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SOLIDARITY

ISFD Commemorates
the International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty

The Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB)

Restoring Sight and
Changing Lives

Al-Quds Empowerment Fund

Uplifting the People of Al-Quds
through Social and Economic
Development



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Chairman Message



The Islamic Development Bank stands steadfast with its Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development in a relentless fight against poverty.

For half a century, the Islamic Development Bank has made substantial contributions to poverty reduction and economic development in its 57 member countries.

Our collective efforts are challenged by a global polycrisis. This calls for enhanced collaboration and partnership. We must spare no effort to ensure that no one is left behind.

Let us pledge ourselves to continue our work, to break the shackles of poverty, and to build a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser

**Chairman
Islamic Development Bank Group**

Director General Message

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to present the third edition of our Solidarity Newsletter. This issue delves into the impactful work of the ISFD, highlighting our ongoing efforts to empower communities and alleviate poverty.

A key focus of this edition is the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness Program (AFAB). Launched in 2008, this partnership between the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the ISFD has made significant strides in preventing and curing vision impairments. To date, over around 1.2 million individuals across 15 countries have benefited from free eye care consultations and treatment, and more than 150,000 have undergone cataract surgeries. Additionally, the program has trained over 240 eye doctors to ensure sustainable healthcare for eye conditions. The next phase of the program, extending to 2029, aims to screen 10 million school children and 250,000 teachers for early detection and care for eye diseases.

As we commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, ISFD remains committed to this global cause. With approvals exceeding US\$1.23 billion since ISFD inception, we have invested in human capital development, economic empowerment, and building resilience in vulnerable communities across IsDB member countries.

This newsletter showcases our far-reaching impact. From empowering individuals through the Skills, Training, and Education Program (STEP) to supporting economic growth in Libya with the ongoing implementation of the National Fund for Economic Empowerment and MSMEs Development (NFEE), we are driving a positive change in communities. Moreover, our ISFD Scholarships Scheme has awarded 563 talented students (383 males and 180 females) from IsDB's least developed member countries since its inception in 2019. Of these, 37 students have already graduated and are now contributing to their home countries' development.

Moreover, Al-Quds Empowerment Fund has launched new initiatives this year to address challenges in education, economic empowerment, housing, and community development in Al-Quds City.

Dr. Hiba Ahmed
Director General



The Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB)

Restoring Sight and Changing Lives



A F A B
Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness

What is AFAB?

The Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness is a partnership program launched in 2008 by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) with the aim of preventing and curing vision problems, offering not just the gift of sight, but a pathway out of poverty.

Aligning with IsDB's and ISFD's Mission

AFAB's objectives are closely aligned with IsDB's and ISFD's mandates of promoting human development and combating poverty. By providing essential eye care services, including surgeries, medications, and training, AFAB contributes to improving the quality of life for individuals in vulnerable communities.

Supporting Sustainable Development Goals

AFAB directly supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for people at all ages.

By restoring sight, AFAB empowers individuals in IsDB selected member countries to participate fully in society and economic activities, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development in their countries.

First Generation of AFAB

AFAB First Generation was dedicated to restoring sight, preventing vision loss, and strengthening the capacity of eyecare professionals in African countries where countless individuals needlessly suffer from blindness. Widespread blindness not only devastates lives but also hinders economic progress, creating a vicious cycle of poverty and disability.



Target Countries



Benin



Mali



Cameroon



Chad



Djibouti



Guinea



Niger



Burkina Faso

Blindness around the World

According to The Vision Loss Expert Group (Lancet publication in 2020) estimates, there are approximately:



295 Million

with moderate and several vision impairments worldwide.



Of these
43.3 Million

are blind.

Outcomes



244,197

Patients received free eye care consultations.



49,486

Women, men, and children received cataract surgeries free of charge.



177

Physicians and technicians benefited from capacity building trainings.

Second Generation of AFAB



This broader approach ensures that a wider range of individuals can benefit from the AFAB's interventions.

Strengthening National Capacities

In addition to providing eye care services, AFAB Second Generation prioritizes the development of national blindness programs and their staff. By collaborating with national programs, AFAB implements tailored interventions that address specific needs, including services for cataracts, refractive errors, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. Each country develops its work plan based on a comprehensive capacity needs assessment.

Building on Success

The evaluation of the AFAB First Generation demonstrated its effectiveness in addressing avoidable blindness and its positive impact on social and economic development. Building on these successes, the AFAB Second Generation was launched in 2018 with a focus on national capacity development and increased involvement of health ministries.



Expanding Scope

While continuing its focus on cataract-related blindness, the AFAB Second Generation expands its scope to include other preventable ocular conditions such as refractive errors, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.

Target Countries



Outcomes



642,813

Patients received free eye care consultations.



98,430

Women, men, and children received cataract surgeries free of charge.



256,000

Children benefited from refractive error screenings. Those diagnosed with refractive errors received glasses and necessary medical treatment.



Over 50

Medical units in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Guinea were supported with essential eyecare equipment.



Scholarships

Specialization in Ophthalmology

24



Physicians

95



Ophthalmic Technicians

Sub-specialization in glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy

9



Ophthalmologists



Training

90

Ophthalmologists and ophthalmic technicians participated in training sessions, enhancing their skills in eye care.

AFAB Way Forward



EYECARE FOR EMPOWERING CHILDREN IN AFRICA PROGRAM
 برنامج العناية بالعيون لتمكين الأطفال في أفريقيا
 Programme de Soins Oculaires pour l'Autonomisation des Enfants en Afrique

Leveraging the success of AFAB First and Second Generations, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) are launching a new initiative: **Eyecare for Empowering Children in Africa (EYECA)** with the aim of reducing **Uncorrected Refractive Error (URE) prevalence by 25% in schools by 2029.**



Main Objectives

Screening **10 million children and 250,000 teachers**, with teachers trained to assist in early detection.

Distributing corrective glasses to **320,000 students and 37,000 teachers.**

Offering medical treatment to **76,000 children with visual impairments.**

Performing 4,000 surgeries for children with severe visual impairments.

Enhancing the capacity of national health institutions.

Launching **awareness campaigns** to promote the importance of eye health.

Target Countries

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Cataract Surgery Campaigns to Help Thousands in Côte d'Ivoire



The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage in Côte d'Ivoire, successfully concluded cataract surgery campaigns in the Agnéby-Tiassa and Cavally regions. The campaigns are part of the 2nd phase of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) program that aims to provide free vision restoration treatment to people suffering from cataract blindness in 13 IsDB member countries.

The campaigns were conducted from May to August 2024 in coordination with the National Eye Health Program (PNSO). This initiative, now in its fourth consecutive year, underscores the commitment of IsDB, ISFD, and BADEA to support Côte d'Ivoire's efforts in implementing the third pillar of the country's National Strategic Plan for Eye Health 2021-2025, focused on combating eye diseases. Over the course of the campaigns, a total of 1,008 cataract-affected patients received free surgeries while 4,234 people benefited from free eye consultations. These interventions have had a significant and positive impact on the lives of Ivorian people.

Dr. Gamael Koizan, the PNSO Coordinator, expressed his gratitude to IsDB, ISFD, and BADEA for their continued support to Côte d'Ivoire through AFAB. He stated, "These campaigns are key to address the burden of cataract blindness in Côte d'Ivoire and help us in implementing the third pillar of our National Strategic Plan for Eye Health 2021-2025, which focusses on combating eye diseases."

Dr. Koizan further emphasized the importance of continuing these efforts to achieve the targets of the World Health Organization for cataract surgery, particularly in the most affected areas of the country. He reaffirmed PNSO's commitment to working with IsDB, ISFD, and their partners to eliminate eye diseases and empower countless individuals to fully participate in the development of their communities.

Impact



1,008 cataract surgeries performed.



4,234 people received free eye consultations.

Launch of Cataract Treatment Campaigns in Burkina Faso

In a significant step towards combating avoidable blindness, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) launched the cataract treatment campaigns in Burkina Faso as part of the Alliance for Fighting Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) program.

Dr. Issa Ouédraogo, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health & Public Hygiene of Burkina Faso, officially launched cataract treatment campaigns on 26 July 2024. Expressing gratitude for the support of the IsDB and ISFD, Dr. Ouédraogo highlighted the expanded scope of cataract survey campaigns beyond the major cities of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso to include rural areas with the greatest need for eye care.

In Burkina Faso, blindness is considered as a public health issue, affecting approximately 400,000 people, or 2% of the population. 80% of these cases are preventable or curable. Cataracts are the primary causes of blindness in the country, accounting for 66% of the cases. The cataract surgery rate is 250 per million inhabitants, which remains below the World Health Organization's recommended rate of 2,000 per million inhabitants for Sahel countries.



These campaigns, jointly funded by ISFD and Secours Islamique France (SIF), aim to conduct over 15,100 eye consultations and perform 4,000 cataract surgeries by 31 December 2024.



A total budget of
US\$220,000
contributed to this initiative.

ISFD and SIF demonstrate their commitment to the AFAB program to improve eye health in Burkina Faso, particularly targeting rural areas where care services are most needed.

Training Ophthalmologists and Fighting Blindness in Pakistan



In response to the growing challenge of the critical shortage of ophthalmologists specializing in glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy across Africa, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) have initiated an extensive training program under the Alliances to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) program.

Across IsDB member countries in Africa, a major challenge exists: a lack of specialized ophthalmologists. In 2020, only 14 specialists served 185 million people across 13 countries, averaging one specialist per 13 million people. This limited access to eye care leads to delayed diagnosis and treatment, resulting in irreversible blindness and substantial socio-economic burdens. The new training program under AFAB aims to directly address this human resource gap.

The Layton Rahmatullah Benevolent Trust (LRBT) has been identified as a suitable provider of this training. LRBT is a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting

blindness and providing high-quality eye care in Pakistan. Both LRBT and COMSTECH are partners of IsDB and ISFD under the AFAB program. They facilitated the organization of several free eye treatment camps and training workshops for local doctors in many African countries.

Launched in May 2024, the one-year training program aims to equip 8 doctors from Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Somalia with the expertise to treat glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. The training program, delivered at the LRBT Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan, encompasses both medical and surgical treatments for pediatric and adult patients suffering from glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. Upon completion, these ophthalmologists will return to their home countries to serve their communities, significantly enhancing local capacity to fight avoidable blindness and improve overall eye health.

It is worth mentioning that AFAB focuses on building the capacity of eye care professionals in IsDB countries by providing scholarships to medical doctors and technicians to specialize in ophthalmology. In addition to the 8 ophthalmologists specializing in glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, scholarships are provided for 24 doctors and 95 technicians to specialize in ophthalmology.



Training Program

Duration: One-year training program at Layton Rahmatullah Benevolent Trust (LRBT) Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan.

Participants: 8 doctors from Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Somalia.

Focus: Glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy treatment.



Thousands Benefit from Eye Care Campaign in Somalia



The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and Human Appeal, a British international development and relief charity, are making substantial progress in their ongoing eye care campaign in Somalia under the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB).

Launched on August 10, 2024, the campaign has addressed the critical shortage of eye care services in Baidoa and Banaadir regions. Through a comprehensive approach combining treatment, equipment provision, and capacity building, the initiative has made a significant impact on the lives of thousands in the country.



Moreover, IsDB and ISFD in collaboration with other partners have provided four ophthalmic microscopes and four ophthalmic operating tables to healthcare facilities in Somalia. Additionally, a dedicated mobile clinic equipped for screening and treatment of refractive errors will soon be deployed across the country. By integrating medical interventions, primary care training, and equipment provision, the campaign has not only addressed immediate eye care needs but has also established a foundation for long-term improvements in Somalia's health system.



Key Achievements



1,000 successful cataract surgeries

Restoring vision and empowering individuals to lead more independent lives.



Over 10,000 ophthalmic consultations

Addressing various eye conditions, including infections, glaucoma, and other vision impairments.



68 healthcare workers trained

Strengthening local capacity to deliver sustainable eye care services.

Fatoumata Kone: A Journey to Sight

Fatoumata's Struggle with Blindness

Fatoumata Kone, a **12-year-old girl from the small town of Rubino, Côte d'Ivoire**, had lived her childhood life in darkness.



Born with bilateral cataracts, she had never seen the world beyond the touch of her hands and the sound of her surroundings. While other children at her age attended school, played, and explored, Fatoumata remained isolated, unable to join them due to her blindness. Fatoumata's parents were heartbroken but powerless. Living in poverty, they lacked the financial means to afford the surgery that could restore their daughter's sight. For twelve years, they had accepted the painful reality that Fatoumata would never see.

Chance for Sight

One day, everything changed when they heard a broadcast on the local radio station. The announcement spoke of a free cataract surgery campaign at the Agboville Regional Hospital. This campaign, organized under the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB), was made possible through the collaboration of the National Eye Health Program (PNZO), and the generous support of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). With a mixture of disbelief and hope, Fatoumata's parents took her to the hospital, where her condition was confirmed by ophthalmologists. To the family's immense joy, the surgery was a success. For the first time in her life, Fatoumata could see.

Tears of joy streamed down Fatoumata's face as she realized the miracle that had occurred. For the first time in her life, she could see the faces of her parents, the

greenery of her surroundings, and the bright blue sky. The once-silent world around her was now filled with sights and sounds that she had only ever imagined.

Embracing a World of Possibilities

Fatoumata's parents were overcome with gratitude for the compassionate individuals who had made their daughter's vision a reality. The surgery had not only restored Fatoumata's sight but had also given her a sense of hope and possibility.

As Fatoumata embarked on a journey of discovery, she was eager to explore the world that had previously been hidden from her. With her newfound vision, she aspired to attend school, learn to read, and write, and live a life filled with purpose and joy.



Ajouter Tivany's Journey from Darkness to Light



Struggle with Cataract

Ajouter Tivany, a 13-year-old and seventh-grade student from the outskirts of Maputo, Mozambique, was living an ordinary life like other children in his school. He had many friends and enjoyed studying and doing his favorite hobbies. However, his world began to blur. His vision started to deteriorate, making it increasingly difficult to see the whiteboard or read his textbooks. Concerned, Ajouter shared his troubles with his parents, who wasted no time in seeking medical attention. At Joze Moqamo Hospital in Maputo, a heartbreaking diagnosis awaited them: Ajouter had cataracts.

Ajouter's vision problems worsened despite wearing special glasses prescribed to help him see better. He faced increasing frustration when he could not keep up with his lessons and classroom exercises. This led to feelings of isolation as he found it harder to communicate with his classmates and teachers. His impaired vision also prevented him from enjoying activities such as football and simple games turned into significant challenges.



A Life Clouded by Cataracts

Ajouter, a 13-year-old student, struggled with deteriorating vision due to cataracts.



A Transformed Life

The surgery restored Ajouter's vision, allowing him to see clearly and participate fully in life.

Family Seeks Help and a Young Heart in Pain

Ajouter's father, his voice filled with despair: "The cost of the surgery is over 500 dollars, and we simply cannot afford it. It's heartbreaking to see my son struggle in school and daily life, knowing that a simple procedure could change everything."





Ajouter's young heart echoed his father's pain. "I can't see what's written on the board, and it's hard to keep up with my classmates," he said, his voice filled with frustration. "I feel left out because I can't participate in the class or play with my friends like before."

Turning Point

Ajouter's life took a turn for the better when his family learned about a free cataract surgery campaign funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) under the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness (AFAB) program. This initiative offered a lifeline for Ajouter. The cost of the surgery exceeded US\$500, a sum far beyond the reach of his family. With renewed hope, Ajouter's family took him back to Joze Moqamo Hospital for the recommended cataract surgery.

Life Transformed by Surgery

Ajouter's life underwent a remarkable transformation following cataract surgery. For the first time in years, he experienced a dramatic improvement in his vision, allowing him to see things clearly. Ajouter could now effortlessly read the whiteboard and textbooks, engaging fully in classroom activities and keeping up with his peers. His social interactions improved significantly, fostering better relationships with his classmates especially that he could now actively participate in sports and games, regaining his joy in playing football and other activities. Additionally, he no longer required special accommodation

in school, able to read standard print materials, sit anywhere in the classroom, and participate in exams without additional support.

Overwhelmed with joy and gratitude, Ajouter shared his experience: "The surgery was a miracle. Everything is so clear now! I can do everything my friends can do. I'm so happy."

A Brighter Future Awaits

The successful surgery not only restored Ajouter's eyesight but also ignited a renewed sense of confidence and independence. He now excels as both a dedicated student and a skilled athlete.

Today, Ajouter looks forward to a brighter future, filled with learning, growth, and achievements.

AFAB: Helping people suffering from eye conditions to restore sight, **participate in society, and live independently.**



Boka Akia: Restored Sight and Hope



Located in the northeastern region of Côte d'Ivoire, near the borders of Burkina Faso and Ghana, lies the health district of Bouna. This region is home to over 326,754 people and serves as the headquarters of the Bounkani health district. At its heart stands the Regional Hospital Center of Bouna, which hosted a remarkable initiative: a free cataract surgery campaign made possible through the support of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD).

Cataracts Clouding Akia's Life

Mr. Boka Akia, a 68-year-old resident of Bouna in the Bounkani health district, once enjoyed days of diligent work on the fertile land of the area. However, his life took a dramatic turn over a decade ago when cataracts robbed him of his vision, plunging him into darkness. This condition, coupled with the loss of his wife in 2003, not only hindered his livelihood but also eroded his independence and dignity, mirroring the challenges faced by over thousands of impoverished individuals across the region suffering from the same affliction.

"I used to work the land, cultivating crops and raising livestock." Akia recounted with a heavy sigh. "Unfortunately, this illness made me unable to leave my home. The cataracts have taken away my independence. If I could regain my sight, I could return to work and support myself. I may not be as old as I seem, but it's this affliction that has limited my abilities."

Akia's daughter describes their situation simply: "Since



Blinded by Cataracts

Mr. Boka Akia, a 68-year-old farmer, lost his vision to cataracts, limiting his independence and livelihood.



Sight Brought Back

Successful, free-of-charge surgery restored Akia's vision, empowering him to return to work and live independently.

my mother passed away, financial difficulties have made life challenging. We are doing everything we can to manage. In my absence, my sister-in-law ensured dad was well-fed. When I am home, I take over those responsibilities."

Sight Restored: Akia's New Beginning

However, fortune turned in his favor when he learned of a cataract surgery campaign in Bouna, sponsored by the IsDB and ISFD. The program, staffed by skilled ophthalmologists from the Ministry of Health, was dedicated to restoring sight to the most vulnerable members of the community.

Accompanied by the National Program for Eye Health team, Akia made his way to the health center of Bouna where his complete blindness due to cataract was confirmed. In the days that followed, he underwent successful cataract surgery on both eyes. As the bandages were removed and light filled his vision, Akia experienced an overwhelming sense of joy and gratitude.

With his vision restored, Akia embarked on a new chapter of his life filled with a newfound sense of hope.





ISFD Renews Commitment to Poverty Alleviation on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

“

H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, Chairman of the IsDB Group, emphasized the Bank’s unwavering dedication to poverty reduction and sustainable development. “Despite the challenges posed by the global polycrisis,” he stated, “we remain steadfast in our pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive future.”

”

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by reaffirming its commitment to combatting poverty in Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) member countries. As the poverty alleviation arm of the IsDB Group, the ISFD has been a driving force in addressing the complex challenges of poverty through impactful programs and initiatives.

Since its inception, the ISFD has approved over US\$1.23 billion for programs focused on human capital development, economic empowerment, and building resilience within vulnerable communities. These initiatives have expanded access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, contributing to greater prosperity and sustainable livelihoods.

The ISFD’s innovative, collaborative approach, working with member countries, international development partners, and civil society organizations, has been instrumental in developing and implementing effective solutions to address the multifaceted nature of poverty.

“

Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the ISFD Director General stated that, “The ISFD is proud to contribute to the global effort to eradicate poverty. We are committed to delivering programs with a lasting impact on vulnerable populations, particularly through market-based approaches to empower women and youth, create jobs, and foster sustainable livelihoods.”

”

ISFD Director General Meets the World Bank's Poverty & Equity Global Director



The Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Dr. Hiba Ahmed, met last October in Washington, the United States, with the Global Director for Poverty and Equity at the World Bank Group, Mr. Luis Felipe López-Calva, on the sidelines of the World Bank Group's Annual Meetings.

Building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in October 2023 by H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, and Mr. Ajay Banga, the President of the World Bank Group, the two parties discussed strategies to leverage their combined expertise and resources to tackle pressing poverty challenges. They expressed

their commitment to exploring joint initiatives that will empower vulnerable communities and promote sustainable development.

The meeting concluded with both parties reaffirming their dedication to continued cooperation and exploring future opportunities for collaboration.



IsDB-ISFD and World Bank

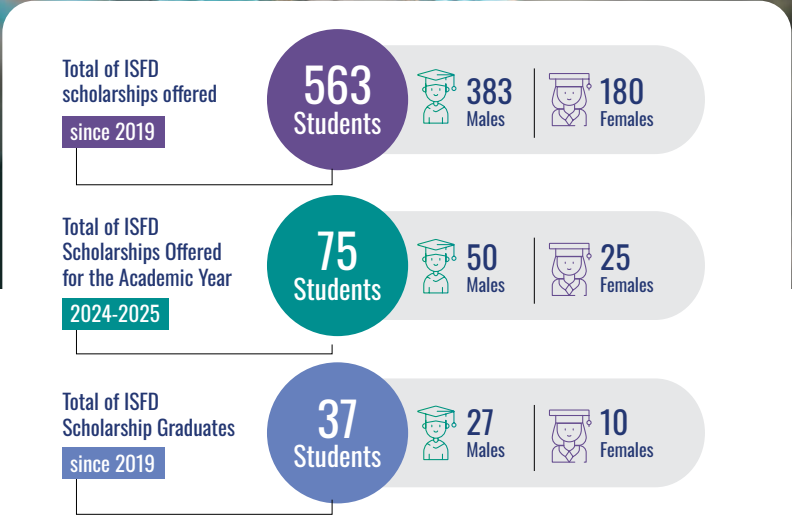
Committed to eradicating poverty through collaboration and collective action.

75 Students from 21 Countries Win IsDB-ISFD Scholarships

In line with the commitment of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) to invest in the human capital development of the IsDB's least developed member countries (LDMCs), and in collaboration with the IsDB's Cooperation & Capacity Development Department (CCDD), 75 students from 21 IsDB's LDMCs have been successfully selected for the academic year 2024-2025 to pursue their studies in their own countries or in one of the IsDB member countries.

Among these 75 students, 25 have been awarded scholarships to pursue bachelor's degrees, while 50 will earn their technical diplomas in various fields that align closely with the development priorities of their respective countries.

Since its inception in 2019, the IsDB-ISFD Scholarships Scheme has selected a total of 563 eligible students for its scholarships. Out of these, 37 students have successfully completed their studies, including 18 with bachelor's degrees, and 19 with technical diplomas. These graduates have returned to their home countries, where they are now actively contributing to their socio-economic development and participating meaningfully as professionals.



A group of new students under the Scheme arrived in Tunisia to join their studies.

Beneficiary Countries & Scholarships Offered

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan | Bangladesh | Benin | Burkina Faso | Chad |
| 32 | 26 | 22 | 24 | 37 |
| Comoros | Djibouti | The Gambia | Guinea | Guinea Bissau |
| 23 | 20 | 20 | 42 | 30 |
| Mali | Mauritania | Mozambique | Niger | Senegal |
| 22 | 20 | 12 | 24 | 24 |
| Sierra Leone | Somalia | Sudan | Togo | Uganda |
| 15 | 30 | 41 | 21 | 15 |
| Yemen | | | | |
| 63 | | | | |



STEP Program Steering Committee Convenes Third Meeting

The Steering Committee for the Skills, Training, and Education Program (STEP) convened its third meeting at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) headquarters last September. In addition to the representatives of IsDB and Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), representative from other STEP Program partner organizations were present in the meeting. Key figures in attendance included Eng. Jamal Al-Nouri, Chairman of the Board, and Eng. Waleed Al-Saif, Chief Executive Officer of the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society; Eng. Bader Al-Sumeit, Chief Executive Officer of the International Islamic Charitable Organization; Mr. Khaled Abu Ajwa, Chief Executive Officer of Jusoor; Dr. Abdellah Bin Othman, Chief Executive Officer of Al-Awn Foundation for Development; Mr. Nawaf Al-Hammadi, Chief of Operations and International Partnerships at Qatar Charity; and Eng. Mohammed Skaik, Director of Partnerships at SPARK.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Idris Dia, the Director of Economic and Social Infrastructure Department, representing Dr. Issa Faye, the Director General of Global Practices and Partnerships at IsDB. Mr. Abdi Abdullah,

Manager of the Fragility and Resilience Division, moderated the session. Mr. Mohamad Jawabreh, Senior Program Management

Specialist at ISFD, delivered a statement during the meeting on behalf of Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), in which she highlighted the importance of STEP Program as an innovative solution focused on supporting young refugees and internally displaced people by enhancing access to education, developing skills, and creating job opportunities.

The STEP Program management reported remarkable progress, revealing that the program has successfully raised US\$62 million to support its activities and projects. Currently, 12 projects are underway, serving over 5,000 beneficiaries and 600 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye, and Yemen, with a total funding of US\$15 million. Looking ahead, STEP Program aims to



Training, Education
Programs for Refugees,
displaced persons
and host communities

برنامج تمهيد وتدريب
وتعليم اللاجئين والتارحين
والمجتمعات المضيفة

launch seven additional projects, reaching over 30,000 beneficiaries and 340 SMEs. Furthermore, technical evaluations are in progress for five more projects, which will be presented to the Steering Committee upon completion.

The meeting underscored the importance of focusing on critical interventions in the program's priority countries and areas. Given the current circumstances, the committee stressed the importance of prioritizing Palestine due to the pressing challenges. In addition, the committee highlighted the necessity of expanding partnerships to enhance the program's impact and secure increased funding. Notably, the committee members expressed their willingness to increase their contributions directed to Palestine through the program.

The meeting concluded with the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society and the Al-Awn Foundation for Development. This agreement, focusing on education initiatives under the STEP Program, further strengthens collaboration between partners and supports the program's overarching goals.



Mission

To reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of young refugees, internally displaced persons, and host communities.



Approach

Enhancing access to education, developing skills, supporting entrepreneurship, and creating job opportunities.



Progress



- ✓ Raised **US\$62 million** to support activities and projects.
- ✓ **Over 5,000 beneficiaries** and 600 SMEs served.
- ✓ **12 projects underway** in Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye, and Yemen.
- ✓ Plans to launch 7 additional projects, reaching over **30,000 beneficiaries and 340 SMEs**.



ISFD Enhances Partnerships in Qatar for Poverty Alleviation Joint Initiatives

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) successfully concluded a series of high-level meetings in Qatar, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening partnerships and driving sustainable development initiatives that help alleviate poverty across the ISDB member countries.

Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the ISFD Director General, met with key stakeholders in Doha during her visit from September 16 to 18, 2024. These meetings provided a platform for discussing potential collaborations and exploring avenues for joint initiatives.

Among the notable meetings were discussions with officials from the Ministry of Finance, including Hon. Hamad Madi Al-Hajri, IsDB Executive Director for Qatar, and Dr. Saud Al Attiyah, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance for Economic Affairs. The meetings centered on advancing the proposed Qatar-ISFD Joint Country Fund and securing support for its implementation.

Dr. Hiba Ahmed also met with Mr. Sultan Al-Aseeri, Acting Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), to explore opportunities for collaboration and secure QFFD's support for the proposed Joint Country Fund.

She also engaged in productive discussions with the Chief Executive Officer of SILATECH, Mr. Hassan AlMulla, where both parties explored the establishment of a joint Youth Economic Empowerment program. This initiative aims to create employment and self-employment opportunities for young people and women in ISDB member countries.

Furthermore, Dr. Hiba Ahmed met with Mr. Fahad Al-Sulaiti, the Chief Executive Officer of Education Above All (EAA), to discuss the proposed Joint Country Fund with the State of Qatar. Both parties emphasized the importance of innovative approaches to sustainable development, such as the Waqf concept, and explored ways to leverage existing resources for education programs.



Joint Country Fund

Partnership with Qatar to address **poverty and promote economic growth** in IsDB least developed member countries.

Fund's Potential Impact



Job creation for youth and women.



Improved access to education.



Enhanced economic opportunities.



GIFR Operationalization Highlights



The Global Islamic Fund for Refugees (GIFR)

has made significant progress towards its operationalization and increased visibility in 2024.



Investment Policy Approved

The GIFR's Investment Policy was approved by the Representatives of the Board of Founders in August 2024, paving the way for its investment activities.



UNHCR Contribution

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has successfully transferred its contribution of US\$50 million to the GIFR. This milestone positions the GIFR for operationalization, and the Fund is actively involved in discussions with stakeholders to launch its first project.



Increased Recognition

The GIFR was showcased at the Islamic Philanthropy event organized by UNHCR during the UN General Assembly in New York, the United States, last September 2024. The event highlighted the GIFR as an innovative model for providing sustainable financing to refugees and forcibly displaced persons.



Potential Partnerships

Several international NGOs have expressed interest in collaborating with the GIFR. Ongoing discussions are underway to explore potential partnerships.

ISFD Director General Meets with British Embassy Officials to Discuss Partnerships in Poverty Alleviation Programs



The Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Dr. Hiba Ahmed, welcomed a delegation from the **British Embassy to Saudi Arabia, led by Mr. Mark Evans, First Secretary Development.**

During the meeting, Dr. Hiba Ahmed provided an overview of the ISFD's mission to reduce poverty in the least developed member countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). She highlighted the Fund's ongoing programs focused on women's and youth economic empowerment, refugee support, and its involvement in the Lives and Livelihoods Fund in 22 countries.

The British delegation expressed keen interest in exploring potential partnerships with the ISFD to support poverty alleviation efforts in target member countries. They indicated a willingness to contribute to programs, projects, and humanitarian and emergency relief interventions in sectors such as health, economic empowerment, and education particularly in the IsDB least developed member countries.

Both sides agreed to work together to strengthen their partnership and identify specific programs and projects for potential funding and to meet again during the Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum in February 2025.

IsDB-ISFD and Central Bank of Libya Kicked Off NFEE First Steering Committee Meeting



Following the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group and the State of Libya, represented by the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) on the intentions of establishing a national fund for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Libya, the first Steering Committee meeting for the National Fund for Economic Empowerment and the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development (NFEE) convened last October in Tripoli, Libya. The Steering Committee for the NFEE has been formed under the leadership of the Central Bank of Libya, marking a significant step forward in this pioneering national initiative.

In addition to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the NFEE's partnership network includes prominent national entities, bilateral, and international development agencies pivotal to Libya's MSMEs ecosystem. Key partners include the Central Bank of Libya, the Ministry of Finance, the National Guarantee Fund, the National Program for Supporting MSMEs, Al-Rifi Bank, Fund of Financial Facilities, and international support from the European Commission through France Expertise, UNDP-Libya, and USAID.



Initial Capital
US\$250 million



Goal

To empower small businesses, foster sustainable job creation, and contribute to a more diversified and inclusive Libyan economy.



IsDB-ISFD Role

Setting up the NFEE, creating synergies, and providing technical expertise.

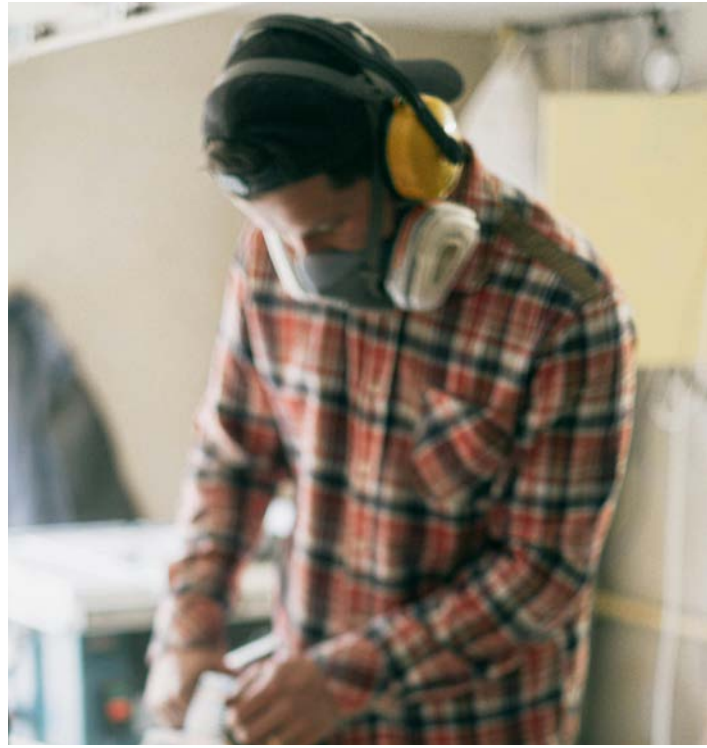


Central Bank of Libya Role

Contributing 25% of the NFEE's capital.

With an initial capital injection of US\$250 million, the NFEE is poised to make a transformative impact on Libya's economic landscape by nurturing the growth and development of MSMEs, the backbone of the country's economy. The platform of the fund will offer an impactful solution for MSMEs including diverse range of financing options such as equity, working capital, and guarantee. Beyond financial support, the NFEE will also offer crucial non-financial and technical assistance to complement the mentioned financing package.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) through its Poverty Alleviation Arm, the ISFD, and the Regional Hub of Rabat (represented by a team including Br. Mohamed Maher Mannai, Lead Program Management Specialist, Br. Khalid Ahmed, Senior Program Management Specialist, and Br. Osama Mansour, IsDB Filed Representative) will play a vital role in setting up the NFEE, creating synergies among the Libyan MSMEs ecosystem and extending technical expertise. The Central Bank of Libya has committed to contributing 25% of the NFEE's capital, with the remainder being funded by local and international stakeholders.



The establishment of the NFEE marks the beginning of a new chapter in Libya's economic development, aiming to empower small businesses, foster sustainable job creation, and contribute to a more diversified and inclusive Libyan economy.



ISFD Director General Visits Guinea to Enhance Cooperation



Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), visited the Republic of Guinea from 23 to 24 July 2024, following an invitation from H.E. Ismaël Nabé, the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and the IsDB Governor for Guinea.

She was received by the Prime Minister of Guinea, H.E. Amadou Oury Bah, who welcomed her to Conakry. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of the cooperation between Guinea and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, particularly with the ISFD. He highlighted the current Development Waqf Project and the need for initiatives to economically empower the youth and women of Guinea as key areas of focus, considering the country's challenges with youth illegal migration. Dr. Hiba Ahmed thanked the Prime Minister for the warm reception and reiterated ISFD's commitment to supporting youth and women economic empowerment, as well as initiatives through the ISFD's Global Islamic Fund for Refugees (GIFR) to address the challenges faced by displaced persons.

Dr. Hiba Ahmed was also received by the Minister of Economy and Finance, H.E. Mourana Soumah, who expressed his thanks to the ISFD for supporting the social development in Guinea and expressed the interest of Guinea to advance the collaboration in micro-financing initiatives.

The Director General concluded her mission with a meeting with H.E. Djiba Diakité, Minister and Director of Cabinet, in the presence of General Amara Camara, Minister and Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic of Guinea, who conveyed the deep appreciation of the Government to the ISFD and IsDB for the initiatives undertaken in Guinea. On her part, Dr. Hiba Ahmed expressed her sincere gratitude to the Government of Guinea for the warm reception and hospitality she received and reaffirmed the ISFD's willingness to enhance collaboration with Guinea for the cause of developing the human capital and empowering communities.

Dr. Hiba Ahmed also participated in a roundtable discussion with the IsDB Governor for Guinea, H.E. Ismaël Nabé, and a delegation from the African Women Leaders Network. Aligned with the Prime Minister's directives, the discussions centered on enhancing collaboration between the ISFD and Guinea's agricultural sector to identify opportunities, develop skills, and economically empower women and youth by supporting the entire agricultural value chain.



ISFD Director General Tours Flagship Waqf City Project in Guinea

The ISFD Director General, Dr. Hiba Ahmed, and the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Guinea, H.E. Ismaël NABÉ, toured the Waqf City project in Conakry, a cornerstone of the ISFD's initiatives in Guinea that has received a substantial investment of US\$16 million from the Fund, contributing to the project's total cost of US\$23.7 million. This flagship development project is set to be a catalyst for sustainable development

in Guinea, with the potential to generate significant revenue upon completion. The generated income will be reinvested into vital human and social development programs in the country, including education and healthcare.



Waqf City Project: A Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Guinea

Investment

US\$16 million from the ISFD
 totaling **US\$23.7 million**

Goal

Generate significant revenue for reinvestment into human and social development programs.

Impact

- Education
- Healthcare
- Improved livelihoods for local communities
- Sustainable economic growth





ISFD Participates in IsDB Group Day in Brunei Darussalam

The Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) participated in the inaugural IsDB Group Day co-hosted by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group and Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) in Brunei Darussalam on September 12, 2024. The event, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economy, marked a significant milestone in fostering economic cooperation and unlocking new business opportunities between Brunei Darussalam and the 57 member countries of the IsDB Group.

During the event, Mr. Mohd Yusri Bin Yusof, Senior Resource Mobilization Specialist at ISFD, presented a comprehensive overview of the Fund's corporate profile, highlighting its flagship programs and exploring avenues for potential collaboration with Brunei stakeholders.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the IsDB Group and BIBD, laying the groundwork for a strategic partnership that will focus on joint financing, treasury activities, trade finance, human capacity development, sustainable development, and investment. The MoU aims to enhance BIBD's support for Brunei's national economic objectives and advance the IsDB Group's mission of promoting sustainable development.

Beyond the main event, ISFD actively participated in bilateral meetings with various Brunei counterparts, including the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, BIBD, Yayasan Sultan Haji Hasanal Bolkiah, and the National Development Plan unit. These meetings provided opportunities to discuss potential partnerships in areas such as joint fundraising activities for Waqf, Zakat, and other Islamic almsgiving initiatives.



ISFD Explores Partnership with Kingdom of Bahrain for Poverty Reduction



The Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Dr. Hiba Ahmed, led a mission to the Kingdom of Bahrain last September. She held a productive meeting with officials at the Ministry of Finance to discuss potential partnerships and explore the establishment of a Joint Country Fund.

During her meeting with H.E. Mr. Yusuf Abdulla Al Humood, the Undersecretary for Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy and the IsDB Alternate Governor for the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr. Hiba Ahmed emphasized the mutual benefits of the proposed fund, which would leverage Waqf allocations to invest in poverty reduction initiatives in the Islamic Development Bank's least developed member countries.

IsDB-ISFD Scholarships Scheme Empowers Asrar Al-Husaini and Other Students to Succeed

The IsDB-ISFD Scholarships Scheme continues to empower individuals from across the Islamic Development Bank's (IsDB) least developed member countries, providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education and achieve their academic goals. A distinguished example of this is Ms. Asrar Al-Husaini from Yemen, a recipient of a scholarship in 2019 and has recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance from Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, one of Türkiye's most prestigious institutions.

Despite her physical disability, Ms. Asrar demonstrated exceptional dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to her studies. Her remarkable achievements culminated in multiple distinctions and a successful graduation.



Mr. Abdelhakim Yessouf, the Manager of the Special Assistance Division, extended heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Asrar on behalf of the IsDB during her visit to IsDB headquarters last August 2024. He commended her determination and highlighted her as a role model for other students.



The IsDB-ISFD Scholarships Scheme plays an important role in enabling students like Ms. Asrar to overcome barriers and reach their full potential. By providing financial support and academic guidance, the Scheme empowers individuals from diverse backgrounds in the IsDB least developed member countries to pursue

higher education and contribute to the development of their respective countries.



Delegation from Kenya and World Bank Visits ISFD to Explore Potential Collaboration

Dr. Hiba Ahmed, the Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), received last October a delegation from the Kenyan Government and the World Bank to discuss potential collaboration on establishing Kenya's Green Investment Fund (GIF) for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Led by Ms. Norah Ratemo, Director General of the Kenya Development Corporation, the delegation included H.E. Ambassador Aden Mohamed, Consul-General of the Republic of Kenya in Jeddah, Ms. Barbara Lunani, Deputy Director of the Kenya Development Corporation, and Mr. Ahmed Rostom, Senior Financial Sector Specialist at the World Bank.

During the meeting, Dr. Hiba Ahmed highlighted the ISFD's commitment to reducing poverty through various initiatives, including climate change mitigation, women and youth economic empowerment, and microfinance. The parties explored the possibility of collaborating under the Green Investment Fund, contributing to its mission of supporting green MSMEs, particularly medium-sized enterprises.

The Green Investment Fund aims to promote green initiatives among Kenyan MSMEs, emphasizing sectors like transport (electric vehicles), energy and material efficiency (green buildings), and environmental resources (sustainable agriculture and waste management).



BCM Training to Enhance Coffee Sector in Yemen



The Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion Services (SMEPS), in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY), successfully concluded a Business Continuity Management (BCM) training workshop in Yemen, equipping key stakeholders in the coffee sector with essential tools to enhance their resilience and sustainability. Twelve participants from coffee companies and associations in Aden, Yafe'e, Al-Dhale'e, and Taiz regions benefited from the training that was held under the MARKETS "Market Access Readiness in Key Economic Trade Sectors" Program in Yemen.

The BCM training program, conducted from September 28 – October 3, 2024, focused on equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to identify, assess, and mitigate potential risks that could disrupt their coffee production. By strengthening their resilience, these companies and associations can better withstand challenges, maintain continuity of business, and expand their market reach both domestically and internationally.

The MARKETS: Market Access Readiness in Key Economic Trade Sectors

The program 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 Yemen to address the underlying causes of poor performance in markets that matter to people living in poverty to promote sustainable livelihoods, create jobs, and improve income.



ISFD Director General Participates in the 6th IsDB Group Evaluation Symposium



The Director General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Dr. Hiba Ahmed, participated in the 6th IsDB Group Evaluation Symposium, highlighting the critical role of evaluation in achieving sustainable poverty reduction in the member countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

Addressing the symposium, Dr. Hiba Ahmed highlighted the unique challenges faced by the ISFD in operating within a region characterized by high poverty rates, displacement, and the complexities of global challenges. To effectively address these issues, the ISFD has adopted a multi-sectoral approach, focusing on sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and clean energy.

“Evaluation is not merely a compliance requirement,” stated Dr. Ahmed. “It is a strategic tool that empowers us to refine our programs and maximize their impact.” The ISFD has implemented a robust evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of its initiatives.

By analyzing the outcomes and lessons learned from these programs and benefiting from the recommendations of the Fund’s corporate evaluation, the ISFD has been able to adapt its strategies and improve the alignment of its interventions with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This approach has contributed to the Fund’s efforts to reduce poverty, create sustainable livelihoods, and enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities.

ISFD Participates in the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of MARKETS Yemen Program

Emphasizing Market Access and MSMEs Support in Key Economic Sectors



© The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen

The Steering Committee for the Market Access Readiness in Key Economic Trade Sectors Program (MARKETS) held its second meeting in Aden last October. Participants included senior officials from Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as well as representatives from the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY), and the Small and Micro Enterprises Promotion Services (SMEPS).

The Steering Committee meeting focused on reviewing the progress and addressing the challenges facing MARKETS program, which is jointly funded by IsDB and SDRPY, with a total budget of US\$2 million.

Members of the Steering Committee addressed the program's visibility and the efforts to enhance the program awareness, ensuring that beneficiaries are well-informed about the program's objectives and outcomes. In addition, there was a strong emphasis on improving the program's sustainability, with participants examining strategies to ensure that the benefits of the program continue long after its completion, particularly in terms of market access and economic growth in key identified products.

Ensuring Program Sustainability



Developing strategies to sustain program benefits beyond its conclusion.



Focusing on long-term market access and economic growth in key sectors.



Al-Quds Empowerment Fund

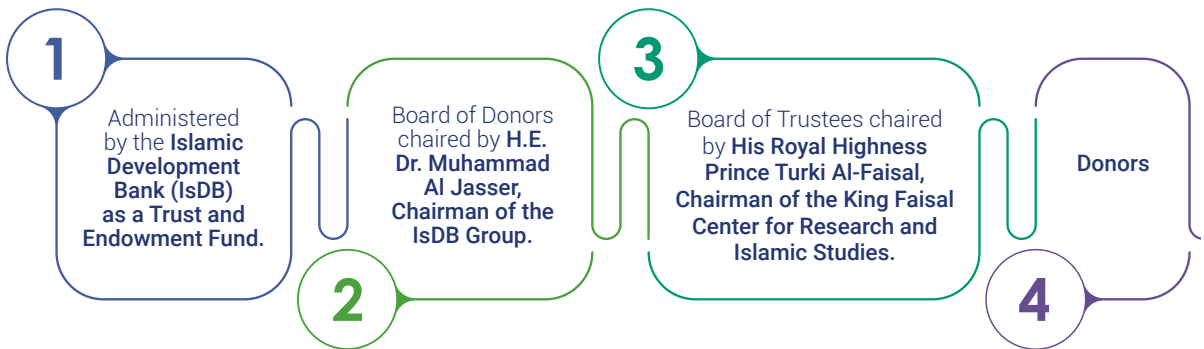


Fund Overview



Al-Quds Empowerment Fund was established in 2021 as the first Ihsan Waqf Investment Fund of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) with an initial target capital of **US\$100 million**. This strategic partnership with prominent Palestinian businessmen aims to empower and uplift the people of Al-Quds through social and economic development.

Foundation & Donors



To start its operations, ISFD committed a 10-year endowment of **US\$20 million**, while four additional donors pledged **US\$35 million** over the same period.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ISFD | US\$20 Million |
| Munib and Angela Masri Foundation | US\$10 Million |
| Michel Al-Sayegh | US\$10 Million |
| Munir Al-Kaloti | US\$10 Million |
| STF5 Care | US\$5 Million |

Al-Quds City Challenges



Unemployment

80% of the population is unemployed.



Poverty

35% of residents live below the poverty line.



Housing

A critical shortage of 70,000 housing units by 2027.



Education

A need for 1,800 additional classrooms.

The Fund's Focus Areas



Economic Empowerment

Creating sustainable livelihoods through job creation, microfinance, and entrepreneurship programs, particularly for women and youth.



Education

Investing in quality education, building schools, providing scholarships, and supporting educational programs.



Community Development

Strengthening community resilience through social programs, women and youth empowerment, and capacity-building.



Housing

Supporting affordable housing projects and housing improvement initiatives.





2023 Initiatives



A first package of development projects valued at US\$6.64 million was approved, with ISFD contributing a grant of US\$1.342 million. These projects are designed to empower the people of Al-Quds through interventions in critical sectors such as education, community development, housing, women and youth employment, and microfinance.



The Fund successfully secured US\$7.7 million in new contributions from prominent donors, including the STF5 Establishment, the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Na'mat and Tawfiq Al-Fakhouri Establishment, and the Al-Quds Fund and Endowment.



The first Board of Trustees meeting, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al Faisal, was held at the IsDB headquarters. **The board comprises business leaders and representatives of developmental and charitable institutions.**

Fund's 2024 Progress

The 3rd Board of Trustees Meeting

Al-Quds Empowerment Fund held its third Board of Trustees meeting in Amman, Jordan, last September. Chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal, the meeting brought together key stakeholders from Jordan and Palestine to discuss the Fund's ongoing efforts to empower the people of Al-Quds.

Meeting Highlights



Launch of 2024 Projects

The meeting marked the official launch of the Fund's projects for 2024, which aim to address critical needs in Al-Quds, including education, housing, and infrastructure.



Financial Commitment

A substantial new package of projects worth over US\$18 million was announced to support empowerment initiatives in Al-Quds.



Resource Mobilization

The Fund has adopted a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy to ensure sustainable funding for future projects.



Signing of Key Agreements

Youth Empowerment and Economic Revitalization



Partnership: **Qudsona Association for Development and Empowerment, Al-Quds University, and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)**

Impact: Financial support for 24 small businesses. | Vocational training for 57 students. | Restoration of the historic bazaar market. | Job creation for Al-Quds residents.

Higher Education Support



Partnership: **Qudsona Association for Development and Empowerment**

Impact: Scholarships for 250 students, including medical students. | Volunteer programs for student engagement. | Capacity-building programs to enhance employability.

Elderly Care



Partnership: **Red Crescent Society in Palestine**

Impact: Construction of a specialized elderly care center. | Improved quality of life for Al-Quds' elderly population. | Assistance for families caring for elderly relatives.





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.