of Tangible Impact

Over the past eight years, the LLF has improved lives through 37 projects, impacting 22 countries and contributing to the achievement of nine United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The US\$1.4 billion invested in the first phase (LLF 1.0) has yielded significant results, bolstering livelihoods in IsDB member countries. Here are some key achievements:



**5,037 hectares
of arable land:**

Irrigated, developed, and cultivated in Morocco, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Indonesia.



**40 million+
children:**

Immunized against polio in Pakistan.



7 million+ people:

Expected to benefit from improved water and sanitation services in Guinea.

ISFD's Pivotal Contribution

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development emerged as a key driver in the LLF's success story. Demonstrating our unwavering commitment to poverty alleviation in the Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs), ISFD pledged a significant **US\$100 million** grant to the LLF in 2016. This strategic contribution proved instrumental in solidifying the Fund's financial foundation as more global donors joined hands and pledged support.

The impact of ISFD's support is tangible. In 2021 alone, six LDMCs – Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Togo – benefited from critical LLF projects implemented with ISFD's backing. These projects are addressing fundamental needs in sanitation & hygiene, food security, maternal & child health, and rural electrification.



ISFD Propelling the Initiative Forward: LLF 2.0

Recognizing the LLF's impact, the ISFD stepped forward again in 2023 with a significant contribution of **US\$150 million** towards the program's second phase - the LLF 2.0. This strategic investment aims to propel LLF to even greater heights. ISFD's contribution takes a two-pronged approach:

- **US\$50 million "Concessional Loan":**
Providing member countries with affordable funding options.
- **US\$100 million "Temporary Cash Waqf":** A unique financial instrument where investment returns are exclusively directed on a grant basis towards LLF 2.0 initiatives, ensuring a sustainable source of funding.

Donor partners working with the IsDB and ISFD on LLF



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



Ayesha Reza's Success Story



From Polio Survivor to Polio Fighter

Pakistan remains one of two South Asian nations where children under the age of five are at risk of contracting the debilitating, highly infectious polio virus that can lead to paralysis and death.

To combat this public health threat, Pakistan has undertaken a significant effort. The country's polio eradication program is one of the largest in the world. Spearheaded by nearly 300,000 healthcare workers and vaccinators, the program runs nationwide campaigns to immunize children.

A Survivor's Strength

Ayesha Reza, a 38-year-old polio survivor, embodies the program's spirit. Living in the suburban town of Ghaziabad, Lahore, with her husband and daughter, Ayesha is one of these dedicated healthcare workers

who are committed to eradicating the virus from the lives of under-5 children in Pakistan.

Stricken by polio at the tender age of two in 1988, Ayesha initially experienced a fever and weakness in her leg. With limited awareness about the disease at the time, her parents initially treated it as a common childhood illness. However, the persistent fever and worsening condition led to the shocking news: Ayesha had polio. Back then, many people did not know about polio, and there was no vaccine to prevent it. Ayesha's parents were scared. They could not imagine their little girl not being able to walk.

With treatment, Ayesha slowly regained some strength, but the disease left her with lasting effects. She started school late and had to discontinue her education after high school because of her mother's health.



Finding Purpose in Protecting Others

Contracting the virus at a young age left her with lasting limitations. Despite these challenges, Ayesha persevered. Following her marriage in 2013, she discovered a new purpose by joining the Punjab Health Department. Initially part of the Dengue Surveillance Team, Ayesha was unable to keep up with the demanding requisites of the field job due to weakening body, therefore, she joined polio team as an occasional vaccinator.

A Collective Effort for a Polio-Free Future

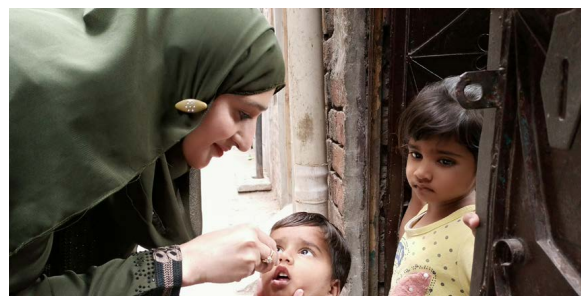
The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and a consortium of key donors are playing a critical role in supporting Pakistan's fight against polio. This collaborative effort includes partners like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, and the Qatar Fund for Development.

Through the Lives and Livelihoods Fund, these partners have provided critical financial assistance of US\$160 million. This investment has enabled the delivery of over 500 million oral poliovirus vaccines, ensuring vital protection for 43 million children under five across Pakistan.

A Powerful Voice for Vaccination

Ayesha goes house-to-house, educating families about polio and the importance of vaccination. Her own experience with the disease is a powerful tool. By sharing the limitations polio has imposed on her life, Ayesha compels parents to understand the potential dangers their children face without vaccination. She speaks from the heart, detailing the difficulties she encounters due to weakened muscles and an inability to stand for long periods. For Ayesha, the potential to save children from a similar fate makes this vulnerability worthwhile.

As a mother herself, Ayesha expresses deep gratitude to the LLF partners for their critical role in supporting Pakistan's polio eradication efforts. Their contributions, alongside other key donor partners, have provided vital financial assistance and over 500 million life-saving vaccines, ensuring they reach every child who needs them.





ISFD and ICEI Partner to Empower Women, Youth, and Communities in IsDB Countries

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and the International Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (ICEI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on promoting economic empowerment and social development in

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) member countries. The MoU was signed by Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the ISFD Director General, and H.E. Shaikh Ebrahim bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ICEI.

The MoU establishes a framework for collaboration across several key areas:



Economic Empowerment

Develop a Women Economic Empowerment Strategy.



Poverty Alleviation

Empower women and youth in smart green agriculture and food security initiatives.



Social Development

Support vulnerable groups and people with disabilities. Encourage development of smart cities that foster social entrepreneurship.

Facilitate digital transformation in

Healthcare

Education

Manufacturing

ISFD Joins Forces with UN Women to Empower Women in MENA Region



The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and UN Women join forces to increase women's employment by 5% in the MENA region by 2030. An MoU signed by Dr. Hiba Ahmed, Director General of ISFD, and Susanne Mikhail Eldhagen, UN Women Regional Director for the Arab States on behalf of Sima Bahous, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director. The collaboration focuses on green jobs, care work, and science & technology sectors.

The partnership aims to:



Support national goals for women's economic empowerment.



Drive regional economic growth.



Create jobs for women.



Support women-owned businesses.



Reduce barriers to women's participation in the workforce

The MoU will establish a collaborative framework at the country level, supporting existing programs focused on women's economic empowerment and job creation in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development
 صندوق التضامن الإسلامي للتطوير
 INNOVX INNOVX
 الرياض - الأحد بتاريخ ٢٨ أبريل ٢٠٢٤ الموافق ٢٨ أبريل ٢٠٢٤
 Riyadh, Sunday, 28 April 2024



Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and INNOVX
 INNOVX INNOVX
 الرياض - الأحد بتاريخ ٢٨ أبريل ٢٠٢٤ الموافق ٢٨ أبريل ٢٠٢٤
 Riyadh, Sunday, 28 April 2024



ISFD Signs MoU with INNOVX to Support Agribusiness in Africa

Focus:

Enhancing the Agri-Finance Platform, which aims to strengthen agricultural value chains across Africa.

ISFD's Role:

Potential co-sponsor of the Agri-Finance Platform, joining OCP Group and IFC.

INNOVX's Role:

Spearheading development of financing initiatives for agricultural challenges.

Collaboration Goals:

- 🎯 Identify opportunities for ISFD to support the platform.
- 🎯 Develop joint interventions targeting specific agricultural sectors or value chains.
- 🎯 Strengthen ISFD programs for African agribusiness MSMEs and smallholder farmers.

This partnership aims to improve access to financing and resources for **African agriculture**, ultimately benefiting **small businesses and farmers**.



ISFD and Zakat House Kuwait Join Forces to Empower Communities in OIC Countries



The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and Zakat House Kuwait signed an MoU to strengthen efforts in supporting socioeconomic development while combating poverty within Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries. The MoU was signed by Dr. Hiba Ahmed, Director General of ISFD, and Dr. Majed Al-Azmi, Chief Executive Officer of Zakat House Kuwait.

Focus Areas:

- 🎯 Mobilize resources for the Al-Quds Empowerment Fund.
- 🎯 Develop Zakat and Islamic finance instruments for human development in education, healthcare, and economic empowerment for youth and women.
- 🎯 Joint community development projects.

ISFD Supports 200,000 Out of School Children in Nigeria

ISFD joins a ground-breaking partnership with IsDB, Education Above All Foundation (EAA), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and Save the Children alongside other partners including the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Kaduna State's Ministry of Education, to support 200,000 out of school children (OOSC), including girls and children with disabilities.



The Reaching Out-of-School Children in Kaduna State project (ROOSC) will address critical barriers to education in the region. Over the span of four years, the partnership will focus on three objectives:

01

Increase access to learning opportunities

for all children in Kaduna State.

02

Improve enrollment rates

to ensure more children are attending primary school.

03

Ensure active participation

and completion of quality primary education.



IsDB & ISFD Award Tadamon Grants to Nine NGOs

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) announced the disbursement of over US\$670,000 in the first round of Tadamon Grants. This initiative, part of the Tadamon Program, aims to strengthen Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working to reduce poverty in IsDB member countries.

The program received a strong response, with nearly 276 proposals submitted by CSOs in Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Morocco. Through a rigorous selection process, nine outstanding CSOs were chosen based on their leadership, development experience, and innovative project ideas that utilize technology to create lasting positive change for those most in need.

Tadamon Grants NGOs Recipients:

- 
Indonesia
Safari Bumi Raya and Greeneration Foundation
- 
Kazakhstan
Public Association "BATYR", Dara Foundation, and Center for Social Initiatives "Belsen"
- 
Lebanon
Nawaya Network and Lebanese Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development
- 
Morocco
Coopérative Agricole Tamaloute and Association Essalam pour l'integration des handicapés
- 
Tunisia
WeYouth Organization





ISFD Director General Participates in DIHAD Conference

Dr. Hiba Ahmed, Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, participated as a key speaker at the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference (DIHAD). She highlighted ISFD's unique structure as the poverty alleviation arm of the Islamic Development Bank, emphasizing its focus on long-term support for OIC member countries, especially the least developed countries.

Dr. Hiba showcased several ISFD programs supporting displaced people, including the Global Islamic Fund for Refugees, a collaborative effort with UNHCR. She also highlighted initiatives like Skills, Training, and Education Program (STEP), Education for Syrian Refugees Program, and the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB).

Dr. Hiba emphasized the importance of collaboration in shaping policy and ensuring ongoing support for forcibly displaced persons within OIC countries. She stressed the need for a proactive approach and expressed optimism for the role of humanitarian diplomacy and Islamic finance tools in driving positive change.

ISFD Director General Visits BINA Business Incubator in Libya



Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, visited BINA Business Incubator, a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to supporting youth-led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Libya.

During her visit with the ISFD team, Dr. Hiba was briefed about BINA Business Incubators' activities and its contributions to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Libya and the support it provides to the MSMEs through mentorship, training, and access to finance.

BINA was a recipient of Tadamon Covid-19 Accelerator Program, a program funded by IsDB and ISFD, through which a significant support was provided to Libyan women and young entrepreneurs with the aim of:



Agricultural Training Program Launched in Yemen to Enhance Market Access for MSMEs



underlying causes of poor performance in markets that matter to people living in poverty to promote sustainable livelihoods, create jobs, and improve incomes.

The Small and Micro Enterprises Development Agency (SMEPS), in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY), launched “the Agricultural Training Program” in Hadramout, Yemen last June 2024. The program’s inauguration ceremony was sponsored by His Excellency the Deputy Governor of Hadramout and other local officials.

This initiative is designed to enhance market access for Yemeni agricultural products, specifically focusing on onions, honey, and coffee. It addresses existing challenges within these sectors through a comprehensive approach:

Value Chain Interventions:

The program promotes best agricultural practices, international sorting and packaging standards, and effective branding and marketing.

- **Capacity Building:** SMEPS, the implementing partner for this program and many others, provides business consulting and training to enhance the technical skills of MSMEs and value chain actors, empowering them to access markets more effectively.
- **E-commerce Solutions:** An online platform will be established to facilitate business connections between Yemeni producers and international buyers. This platform aims to strengthen the reputation and marketability of Yemeni honey and coffee.



The Market Access Readiness in Key Economic Trade Sectors Program (MARKETS) is a joint initiative of the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, and the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen. It is implemented by SMEPs to address the



Tadamon Workshop to Chart the Program's Second Phase



The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and the United National Development Program co-hosted a workshop to map the next phase of Tadamon Program, a pioneering program to empower the NGOs to reduce poverty in IsDB member countries. The stakeholder workshop held in Istanbul between July 1-3, 2024, brought together NGOs, UN agencies, and innovative firms to evaluate the program's achievements and shape its future direction (2025-2030).

The second phase of Tadamon will target critical areas like food security in conflict zones, climate change, financial inclusion, and CSOs leadership development. This aligns with IsDB's goal of poverty reduction and sustainable development in member countries.

The workshop also explored the potential for refocusing the Tadamon Academy's content on key areas such as crowdfunding, project management, financial literacy, leadership skills, and blockchain/artificial intelligence.

Strategic Thinking & Planning Workshop Concluded for NGOs in Yemen



Al-Awn Foundation for Development, in partnership with the Tadamon NGOs Empowerment Program for Poverty Reduction - a program sponsored by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) - successfully concluded a five-day workshop on “Strategic Thinking and Planning” in Hadramout, Yemen.

The workshop brought together 28 participants, representing leadership from local organizations. This intensive training aimed to equip them with the essential skills for effective organizational planning and strategic development, ultimately empowering them to make a greater impact in their communities.

Through interactive sessions and the use of advanced models and tools, participants gained valuable knowledge in the key areas of strategic thinking to formulate the organization’s purpose and aspirations as well as strategic planning to create a roadmap with measurable objectives to guide the organization

towards its long-term vision. This comprehensive approach empowers local NGOs to overcome challenges, build a strong foundation for success, and contribute more effectively to poverty reduction and the development of their communities.



High-level Meetings during IsDB Annual Meetings



ISFD Director General, Dr. Hiba Ahmed, met with Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Nurlan Baybazarov, and Water Resources & Irrigation Minister, H.E. Nurzhan Nurzhigitov. Discussions focused on ongoing ISFD initiatives in Kazakhstan and exploring new collaborative efforts to support the country's development goals.



ISFD Director General, Dr. Hiba Ahmed, met with H.E. Ismael NABE and H.E. Mohamadou DIALLO, Ministers of Planning & International Cooperation and Infrastructure & Public Works in Guinea, respectively. The productive discussions focused on establishing partnerships to support poverty reduction initiatives in Guinea.



ISFD Director General, Dr. Hiba Ahmed, held a meeting with Burkina Faso's Minister of Economy, Finance, and Prospective, H.E. Aboubakar Nacanabo. The meeting reviewed ISFD's current initiatives in Burkina Faso and explored ways to work together even more closely in the future to help the country achieve its development objectives.

 **Algeria**



ISFD Director General, Dr. Hiba Ahmed, met with Algeria's Finance Minister, H.E. Laaziz Faïd. Both parties explored ways for ISFD and Algeria to collaborate more closely in the fight against poverty in ISDB member countries.

 **Guinea-Bissau**



ISFD Director General, Dr. Hiba Ahmed, discussed potential collaborations with Guinea-Bissau's Minister of Economy, H.E. Soares Sambu, to leverage ISFD's strengths in supporting the country's development goals.

 **The Maldives**



ISFD Director General, Dr. Hiba Ahmed, held a meeting with the Minister of Finance of the Maldives to identify opportunities to support the Maldives' development goals through Islamic finance instruments and foster investments in Awqaf.

World Zakat Forum



Dr. Hiba Ahmed, Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), met with Dr. Mohd Ghazali, Secretary General of the World Zakat Forum. The discussions centered on ways to join forces and mobilize resources for programs aimed at alleviating poverty.

Global Islamic Fund for Refugees (GIFR)

A Lifeline for Forcibly Displaced Persons

The GIFR is a joint initiative by the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Islamic Development Bank to address the needs of forcibly displaced persons and hosting communities in OIC member countries.



GIFR Mission

The GIFR aims to provide sustainable financing for essential projects addressing the needs of both forcibly displaced persons and their hosting communities. These projects prioritize sectors with a strong development focus on:



Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

Creating income-generating opportunities for forcibly displaced persons and contributing to economic development.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Improving hygiene and sanitation facilities in refugee camps and host communities.



Shelter

Building or renovating shelters for safe and secure accommodation.



Health

Ensuring access to vital healthcare services for forcibly displaced persons.



Climate Action and Green Energy

Promoting sustainable solutions and environmental protection.



2023 Milestones

The past year saw significant progress for the GIFR:

Donor Commitments:

The IsDB, as the trustee of the GIFR, signed two Donor Contribution Agreements (DCA) with both UNHCR and ISFD, securing a **combined US\$100: a contribution of US\$50 million by each to the GIFR.**



Advocacy and Engagement:

Two high-profile events were held in London and New York on the margins of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, generating widespread awareness and interest in the GIFR's mission.



Founders Board Meeting:

The first meeting of the GIFR Founders Board, co-chaired by H.E. Muhammad Al Jasser, IsDB President, and Mr. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, took place in Dubai during COP28. This crucial meeting saw the approval of the GIFR Operations Manual and Investment Guidelines.



GIFR Partnerships

Advocacy efforts have yielded good results with **King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Assistance** signing a Donor Contribution Memo at US\$10 during the IsDB Annual Meetings 2024 as the first non-founding member supporting the GIFR.





Launch of National Fund for Economic Empowerment and MSMEs Development in Libya

A Milestone Collaboration for Libya’s MSMEs Future

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) has recently joined forces with the Central Bank of Libya to establish a groundbreaking initiative: the National Fund for Economic Empowerment and MSMEs Development (NFEE). This first-of-its-kind national effort boasts an initial capital of US\$250 million and is set to revolutionize Libya’s economic landscape by empowering the nation’s Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Fueling Growth through Tailored Financial Solutions

The NFEE goes beyond simply providing capital. It offers a unique blend of financing options, including equity, working capital, and capital expenditure financing. This tailored approach is further bolstered by capacity building and technical assistance programs for

beneficiaries. This comprehensive support system empowers Libyan MSMEs to overcome challenges and achieve sustainable growth.





Building a Brighter Future

The initiative will serve as a powerful catalyst, providing financial and technical support to empower Libyan MSMEs and drive inclusive growth for the country.

This investment in Libya's future extends far beyond economics. By fostering a vibrant MSME ecosystem, the NFEF has the potential to:



Create jobs:

A thriving MSMEs sector translates to increased employment opportunities for Libyans.



Diversify the economy:

A broader economic base reduces dependence on any single industry, fostering long-term stability.



Unleash entrepreneurial spirit:

The NFEF empowers Libyans, particularly the youth, to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and build a more prosperous future.

IsDB and ISFD: A Pivotal Role

The IsDB and ISFD will play a pivotal role in setting up the fund, attracting resources from local and international stakeholders, and sharing their technical expertise. **The Central Bank of Libya is expected to contribute 25% of the initial capital, with the remaining funds coming from other committed partners.**

This collaboration signifies the unwavering commitment of the IsDB and ISFD to supporting Libya's economic recovery and propelling the country towards a future fueled by innovation, job creation, and inclusive development.

Unveiling our commitment to **poverty reduction**.
Welcome to the ISFD new website!



<https://isfd.isdb.org>

ISFD Launches New Website

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) announced the launch of its new website. The new website is part of the ISFD efforts to increase transparency and strengthen engagement with its stakeholders.

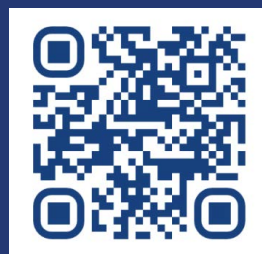
The newly designed and user-friendly webpage features a streamlined interface, intuitive navigation, and a wealth of information about the ISFD's vision, mission, programs, achievements, and success stories. Visitors can easily explore the Fund's ongoing projects, access resources, and stay informed about the latest news and developments.

Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, has highlighted the new website's features and benefits: "The new webpage offers a dynamic platform to showcase the ISFD's work. It serves as a valuable resource for our stakeholders, partners, and the public, providing them with easy access to information about the ISFD's activities and the positive impact we are making on the lives of communities in need across the member countries of the Organization

of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). We encourage everyone to navigate through our new webpage and learn more about our efforts in promoting sustainable development and alleviating poverty in IsDB least developed member countries."

The new website aims to contribute to further strengthening ISFD's collaboration with partners and ultimately support achieving socio-economic development across IsDB member countries.

Please visit the new ISFD webpage here at <https://isfd.isdb.org> or scan the **QR Code**:



Economic Empowerment:

An IsDB-ISFD Innovative Approach for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development



Poverty today is commonly defined as a direct interpretation of hard facts and figures based on income level and access to human necessities. However, poverty is a multifaceted and a multilayered issue going far beyond numbers crunched in economic models. The world has indeed succeeded in lifting nearly one billion people out of chronic poverty over the last two decades, which is good news. However, a stark reality remains that wealth disparity continues to widen. The richest 20% control 86% of the world resources, while the poorest 20% manage with a mere 1.3%. This inequity demands a more holistic approach to poverty alleviation.

Focusing solely on income risks overlooking the true nature of poverty. Effective poverty alleviation requires addressing its social, economic, and cultural dimensions simultaneously. Access to quality education, healthcare, financial services, and social justice are crucial alongside efforts to increase income and improve living conditions.

Microfinance has proved its efficiency in reducing poverty. However, after nearly four decades of activity, the broad picture indicates that microloans do not eventually lead to the poor getting out of poverty. In fact, microloans are more beneficial to borrowers living above the poverty line than to borrowers living below the poverty line. Borrowers with more income are willing to take the risk, such as investing in new technologies that will most likely increase income

flows. Poor borrowers, on the other hand, tend to take out conservative loans that protect their subsistence. The vast majority of poor borrowers are caught in subsistence activities. This can leave them stuck in a cycle of debt and basic survival, unable to make the leap out of poverty.

Amartya Sen, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, eloquently argues that development can be seen as a “process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy.” This freedom can be achieved by focusing on the productivity and the economic sustainability of the activities of the vulnerable groups. Poverty alleviation starts therefore with comprehensive Economic Inclusion.

The ISFD Economic Empowerment approach is an innovative mechanism playing a critical role today in freeing poor people suffering from unemployment, low income, and fragile socio-economic conditions in many of the IsDB member countries and changing their lives. The Economic Empowerment Approach acts as a catalyst and facilitator for our implementing partners to act as Market Developers. The Theory of Change through the Economic Empowerment Approach starts by engineering innovative interventions and proposing investment opportunities, access to finance, sustainable access to markets, supporting basic infrastructure, strong partnerships with the public sector, private sector & civil society, and capacity building. A solid and sustainable ecosystem is built in



has succeeded in financing around 14,000 income-generating projects and supported the creation of more than 40,000 direct and indirect jobs. In Palestine, the Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Program (DEEP) has succeeded in financing more than 13,000 projects and created 26,000 jobs and helped 5,000 families to overcome poverty. In Sudan, the Economic Empowerment program mobilized more the US\$100 million and economically enabled more than 17,000 people. In Benin, the Economic Empowerment program has created 500 productive projects and more than 20,000 beneficiaries, improved their socio-economic conditions and reduced forced migration in the country.

collaboration with development partners around the end-beneficiary for its Economic Inclusion in the long term. The objective is to transform the poor from mere recipients of financing to real Business Partners.

Palestine, Tunisia, Benin, and Sudan were among these countries targeted by IsDB Economic Empowerment interventions. In Tunisia, Zitouna Tamkeen, the first Economic Empowerment Institution of the country,

This transformation will go from Financial Inclusion to Economic Inclusion while positioning the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda at the heart of its interventions.

By: Khalid Ahmed
Senior Program Management Specialist





Muhammed Yasin Elmadit

With over 13 years of experience, **Muhammed Yasin Elmadit joined ISFD's Poverty Alleviation & Empowerment Division as a Program Management Specialist, skilled in planning, designing, and implementing programs and projects.**

His educational background combines a Master's Degree in International Trade and Finance with a Bachelor's in Agro-Food Processing Business Management.

Muhammed has a strong track record leading programs focused on livelihoods, technical and vocational education, and fostering entrepreneurship among youth and vulnerable groups. He spearheaded a successful program that empowered hundreds of young startups through mentorship, incubation, and access to markets and finance. Furthermore, his leadership resulted in establishing seven business incubators across diverse regions, supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises. Beyond program management, Muhammed's expertise extends to developing advanced electronic platforms for streamlined operations, progress monitoring, and impact evaluation within tight deadlines.

Multilingual in Arabic, English, French, and Turkish, Muhammed thrives in cross-cultural environments and is passionate about sharing knowledge and mentoring.



Dr. Elfayad Abdelhameed

Dr. Elfayad Abdelhameed joined the ISFD's Resource Mobilization Division as a Technical Support Officer.

Elfayad is a dynamic and interdisciplinary development professional with a wealth of hands-on experience in development programs, particularly in health systems development and health economics. An enthusiastic researcher in implementation science and arrangements in fragile contexts, Elfayad brings a rich academic background with a master's degree in public health specializing in health economics, policy, and planning from the University of Leeds, UK, and a bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery.

With seven years of diverse experience in both public and private sectors, Elfayad's robust skillset is well suited to support the Resource Mobilization team. He will play a pivotal role in compiling and analyzing data, critically evaluating ISFD's portfolio, crafting compelling narratives about the impact of ISFD's projects, developing, and managing donors' databases, and providing technical assistance on managing the ISFD financial sustainability model.

In addition to professional achievements, Elfayad enjoys poetry, traveling, equestrian, and has a profound passion for agriculture.



Lena Eskandrani

Lena Eskandrani has recently joined ISFD as an Administrative Support Officer for the Poverty Alleviation & Empowerment Division.

As a fresh graduate, she is full of enthusiasm and eager to embrace the challenges of her new role. Lena holds a Bachelor's in English Linguistics & Translation.

Lena is excited about the opportunity to work alongside her colleagues at ISFD and contribute to the success of the Fund.

In her free time, Lena enjoys traveling, long walks, and reading.



Osama Ali Bin Mahfooz

Osama Ali Bin Mahfooz joined ISFD as an Administrative Support Officer in the Resource Mobilization Division, leveraging his IT expertise gained as a Technical Consultant at the Islamic Development Bank.

With more than 5 years of extensive IT experience, Osama is well-equipped to provide comprehensive support to the Resource Mobilization team and achieve the Division's objectives of mobilizing resources and coordinating with donors and ISFD stakeholders.

Outside of work, Osama enjoys exploring new technologies, music, basketball, and traveling.

Sangimoh: A Midwife's Story of Care & Empowerment in Tajikistan



The bustling maternity ward of Danghara District Hospital in Tajikistan was a familiar sight to Sangimoh. A 48-year-old seasoned midwife with 25 years of experience, she had witnessed countless births, a testament to the resilience of mothers and the precious miracle of new life. Yet, Sangimoh also carried the weight of witnessing the struggles faced by often lacking access to proper care and information. These challenges translated to needless complications and anxieties during pregnancy and childbirth.

A turning point arrived with the roll-out of a US\$23 Improving Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health Services Project, funded by the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF). This project, implemented in partnership

with the Ministry of Health & Social Protection of Population and development partners including WHO, UNFPA, and UNICEF, promised to transform lives.

This project aligns perfectly with ISFD's focus on supporting healthcare in ISDB member countries, a key component of the Fund's human capital development strategy, paving the way for healthier and more empowered populations.



Sangimoh, along with other registered nurses, plays a pivotal role by reaching out to vulnerable mothers through regular home visits. These visits provide crucial care and support, promoting healthy pregnancies and empowering mothers with knowledge about their health and hygiene.

The project's ultimate goal aligns with the health sector strategies of the Tajikistan government: to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates by improving

healthcare delivery. With the LLF project and the tireless efforts of healthcare providers like Sangimoh, a new generation of mothers is emerging. These mothers are more aware of their health status and empowered to make informed decisions about their families.

Empowerment through Awareness

The project emphasizes awareness as a key tool. Sangimoh has seen numerous cases where lack of information led to complicated pregnancies. Now, with increased awareness, mothers are seeking prenatal care at earlier stages and registering for vital health services.

Beyond Healthcare: Empowering Women and Diversifying Income

The LLF's collaboration with female nurses extends beyond improving healthcare delivery. It has diversified their income streams and elevated their status within the community. Sangimoh, like many other nurses, is now seen as a skilled birth attendant, a role that commands respect and recognition.

A Ripple Effect of Positive Change

Sangimoh's story does not end in the delivery ward. Inspired by the focus of the project on women's empowerment, she became a champion for her daughters' education. Witnessing the positive changes within her community, Sangimoh is determined to ensure her daughters have the opportunities to reach their full potential. The LLF project, in this way, transcended healthcare, fostering a ripple effect of positive change that empowered not just mothers but future generations of women.



Image Credit: UNICEF in Tajikistan





معاً لمكافحة الفقر
REDUCING POVERTY

ISFD

صندوق التضامن الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the newsletter,
please email us at: isfd-info@isdb.org.