

OFID's Grant Program



A catalyst for development



Uniting against Poverty

Front Cover Photos *(from left to right):*
ICEP; IFAD/Marco Salustro; Islamic Relief; UNHCR

OFID's Grant Program: *A catalyst for development*

OFID's grant assistance supports initiatives aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of people in non-OPEC developing countries. It does so by addressing challenges in areas such as education, energy poverty, food security, public health, water supply and sanitation, which may not be directly funded through OFID's other financing windows.



Uniting against Poverty

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OFID: A *brief history*

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) is the inter-governmental development finance institution established in 1976 by the Member States of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). OFID was conceived at the Conference of the Sovereigns and Heads of State of OPEC Member Countries, which was held in Algiers, Algeria, in March 1975. A Solemn Declaration of the Conference “reaffirmed the natural solidarity which unites OPEC countries with other developing countries in their struggle to overcome underdevelopment,” and called for measures to strengthen cooperation between these countries.

As of January 1, 2015, OFID had committed a cumulative amount of almost US\$18bn in development financing to 134 countries spread across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe.

Vision

To aspire to a world where Sustainable Development, centered on human capacity building, is a reality for all.

Mission

To foster South-South Partnership with fellow developing countries worldwide with the aim of eradicating poverty.

The means

- By extending concessional financial assistance in the form of loans for development projects and programs.
- By supporting the private sector in developing countries through various instruments, including direct loans, lines of credit to small and medium enterprises, equity financing and credit guarantees.

- By providing trade financing to governments, private entities, commercial banks, regional development finance institutions (DFIs) and any other organizations active in a partner country.
- By providing grants in support of socioeconomic development projects and humanitarian causes.

Partner Countries

All developing countries, with the exception of OPEC Member Countries, are in principle eligible for OFID assistance. The least-developed countries, however, are accorded higher priority and have consequently received the greater share of support.

Partner Institutions

To optimize the impact of its contribution to partner countries' development efforts and global development initiatives, OFID seeks and prioritizes partnerships with other donors. These include the sister institutions of the Coordination Group, other DFIs such as the regional development banks and the World Bank, as well as specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and a host of non-governmental and other organizations.

OFID's resources

OFID's resources consist of voluntary contributions made by OPEC Member Countries and the income derived from its various operations. As of January 1, 2015, total OFID resources exceeded US\$7bn.



Photo: CIAT

OFID grant assistance

Grants represent one of four OFID financing windows, the others being public sector, private sector and trade finance. Through the grant window, OFID finances the kind of development projects that address the specific needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, but which cannot be funded by its other financing mechanisms. Grants are also a very effective tool for the delivery of emergency aid.

Over the years, OFID grant assistance has become an important instrument of development, complementing the funding provided through other financing windows, and serving as a catalyst for the mobilization of additional financing from other donors for the projects concerned.

As of January 1, 2015, OFID's cumulative grant financing stood at nearly US\$600m for over 1,600 operations. These operations have been carried out through effective partnerships with various UN agencies, regional and national development organizations, public institutions, and not-for-profit organizations.

Grant programs

OFID's grant window encompasses the following six programs:

1. Technical assistance

This program is the largest in terms of commitments and reaches out to all developing countries (with the exception of Palestine) and sectors (with the exception of energy). However, particular emphasis is placed on projects aimed at improving access to basic services such as education, health and water and sanitation, as well as enhancing food security for poor communities in least-developed countries.

2. Support to the people of Palestine

The Palestine program was established in 2002, with the objective to provide support to areas of long-term concern, such as basic infrastructure and essential health and social services, as well as assistance aimed at bolstering the agriculture, energy, water and sanitation and education sectors. In times of urgent humanitarian need, OFID also channels emergency assistance to help deliver food aid, medical supplies and other essentials.

3. Energy poverty

This program, which was established in 2011, complements the financing made available by OFID through its other financing windows in support of its flagship Energy for the Poor Initiative (EPI), launched in 2008. The EPI aims at eradicating energy poverty, and focuses on providing improved, sustainable and affordable access to modern energy services. Under this program, OFID also contributes to the UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

4. HIV/AIDS program

This special program was initiated in 2001 to further consolidate and strengthen OFID's involvement in the global effort against HIV/AIDS (MDG 6). Under this program, OFID is working with a broad coalition of strategic partners to fight the pandemic in over 100 countries. OFID's interventions cover many areas, including awareness, prevention, testing and counseling, as well as care, treatment and support.

5. Research and similar intellectual activities

This program covers a wide variety of activities aimed at fostering South-South and North-South knowledge-sharing and developing the capacities of partner countries. These activities include, among others, the provision of scholarships for deserving young graduate students from developing countries; and the OFID Annual Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions to development either by an institution or an individual. Furthermore, through this program, OFID sponsors a variety of conferences, training workshops, seminars and publications, particularly those covering topics related to sustainable development and the challenges facing developing countries.

6. Emergency aid

Grants extended under this program aim at mitigating the suffering of victims of all kinds of catastrophes around the world, including in OFID Member Countries. OFID emergency aid is channeled through specialized relief agencies, such as the IFRC, UNHCR, UNOCHA and the WFP.

Grant distribution by program, sector and region

The cumulative distribution of grant financing among the various programs, sectors and regions is presented in the table and graphs below.

Distribution by program

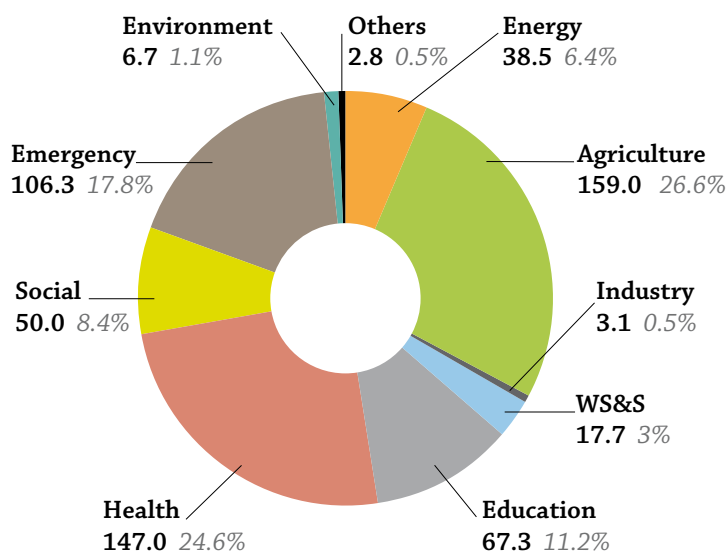
Summary of grant operations as of January 1, 2015

Grant Programs	No.	Total Commitments (US\$ million)	Total Disbursements (US\$ million)
Technical Assistance	499	163.8	149.3
Research	367	22.1	19.4
Emergency Aid	149	72.3	71.8
HIV/AIDS	50	86.8	82.4
Palestine	434	113.9	102.7
Energy Poverty	34	16.0	7.2
Others *			
• Common Fund for Commodities	74	83.5	42.3
• IFAD (closed)	1	20.0	20.0
• Food Aid (closed)	9	20.0	20.0
Total Grant Operations	1,617	598.4	515.5

**Older operations that do not fall within the scope of the six ongoing programs.*

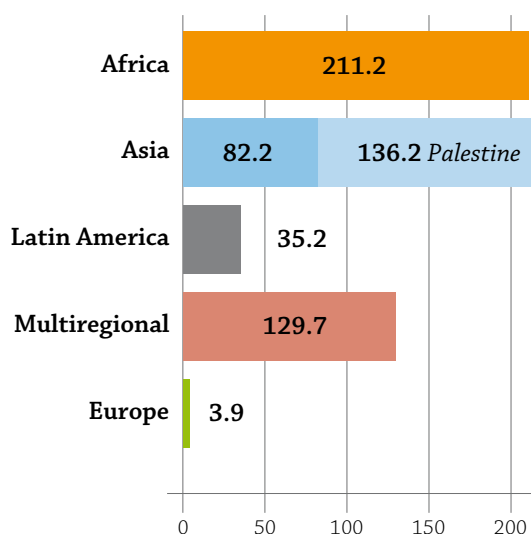
Distribution by Sector

(US\$ million) as of January 1, 2015



Distribution by Region

(US\$ million) as of January 1, 2015



How the grant program operates

Identification, selection and approval

OFID's financial assistance is demand driven and reflects countries' needs and priorities. Nevertheless, since 2001 and in line with its mandate, vision and mission, grant operations have been guided by the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the same vein, as of 2016, the UN Sustainable Development Goals will provide the strategic framework for future grants' interventions.

Against this backdrop, projects are generally identified through the submission of grant applications as well as through consultations with existing and potential new partners during international conferences and meetings attended or hosted by OFID.

Typically, projects are appraised and selected following a results based approach and using a number of criteria including, among others, the track record and capacity of the implementing partner, the targeted region(s) or country(ies), the quality of the project design, the feasibility and readiness of the project, and expected results. In this regard, OFID prioritizes projects that are likely to produce measurable, substantial and sustainable benefits. It also gives preference to projects that are replicable and/or scalable.

Implementation

Upon approval, whereas OFID generally assumes the role of grant administrator, the operations are implemented either directly by the grant recipient or through a designated local partner. In both cases, the grant recipient is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of project activities. In this capacity, it is expected to prepare and submit regular progress reports as well as a completion report to OFID.

In order to achieve the expected results, effective monitoring of grant operations is also conducted by OFID through regular contact with the grant recipient and other key stakeholders, including meetings at OFID's headquarters, or elsewhere, as and when required.

Case studies



Photo: UNHCR

I. Technical assistance

Fighting micronutrient deficiencies in protracted refugee situations

Implementing agency

UNHCR

Amount

US\$500,000

Implementation period

2007–2011

Countries

Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal



Photo: UNHCR/J. Adongo/September 2006

Refugees in Kenya queue patiently for the distribution of food and other rations.

This project sought to address micronutrient deficiencies among long-term refugees in Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nepal, who were displaying high levels of anemia. Activities concentrated on the sustainable improvement of diet through support to vegetable gardening and to income-generating activities that would enable refugees to afford more nutrient-rich food.

Progress was monitored through regular nutrition surveys, which revealed significant improvement. In Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, for

example, anemia among children aged six months to five years fell from 86 percent in 2007 to 44 percent in 2011. Similarly impressive results were achieved in Nepal, where total anemia dropped by 40 percent—moderate and severe forms by 60 percent—in the same period and age group. The children are now healthier and have a much better chance of growing and developing normally.

Other activities concentrated on the early childhood period, bolstering reproductive health programs and promoting

exclusive breastfeeding and improvement of complementary feeding practices for children aged between six months and two years. This included staff training and maternal counseling as well as the direct distribution of food items or micronutrient powders to improve the diet, where this was too difficult or unsustainable using food-based products.



Photo: CIAT/Neil Palmer

Harvesting biofortified maize at trial sites at CIAT's headquarters in Colombia.

Strengthening food security in drought conditions through biofortified rice and beans

Implementing agency
CIAT

Amount
US\$150,000

Implementation period
2009–2012

Country
Nicaragua

This project aimed at addressing two issues in Nicaragua: instability in crop yields due to drought, and anemia, which affects 17 percent of pre-school children and 33 percent of pregnant women. The project supported the development and production of iron-biofortified, drought-tolerant rice and beans for improved food and nutrition security among farming families in drought-affected regions.

Rice and bean dissemination plots were planted in the target

regions, where 83 percent of the households were classified as suffering from low-to-medium food insecurity, characterized by seasonal hunger. Some 800kg of nutritionally improved bean seeds and 4.2 tons of improved rice were produced for use by farmers.

By the end of the project, participating farmers were aware of the potential benefits of planting and consuming nutritionally enhanced beans and rice.

Food security for pastoralists

Implementing agency

IFAD

Amount

US\$1.5m

Implementation period

2012–2014

Countries

Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia

The overall goal of this program was to sustainably improve the income, nutrition and health of some 600 agro-pastoral, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities in the Somali regions of northern Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia. The target group comprised approximately 1.4 million people or about 200,000 households.

Essentially, the program sought to improve livelihoods by providing infrastructure and services that enable

pastoral communities to engage in regional and local livestock trade. By enhancing access to veterinary services, water and fodder, the program succeeded in improving livestock health and quality, and increasing livestock exports by the most vulnerable and food-insecure groups in the Horn of Africa. Particularly effective was the deployment of mobile veterinary clinics.

The program implementation has resulted in increased incomes through the sale of food and cash crops. Other benefits include increased quantity and enhanced quality of meat (through the slaughter slabs), milk (through the establishment of cooling facilities and improved milk containers) and ghee (through the availability of processing machinery). In addition, the communities now enjoy better access to water supplies and to veterinary and public health services. Further opportunities are opening up through the development of improved market infrastructure, in particular animal slaughtering and milk storage facilities, and the required cold chain.

Mobile veterinary clinics have improved livestock health.



IFAD/Marco Salustro

Provision of renewable energy to improve health situation in Sofala, Mozambique

Implementing agency

Hilfswerk Austria International

Amount

US\$700,000

Implementation period

January 2014–June 2015

This project aims at breaking the vicious cycle of disease and poverty in three districts—Chemba, Caia and Maringue—in the South of the Sofala province, Mozambique, through an integrated approach tackling its three main intertwined causes: lack of access to energy, lack of access to improved water and sanitation services, and food insecurity.

OFID's contribution to the project covers the components for the provision of renewable energy sources, including simple solar system for the water cycle, and renewable energy kits consisting of a solar home system, energy efficient cookstoves and energy-saving cooking pots.



Photo: Hilfswerk Austria International

Communities in South Sofala enjoy their access to clean water.

As of January 1, 2015, energy kits had been distributed to 117 families and eight waiting centres for pregnant women. In addition, six small water distribution systems comprising a tank, standpipes

and connecting pipelines had been built and 53 water committees had been trained in the maintenance of water systems in the targeted communities.

2. Support to the people of Palestine

Equipping the “OFID Department of Surgery” at Al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron

Implementing agency

The Patient’s Friends Society of Hebron

Amount

US\$1m

Implementation period

July–December 2013

Based in Hebron, Al-Ahli Hospital was established in 1993 by the Patient’s Friends Association, a non-governmental charitable organization set up in 1976 to improve the health services available to Palestinians. The hospital is the largest in the West Bank and provides healthcare to about 150,000 patients annually, including 18,000 admissions. As an advanced healthcare facility, the hospital serves

patients from all parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Under this project, OFID provided funds to purchase general surgical equipment for the hospital’s new surgical suite, which was constructed with local funding. Named the “OFID Department of Surgery,” in recognition of OFID’s support, the new facility will benefit over 8,000 patients each year.



Photo: OFID

Mr Suleiman J Al-Herbish, Director-General of OFID (*fifth from left*), inaugurated the new surgical suite in April 2014, during an official visit to Palestine.



Photo: UNRWA

Students in their new classroom in Manara School.

Reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el Bared camp

Implementing agency

UNRWA

Amount

US\$6.25m

Implementation period

2008–2014

Beneficiaries

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

The wholesale destruction of the Nahr el Bared refugee camp in Lebanon in 2007 affected 9,000 Palestinian schoolchildren. This project helped to build four new school complexes as well as a vocational training center in the reconstructed camp.

The project involved the construction, furnishing and equipping of a number of school buildings, comprising 101 classrooms, as well as

administrative offices and staff rooms. The opening of the schools enabled more than 4,000 children to resume their education in a purpose-built facility in the UNRWA compound. The vocational training center serves over 230 students through a double-shift system.

Deprived families economic empowerment program (DEEP)

Implementing agency

UNDP and IsDB

Amount

US\$3m

Implementation period

2010–2014

This economic empowerment program was implemented with grant support of US\$30m, provided by a group

of Arab and Islamic funds including OFID. It benefited around 3,200 poor households and microenterprises in Jerusalem.

The project set out to produce a model for poverty alleviation based on sustaining peoples' livelihoods at the household level. It thus focused on enabling people to start up microenterprises and create sustainable sources of income for their families. This was facilitated through the provi-

sion of the necessary resources to start a business, a social safety net to increase resilience, and access to financial and business development services to promote growth.

In the context of the OFID grant, the project helped over 200 families to own and expand business enterprises, generating approximately 520 paid and sustainable jobs. About 40 percent of the projects are owned by women entrepreneurs.



Photo: UNDP/DEEP

With the right support, budding entrepreneurs can turn an idea into a successful business.



The new solar system lights up children's faces as well as their classrooms.

3. Energy poverty

Solar electrification of rural schools in five sub-Saharan African countries

Implementing agency
UNESCO

Amount
US\$1.2m

Period of implementation
2013–2015

Countries
Benin, Madagascar,
Mauritania, Niger, Togo

This project set out to provide electricity and Internet connections to 75 rural schools in five countries through the use of solar photovoltaic systems. It is estimated that some 19,500 students and 750 teachers at primary and/or secondary level benefited directly from the project.

The solar powered computers and multimedia facilities made available have allowed both regular students and local people attending evening literacy classes to access information and expand their knowledge. The children of

impoverished families who must work during the day are also attending evening courses, which represent their only opportunity to access formal education. To ensure the sustainability of the project, training has been provided for both technicians and end-users. According to a teacher, the new facilities have inspired pupils to place more value on education. The project also has the potential to serve as the catalyst for a best practice model with multiplier effects in addressing energy poverty at national and regional levels.

Identifying alternative energy production solutions for the Caribbean states

Implementing agency

UNDP

Amount

US\$150,000

Implementation period

2012

Countries

OECS member states plus Barbados

Energy costs in the Caribbean are high, with electricity typically 3–4 times more expensive than in the EU or USA. As energy demand grows with increased economic development, it has become imperative to enhance the use of renewables in the energy mix. Doing so frees up resources for investment in human development and leads to more resilient economies that are less exposed to energy price shocks.

This project supported the Caribbean countries in conducting a feasibility study to identify technically and financially feasible initiatives with

low investment risk and short-term returns on investment, and with the potential for replication in other small island developing states. The feasibility study identified three technology options for the production of renewable energy, namely biogas production, solar cooling and small-scale hydropower.

The results were presented and discussed with relevant national counterparts. Countries are now using the results of the feasibility study as they seek to pursue their own national energy policy inclusive of renewable energy.



Photo: Kabana/Shutterstock.com

Renewable sources protect economies from the shocks caused by fluctuating oil prices.

Improved cookstoves paired with carbon finance scheme in Nepal

Implementing agency

SNV Netherlands

Amount

US\$500,000

Implementation period

2013–2018



Photo: SNV/Guy Dekeiver

For this Nepalese woman, feeding her family is no longer a health hazard, thanks to her new clean cookstove.

Two-thirds of Nepal's 5.7 million households cook with firewood, cattle dung or agro-waste and use traditional three-stone or metal tripod stoves. Indoor air pollution related to these practices is prematurely killing an estimated 7,500 Nepalese per year.

This project will provide households in rural areas of western Nepal with access to affordable, clean and safe cooking solutions through the distribution and installation of 150,000 improved cookstoves. The stoves will reduce the daily consumption of biomass by

around 55 percent, which will in turn lessen forest degradation and reduce greenhouse gas emission.

By December 2014, the program had already reached over 40,000 households. Some key activities have also been achieved, including the development of a robust and efficient stove design; the introduction of a performance-based payment system for local partners; and the involvement of local community organizations as a vehicle for institutional marketing. In addition, jobs have been

created for more than 700 workers to promote the distribution and sale of the cookstoves, and five private companies are actively involved in the local production of combustion chambers. This project has contributed to building a sustainable and scalable business model, involving national and local governments, the private sector and civil society organizations.

Access to modern energy services for rural communities (expert meeting, September 2013)

In today's world, 85 percent of the 1.3 billion people who lack access to electricity live with low incomes in rural areas. The majority of the 2.7 billion people worldwide who rely on traditional biomass also live in rural areas. Among other

numerous negative consequences, this results in it not being possible for these populations to meet their developmental needs, whether they be economic, social or environmental.

In this context, in September 2013, OFID organized and hosted with GIZ, a highly productive and well-attended experts' meeting that shared experience, best practices and possible solutions to the problem of energy poverty in

rural areas. The meeting concluded that solutions to energy poverty need to be further enhanced by exploring possible synergies and areas of cooperation between different actors in the field of energy poverty alleviation, drawing on all available sources, be they traditional or renewable, and taking into consideration the wider water-food-energy nexus.



Photo: OFID

Participants of the OFID-GIZ expert meeting shared experience and best practices to eradicate energy poverty in rural areas.



Photo: Corbis/Louise Gubb

4. HIV/AIDS program

Catalytic support in preventing and eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Implementing agency

WHO

Amount

US\$2m

Implementation period

2012–2014

Countries

Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe

This project provided support to the target countries to develop and implement action plans to eliminate the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children. The project's objective is in line with one of the primary goals of the global HIV response, which is to achieve a generation born free of HIV.

In Lesotho, the project helped the government develop nationwide policy guidance for elimination of mother-to-child transmission. To bring the services to communities, 230 health center committees were

trained using PMTCT (prevention of mother to child transmission) service delivery.

In Zambia, the project contributed to awareness-building aimed at promoting antenatal screening among expectant mothers in order to identify their HIV status earlier in pregnancy and take the necessary prevention measures. Zambia also succeeded in retaining high rates of HIV testing among pregnant women. Ninety-five percent of expectant mothers are taking

HIV tests during their first antenatal visit.

In Zimbabwe, the project targeted districts where HIV prevalence is high, previous programs have performed poorly, and which have not benefited so far from donor support. Two districts received support to improve their policies and services, and to conduct community sensitization and training activities with the engagement of district leaders, HIV/AIDS activists and adult men.



Photo: Quick Shop/Shutterstock.com

Joint program to prevent HIV/AIDS through Treatnet Phase II

Implementing agency

UNODC

Amount

US\$3m

Implementation period

2007

Countries

Cambodia, Colombia, Haiti, Kenya, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Peru, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Vietnam, Zambia



Photo: UNODC

The rehabilitation centers serve as a safe haven for recovering drugs users.

This program aimed to prevent HIV/AIDS by building an effective treatment system to reduce problematic drug use. Its four-pillar strategy consisted of a health-centered approach to drug dependency; capacity building through the training of service providers; strengthening of drug treatment services; and development of a drugs policy.

A major achievement has been the knowledge-sharing mechanism, which has trained more

than 11,000 professionals from various disciplines. The project has supported the development and strengthening of drug treatment services with a recovery-oriented model that favors a community-based treatment approach. It has also encouraged the development of networks to ensure a continuum of care.

At project completion, the beneficiary treatment centers had expanded their capacity to provide integrated and com-

prehensive community-based responses and improve the quality and intensity of services. The centers had also made themselves more available, accessible and affordable to the people who need them.

Overcoming HIV in conservative social settings

Implementing agency

IAS

Amount

US\$350,000

Implementation period

January 2014–July 2014

In fighting HIV/AIDS, OFID recognizes the strategic need to consider the particular challenges in countries where cultural and religious traditions define perceptions of the disease and hamper efforts to prevent it. OFID believes that

sharing examples of best practices and lessons learned in the context of conservative social settings is important for capacity building and for informing change and transformation. It is also important to emphasize that advocating for good effective programmatic responses also requires dialogue and an understanding of the religious and social factors fueling the epidemic.

In April 2014, OFID in collaboration with IAS hosted a consultation workshop to discuss various issues surrounding HIV in conservative

social settings. The meeting was attended by religious leaders, civil society actors, people living with HIV, clinicians, scientists, and well-informed experts. A Call to Action document was issued at the end of the meeting and later presented for further debate at the 28th AIDS Conference held in Melbourne, Australia, in July 2014.

The bulk of this OFID grant was used to sponsor the participation of delegates from developing countries to the Melbourne conference.



Photo: OFID

From left: Dr Yamina Chakkar, Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for the MENA Region; Professor Dr Adeebe Kamarulzaman, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya; OFID Director-General Suleiman Al-Herbish; and Rachid Bencherif, Head of Grants Unit, OFID.

5. Research and similar intellectual activities

Support to the participation of visually impaired girls in Jordan

Implementing agency

The Saudi Center for Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls

Amount

US\$130,000

Implementation period

2011–2013

Countries

Jordan and neighboring Arab countries



Photo: The Saudi Center for the Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls

With their newly acquired computer skills, visually impaired girls can look to a more independent future.

This grant was extended to support the participation of visually impaired girls from Jordan and neighboring Arab countries in courses offered by the Saudi Center for the Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls. The funds from OFID have resulted in 44 graduates of a computer course and nine of a therapeutic massage course. Both courses were organized in

cooperation with Muta University, which issued recognized certificates that qualified the graduates to undertake the various kinds of work.

The Center was established in 1974 and celebrated its fortieth anniversary in 2014 with a total 894 graduates from various courses it runs for girls with impaired visibility.

Capacity building to improve income-generating activities by poor women in rural areas

Implementing agency

ICEP

Amount

US\$200,000

Implementation period

2012–2014

Countries

El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, Nicaragua, Uganda

This program set out to equip poor rural women with the skills and knowledge necessary to make their income-generating activities more profitable. Through the program, some 750 women were able to set up their own micro-enterprises, while another 1,400 succeeded in expanding their existing businesses.

The program also served to expand sustainable training structures and to strengthen the capacities of the three local

partner organizations. This was carried out through individual counseling, exchange seminars, and systematic know-how transfer. The methodology of business empowerment has also been integrated into the development programs of the partner organizations, and approved instruments and best practices are being deepened and disseminated.



Photo: ICEP

Training programs helped equip rural women with new skills to set up and expand their own micro-enterprises.

6. Emergency aid

Humanitarian aid to Syrians in crisis

Implementing agency

Islamic Relief

Amount

US\$250,000

Implementation period

2012–2014

Beneficiaries

Syrian refugees in Jordan

This program sought to alleviate the suffering of Syrian refugees in Jordan by providing them with medical care. The services provided have saved the lives of many people who would otherwise have been unable to get the treatment they needed. Around 79 percent of Syrian refugees in Jordan are women and children under 18, and one in every five refugee households

is female-headed. In the absence of breadwinners, most families are poor and dependent on outside assistance.

The program has also contributed in narrowing the gap in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare needs for those who are unable to access free health services. Between August 2013 and April 2014, some 730 patients benefited from treatment in ophthalmology, orthopedic, general surgery, pediatric, obstetrics and gynecology in hospitals located in Amman and Irbid. Nearly 50 percent of the beneficiaries were children under nine years of age. The medical treatment received by them had a great impact on their lives and three-quarters of them are in remission.



Photo: Islamic Relief

OFID-sponsored healthcare has saved the lives of many Syrian refugees.



Photo: WFP/Tine Frank

On arrival at the Uganda border town of Elegu, South Sudanese refugee children receive high energy biscuits. Many of them will not have eaten any nutritious food on their journey.

Food Aid to South Sudan refugees

Implementing agency

WFP

Amount

US\$500,000

Implementation period

2014

Beneficiaries

South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries

This humanitarian aid helped to provide food assistance to South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. OFID's assistance came at a critical point in early 2014, when the WFP's food distribution program was disrupted due to a lack of resources. The funds from OFID enabled the purchase of grain, vegetable oil and beans to maintain vital nutrition to these vulnerable people, who are heavily dependent on WFP rations. This support was especially vital for children

aged between six months and five years. The rate of general acute malnutrition among this group stands at almost 20 percent—well above the emergency threshold.

Using the funds provided by OFID, WFP also purchased close to 100 tons of imported nutrient-dense food. After arriving in Port Sudan, this “super cereal” was distributed to 12,500 South Sudanese refugees, of whom 10,000 were children under five and 2,500 were pregnant women.

Testimonials from beneficiaries

A more profitable family business



Photo: UNDP/DEEP

Kamel Edkedik

Kamel Edkedik, 43, lives in the Old City of Jerusalem, where he is the breadwinner for a family of seven. The family lives in a small rented house costing US\$400 per month. Due to his family's economic situation, Kamel did not pursue his education; instead, he has been helping in his father's shoe manufacturing business.

The business, which is the only source of income for the family, used to generate a monthly income of US\$650, an amount far below the US\$2,500 needed for an adequate standard of living. In recent years, the business has been declining. Without the wherewithal to purchase new machinery, it was impossible to compete with imported products.

Their situation has improved dramatically since Kamel and his family received support from DEEP. They were able to buy a range of new equipment, and Kamel received training to help him better manage the business.

With increased production, the business now generates an average monthly income of around US\$3,000. Recently, Kamel started to diversify his shoe range, which will boost his profits even more.

Said Kamel: "Our business is now running well. The better business model we've adopted will provide us with more opportunities to develop new products. Our life has truly changed, and we feel the impact of enhanced quality of life."

Less firewood to collect from the forest, and a healthier life



Photo: SNV

Yasodha Tamrakar

Yasodha Tamrakar, of Domada village in Nepal, had spent her whole life carrying firewood from the forest. Every day, she would spend six hours foraging and carry 50kg of firewood on her back. Because of the smoke from the cooking fire, her eyes would always be itchy and red, and her children would cough constantly. In addition, she had the daily task of washing blackened pots.

The improved cookstoves delivered through the “Improved cookstoves paired with carbon finance scheme” has changed her life. Now she goes to collect firewood only once a week and carries smaller loads. And she has much more time to spend with her children. “I wish I could have bought this stove when I was young; it would have made my life a lot easier,” she said.

Enhanced skills to run a tailor’s

Doris López, 28, lives with her husband and three children in Concepción Chiquirichapa, Guatemala, where she runs a small tailor shop that produces sportswear. Her shop was doing well, but she found it difficult to expand her business as she lacked the necessary know-how. Doris decided to participate in the “Capacity building to improve income-generating activities by poor women in rural areas training program.”

After joining the training, she was able to improve both her technical and business skills, which she applied successfully in her daily work. She diversified her products and improved the marketing activities, introduced accurate bookkeeping, and deals with customers in a professional manner. She even hired three employees.

“I have become more self-confident, as I can cope better with the challenges of my business and contribute to the family income,” Doris stated.



Photo: ICEP

Doris López

New school, new hope



Photo: UNRWA

Ali Salem Sweidan is 10 years-old and started fifth grade in Manara School in Nahr el Bared refugee camp in Lebanon in September 2014, having spent three years in a prefabricated school. He said: “My new school is really beautiful. We enjoy large classrooms and an amazing playground and I really love the library. I’m still waiting for the reconstruction of our house on the main street, and I would like to thank all the people who helped us.”

Ali Salem Sweidan

Heart surgery that saved a life

Hamza is one of many who have benefited from the program “Humanitarian aid to Syrians in crisis.” The 5-year-old boy had to escape Damascus with his family due to the violent conflict in the country and was diagnosed with a heart problem. His fragile body suffered constantly from seizures caused by recurrent high fever, necessitating urgent intervention.

His father explained: “My son’s condition was deteriorating. We arrived in Jordan in appalling and chaotic conditions, with no subsidies other than food vouchers to secure our basic daily needs. After more than a year, I had almost lost hope, until Allah blessed us with His help.”

To the family’s relief, Hamza was transferred to Luzmila Hospital, a private, acute-care facility in Amman, where the project funded by OFID covered the total cost of his surgery. “Our son is now normal and healthy. Words cannot express how we feel. A big thank you to everyone who helped my son,” Hamza’s father added.



Photo: Islamic Relief

Hamza at home after his recovery from heart surgery

The fingers that help keep the pain away and help earn a living

Rasha Hussein Khazneh lives with her four siblings in Al Zhour, a local area of Amman, Jordan. Having been orphaned at an early age, she was supported by her two brothers. The elder worked as a car mechanic and the younger as a part-time computer repair man. Their total income was hardly enough for the whole family's daily needs.

Rasha, who is now 24 and visually impaired, enrolled on a massage course run by the Saudi Center for Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls, supported by OFID. After graduating, she decided to set up a massage clinic in her home, and with the help of friends and relatives started a promotional campaign in the surrounding neighborhoods. She now receives 4–5 patients daily. With her fingers, Rasha helps keep her patients' pain away, and at the same time helps earn a living for her and her extended family.

“I wish to thank the Center and OFID for their help and the great opportunity for blind girls like me to work and have a better life. The certificate I obtained from the Center means a lot to me,” Rasha said.



Rasha (in white) at her training course

Photo: The Saudi Center for Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls

Glossary

BADEA: Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa

CIAT: International Center for Tropical Agriculture

Coordination Group: a policy and operational alliance among a number of Arab national and regional development funds, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), as well as their subsidiaries and special programs

DFIs: Development Finance Institutions

DEEP: Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Program

GIZ: German Agency for International Cooperation

IAS: International AIDS Society

ICEP: Institut zur Cooperation bei Entwicklungs-Projekten

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFRC: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IsDB: Islamic Development Bank

MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

OECS: Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

OFID: The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)

OPEC: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

SNV Netherlands: Foundation of Netherlands Volunteers

UNAIDS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNHCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNOCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative: a global initiative that was launched in September 2011 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to mobilize action from all sectors of society in support of three interlinked objectives, namely: providing universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

WFP: World Food Programme

WHO: World Health Organization



Photo: Rupert Steiner

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