IBSA Fund
Annual Report 2021
India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation
CREDITS

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Back page: Digital financial service beneficiaries, Sierra Leone. Photo by UNCDF Sierra Leone

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About this report

This report is produced as part of the commitment by UNOSSC to continuously enhance the transparency, efficiency and accountability of the funds that it manages. It contributes to efforts of the United Nations system to strengthen the quality of system-wide reporting on funding and performance and enhances programming for results.

This report presents the accomplishments of the IBSA Fund in 2021 and summarizes achievements in earlier years. For more information on the Fund and an electronic copy of the present report, please visit ibsa2021.unsouthsouth.org

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Joint Foreword by the Permanent Representatives of the IBSA Country Permanent Missions to the United Nations

The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, a dynamic interregional mechanism among three major developing countries, has firmly established itself as a powerful player in advancing South-South cooperation. The IBSA Fund, an initiative of the IBSA Dialogue Forum, is a concrete expression of solidarity and cooperation among countries of the Global South, born out of shared experiences and history to address developmental challenges.

Following the establishment of the IBSA Fund by the Prime Minister of India, the President of Brazil and the President of South Africa in 2004, the trilateral partnership became fully operational in 2006 to help partner countries in the Global South in the common pursuit of their broad development objectives. During its 15 years of operation, this pioneering initiative has become the voice and representation of emerging economies and developing countries in the international arena to ensure equal opportunity for development with sustainable and inclusive growth.

Replicable and scalable successful best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger are identified and successfully translated into concrete projects on a demand-driven basis to help partner countries in the Global South to achieve their national priorities as well as all other internationally agreed development goals.

This demand-driven approach of the IBSA Fund enables partner countries to steer their own development and lead the design and implementation processes of all projects according to the needs and priorities of their populations.

Since its inception, 38 development projects have been supported in 34 countries allocating $42.40 million. As of 2021, 6 projects were ongoing, 25 projects had been completed, and 7 projects were under preparation for implementation, and the Fund continued to support partner countries, including through COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

We are glad that the IBSA Fund approved 3 new initiatives in 2021 in keeping with our commitment to contribute to South-South cooperation that is people-centric, bringing direct relief and benefit to communities and individuals that are the most vulnerable.

As the world continues to recover from COVID-19 and its socioeconomic impacts, the IBSA countries – as three highly diverse democracies from the South – stress our commitment to social and environmental justice and to global governance that seeks to reduce inequalities, improving access to basic services for all.
South-South solidarity and cooperation are critical for developing countries to address the global health crisis, including COVID-19 recovery, mitigate and adapt to climate disruption and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In collaboration with United Nations agencies and development partners, the IBSA Fund assists countries of the Global South to learn from each other and develop solutions to these shared challenges.

In a world defined by uncertainty, South-South and triangular cooperation is a tried and trusted mechanism to surface and share tangible solutions to persistent development challenges. This approach is exemplified by the IBSA Fund, which realised a wide range of results across the globe in 2021: everything from expanding access to healthcare in Cambodia; to providing young people with new vocational skills in Haiti; to supporting 20,000 people to gain access to clean energy in Guinea-Bissau. UNDP, UNOSSC and the IBSA Fund will continue to work side-by-side with communities to co-create innovative solutions that will drive progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The IBSA Fund is a successful model of South-South cooperation that capitalizes on both global and local expertise to improve national systems through demand-driven approaches towards alleviating poverty and hunger. This is not only a great example of Southern solidarity but also spotlights the benefits of partnering with the United Nations system towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially given post-COVID recovery challenges. I would like to commend the generosity of India, Brazil, and South Africa, who have come together through this successful mechanism that demonstrates unequivocally the true spirit of South-South solidarity. I applaud the strong partnerships demonstrated by Member States and United Nations entities in implementing IBSA Fund projects and achieving excellent results leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation.
India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund)

The IBSA Fund is a remarkable example of cooperation among three developing countries, which pioneered the implementation of South-South cooperation initiatives for the benefit of other Southern countries in partnership with the United Nations system. Its purpose is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as examples of good practices in the fight against poverty and hunger. The IBSA Fund, which was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006, supports projects on a demand-driven basis through partnerships with local governments, national institutions and implementing partners. The IBSA Fund-supported projects are concrete expressions of solidarity for the benefit of the most vulnerable and marginalized people, with the objectives of promoting food security, addressing HIV/AIDS, extending access to safe drinking water, and promoting quality education and gender equality, all with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A total of 38 development projects have been supported through the IBSA Fund in 34 countries, with $42.40 million allocated. As of 2021, a total of 6 projects were ongoing, 25 projects had been completed and 7 projects were under preparation for implementation.

IBSA Fund Board of Directors

The IBSA Fund Board of Directors comprises the Deputy Permanent Representatives of India, Brazil and South Africa to the United Nations in New York. The Board approves proposals and detailed project documents, and continuously provides strategic direction to IBSA projects to ensure their successful implementation through strong South-South partnerships. The Board of Directors is assisted by technical experts, who closely monitor project progress and the Fund portfolio. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation serves as the Fund Manager and secretariat of the Board of Directors.

H.E. Mr. João Genésio de Almeida Filho,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Ravindra Raguttahalli,
Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Xolisa Mfundiso Mabhongo,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations
The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), established by the United Nations General Assembly in UNDP in 1974, is mandated to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis.

UNOSSC provides policy advisory and consulting services to Member States and United Nations entities on South-South and triangular cooperation to enable developing countries to effectively face their most important development challenges and harness global opportunities to address them. In its role as the secretariat of the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC works to monitor and report on United Nations system progress in South-South and triangular cooperation. This includes the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document and the BAPA+40 outcome document. As a robust knowledge hub, UNOSSC also analyses trends, emerging issues and opportunities for the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation approaches to development.

The engagement of UNOSSC with Member States globally and regionally as well as within the United Nations system facilitates practical expressions of Southern solidarity towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. UNOSSC ensures that its Southern constituencies have timely access to high-quality analytical planning, mapping, programming and reporting on data, trends and opportunities that will advance South-South and triangular cooperation in ways that lead to successful outcomes. It works with a wide range of partners, including global centres of excellence, to intensively explore how building endogenous capacity can be encouraged, how broadening and sharing technological advances within the Global South can be undertaken systematically, and how emerging innovative financing mechanisms can be harnessed through South-South and triangular cooperation.

UNOSSC is the Fund Manager and secretariat of the IBSA Fund, supporting its Board of Directors as it establishes the strategic vision and programmatic activities of the Fund. The UNOSSC Trust Fund Management Team, working closely with the IBSA Fund experts and partners, provides monitoring, quality assurance and knowledge-management support across the IBSA Fund projects.

UNOSSC also serves as Fund Manager and secretariat of the steering committees of other South-South and triangular cooperation trust funds implemented jointly with the United Nations system, namely, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund).
IBSA Fund Highlights of Results, 2021

1. **BOLIVIA**
   - 11,416 people in five municipalities have increased access to water for human consumption and for livestock as well as for agricultural production.

2. **COMOROS**
   - Over 1,000 farmers from eight villages on Mohéli, 50 per cent of whom are women and 10 per cent are youth, have benefited from new farming practices.

3. **FIJI**
   - 1,530 women increased skills as they fabricated and distributed 1,580 energy-efficient rocket stoves to communities.

4. **KIRIBATI**
   - The virgin coconut oil processing centre on Butaritari Island was launched.
   - More than 60 smallholder farmers are currently engaged in production.

5. **SIERRA LEONE**
   - Piloting of digital loans (an emergency COVID-19 credit product) reached 58,234 customers.
   - 75,209 new clients were served with financial products.

6. **ZAMBIA**
   - 741 farmers (86.4 per cent) supported for soya bean farming increased their incomes and successfully serviced their loans.
Development Impact of the IBSA Fund across the World

**BOLIVIA (Plurinational State of)**
11,416 people in five municipalities have increased access to water for human consumption and for livestock as well as for agricultural production.

**Kiribati**
The virgin coconut oil processing centre on Butaritari Island was launched. More than 60 smallholder farmers are currently engaged in production.

**Zambia**
The farmers (84.6 per cent) supported for soybean farming increased their incomes and successfully serviced their loans fully serviced their loans. Communities.

**Cabo Verde**
The community of farmers equipped with improved agricultural techniques.

**Sierra Leone**
741 farmers benefited from sports facilities.

**Burundi**
5,000 smallholder farmers equipped with improved agricultural techniques.

**Over 1,000 farmers** from eight villages on Mohéli, 50 per cent of whom are women and 10 per cent are youth, have benefited from new farming practices.

**1,530 women** increased skills as they fabricated and distributed 1,380 energy-efficient rocket stoves to communities.

**State of Palestine**
6,600 youths benefited from sports facilities.

**Sudan**
30,000 individuals with disabilities use the service centre annually.

**Viet Nam**
12% increase in rice productivity and a reduction in production costs.

**Timor-Leste**
1,600 smallholder farmers equipped with improved agricultural techniques.

**State of Palestine**
6,600 youths benefitted from sports facilities.

**Sudan**
30,000 patients from Gaza Strip receive continuous health-care services.

**Timor-Leste**
1,600 smallholder farmers equipped with improved agricultural techniques.

**Ghana**
2,000 special needs children with access to health-care services.

**Comoros**
741 farmers benefited from sports facilities.

**Burundi**
39,000 yearly reproductive health consultations.

**Cabo Verde**
10,000 people access to safe drinking water.

**Sierra Leone**
12,000 people from remote communities with access to health-care services.

**Angola**
12% increase in rice productivity and a reduction in production costs.

**Benin**
2,000 health-care staff in remote medical settings benefitted from an e-learning platform used to train COVID-19 frontline workers.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**
12% increase in rice productivity and a reduction in production costs.

**Benin**
1,600 people from remote communities with access to health-care services.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**
6,000 people with better solid-waste management practices.

**Palau**
2,000 child-marriage survivors were provided with scholarships to re-enrol in schools.

**State of Palestine**
630 hectares of agricultural land regularly irrigated.

**Comoros**
Over 1,000 farmers from eight villages on Mohéli, 50 per cent of whom are women and 10 per cent are youth, have benefited from new farming practices.

**Angola**
24,25,26-27

**Cameroon**
12,000 people from remote communities with access to health-care services.

**Senegal**
24,25,26-27

**Ghana**
2,000 special needs children with access to health-care services.

**Comoros**
6,000 people with access to safe drinking water.

**Burundi**
450 people from remote communities with access to health-care services.

**Benin**
400 youths trained in vocational activities secured jobs.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**
450 youths trained in vocational activities secured jobs.

**Palau**
2,000 child-marriage survivors were provided with scholarships to re-enrol in schools.

**State of Palestine**
12% increase in rice productivity and a reduction in production costs.

**Senegal**
24,25,26-27

**Ghana**
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**Palau**
2,000 child-marriage survivors were provided with scholarships to re-enrol in schools.
The project in Comoros has been serving as a learning centre to demonstrate commercial farming practices. Photo by UNDP Comoros

RESULTS OF IBSA FUND ONGOING PROJECTS, 2021
BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Increased Access to Water, Improved Livestock Production and Post-drought Food Security

“Here we are now growing different vegetables thanks to the water from the well. Also, in the houses, there are small orchards for each family.”

Ms. Doña Raquel Prada, resident of the San Silvestre neighbourhood in the municipality of Trinidad

OVERVIEW

The project increased access to water for the rancher associations and indigenous farming communities to improve their livestock production, livelihoods and food security. Water wells were drilled to strengthen the Beni cattlemen’s capacities to face drought, safeguard their herds through extreme weather events and therefore increase food security in their rural and indigenous communities. The project overcame challenges and delays resulting from the rainy season, socio-political strife linked to COVID-19 response measures and equipment maintenance. It completed the well-digging within the framework of the national strategy to fight COVID-19.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- 14 wells were drilled during the year, which included rehabilitating a well and replacing another which did not produce water.
- 20 water wells, with depths between 20 to 118 meters, have been drilled in five municipalities of Trinidad, San Andrés, San Javier, Huacaraje and Baures benefiting a total of 11,416 people in these communities with safe access to water for human consumption and livestock, and agricultural production.
- Predictable access to water led to increased livestock circulation near those areas; improved artisanal productive activities such as food processing, and hygiene conditions for employed personnel; and facilitated laundry and better hygiene in educational institutions given the impact of COVID.
- The increased production of vegetables in the community and family gardens contributed to food security and generated extra income for families from the sale of surpluses, also providing a supply to the Center for Genetic Improvement of the José Autonomous University Ballivian del Beni for socio-educational purposes.
- A collateral result was the increase in the production of milk provided to the community collection centers that process the delivery of school breakfast in public schools, indirectly contributing to the local economy.

KEY FEATURES

Beneficiaries: Rancher associations and indigenous farming communities

Partners: Ministry of Rural Development and Land, Autonomous Departmental Government of Beni, Federation of Ranchers of Beni (FEGABENI), municipalities, indigenous peoples, UNDP Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

Budget: $500,000

Duration: March 2018–August 2021

Mostly contributing to

RESULTS OF IBSA FUND ONGOING PROJECTS, 2021
LESSONS LEARNED

When the need is vast there is a tendency to be quite ambitious in project design, institutional capacity for implementation and project timelines should be taken into account, and options such as outsourcing of specialized services or creation of specialized technical units need to be considered.

It is important to ground the initiative in well contextualized technical specifications with supported cost structures. Budgeting for technical expertise and periodic training sessions in the local language can significantly enhance the project timeline, scope and results.

Changes in those in authority made it challenging to follow up on the commitments assumed by various actors. While the continuous nurturing of alliances materialized in successful public-private technical engagement, the investment of economic resources was challenged owing to the prioritization of Government resources for COVID response.

Formal agreements with the municipalities could facilitate guaranteed access to project funds. In addition, technical assistance from UNDP can help to strengthen capacities to implement concurrent fund initiatives to finance these projects.

WAY FORWARD

The drilling of water wells is a priority activity for the Department of Beni to increase safe access to water for human and productive consumption and combat recurrent supply issues. Moving forward, FEGABENI has an important opportunity to seek strategic alliances with the other project stakeholders for the benefit of the municipalities and rural and indigenous communities in Beni.

The sustainability study for the project from the year 2022, updated from the version presented at the request of the IBSA Fund in November 2020, will enable the development of a business plan that adapts to the local market and focuses on growth opportunities while contributing to the development of the livestock sector and the population itself in addition to fulfilling the commitment assumed with the IBSA Fund to complete in the next three years the goal initially established by the project. The outsourcing of services will be considered where it has proven to be an effective strategy to obtain efficient results and guarantee long-term operation.
COMOROS

Enhancing Agricultural Capacity

“In this IBSA-funded project, the ARC-UNDP-Comoros Government partnership is an extraordinary example of South-South cooperation initiatives for the benefit of Southern countries within the United Nations system. ARC made available its skills and experience to address knowledge gaps and enhance the agricultural capacity in the Union of the Comoros.”

Mr. George Chirima, Research Team Manager, South African Agricultural Research Council (ARC).

OVERVIEW

This project contributed to enhancing and improving production conditions and commercialization of agricultural products on the island of Mohéli. This involved (a) topographic, soil and water surveys; (b) irrigation infrastructure and training; and (c) vegetable production. The pilot farm school set up through the project has been serving as a learning centre for demonstrating commercial farming practices to local farmers. The project collaborated with over 1,000 farmers from eight villages on Mohéli, 50 per cent of whom are women and 10 per cent are youths. Soil and water surveys, training and demonstrations also take place on the islands of Ngazidja and Anjouan. This project enabled the sharing of South-South knowledge and skills regarding agricultural extension services between the South African Agricultural Research Council and the Government of the Comoros.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved agricultural demonstration practice is developed on Mohéli Island for dissemination to neighbouring islands. This has been one of the first projects to popularize the use of locally-made Neem biopesticide in the Comoros.
- In-field irrigation system was installed, which contributes to the increase in agricultural productivity year round, with the construction of an approx. 30 m weir over the river and a pump station with a 1.2 km main pipeline; a 480 m³ water storage reservoir with 1.5 km of electrification; and over 11 hectares of drip and sprinkler irrigation and other water supply systems.
- 20 composting units established in Mibani that produce an average of 450 kg of compost per unit.
- Through South-South cooperation with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in capacity-building and technology transfer, the Rural Centre for Economic Development (CRDE) in Mibani is now enabled to participate in the global economy through improved crop production and access to on-site training and research facilities.
- Six Comorian experts received training from ARC in South Africa on post-harvest/agro-processing techniques, pests and disease management, and three Comorian experts were trained by the South African Irrigation Institute on irrigation systems and design.
- Required data collection for the creation of a market strategy for the Agro-Processing Unit has been completed. The strategy is expected to enhance market participation and value-addition propositions on Mohéli Island.
LESSONS LEARNED

A strong awareness-raising campaign with clear messaging to educate farmers on the usefulness of non-chemical agricultural inputs, the possibility of cultivating crops throughout the year with improved infrastructure and the usefulness of improving soil quality contributed to motivating farmers to adopt improved agricultural practices.

Climate change is significantly impacting the agricultural sector across the small island developing States (SIDS) including the Comoros. Quality weather data and forecasts and their timely dissemination to farmers are crucial for agricultural decision-making. Crop calendars need to be updated based on reliable weather information.

The final evaluation of this project is being finalized to assess progress/accomplishments as well as document lessons learned.

WAY FORWARD

Irrigation training for farmers on Mohéli remains to be undertaken since, owing to COVID-19 travel restrictions, experts from South Africa could not travel to the Comoros earlier to provide technical support. To expand impact, it has been decided that the training will be on Mohéli but expanded in scope to the national level in terms of participants. The partnership between the South African Research Council and the Comorian Research Institute has enabled project expertise to remain in the Comoros after completion, especially in developing the formal structure for the marketing and control of produce and for food-safety control.

The selection of the irrigation systems was a consultative engagement (farmers and CRDE staff) that sought to identify prior knowledge of irrigation systems and willingness to save water. The designed systems are made up of accessible, easy-to-use and easy-to-maintain components.

The training of farmers is ensuring the sustainable operation and maintenance of the equipment and infrastructure. However, the support to the farmers is needed for a longer period and CRDE involvement is crucial.
Empowering Rural Women – Scaling Up the Rocket-stove Project

The remoteness of the locations that ADRA Fiji had to reach out to, to train the women to fabricate the rocket stoves, was a challenging task. But all these challenges are forgotten, after having to see smiles and hear happy talks amongst the women, in the villages – when they get to take home the stoves they fabricated themselves, to use.”

Mr. Waisea Waininima, Project Officer/Community Facilitator, ADRA Fiji (SGP grantee partner)

OVERVIEW

Traditionally used in villages and settlements in Fiji to meet domestic energy needs, the practice of open-fire cooking relies on wood and fossil fuels. It is estimated that, on average, a family needs roughly two tons of fuel wood a year to cook three meals a day, which places a strain on economies, human well-being and the environment.

This project contributed to improving the livelihoods and health of women in rural areas of Fiji through the adoption of a new cooking method using rocket stoves. Rocket stoves are small, efficient stoves that are built from resources available locally, use little wood and produce clean flames with no smoke. This project protected the women from the health consequences of exposure to smoke, also addressing greenhouse gas emissions and the challenges associated with land erosion and deforestation.

Training was provided to women and girls in fabricating and using rocket stoves and in climate-change awareness; training toolkits and follow-up visits supported the successful adoption of the new cooking techniques among households.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Effective engagement of a vast, diverse group of stakeholders and partners and clearly mapping their roles and responsibilities throughout the course of the project were two of the strengths of the initiative.

- Adjustments in implementation timelines were made during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual platforms were put in place to foster communications during the pandemic period. E-communication systems were also improved for better work strategies.

WAY FORWARD

- Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the last activity of the project, the construction of a storage facility for rocket stoves, was on hold. Implementing partners UNOPS and UNDP are expected to complete the construction in 2022. The Rocket Stove Workshop and Storage Facility is a sustainability element for the project and will be managed by the Makoi Women's Vocational Technical Centre. It will ensure that training for more community members (especially women) continues as well as the knowledge for the fabrication of the stoves.

Based on the success of the project and the lessons learned from it, the GEF Small Grants Programme in Fiji has planned to extend the new call for proposals to interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/community-based organizations that would like to continue implementing the rocket-stove initiative. Also, the Government has a plan to have a curriculum developed specifically on the fabrication of the rocket stove. This curriculum will be used by Barefoot College Fiji, a national training centre for national/regional women that is currently being built in the district of Nadogo, Macuata.
KIRIBATI

Enhancing Inclusive Sustainable Economic Development through Coconut-sector Development

“This project fulfils one of the Government’s goals in its 20-year vision (KV20): ‘promoting product diversification through value addition’.”

Honourable Minister Mr. Bootii Nauan, Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives

OVERVIEW

The project supported the development of the coconut-sector strategy and finalization of the roadmap to engage smallholder coconut farmers along the coconut value chain, with the identification of commercially viable opportunities to add value along the chain. Coconut has a central role in the diets of Pacific peoples and is vital in contributing to food security, health promotion and sustainable livelihoods. There is new interest in coconut-related products such as virgin coconut oil, coconut oil for electricity generation and transportation, coconut water, coconut sap sugar, timber products and toddy, among others.

This project fostered income generation for smallholder farmers and improved their livelihoods through value-added coconut products while contributing to inclusive, sustainable economic development per the national development strategy.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Regular results-oriented reviews by the project Board were found to be useful in improving resource allocation and utilization. Owing to those reviews, the Board suggested adjusting existing activities and including a new pilot activity for the installation and operationalization of a virgin coconut oil plant, which would bring tangible and scalable benefits to the target population.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- The virgin coconut oil processing centre on Butaritari Island has been formally launched and operationalized, enabling farmers to produce value-added coconut products.
- More than 60 smallholder farmers are involved in virgin coconut oil production as a result of the coordinated efforts. The National Coconut Sector Development Strategy, after undergoing a development and refinement process, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Kiribati and disseminated.
- The Coconut Sector Development Subcommittee that will oversee the implementation of the strategy has been established and is operational.

WAY FORWARD

- The Coconut Sector Development Subcommittee is established and operational to oversee the implementation of the strategy. Building on an assessment of the pilot virgin coconut oil production plant, the Government and UNDP will develop a strategy for the sustainability and scaling up of the project.

04

SMALLHOLDER FARMERS INVOLVED IN VIRGIN COCONUT OIL PRODUCTION

04

RESULTS OF IBSA FUND ONGOING PROJECTS, 2021
SIERRA LEONE

Digital Financial Services

“I thank Mosabi and Salone Microfinance Trust for the financial literacy and digital loan that helped my business to survive and grow during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Ms. Angela Lingor, entrepreneur supported by community partners

OVERVIEW

The project successfully piloted digital financial services products such as savings, mobile credit and insurance as well as financial literacy for women, youths and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. It also contributed to policy development and technical support in the area of financial technology and strengthened the financial sector to support the financial inclusion of low-income populations, giving them access to loans and savings for spending on better health care, education and other services. Three core project interventions implemented were the establishment of an investment facility (catalytic funding), advocacy and capacity-building, and evidence-based learning and knowledge sharing.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- The project has led to increased adoption and use of innovative digital services in Sierra Leone. A total of 75,209 new clients were served with financial products, and 58,234 new clients were provided with loans (the emergency COVID-19 credit product).
- The project provided inputs to improve regulatory provisions to strengthen institutional capacity to formulate and implement the FinTech regulatory framework for Sierra Leone. Two regulations have already been passed (Agency guidelines, Tiered Know Your Client and the regulatory sandbox framework) gazetted by the central Bank.
- Technical support has been provided to the Bank of Sierra Leone to draft customer protection guidelines and operationalize the national financial literacy framework. However, to advance the activities, the project has initiated the roll-out of customer protection guidelines. The project sponsored a customer protection course for three central bank employees. The development of a new Consumer Protection Framework for Retail Financial Services has been finalized, which emphasizes protection to women, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and youth while engaging with the financial system.
- 8 Bank of Sierra Leone staff have been certified as digital-money and consumer-protection practitioners through two online training courses.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the importance of digital financial-service interventions, and it is critical for Sierra Leone to further accelerate the growth of the sector through innovative digital financial products and services that meet the needs of different population segments through more technical and capital investments than initially estimated.

The market needs to build networks with other similar markets where financial technologies have demonstrated scalable solutions, hence the real need for South-South cooperation. The tremendous human capital and know-how could be leveraged through South-South cooperation in more-developed markets such as India, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria and South Africa, which could partner with local players to create added value and investments beyond the project.

WAY FORWARD

- The project has successfully completed the planned activities and is currently undertaking its final evaluation.

In 2021, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in partnership with the Bank of Sierra Leone and with support from the IBSA Fund, published the State of the Digital Financial Services Market in Sierra Leone report for 2020. The report presents the findings that stem from the Annual Provider survey, conducted in early 2021, among digital finance service providers in Sierra Leone. It identifies development constraints faced by industry players and proposes opportunities that can be leveraged to make digital financial services more inclusive and accessible to all Sierra Leoneans. The findings from the report can also help regulators and policy makers to refine their development priorities and strategies.
Zambia

Leveraging Zambia’s Agro-industry Potential in Rural Areas through Enhanced Soya Bean Production and Processing

“At the peak of the rainy season, our house would leak heavily, and this made feel less of a man when I looked at my children, especially my daughters. From the income generated during 2020/2021 farming season, we were able to buy iron sheets, timber, roofing nails and even paid a carpenter for roofing labour costs.”

Clement Mwaba, farmer from Kanika Village, Mpika District

OVERVIEW

The project contributes to poverty reduction and food security in rural Zambia. It helps the rural farmers to increase their productivity, capacity and income through diversification of the existing cropping system with soya bean cultivation and improvement of the value-chain system. In this project, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), together with the Ministry of Agriculture of Zambia, provides necessary technical support and supervision to Muchinga Agricultural Development Company (MADECO), a startup, to establish self-sustaining, improved soya bean production practices and an improved soya bean value-chain system by supporting farmers to produce soya beans and establishing a soya bean processing plant.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Out of the 858 farmers (40 per cent female) supported for soya bean farming, all of whom signed contracts for the supply of soya beans, 741 farmers (86.4 per cent) increased their incomes from the sale of excess produce during the 2020/2021 farming season and successfully serviced their loans. This brings the project total to 1,850 farmers (93 per cent of the target) having profitable market-oriented agriculture.
- In an effort to increase soya bean productivity from the current 2 tons per hectare to at least 3 tons, the Project Management Unit (PMU) was provided with training in yield increase and climate-adapted farming methods.
- 34 lead farmers and 9 camp extension officers rolled out the training in improving soya bean production and productivity practices to support the farmers.
- A pull-type combine harvester was procured and delivered to the MADECO farm to increase efficiency in crop harvesting, threshing and winnowing. Two tractors at the farm were serviced in readiness for the 2021/2022 farming season.
- 71 hectares of the 100 hectares of land earlier cleared and cultivated were used for crop production. Maize and sunflowers were introduced for crop rotation, which is a recommended practice in agriculture.

Beneficiaries: Rural farmers
Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Smallholder Productivity Promotion Programme, Muchinga Agricultural Development Company Limited (MADECO Ltd.), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Zambia
Budget: $1,714,680
Duration: May 2018–October 2022

RESULTS OF IBSA FUND ONGOING PROJECTS, 2021

858 farmers supported
40% female
741 farmers increased their incomes

Soya bean threshing using PTO driven multipurpose sheller. Photo by IFAD Zambia
Soya bean weighing during the crop recovery exercise. Photo by IFAD Zambia
LESSONS LEARNED

The “lead farmer” concept, originally introduced in the 2019/2020 farming season, has been successful in motivating farmers to cultivate soya beans by applying improved agricultural techniques. Lead farmers assist with the project field activities.

Farmer selection, with the help of traditional authority, helps to reduce cases of delinquency since the selected farmers can easily be censured. A total of 117 loan defaulters (13.6 per cent) were served with demand letters to ensure that farmers not only move away from the mindset of thinking that the loans are just government handouts but also move to 100 per cent loan repayment.

Close monitoring of farmers’ fields by PMU, extension officers and lead farmers during all stages of plant growth, at least three times from land preparation and planting to harvesting, supported farmers in practising advice given during training and the provision of extension services. In addition, that helped to identify and deal with pests and fungus attacks in a timely manner, ensuring increased soya bean production.

Paying farmers on time during crop recovery exercises reduces cases of side selling and hoarding to wait for an increase in prices due to demand.

WAY FORWARD

The soya bean processing plant, once fully operational, will provide a ready market for soya bean producers, including those not in the farmer support programme.

The project implementing partner, MADECO will collaborate with the Government and potential partners to continue providing support to the farmers to motivate and facilitate soya bean production.

The MADECO Farm which had a good season (2020/2021), will contribute to soya bean feedstock for the processing plant as well as act as a centre of excellence for learning purposes for both farmers and students at the local agricultural training college.

Income from the MADECO farm and soya bean processing plant will help to continue the farmer support programme.
Youth volunteers participating in employable skills training. Photo by UNV Cambodia
BURUNDI

Strengthening Infrastructure and Capacity to Combat HIV/AIDS

This project built and equipped a centre for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment as well as other reproductive health-care services, such as education in sexually transmitted diseases, prenatal care and family planning. It strengthened government capacity to plan, communicate and implement strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

KEY RESULTS

- An estimated 15,000 patients annually benefited from the services of the three-storey health centre that the project built and equipped with information technology and medical equipment.
- Civil servants and civil society members trained in AIDS prevention and care, stigma and discrimination, the impact of the AIDS epidemic on women, and community-based awareness and approaches for AIDS prevention and care.
- Four international technical exchanges took place in Bujumbura, Brasilia, Dakar and New Delhi to facilitate learning.

CABO VERDE

Delivering Safe Drinking Water

This project focused on increasing the availability of safe drinking water on the island of São Nicolau through the construction of a plant for the desalination of sea water and its transportation to the communities. It improved the health of communities by reducing health risks associated with the intake of poor-quality water.

KEY RESULTS

- The year-round supply of safe drinking water for the 12,000 inhabitants of São Nicolau Island increased as did the water supply for agricultural purposes.
- The water desalination plant was built and connected to the main water distribution system of Ribeira Brava. It has a desalination capacity of 1,200 m³ of sea water per day and a water storage reservoir with a capacity of 1,000 m³.
CAMBODIA

Poverty Reduction among Youth: Development of Youth Volunteers’ Skill Sets for Increased Employability

This project contributed to the creation of decent work opportunities for Cambodian youth through skills development and volunteerism. Volunteer placements helped youth to develop transferable skills and pursue paid opportunities after the programme. It facilitated skills training and accreditation of youths and provided tools to engage in social entrepreneurship. In addition, the project contributed to building the capacity of the Government of Cambodia in implementing mechanisms to manage volunteers and enhance cooperation with the private sector, civil society and academia. Building on the success of the implementation of the project, the Government is expanding the programme to multiple provinces and, with UNV support, will continue to develop a framework for the skills recognition and transfer of youth volunteer work.

KEY RESULTS

- Over 8,100 young people (58 per cent female) from 25 provinces increased their skills in community-based entrepreneurship development.
- The National Guidelines on the Support and Coordination of National Youth Volunteers in Cambodia were finalized and adopted by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS).
- Public-private partnerships for volunteerism and the acquisition of transferable skills were fostered, which resulted in the creation of a total of five partnerships with Voluntary Service Overseas, WEduShare, the International Labour Organization, the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cambodia and the Cambodian Scouts.
- Three pilot initiatives on expanding volunteerism are being successfully scaled up from MoEYS by incorporating them into its national youth volunteering programme called Volunteer for My Community. The Ministry has planned to roll out this programme into six more provinces, with the objective of expanding it into all 25 provinces of the country.

CABO VERDE

Refurbishment of Health-care Infrastructure (Small Grant Project)

This project rehabilitated and equipped two health-care centres in remote areas of the island of São Nicolau, one of which was no longer operating owing to its dilapidated state.

KEY RESULTS

- Access to health care for 450 inhabitants including women, children, pregnant women and elderly people of the remote area of São Nicolau island improved.
- Over 8,100 young people (58 per cent female) from 25 provinces increased their skills in community-based entrepreneurship development.
- The National Guidelines on the Support and Coordination of National Youth Volunteers in Cambodia were finalized and adopted by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS).
- Public-private partnerships for volunteerism and the acquisition of transferable skills were fostered, which resulted in the creation of a total of five partnerships with Voluntary Service Overseas, WEduShare, the International Labour Organization, the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cambodia and the Cambodian Scouts.
- Three pilot initiatives on expanding volunteerism are being successfully scaled up from MoEYS by incorporating them into its national youth volunteering programme called Volunteer for My Community. The Ministry has planned to roll out this programme into six more provinces, with the objective of expanding it into all 25 provinces of the country.
This project supported the construction and equipping of a pavilion at the Chey Chumneas Hospital to provide quality services for children and adolescents with special needs.

**KEY RESULTS**

- An estimated 2,000 children with special needs benefited from the hospital pavilion built and equipped to provide services for special education and physiotherapy as well as occupational, speech, art and drama therapy.
- 6 physicians and 11 paramedical professionals received residency training in Cambodia and/or abroad.
- 20 villages and other community members trained in inclusive practices, supporting and caring for children with special needs, and participated in a lively awareness and destigmatization campaign.

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**GRENADA**

**National Health Insurance Scheme Support Project**

The project supported the development of a national health insurance (NHI) programme for Grenada that aims to provide universally accessible and affordable health-care services. It is expected that, in the longer term, the NHI will facilitate a population-wide, cost-effective programme with a focus on efficient, quality and affordable care for vulnerable and marginalized populations and those living in poverty.

**KEY RESULTS**

- The NHI Secretariat was established, including infrastructure and human resources.
- Staff capacity was developed in NHI administration and operations.
- Over 600 persons engaged in public education and advocacy forums, increasing knowledge about the programmes and NHI facilities.

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**CAMBODIA**

**Empowering Children and Adolescents with Special Needs and Their Families**

Empowering Children and Adolescents with Special Needs and Their Families

### Beneficiaries:

- Children and adolescents with special needs

### Partners:

- Ministry of Health, Chey Chumneas Hospital, Caritas Cambodia

### Budget:

$1,069,721

### Duration:

January 2010–May 2014

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### Key Features

Beneficiaries: Children and adolescents with special needs

Partners: Ministry of Health, Chey Chumneas Hospital, Caritas Cambodia

Budget: $1,069,721

Duration: January 2010–May 2014

Mostly contributing to

- Early childhood check-up, Cambodia. Photo by Caritas Cambodia

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### Key Features

Beneficiaries: Health-care workers and population

Partners: Ministry of Health, Social Security and International Business; UNDP Barbados; Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Budget: $742,925

Duration: July 2017–December 2019

Mostly contributing to

- Consultation with Allied Health Workers and Pharmacy Council. Photo by UNDP Barbados
COMPLETED PROJECTS, 2006–2021

GUINEA-BISSAU

Development of Agriculture and Small-animal Herding (Project I); Agricultural Development and Services to Rural Communities (Project II)

These projects improved livelihoods by increasing adult literacy, agricultural and pastoral training and support, and affordable and clean energy. They contributed towards increased agricultural production in partner villages through training in agricultural techniques, the introduction of improved-yield seeds or new crop alternatives, and the introduction of short-cycle animals for reproduction.

KEY FEATURES

Support for Lowland Rehabilitation and for Agricultural and Livestock Processing

This project focused on reducing poverty and enhancing food security by providing high-yield varieties of rice seeds, rehabilitating low-lying coastal lands and related hydraulic infrastructure, and providing training in food-processing, conservation and commercialization techniques.

KEY RESULTS

- Partner communities, working closely with the technical officers of the project, improved their knowledge of agricultural techniques, thereby enhancing their production methods and diets. Over 800 farmers were trained and involved in the rehabilitation of rice fields; simultaneously, literacy classes were offered in all 24 rural communities.
- Tools for food preservation, transformation and transportation were supplied to partner villages, including 24 rice-peeling machines, 24 mills, 6 fruit driers and 80 donkey carts.
- Productivity in lowlands improved through PVC tube-based, small-scale hydraulic enhancements regarding water management and its saline content. Over 320 farmers learned water resource management skills and a water management plan was developed for rice fields of partner villages.
This initiative focused on bringing solar energy to 20 villages and expanded the solar-energy component of a previous IBSA Fund project in Guinea-Bissau, incorporating lessons from the five pilot villages that had initially received and had been using solar equipment. It supported all villages to develop effective and sustainable management of solar equipment.

**KEY RESULTS**

- 20,000 community members benefited from solar energy provided in their homes, schools and community centres, and for street lights and solar water pumps.
- 120 beneficiaries (62 per cent female) participated in workshops on village mobilization regarding the management of solar-energy systems. Other community members volunteered for the work supporting the installation of solar equipment.
- The solar energy in youth centres and schools helped women to learn to read and write in the evenings.

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**GUINEA-BISSAU**

**Rural Electrification through Solar-energy Systems**

This project enhanced the ability of the Government of Guyana to address its solid-waste management challenges, reduce environmental impact and improve urban sanitation. It equipped local governments with waste-collection trucks and excavators and rehabilitated selected markets and market tarmacs, thereby providing alternatives to illegal vending. In addition, the project distributed waste bins and posters in schools and developed a national communications strategy on solid waste management to raise public awareness.

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Beneficiaries:** Communities in 20 villages
- **Partners:** 25 villages, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, UNDP Guinea-Bissau, Central Electronics Limited
- **Budget:** SS96,305
- **Duration:** July 2011–May 2015

**KEY RESULTS**

- 350,000 residents benefited from improved sanitary conditions, drainage and irrigation network: 2 garbage compactor trucks and 2 mini-excavators were purchased and used by 15 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils and 3 municipalities.
- Over 100,000 residents benefited from market construction and improvements: 8 markets and 2 tarmacs were rehabilitated and included in waste collection routes. More vendors together with garbage storage and collection points as well as improved sanitary facilities became available.
- Over 50 primary schools in 9 municipalities benefited from the programme: 2,500 classroom posters, five retractable banners and 91 standing cutout posters were placed in schools; 1,968 colour-coded bins were distributed to schools to promote waste separation.
- A National Public Education and Communication Strategy was developed by the University of Guyana to raise awareness of solid waste management.
HAITI

Collection of Solid Waste as a Tool to Reduce Violence (Phases I and II)

This project organized and mobilized a community with a history of violence and gang clashes around the labour-intensive process of waste collection and recycling. It helped to develop a culture of waste disposal and collection, and improved livelihoods by aiding pacification efforts and reducing the incidence of disease. The project had a positive environmental impact, particularly by introducing cooking briquettes from recycled paper products.

**KEY RESULTS**

- As part of pacification initiatives, the target community organized in collaborative work, contributing towards the 2009 reclassification of Carrefour Feuilles from a security red zone to a yellow zone. The early recovery efforts after the 2010 7.0 magnitude earthquake contributed as part of a cash-for-work scheme.
- 400 heads of households (57 per cent female) offered decent employment; 2 females were on the community board of the project.
- 50 waste-collection points were established, 70 per cent of the neighbourhood waste was regularly collected and removed, and 30 per cent of the community waste was recycled. Cooking briquettes, made of recycled paper products, provided an alternative to charcoal as a source of energy.

HAITI

Promote the Socioeconomic Integration of Vulnerable Children and Youth

The project contributed towards better employability and job access for youth of the vulnerable neighbourhoods of Bel Air and Cité Soleil, Port-au-Prince. It provided youth with professional training including the development of entrepreneurship and citizenship values, basic education and job placement.

**KEY RESULTS**

- Over 2,300 youths were trained in professional skills or participated in extracurricular activities: 442 youths (34 per cent female) were trained in construction, cultural values and environment; 30 youths were trained in business development; 360 youths participated in pre-employment, coaching and mentorship training; 1,300 youths were coached in football; and 300 youths participated in extracurricular activities (dance, music capoeira).
- 12 teachers were trained in child-labour eradication and prevention systems; 4 manuals were developed on masonry, carpentry, painting and cultural production and 2 manuals on sanitation and the environment.
- 90 community leaders (44 per cent female) and 30 police officers were trained in detecting child-labour victims, in child-labour monitoring systems, and in methodologies to prevent and eradicate child labour.
LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Support to Integrated Irrigated Agriculture in Two Districts in Bolikhamxay

The project improved the overall livelihoods and food security of communities in the two poorest districts of Bolikhamxay Province by improving the irrigation system and promoting sustainable management of natural resources through community management groups. It encouraged shifting cultivation practices and promoted village forest management and diversification.

KEY RESULTS
- Over 7,700 farmers benefited from different project services. A total of 40 households in 4 villages piloted
- 7.4 hectares of cash crops. A fisheries co-management committee was established; farmers’ capacity for sustainable fisheries management was enhanced through a study tour.
- A 630-hectare agricultural area was provided with water after 3 irrigation infrastructure works were completed in Nam Ser, Nam Yang and Nam Phou; the total cultivation area was increased from 150 to 500 hectares; and rice cultivation was expanded to the dry season.
- Over 300 farmers were trained in watershed management as well as in rice-seed preparation and selection, dry-season vegetable extension, after-harvest conservation, and techniques for growing nine selected cash crops. Community water-user groups were established and watershed management plans were developed to improve water management and agriculture practices.

MALAWI AND ZAMBIA
Eliminating Child Marriages in Malawi and Zambia and Offering Scholarships to Child-marriage Survivors – Pilot Project

The project contributed to accelerating the implementation of the African and global commitments to ending child marriage as a way of achieving the broader development goals of gender equality, freedom from poverty and a just world. The project empowered young women and girls who had experienced child marriage by providing scholarships and support to re-enrol in school, leveraging the transformative power of traditional institutions. Through coordination and capacity-building of Government and civil society, the project strengthened accountability and efficiency in the efforts to eliminate child marriages.

KEY RESULTS
- Over 2,000 child marriage survivors were re-enrolled in various schools with scholarships, providing a second chance for education. Over 1,200 of those child marriage survivors, who live in areas distant from their schools, received a bicycle for transportation to attend classes. The project supported the participation of six child marriage survivors at the Regional Pre-Consultation Meeting to Review the African Union Campaign (AUC) to End Child Marriage 5 Year Strategic Plan (2019–2023).
- Under an initiative to create favourable social norms and behaviours towards the education of child marriage survivors, awareness campaigns reached over 1,285 traditional and religious leaders, chiefs, police, health workers and community members in Zambia and Malawi. 592 traditional/fait leaders and community members in Zambia and 813 in Malawi were trained in gender relations, gender-related laws and harmful social norms.
- The campaign scaled up with 52 community advocacy initiatives in addition to the distribution of awareness materials in the community. A total of 395 community-level volunteers were trained and mobilized to raise awareness and to discourage girls’ dropping out of school. A total of 62 young women in 10 communities were identified as mentors and community role models.
COMPLETED PROJECTS, 2006–2021

SIERRA LEONE

Poverty Reduction through Livestock Development

This project helped to increase the production and commercialization of quality livestock products through the establishment of infrastructure and the introduction of relevant technologies and support systems. The Beausejour Agricultural Station (BAS) was established as a national centre of excellence for demonstrating technologies and good practices in livestock production and management. The project also strengthened the technical and managerial capacities of livestock farmers organizations, extension officers and veterinarians.

KEY RESULTS

- 4,000 high-protein forage species were propagated and distributed for the establishment of forage banks on 50 small ruminant and cattle farms island-wide to supplement the nutrition of their animals and hence their productivity.
- The Beausejour Agricultural Station (BAS) was established as a national centre of excellence with training, management and agricultural extension, and research facilities. A livestock policy and strategy document to guide the development of the sector for at least the next ten years was formulated.
- 40 small ruminant farmers, 44 broiler and layer farmers and 29 swine farmers were trained at the farmer field school; 15 livestock extension officers and 40 farmers were trained in a one-week workshop on small ruminant breeding and reproduction as well as the best management practices for livestock production, led by an expert from Jamaica.

SAINT LUCIA

Poverty Reduction through Livestock Development

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SIERRA LEONE

Leadership Development and Capacity-building for Human Development and Poverty Reduction

This project strengthened the capacity of key State institutions in Sierra Leone to implement macroeconomic reforms and good governance practices for poverty eradication. It supported human-resource planning and management, strategy and policy development, implementation and monitoring of delivery to support the further betterment of leadership to advance human development, and poverty reduction.

KEY RESULTS

- Civil servants of seven pilot ministries were trained, including in results management and performance contracting in the public sector.
- Institutional “surge” capacity support was provided to the Cabinet Secretariat, and a roster of technical experts was established.
- Civil servants of the Presidential Cabinet and the Government increased their knowledge and capacity to deliver public services through South-South cooperation with the Governments of Ghana, India and Kenya.
- A joint commission of cooperation with the Government of Kenya was established. The capacity of Sierra Leonian Ambassadors was enhanced through cooperation with the Nigerian Foreign Service Academy.
STATE OF PALESTINE
Supporting Programme Opportunities in Recreational and Team Sports

This project built and equipped a 1,000 m² multipurpose sports complex in Ramallah. The complex offers indoor soccer, fencing, snooker, gymnastics, table tennis, volleyball and badminton facilities, a fitness room, a clinic and spectator stands. The project also organized and set up youth sports leagues.

KEY RESULTS
- Over 6,600 persons and 23 organizations have used the 1,000 m² sports facility.
- Team skills and leadership qualities promoted by establishing sports leagues for youths ages 5 to 17 for soccer, basketball, volleyball and swimming.
- Volunteerism was encouraged through family participation in volunteer coaching; participation in track and field events increased.

STATE OF PALESTINE
Construction and Equipping of a Centre for Persons with Severe Intellectual Disabilities

This project built and equipped a service centre to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities in Nablus in the West Bank. The centre offers consultation, physical therapy, a protection and rehabilitation programme for adults with disabilities, vocational training for various types of disabilities, rehabilitation services and, in some cases, temporary accommodation.

KEY RESULTS
- Over 10,000 individuals with disabilities benefited from the service centre annually.
- The centre expanded its capacity for services and its area from 1,000 m² to 1,900 m².
- A specialized NGO was enabled to use the centre to provide consultation, physical therapy, a protection and rehabilitation programme for adults with disabilities, vocational training for various types of disabilities and rehabilitation services.
STATE OF PALESTINE

Rehabilitation of the Cultural and Hospital Centre (Phases I and II)

This project rehabilitated the physical infrastructure and upgraded medical capacities of the nine-storey Cultural and Hospital Centre for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in the Gaza Strip. The rehabilitated hospital includes patient recovery rooms, administrative offices, a cafeteria and rooms for psychosocial support activities.

KEY RESULTS

- The open heart and catheterization operation theatre, patient recovery rooms, emergency response rooms, medical intervention rooms for chronic diseases, administrative offices, a cafeteria and rooms for psychosocial support activities were rehabilitated, equipped and furnished; 50 to 60 beds were added in patients’ rooms.
- Health facility improvements resulted in enhanced crisis management responses to emergencies and chronic diseases affecting the general health of the Palestinian population.
- The population of the Gaza Strip is enabled to receive better continuous health-care services.

STATE OF PALESTINE

Reconstruction of Atta Habib Medical Centre in Gaza City

This project rebuilt and enhanced access to public health infrastructure through the reconstruction of Atta Habib Medical Centre in the eastern Gaza City neighbourhood of Shujaia. Necessary equipment was supplied for the building to run the health-care clinic. The construction work undertaken included maternity and child wards as well as facilities for dental and lab services. Furniture and communication systems to enable the operation of those services were also provided.

KEY RESULTS

- 30,000 patients annually receive better health-care services through the rehabilitated 1,220 m² four-storey building and medically equipped Atta Habib Medical Centre.
- New medical equipment was installed in the maternity section, blood and biochemistry lab, and dental clinic; the furniture and communications system of the hospital were updated; a PV solar system was installed; and the road to the Atta Habib Medical Centre was rehabilitated.
- Health-care services were provided in the facility pharmacy, two chronic disease clinics, three vaccination clinics, two motherhood clinics, one dental clinic, one laboratory, two inspection rooms and three multipurpose halls.
TIMOR-LESTE

Conservation Agriculture, Permaculture and Sustainable Fisheries Management

This project promoted the adoption of sustainable production techniques and the intensification and diversification of smallholder farming and fishing systems.

KEY RESULTS

- 1,600 smallholder farmers and fisherfolk adopted conservation agriculture, permaculture and sustainable co-fisheries management techniques; there were 26 to 58 per cent increases in yields from conservation-agriculture demonstration plots.
- 1,386 farmers, teachers, students, community leaders/work assistants, and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries NGO extension workers were trained in permaculture techniques.
- 1,132 packages of farm tools and agricultural inputs were procured and delivered to farmer field school participants for the testing, validation, replication and scaling up of conservation agriculture practices; 7 sets of agri-food processing equipment, tools, containers, packaging materials, etc. were procured, delivered, installed and operational.
- 2 national policies incorporated conservation agriculture and sustainable land management issues, and 3 sustainable co-fishery management plans were adopted by stakeholders.

SUDAN

Creation of Job Opportunities for Youth in Sudan through Labour-intensive Work Opportunities

This project aimed to rapidly create employment opportunities for unskilled and semiskilled underprivileged youth through engagement in apprenticeships or on-the-job skills training as well as through access to microfinance opportunities. It supported the placement of those youth workers in enterprises in road maintenance, waste management, and auto-mechanical, electrical or other vocational activities.

KEY RESULTS

- 2,995 underprivileged youths received skills-based employment training: 1,238 youths were trained in waste management and 1,208 in entrepreneurship, and 549 received vocational training in vehicle mechanics, interlock systems and general electricity.
- 1,785 files (827 for entrepreneurship and 958 for vocational training) were added to the newly created database of labour-intensive records.
- Cooperation between the Ministry of Social Development and the private sector on job placement was enabled; a labour-based coordination unit was established within the Ministry of Labour and Administrative Reform; and staff were trained in labour-intensive coordination methods, communications and information systems.

KEY FEATURES

Beneficiaries: Underprivileged youth
Partners: Ministry of Labour and Administrative Reform, Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Khartoum State, UNDP Sudan
Budget: $1,300,000
Duration: February 2014–August 2017
Mostly contributing to

TIMOR-LESTE

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KEY FEATURES

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Partners: Ministry of Labour and Administrative Reform, Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Khartoum State, UNDP Sudan
Budget: $1,300,000
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Mostly contributing to

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- 1,386 farmers, teachers, students, community leaders/work assistants, and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries NGO extension workers were trained in permaculture techniques.
- 1,132 packages of farm tools and agricultural inputs were procured and delivered to farmer field school participants for the testing, validation, replication and scaling up of conservation agriculture practices; 7 sets of agri-food processing equipment, tools, containers, packaging materials, etc. were procured, delivered, installed and operational.
- 2 national policies incorporated conservation agriculture and sustainable land management issues, and 3 sustainable co-fishery management plans were adopted by stakeholders.

KEY FEATURES

Beneficiaries: Smallholder farmers and fisherfolk
Partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Naterra Association, Conservation International, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Timor-Leste
Budget: $1,428,772
Duration: July 2015–June 2018
Mostly contributing to
VIET NAM
Establishment of a Rice-seed Production Hub in Hoa Tien

This project established a production hub for rice seeds that are improved and appropriate for the local conditions in Hoa Tien commune, Hoa Vang District. It contributed to enhancing agricultural yields, strengthened rice cultivation and enhanced the post-harvest processing methods.

KEY RESULTS
- Rice productivity at the project site increased to 6.63 tons/ha, representing an increase of 0.78 ton/ha; the cost of production materials was reduced significantly, and organic fertilizers were introduced and substituted for chemical fertilizers.
- 249 households were trained in seed production, irrigation, fertilization, integrated pest management, and impurity elimination and monitoring.
- 100 households engaged in the demonstration of new techniques in rice fertilization, plant protection and water saving for 6.2 hectares of paddy land; a seed-testing laboratory was renovated, 12 new rice-seed varieties were tested, and 2 successful varieties were identified.
- A marketing strategy for the new seed varieties was developed with the support of the public and private sectors.

VIET NAM
An Innovative e-Learning Approach for Health

This project developed electronic training modules to enhance the capacities of medical students and health professionals to provide health-care services in the northern coastal region of Viet Nam. These e-modules and platform improved the coverage and quality of services in the underserviced regions, with priority given to learning related to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and marine medicine. The project also established facilities at five remote sites for greater outreach and connectivity.

KEY RESULTS
- An effective e-learning programme enabled the design, development, delivery and testing of pilot e-learning modules on NCDs in Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy and in 4 districts in the northern coastal region of Viet Nam.
- 213 health workers and 660 students were trained using the modules to treat NCDs.
- The e-learning platform, successful in reaching health-care workers in remote medical settings, is now being used to train frontline workers for COVID-19.
The IBSA Fund Board of Directors has approved the following seven projects, which are either at proposal stage to receive funding support, preparing for implementation or at early stages of implementation.

IBSA Fund Projects Preparing for Implementation, 2021

IBSA Project in the Republic of Congo aims to enhance smallholder farmers’ access to local markets.
This project aims to (a) improve technical skills and knowledge and strengthen institutional capabilities and competencies of public and private entities that deal with urban and peri-urban sanitation; and (b) strengthen community-based civil society organizations in the areas of simplified sewerage systems for sanitation purposes and solid waste management through recycling (5 Rs: Rethink, Reuse, Refuse, Reduce, Recycle) within a circular economy. It will do so based on the sharing of knowledge with institutions from the three IBSA Fund countries and more particularly from Brazil.

The general objective of this initiative is to contribute to improving the quality of community life in low-income peri-urban settlements through the training and implementation of a simplified sanitary sewage system and waste management and through the promotion of actions aimed at improving public health and hygiene in the community of the municipality of Viana. This project seeks, therefore, to promote the learning of the above-mentioned social and environmental technologies in Angola through technical South-South cooperation. The expected outcomes and results are as follows: (a) strengthen capacities of companies, institutions and the community in the operation and maintenance of simplified sanitary sewage systems, waste management, public health and hygiene; (b) support the implementation of the Strategy adopted by the Government of Angola for the Formalization and Promotion of the Urban Solid Waste Valorisation Market; (c) construct sustainable simplified sanitation systems with the involvement of the local community; and (d) increase awareness and knowledge among the target population with regards to public health and appropriate hygiene habits, including the precautions required for the prevention of COVID-19.

ProSel has three main components: (a) the development of local salt value chains and resilience; (b) support for community infrastructure; and (c) improvement of local salt competitiveness and local governance. In addition, there is a component relating to the management of the project and its monitoring and evaluation system.
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Enhancing Smallholder Farmers’ Access to Local Markets through South-South Cooperation

This project aims to contribute to improving the food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers, particularly women and school children, by (a) strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to support smallholders’ access to local markets, including through the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, and (b) building the technical capacity of farmer associations in target districts through the delivery of equipment, tailored training and in-field demonstrations. The intention is to enhance the food security and nutritional status of 100 smallholder farmers and their households and 1,000 school children impacted in targeted districts in the Bouenza, Plateau and Pool Departments through increased availability of affordable, locally produced and nutritious food products.

KEY FEATURES

Beneficiaries: 100 smallholder farmers and their households, and 1,000 school children
Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Brazilian Government institutions; other IBSA countries’ pertinent institutions; WFP Congo
Budget: S996,450
Duration: 24 months
Mostly contributing to

ESWATINI
Addressing the Water, Health and Poverty Nexus through WASH Initiatives for COVID-19 and Climate Change Responses in Eswatini

This project aims to enhance access to water, thereby improving sanitation and hygiene as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a long-term response to climate change. The expected key results of the project include: (a) solar powered borehole and rainwater-harvesting water supply systems with a filtration system constructed in 3 rural communities, improving access to clean water for 3,000 people; (b) access of 600 rural households to hand washing facilities that have clean water and soap, with the households practising good hygiene; (c) two rain- and storm-water harvesting systems with filtration/treatment systems for public sanitation facilities in two urban centres, constructed using innovative permeable concrete technology; and (d) strengthened South-South knowledge exchanges and learning on climate change adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction from Brazil, India and South Africa. In 2021, the project is setting up structures and finalizing necessary documentation in preparation for an official project launch.

KEY FEATURES

Beneficiaries: 3 rural communities; at least 600 households
Partners: National Disaster Management Agency, UNDP Eswatini, NGOs
Budget: S999,350
Duration: 24 months
Mostly contributing to

PALAU
Education Revitalization Project

This project aims to support improving the quality of education in the Palau public school system. The aim of revitalizing education facilities is to provide reliable and safe spaces that foster innovative learning. The project will support constructing/renovating school buildings, a teacher training centre and a learning resource centre, which will benefit school children, teachers and local communities. This project is being redesigned to fit within the available budget.

KEY FEATURES

Beneficiaries: School children, teachers, communities
Partners: Ministry of Education, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
Budget: S585,000
Duration: 20 months
Mostly contributing to
**SENEGAL**

**Restoration and Monitoring of Degraded Land in the Groundnut Basin of the Saloum Delta in Senegal**

This project aims to contribute towards reducing the impact of climate change on land degradation and improving community resilience and land reclamation practices in the Saloum Delta. The proposed key project interventions include: (a) using drones to monitor and analyse the level of land degradation using digital 3D modelling and generated photogrammetry images; (b) strengthening the system for monitoring adaptation measures, leading to more efficient conservation strategies and the restoration and productivity of severely degraded sites; (c) promoting the use of solar energy for land desalination; and (d) supporting the reduction of people’s vulnerability by introducing innovative technologies and strengthening community involvement in restoration and productivity techniques.

**KEY FEATURES**

**Beneficiaries:** Rural communities

**Partners:** Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, UNESCO, UNDP

**Budget:** $1,000,000

**Duration:** 24 months

**Mostly contributing to**

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**Ten Countries through the International Solar Alliance: Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use**

This project aims to increase the use of solar energy in a safe, convenient, affordable, equitable and sustainable manner in 10 countries. It will enable pilot installations of solar water pumps (SWPs) and demonstrate innovative deployment models in the countries for scaling up. The key proposed interventions of the project include: (a) feasibility and capacity assessments conducted in 10 identified pilot countries to assess local potential and capacity to effectively deploy SWPs; (b) installation of SWPs, using sustainable and innovative deployment models, in each of the pilot countries, reaching a minimum of 150 beneficiaries in each target country; (c) a conducive local ecosystem enabled and strengthened for deployment of SWPs and other solar energy applications; and (d) best practices in SWP deployment and project implementation and important lessons learned documented, collated and disseminated. Project partners are preparing to initiate implementation in consultation with UNDP country offices and local partners in participating countries.

**KEY FEATURES**

**Beneficiaries:** Rural communities

**Partners:** Governments of target countries, International Solar Alliance, UNDP India; UNDP in 10 target countries

**Budget:** $2,000,000

**Duration:** 24 months

**Mostly contributing to**
Farmers produce virgin coconut oil and its by-products in Kiribati. Photo by UNDP
Total Revenue and Delivery, 2004–2021

IBSA Fund Cumulative Revenue and Delivery, 2004–2021 (in $)

Budget Allocation by Region, 2004–2021

Budget Allocations, by Development Classification of the Countries, 2004–2021
IBSA Fund
Annual Report 2021