

BRIDGE **BUILDERS**

Industry, infrastructure and innovation for future generations

Refugees and host communities: Where next?
Data innovation and Arab youth

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Uniting against Poverty

OFID Quarterly is published four times a year by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

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NEW


...and not just about us


“We have made the conscious decision to turn our focus outward to include what other actors are doing in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals”

Welcome to the new *OFID Quarterly* magazine. This magazine is not simply about OFID; it may not even be mostly about OFID. Rather, it is about international development, or more broadly still, human development. Within the *OFID Quarterly*, we investigate what is being done on the ground to achieve a better and more sustainable future for everyone. We aim to consider the projects, ideas, operations and initiatives that address the global challenges we face.

PHOTO: terrantraite/Getty Images





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While we will continue to use the *OFID Quarterly* to showcase our work as a development finance institution, we have made the conscious decision to turn our focus outward to include what other actors are doing in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), too. We believe this is the correct decision for the following reasons:

2

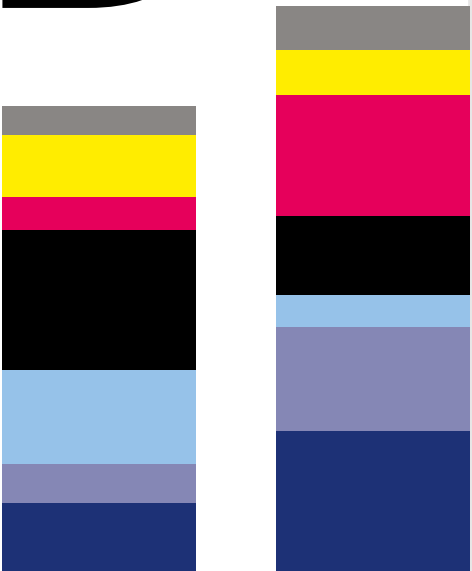
OFID works closely with organizations such as the World Bank, specialized agencies of the United Nations, regional development banks and the bilateral and multilateral agencies of OFID member countries. Shining a light on their successes benefits OFID too, and ultimately helps share best practices across the global development arena. This is in line with SDG 17, which calls on us all to ‘revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development’.

The *OFID Quarterly*, like OFID itself, aims to help shape the development agenda and move the conversation about SDGs, progress and prosperity forward. To do this, the magazine needs to offer highly relevant and unique content sourced not only from OFID, but from around the world. We believe this will appeal to a broader readership – not simply of development professionals, but of policy-makers and people working in both the public and private sectors, of economists and academics, of social entrepreneurs and students.

This re-launch edition focuses on SDG 9 and considers some of the stories surrounding the building of resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. Did you know, for example, that telecommunications infrastructure has improved dramatically in Africa, even though 600 million Africans lack access to electricity? Or that private investment in infrastructure in Latin America is significantly higher than in other developing regions, even though it invests the least in infrastructure among developing regions? And who knew there was an Uber-like app solution to tractor access in Africa that’s helping to cut farming costs by up to 40 percent? Or that behavioral sciences (a combination of psychology, economics and neuroscience that examines how people make decisions) is being used to help reduce gender-based violence in the Arab region?

● Please let us know your thoughts about this edition and your views on development in general via bit.ly/contactOFID

INFRASTR A INNOVA D



INDUSTRY INDUCTION: STRUCTURE

DRIVING FORCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for countries to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9.

So how is the world doing?

GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Infrastructure, industry and innovation are key ingredients to economic growth and sustainable development and can help countries reduce poverty and improve wellbeing and living standards. According to the United Nations' (UN) Statistics Division, in recent years, steady improvements have been made in these areas but renewed investment is needed in the least developed countries (LDCs) to build infrastructure and ensure the doubling of industry's share of GDP in those countries by 2030.

Latin America: infrastructure outlook

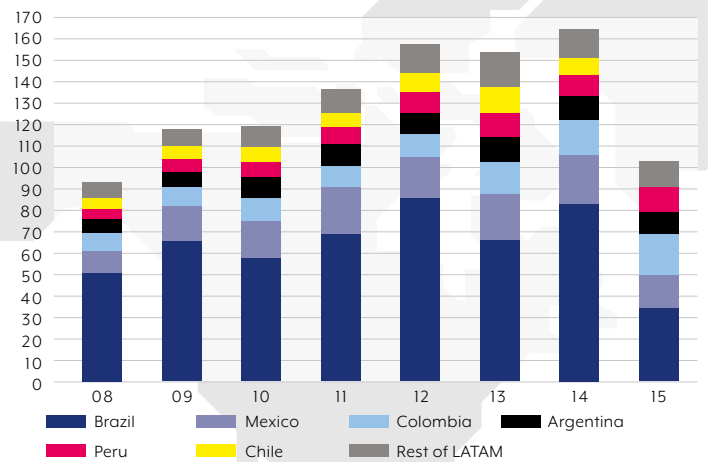
Private investment in infrastructure in Latin America is significantly higher than in other developing regions. For example, in Asia, only about 10 percent of infrastructure is privately funded, compared with over 50 percent in Latin America. While this is a seemingly favorable comparison for Latin America, governments across the region have set clear intentions to increase the level of private investment over the coming years. Total infrastructure investment in the region is estimated at 2.8 percent of GDP, which significantly trails the investment requirement of 5.2 percent by the UN. Estimates of the infrastructure financing gap in the region vary, but it is generally accepted that if the gap is to be closed, investment levels need to increase in the six countries which account for over 90 percent of infrastructure investment in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru).

Source: Overview of Infrastructure Investment in Latin America produced by the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB Invest and Marsh & McLennan Companies.

According to the World Bank's *Rethinking Infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean* report, Latin America invests the least in infrastructure among developing regions.

Transport and wastewater remain challenges, but the region performs quite well in terms of electricity and water. The report notes that Latin America's clean, sophisticated electricity sector could become a serious competitive advantage. The main message of the report, which is aptly sub-titled *Spending Better to Achieve More*, is that Latin America can dramatically narrow its infrastructure service gap by spending efficiently on the right things: "...the investment gap approach necessarily focuses attention on the question of raising more resources. But closing the service gap should not – and, indeed, cannot – be just about spending more. The service gap can be narrowed, if not closed, in two other ways: by ensuring that spending (particularly of scarce public resources) is well targeted and that it is efficient."

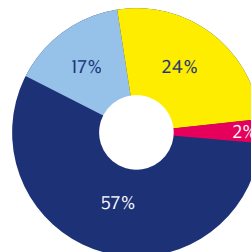
Total infrastructure investment in Latin America and the Caribbean (US\$ billion): data from InfraLATAM 2008-2015



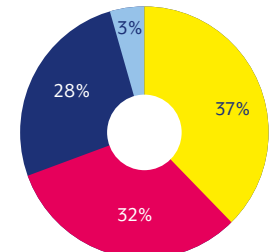
Latin America and the Caribbean
2.8%

Breakdown of investment by sector: data from InfraLATAM 2008-2015

Public investment contributes 44% of total investment



Private investment contributes 56% of total investment



Energy Telecoms Transport Water

Asia: Meeting infrastructure needs

Infrastructure in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific has improved rapidly but remains far from adequate. More than 400 million Asians still lack electricity; roughly 300 million have no access to safe drinking water and 1.5 billion lack basic sanitation. In many countries, power outages constrain economic growth. City traffic

congestion costs economies huge amounts in lost productivity, wasted fuel and human stress.

Developing Asia will need to invest US\$1.7 trillion per year in infrastructure until 2030 to maintain its growth momentum, tackle poverty and respond to climate change.

Of the total climate-adjusted investment

needs over 2016 – 2030, US\$14.7 trillion will be for power and US\$8.4 trillion for transport. Investments in telecommunications will reach US\$2.3 trillion, with water and sanitation costs at US\$800 billion over the period.

Currently, the region annually invests an estimated \$881 billion in infrastructure (for 25 economies with adequate data, comprising 96 percent of the region's population). The

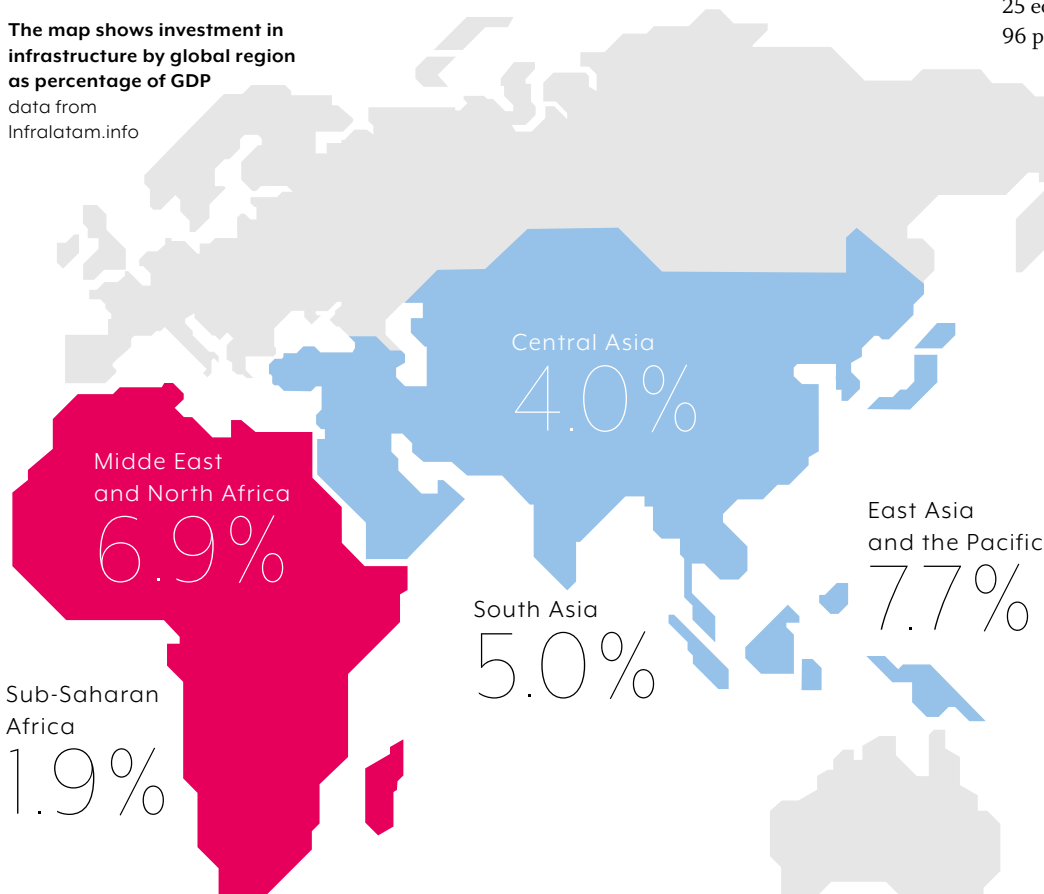
infrastructure investment gap – the difference between investment needs and current investment levels – equals 2.4 percent of projected

GDP for the five-year period from 2016 to 2020 when incorporating climate mitigation and adaptation costs.

Source: Asian Development Bank. ADB. 2017. *Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs*.

The map shows investment in infrastructure by global region as percentage of GDP

data from
Infralattam.info



For more information, see:
adb.org/publications/asia-infrastructure-needs

Africa: infrastructure for growth

Sub-Saharan Africa lags other developing regions in virtually all dimensions of infrastructure performance, although trends vary across key sectors. Progress has been inadequate in the power sector, where electricity-generating capacity per capita has changed little over 20 years, and although access to electricity more than doubled during 1990–2014, only 35 percent of the population has access. Sub-Saharan Africa also has the lowest road and railroad densities among developing regions, and road density declined during 1990–2011. By contrast, telecommunications infrastructure has improved dramatically: the number of fixed and mobile phone lines per 1,000 people increased from three in 1990 to 736 in 2014, and the number of

internet users per 100 people increased from 1.3 in 2005 to 16.7 in 2015. Access to safe water has also risen, from 51 percent of the population in 1990 to 77 percent in 2015. The growth benefits of closing sub-Saharan Africa's infrastructure quantity and quality gaps are potentially large. Catching up to the median of the rest of the developing world would increase growth in GDP per capita by 1.7 percentage points per year, and closing the gap relative to the best performers would lift this growth by 2.6 percentage points per year. Closing the gap in electricity-generating capacity yields the largest potential benefit, and substantial gains also arise from narrowing the gap in the length of the road network.

Source: *The World Bank Group's Africa Pulse: An analysis of issues shaping Africa's economic future*, April 2017.

“About **600 million** Africans lack access to electricity and more than **80 percent** of them rely on biomass as their main source of energy. Also, access to water and sanitation is a major issue, particularly in rural areas. It is estimated that closing the infrastructure gap in Africa will need about **US\$90 to US\$110 billion** annually.”

Belkacem Ouzrourou,
OFID Director, Africa Region

For more information, see:
bit.ly/OQOctober2018

INDUSTRY: A DRIVER

The Lima Declaration, adopted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) member states in 2013, emphasizes: "...industrialization is a driver of development. Industry increases productivity, and job creation and generates income, thereby contributing to poverty eradication and addressing other development goals, as well as providing opportunities for social inclusion, including gender equality, empowering women and girls and creating decent employment for youth. As industry develops, it drives an increase of value addition and enhances the application of science, technology and innovation, therefore encouraging greater investment in skills and education, and thus providing the resources to meet broader, inclusive and sustainable development objectives."

The United Nations' *Report of the Secretary-General, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018* notes steady progress in the manufacturing industry. To achieve inclusive and sustainable industrialization, it is stated, competitive economic forces need to be unleashed to generate employment and income, facilitate international trade and enable the efficient use of resources. Here are some edited findings:

2016

61%

By 2016, the proportion of the population covered by a third generation (3G) mobile broadband network stood at 61 percent in the LDCs and 84 percent globally.

Source: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9

PHOTO: LIORIKI/Shutterstock.com

Global carbon intensity decreased by 19 percent from 2000 to 2015 – from 0.38 to 0.31 kilograms of carbon dioxide per dollar of value added.

2000

0.38 kg

2015

0.31 kg

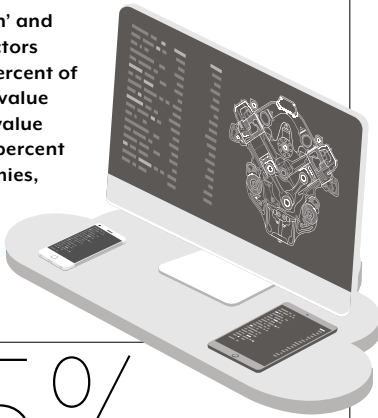
Measured by kilograms of carbon dioxide per dollar of value added.

PHOTO: Oceloti/Shutterstock.com

OF DEVELOPMENT

TECH

In 2015, 'medium-high' and 'high-technology' sectors accounted for 44.7 percent of total manufacturing value added globally. The value added reached 34.6 percent in developing economies, up from 21.5 percent in 2005.



2005
21.5%

2015
34.6%

Driven by the fast growth of manufacturing in Asia, the global share of manufacturing value added in GDP increased:

2005
15.2%

2017
16.3%

ASIA



MANUFACTURING:

A STORY OF SLOW PROGRESS

Despite progress, the LDCs are still far behind in manufacturing growth, according to information from the UN Statistics Division. "While manufacturing value added (MVA) per capita has increased globally, broader industrialization has been hampered by intense concentrations of production in some countries and regions. This has resulted in marked inequalities, with industrial productivity varying widely between richer and poorer regions. In 2016, MVA per capita was US\$100 a year in LDCs (although it had increased 59 percent in real terms since 2005), compared to US\$4,621 in Europe and Northern America. As manufacturing production shifts from higher-income regions in search of lower costs, countries that currently have low levels of MVA per capita stand to benefit."

Source: unstats.un.org/sdgs

PHOTO: Mark Atkins/Shutterstock.com



FILLING


INNOVATION:

ZERO COLLATERAL LOANS FOR WOMEN
AND DIFFERENT WAYS OF WORKING

THE



FINANCIAL


CASE STUDY

While some parts of the world are edging closer to better outcomes on gender equality, major disparities remain. The World Bank's **Africa Region Gender Innovation Lab (GIL)** assesses development initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa to generate evidence on how to close the gender gap and support the design of innovative, scalable interventions. Steve Hughes talks with GIL's **Markus Goldstein...**

PHOTO: Erick Kaglan/World Bank

GAP

INNOVATION:
ZERO COLLATERAL LOANS FOR WOMEN
AND DIFFERENT WAYS OF WORKING

What is innovation in the context of development – and why is it important?

That's a hard question. It's often about bringing something used in one context to another context or application. For example, using a type of training we know works for business owners in the private sector to rural farmers. Innovation often lies in the way you think about or approach things. The fundamental thing for us is to address the underlying sources of gender inequality in terms of economic opportunities. We need to understand where the inequality is coming from if we want to address

“The profits of women business owners increased by **40%** and remained high years after.”

Markus Goldstein

it correctly. For example, women still have a problem in accessing 'medium-sized' credit, despite improvements in their access to 'micro' and large 'corporate' credit. A reason is that to access medium-sized credit, they need assets. The underlying challenge is that women have fewer assets than men, so we need to help them obtain more assets. We can do this by encouraging joint ownership of houses and businesses and adopting other traditional approaches. But we can also innovate and try to come up with lending products that don't need collateral. We discovered a technology used to help measure how likely a borrower is to repay a loan. It works by asking potential borrowers to use a tablet to answer psychology-based questions and the software measures variables such as how often people change their minds, how quickly they make decisions, and more. The research shows that it's a promising tool to determine a person's likelihood to repay loans. We took this idea to the largest lending institution in Ethiopia* and asked them to use it to help reduce the collateral requirement for women wanting to access medium-sized loans. And the bank has started doing this.

*by number of clients.

How do we become more innovative?

Constantly exposing ourselves to new ideas: reading things we wouldn't ordinarily read; talking with people we wouldn't ordinarily talk with. It's the 'far and wide approach.' It's also important to be working within a diverse team with different experiences. Understanding the problem properly (or at least in some depth) that you have to solve is fundamental. This often forces you to recognize that the standard tools are not up to the job. We work hard to understand the problems: then we try innovative approaches and rigorously evaluate them to see if they are working, as well as to understand the magnitude of their impacts.

Talk us through one of your projects.

In 2014, we did a fundamental review on business training provided by a variety of organizations. It was kind of a 'state of the union' thing and it showed that although people learn from business training, when they apply their learning to their businesses, it doesn't significantly increase profits. It was a cold hard moment of reckoning. Then came the innovation. We asked questions and did a lot of research and introduced 'personal initiative training' to replace the 'standard' business training. We focused on business psychology and on how to think like an entrepreneur. The new training emphasized goal setting, planning and implementation, overcoming obstacles and being a self-starter. For example, in one exercise, people were encouraged to sit in pairs and talk over what they did the day before. What did they do that was proactive, what did they do that was reactive? The point was for them to understand the idea and be more proactive in their enterprises. Five hundred people in Togo received this training and we followed them for two and a half years. The profits of women business owners increased by 40 percent and remained high years after. Now we're in the 'export phase' – taking this training to other countries including Mexico and Ethiopia. We're also planning to use it in the agricultural sector, and we're piloting it in Mozambique.

For more information, see worldbank.org/en/programs/africa-gender-innovation-lab

The Gender Innovation Lab aims to identify scalable solutions for women's economic empowerment in Africa to help policymakers and development practitioners better address gender constraints.



PHOTO: Courtesy of Markus Goldstein

Markus Goldstein is a development economist with experience working in sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and South Asia. He is currently a Lead Economist in the office of the Chief Economist for Africa at the World Bank, where he leads the Africa Gender Innovation Lab. His work centers on issues of gender and economic activity, focusing on agriculture and small scale enterprises. Markus has taught at the London School of Economics, the University of Ghana, Legon and Georgetown University, and been published widely in academic journals and books. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. Markus is a co-founder of, and regular contributor to, the Development Impact blog at <http://blogs.worldbank.org/impacthevaluations/>

PHOTOS: Erick Kogiam/World Bank

OPEN YOUR MIND

CASE STUDY

Jennifer Colville manages the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) regional **innovation portfolio in the Arab States**. UNDP's activities in the region are a response to geographical dynamics, with a specific focus on: resilience building as countries emerge from conflict; youth employment, particularly for young women; and climate change, particularly water management in response to the region's high level of water scarcity. Jennifer talks with the *OFID Quarterly's* Steve Hughes about innovation and shares an example project to demonstrate its importance and relevance.

**INNOVATION TO TACKLE
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND OTHER
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES**



PHOTO: Coeser Alwardi for UNDP Iraq

“I’m not necessarily the most innovative person in the room, but I spot innovation and support it”

What is innovation in terms of development?

We have a working definition of innovation for development – it’s not particular to us – which is simply doing something differently that adds social value. It’s about identifying more effective solutions that add value for the people affected by development challenges – through their governments and their communities. Examples include setting up innovation labs with governments to re-design public service delivery; embracing new and emerging sources of data to implement and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); exploring alternative sources of financing to deepen and diversify support for the SDGs; and using behavioral insights to help with policy-making. See the hashtag #Inno4Dev on Twitter for more.

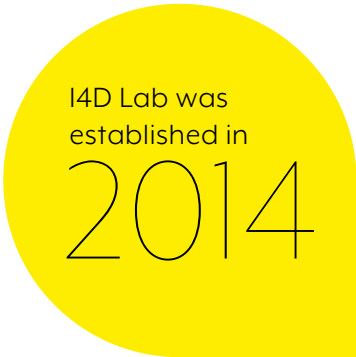
How do we get better at development innovation?

It’s important to look at the right problem, to define the challenges properly, and to engage as many people as possible who have a stake in solving the problem. It’s also important to recognize the complexity and scale of

the challenges we’re trying to overcome, as well as today’s pace of technological change. Trying to redefine who we think experts are – taking a far more expansive view – is vital; we should not leave untapped anyone who may have an insight or an idea for solving a problem. Also critical is being more agile in response to feedback about what works and what doesn’t. We certainly cannot be beholden to old ways of doing things. It’s not possible to carry on like we have in the past; the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are too complex.

Does innovation require a special type of person?

I’m not necessarily the most innovative person in the room, but I spot innovation and support it. It’s important to create an environment for innovation to thrive and for people interested in trying new things and exploring what’s over the horizon to be supported. There is a certain amount of risk-taking involved and it’s far easier if you’re working among a supportive community of social innovators who ‘work out loud’ and share experiences.



Where can people find these communities?

Anyone can become part of a community like this. Social innovators often find each other on social media. At UNDP, we have innovation communities at national, regional and global levels. See http://bit.ly/UNDP_innovation for more resources and to sign up for the global Inno4Dev community.

Can you share a successful (Arab States-related) project with us?

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a major issue in the Arab region, as it is in many parts of the world. In Egypt, we are looking at an emerging field of work, behavioral sciences, to help reduce GBV and support those affected by it to make better use of the services offered to them.

Behavioral insights is a combination of psychology, economics and neuroscience that examines how people make decisions. It recognizes that people sometimes make irrational decisions, but behavioral science helps us understand that we make these decisions in predictable ways.

In Egypt, UNDP is working with

Behavioral sciences in action in Egypt.



PHOTO: Abdelhamid Ezzou/UNDP Egypt



PHOTO: Jasmin Merdan/Getty Images

the National Council for Women (NCW) and the UK Behavioral Insights Team to test various approaches and messaging in two areas: to encourage greater use of NCW services and to prompt bystanders to intervene when GBV happens in public places. We are excited about the potential of behavioral insights for not only improving our program design, but also informing policy at the national level.

This work in Egypt is conducted by the UNDP Egypt's Innovation for Development Lab (I4D Lab). The I4D Lab was established in 2014 as a response to the increasing complexity of local development challenges and the lack of convincing solutions generated by

traditional development approaches. The I4D Lab explores, tests, applies and scales up innovation trends, approaches and methodologies into development practice, mainstreaming innovation across UNDP's portfolio of work and within government. The Lab relies heavily on creating public-private people partnerships, actively networking and encouraging collaboration between all stakeholders in a dynamic innovation ecosystem in Egypt.

● For more information about the I4D Lab see <http://bit.ly/UNDPLab>

“We certainly cannot be beholden to old ways of doing things. It’s not possible to carry on like we have in the past; the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are too complex.”

Jennifer Colville



PHOTOS: Hello Tractor

**INNOVATION TO SUPPORT
SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE**

Big help

Founded in 2014, **Hello Tractor** connects tractor owners and smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa through a digital tractor sharing mobile app. It's helping to cut farming costs by up to 40 percent in some instances and is planning to enter new markets such as Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Bangladesh. The social enterprise's founder **Jehiel Oliver** answers our questions. Interview by Steve Hughes

How does Hello Tractor work?
We are the first technology offering designed specifically for the compact tractor (sub-100hp) segment – a market that is growing at close to two million new tractors a year. Most buyers of compact tractors purchase these machines as a business opportunity, earning income by providing a tractor service for hire. Our fleet management solutions provide insights to de-risk and improve service delivery, making sure tractor owner enjoy success while delivering market-led, sustainable services to smallholder farmers. We have reached over 250,000 smallholder farmers in Africa and are helping them cut costs by about 40 percent on land preparation activities.

Do you see yourselves as social innovators – or were you simply filling a gap in the market?
The idea of Hello Tractor came about because of my experience working in global finance and agriculture. I could see first-hand the challenges that smallholder farmers face in accessing machinery to cultivate their land. Tractors

and other farm equipment are expensive and financing is almost non-existent. I realized being able to access a tractor is as good as owning a tractor. This was the rationale. Hello Tractor uses technology to proffer a solution to the challenge of global food security through a unique approach. This puts us at the forefront of social innovation. We're proud of our technology offering, which has not only helped us capture 75 percent of the new tractors sold into the Nigerian market, but it's also allowed us to scale our business into new markets such as Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania, as well as Bangladesh.

How important is innovation when it comes to development?
The development of any economy is dependent on investments in infrastructural facilities as well as technologies for advancement. The lack of innovation and infrastructure often slows down productivity, which, in turn, leads to a decline in growth. I would say that more attention needs to be given to these areas as it's the only way to ensure sustainable growth within an economy.

Does Hello Tractor rely on existing mobile technology infrastructure?

Hello Tractor's technology has been supported from the get go by Kinvey 'Mobile Backend as a Service' or (mBaaS) infrastructure – a service that makes it easy for developers to set up, use, and operate a 'cloud back-end' for their mobile apps (see bit.ly/back-end-tech). We have also invested in AWS (Amazon Web Services – scalable cloud computing services) as a

that has enabled us to scale across markets. We have partnered with organizations such as USAID, Aeris, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center as well as the World Bank, which has been key in providing strategic support to fuel our growth. In addition, we recently established a public-private-partnership with John Deere and the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to deploy 10,000 tractors in Nigeria over the next five

FOR AFRICA'S **SMALLHOLDER** FARMERS

backup infrastructure to ensure that we never run into issues relating to data loss. Our IoT [internet of things] technology uses robust monitoring devices to store data in the cloud, which is then pushed to our android mobile app designed to give more farm-aware information than an SMS-based app.

What are the biggest challenges to running a business like yours (a social enterprise)?

The ability to strike a balance between accomplishing the social mission behind establishing the company and running a sustainable business. It's easy to get caught up in the drive to become profitable, especially as the list of investors grows, so that one could end up losing sight of the company's intended mission. To avoid getting tangled in this web, social entrepreneurs need to form the habit of always keeping things in perspective. Getting to that point where one is able to properly balance social mission with profitability can be tough. But it's definitely achievable.

What kind of partnerships have you developed along the way and how important has this support been?

Hello Tractor has established partnerships across both the public and private sector – something

years. Hello Tractor will serve as an implementation partner, providing tractor monitoring, security and valuation support. It is estimated these tractors will bring nine million hectares of land into production, creating 37 million metric tons of additional food and over two million direct and indirect jobs.

Where next for Hello Tractor and the team?

We are excited about what the future holds for us! We recently launched a new version of our mobile app with extended features to support both tractor owners and local agents aggregating farmer demand and we are continually working to ensure that our mobile app provides the best value to our customers. Our goal is to mechanize farming across sub-Saharan Africa as well as enter new markets and we have developed the



"I realized being able to access a tractor is as good as owning a tractor."

Jehiel Oliver

Hello Tractor digital agricultural platform to improve the acquisition, optimization and maintenance of tractors used for business purposes. We believe that by increasing the supply and success of commercial tractor service providers, smallholder farmers will enjoy increased access to timely tractor services. Increased access to tractor services will lead to an increased area under production, higher productivity, and an increase in food output.

Guinea Bissau: Boosting food security and biodiversity

40,000 people are expected to benefit from a far-reaching rural development project.

By Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer

Guinea Bissau's mangrove wetland areas are home to a rich array of wildlife and plant species. The country's government is working with NGOs to conserve biodiversity.



PHOTO: PICKS4U/Shutterstock.com



The small west-African country of Guinea Bissau, one of the poorest in the world, relies heavily on revenue from the export of cashew nuts, which represent 95 percent of total exports. The majority of the rural farmers – whose smallholdings average 3.38 hectares (ha) – depend on the crop for income.

Household earnings therefore hang in delicate balance with the performance of the cashew industry. While rice is also a key crop – for subsistence rather than export – a number of constraints compromise yields and deepen food insecurity. These include the uneven management of water resources, poorly maintained roads made inaccessible during rainy seasons and, more crucially, unsustainable cultivation practices and shortfalls across the value chain.

A project backed by IFAD – the International Fund for Agricultural

Development – and co-financed by OFID to the tune of US\$6 million is working to tackle these challenges in the key rice producing hubs of Tombali, Quinara and Bolama-Bijagos. In these areas, rice is cultivated either in the lowlands or in mangrove wetland areas, which are experiencing soil acidification and salinization that has damaged coastal ecosystems.

The project – Economic Development for the Southern Region (PADES) – focuses on restoring cultivation areas and strengthening various aspects of the value chain, placing a strong focus on the participation of women and youth who make up a high percentage of the population. One component will rehabilitate over 22,000 ha of mangrove rice production fields and traditional hydro-agricultural irrigation installations, as well as lowland regions and 400 ha of watersheds.

PADES will also carry out capacity building to strengthen

producer organizations and user associations and provide technical assistance and training. Income diversification will be helped by the development of lowland areas for growing vegetables, providing 60 irrigation kits for 6,000 women farmers and establishing 500 livestock breeding stations.

A key development constraint – worn and poorly maintained roads – will be overcome when around 133 km of rural roads are upgraded / constructed to open up links to marketplaces. Support will also be provided to a national agricultural research institute to set up a production and marketing system for certifying rice seeds.

Once the project is completed, around 40,000 people are expected to benefit. Rice yields should double – from 3.3 tons/ha to 6.8 tons/ha – which will positively affect food security. Farmers will have the opportunity to sell surplus produce – and of course, provide more for themselves and their families.

PHOTO: BOULENGER Xavier/Shutterstock.com





GUINEA BISSAU: IN NUMBERS

7%

The proportion of Guinea Bissau's 1.8 million population that is food secure, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization

57

The average life expectancy at birth for the country's people

C17

Cultivating rice in mangrove swamps was popular with the ethnic Balanta, who began the practice in the late seventeenth century.



Number of people to benefit from the project

900,000



PHOTO: Alen Ajam/Alamy Stock Photo

Pursuing development beyond frontiers

The Hrenovica-Goražde expressway and Hranjen Tunnel project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, co-financed by OFID, is an important step toward the modernization of the country's transport infrastructure. The project will also help improve connections across Europe.

By Damelys Delgado

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is an upper middle-income country that has accomplished much since the mid-1990s. Despite this, the mostly mountainous country of 3.5 million people remains one of Europe's least developed economies. As it embarks on a new growth model underpinned by, among other fundamentals, improved infrastructure, the country remains a potential candidate for membership of the European Union (EU).

To date, less than half of BiH's total road network (estimated at 22,600 km) is paved; a statistic that helps explain the government's identification of the transport sector as a top priority. With this in mind, a 2015-2030 Framework Transport Policy aims to upgrade transport infrastructure to support regional and international trade and, more generally, to facilitate the more efficient and safer movement of citizens.

The Hrenovica-Goražde expressway and Hranjen Tunnel project plays a central role in this framework that aims, among other things, to facilitate integration with the EU. The project will link the city of Goražde with Route 3 of the Trans-European Road Network, and with the motorway in Corridor Vc. The project will enhance road links in the east with the rest of the country, as well as with the Western Balkan region, and should benefit around 900,000 people.

Managed by JP Autoceste FBiH – the national public motorways company led by former BiH Prime Minister Adnan Terzić – the project's Europe-wide value is clear: "It is crucial not only for BiH, but it is also significant for the European transport network," Terzić told the *OFID Quarterly* on a recent visit to the organization's Vienna headquarters.

"Infrastructure is the basis for any further development" Terzić continued. "It creates the conditions for the expedient and cheaper transport of goods. It also creates added value. We have clear indicators that show one person working on the construction in BiH generates additional employment for four people in terms of production, planning and supporting activities. It will directly impact our economy."

The project is located in BiH's smallest canton and will include the construction of a major tunnel and expressway, with bridges and interchanges, and will traverse valleys, rivers and villages.



"Infrastructure is the basis for any further development. It creates added value."

Adnan Terzić

Life skills



Inas Taifi

The **Saudi Center for the Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls** in Amman, Jordan provides opportunity and hope to hundreds of visually-impaired women. Working closely with the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development, the Saudi Ministry of Education and the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Jordan, the center offers education, training and psycho-social support. *OFID Quarterly* Deputy Editor Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer spoke with Saudi Center Director **Inas Taifi** to learn more.



Inas Taifi, Director of the Saudi Center for the Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls in Amman, is candid about the obstacles faced by some of the women her organization supports.

“Some face challenges trying to integrate into society and finding an academic and professional environment that accommodates people with visual disabilities,” she says. “While there are associations and clubs in Jordan that provide services for the visually-challenged, they are only available to Jordanian citizens.”

The Saudi Center is unique, Taifi continues. It’s the only facility providing the combined services of rehabilitation, training and accommodation – free – to girls and women not only from Jordan, but from other countries in the Arab region as well. Enrolled women are typically between the ages of 15-45.

Courses teach life and social skills, self-care, movement and mobility, as well as Braille, English and writing. Some focus on honing vocational skills such as computer basics, hairdressing, sewing, weaving and telephone operation, among others. On completion of training, students receive an official certification that paves the way to obtain employment.

“Our center works toward rehabilitating women psychologically, socially, academically and professionally,” says Taifi. “This helps them to lead decent lives and enjoy independence, achievement and giving.”

It’s clearly a formula that works. Taifi reports that many of the Saudi Center’s students have moved on to attain Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees.

THE OFID PARTNERSHIP

During a recent mission to Jordan, OFID signed a US\$150,000 grant agreement to help fund the expansion and upgrading of the Saudi Center. An earlier grant helped fund participation of women in two classes during the 2011-2013 academic year. Commenting on the partnership with OFID, Taifi said: "The training and capacity building programs that we have previously implemented for visually impaired girls with funding from OFID are among the most notable success stories and we take pride in them."

OFID grant agreement:
\$150,000

CENTER SUCCESS STORIES

Sanaa, 45, from Jordan

"I have a visual disability. I married at 20, had three children and was divorced when I was just 25 years old.

I was responsible for taking care of my children and was making very little in the way of income. This was difficult as I wanted to give my children a good life. The Saudi Center changed my life... they took us on excursions, taught us Braille and English... and how to prepare meals.

We learned mobility skills, such as how to walk on the streets safely using a white cane. I also learned how to spin wool and received training on how to be a telephone operator. The Saudi Center helped me get a job and I was able to finish secondary school, which increased my confidence. Now I am the grandmother of two children, thank God, and want to express my thanks and appreciation to Ms Inas, my teachers and those who established and built the center."



PHOTOS: Saudi Center for the Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls

Israa, 30, from Jordan

"I was born partially blind and although I underwent many operations, they were unsuccessful. As a result, I became totally blind. I began my education at a 'social inclusion' school, although it was unprepared for the environmental and social aspects related to accommodating a blind person. My parents did not want to enroll me in a blind school as I would have had to live away from home.

I finished secondary school with honors, specializing in English Language. Then I joined the Saudi Center in 2010 where I took many courses. I noticed that some of my female colleagues had some weaknesses in their spoken English, so I volunteered to teach English classes at several levels. The idea was welcomed by the center so I did this for six years. I was also active in promoting the rights of people with disabilities and participated at local, regional and global levels in workshops, conferences, volunteer initiatives and projects.

I was assigned to the Saudi Center in 2016 and I now teach communication skills. I have also been chosen by the Arab Organization for People with Disabilities and the European Union for People with Disabilities as Regional Coordinator for a capacity-building project in Jordan and the Arab world.

I have completed a Master's thesis about the specialization of Educational Psychology and am continuing my academic path at the doctoral level at Jordan University."



Israa (left) and Faten (right); Sanaa (below left)

Faten, 36, from Jordan

"I have low vision and because of this I faced many problems: from when I began my studies up until I finished secondary school. I learned about the Saudi Center and I took many courses and gained various skills. I was able to obtain a job as a printer and was a committed employee. Despite the pressure of a job and studies, I completed university, studying Counseling and Mental Health.

I went on to become part of a volunteer group through the Northern Badia Society for Social Development. We helped the Mafraq Governmental Hospital develop a program and facilities that accommodate people with disabilities.

An international organization honored me as a 'success story' and 'successful woman in society'. I have become a head of a department in my work and I am still looking for more ways to contribute to society."

He's only a couple of months into the job, but Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa already fills the Director-General's office on the second floor of OFID's Palais Deutschmeister with a sense of quiet authority.

Formerly of the World Bank and the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund, OFID's new Director-General is no stranger to multi-cultural organizations (OFID currently employs around 200 staff from 31 countries) and doesn't appear to be the type to get flustered by the new challenge at hand in Vienna. "Focus on strategy, stay calm and never make decisions when you're angry," he says, in answer to a question about management style.

Unassuming and softly spoken, Dr Alkhalifa, an economist who holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Miami and a Master's in Applied Economics from Southern Methodist University

of this agreement and our work will continue to support sustainable development through financing essential infrastructure, strengthening social services and promoting productivity, competitiveness and trade in all developing regions of the world."

He is also clear about OFID remaining true to its aim of being led by the demands of developing countries, so that any support the organization provides reflects the needs and priorities of such countries in their quest for economic development and social welfare – not the needs or priorities of OFID or anyone else.

Dr Alkhalifa, a Saudi Arabian national, admits that he was attracted to the top job at OFID because of this commitment: "You cannot find this work everywhere; only at specialized institutions," he says. "Our business model is unusual. This is not an institution

inception in 1976. Our total disbursements at the end of 2017 was US\$14,790.3 million against US\$13,579.4 million at the end of 2016. I want to grow this so that we can keep doing great work."

Public sector operations remain central to OFID's business, but Dr Alkhalifa recognizes the importance of OFID's Private Sector and Trade Finance Operations Department (PSTFOD) too. These 'windows' are a complementary means for OFID to fulfil its core mission of assisting developing countries in their socioeconomic development and are essential to OFID's financial sustainability. During 2017, PSTFOD finance approvals totaled US\$787.5 million, up from US\$711.5 million in 2016, representing an increase of nearly 11 percent.

His first impressions of the organization are favorable – "we're already doing everything well," he says – and as he prepares for his first Governing Board meeting (where development projects are formally assessed, and financing is approved), Dr Alkhalifa says he is pleased by the professionalism of OFID's staff. In answer to a question from OFID's internal staff magazine about his biggest achievement to date, he recently replied: "Becoming part of the OFID team. I feel privileged to work for this organization because of the professionalism of my colleagues and our mission to support the economic development in low and middle income countries and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."

OFID'S NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Listen

(Dallas, Texas), explains that it's too early to start laying down his goals for OFID's future just yet. "I like to listen," he says. "I want to hear people's opinions about what we're doing well and what we need to improve on." His priority, he says, is to understand and strengthen OFID's partnerships with its member and partner countries.

OFID's wide network of strategic partners includes the bilateral and multilateral development institutions of OPEC member countries, the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the World Bank, regional and national development banks, commercial banks and a host of NGOs. Of the 24 public sector development projects approved by OFID in 2017, for example, 19 were co-financed with external donors (in addition to the concerned governments). "Cooperation and strengthening partnerships will be key to my term as Director-General," says Dr Alkhalifa. "I'm looking forward to building on the relations we already have and developing new ones."

There is another thing Dr Alkhalifa is certain about: OFID's commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. "You know, the SDGs are a global agreement about how to focus development," he says. "OFID has its own focus, but we are part



learn

Steve Hughes talks Sustainable Development Goals, strong finances and skiing with OFID's new Director-General **Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa**

created to maximize profits. We must balance our commitment to alleviating poverty and stimulating developing economies with our own need for financial sustainability. Without the latter, we can't continue to support the SDGs or provide grants.

"This is my responsibility – to help strengthen our financial position so that we can continue our development work well into the future," he continues. "In 2017, OFID made total new approvals of US\$1,508 million compared with US\$1,339 million in 2016. OFID has now committed nearly US\$22 billion [end-2017 figures] to sustainable development since its

Helping good people to become even better is one of the main motivators for OFID's new head. "This is what gets me out of bed in the morning," he says, though he admits a couple of strong Arabic coffees sometimes help, too. As for unwinding after a hard day at the office? Either a long walk through the city – he is excited about discovering Vienna's many historic palaces – or, once the weather warms up a little, Dr Alkhalifa, a keen sportsperson, enjoys water-skiing.

Perhaps as he becomes more accustomed to life in Austria, he may be persuaded to swap the water and the wetsuit for the slopes and downhill skis?

"You cannot
find this work
everywhere;
only at
specialized
institutions."



"We must balance
our commitment to
alleviating
poverty and
stimulating developing
economies with
our own need for
financial
sustainability."

54

**YOUNG
PEOPLE
FROM**

More than 50 Arab youth gathered in Beirut, Lebanon to innovate with data and imagine a more sustainable and hopeful future.

By Fatma Elzahra Elshhati

13

COUNTRIES

WITH

DAYS

**TO
VISUALIZE THE**

FUTURE

A WEEK OF CHALLENGES

According to data from the World Poverty Clock (worldpoverty.io), we are not yet on track to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Still, many young people remain hopeful for the future. In October, fifty-four young men and women from 13 Arab countries arrived in Beirut, Lebanon for Visualize 2030 – a five-day ‘data camp’ organized by the Arab Development Portal (ADP) to encourage youth from the region to use data and statistics to tell stories about and draw attention to topics of concern for their future. Sustainable living, youth employment, education and access to water were just a few of the issues on their minds.



PHOTO: Marwan Tahatah/ADP

TEAM: FIVE IN ONE

This team focused on the SDGs they considered most pressing in their country (SDG 1 on poverty, 3 on good health and wellbeing, 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy and 8 on decent work and economic growth). Despite the situation in Yemen, team Five In One used its platform to raise awareness about the importance of these goals for improving life in their country.

Ali Srour – a data scientist and co-founder of innovation services firm Data Aurora – introduced teams to the concept of real-time data analysis, and **Farah Abdulsater** from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) showed examples of how the IOM uses a ‘data-driven’ storyline. Lebanese actress and producer **Betty Taoutel** joined the visualizers for interactive socializing activities aimed at encouraging teams to integrate performance into their visuals.



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

DAY 1: LOGISTICS

After months of preparing for the camp, youth from across the Arab world arrived in Beirut, Lebanon in their teams and were welcomed by the ADP team. This year’s data ‘hackathon’ was held in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development. For some, the journey was a long one: it was only after travelling for 26 hours that Ahmed from Yemen joined his team called ‘Five in one’.

TEAM: PEACE OF ART

This unique group from Lebanon focused on the importance of SDG 4 on education, particularly as it relates to using art and music to challenge crime and violence. **Peace of Art** highlighted how greater investments in education of this type have the potential to save at-risk youth from crime and drug abuse.



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

Watch the video at <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/peace-art>

TEAM: PHOENIX

This team from Iraq created a virtual reality to demonstrate the debilitating effects of electricity shortages in the country. Lebanese talk show host and producer Zaven Kouyoumdjian gave a masterclass on communication and presentation skills.



SOURCE: Twitter / Arab Development Portal

For more on Team Phoenix go to <https://twitter.com/FarahShoucair/status/1052097461236445185>



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

ONE-PERSON TEAM: FATEMA ABDALLAH

Fatema Abdallah from Sudan used her personal story to highlight gender inequality in the workplace and explain some of the struggles that she and other Arab women face.

To see Fatema's video, go to <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/fatema-abdallah>

DAY 2: PLAN

Visualizers planned their projects and researched relevant data and statistics.

Alzubair Alborky (a one-person team) from Libya focused on how ordinary citizens may lack accessible information about climate change. For his visualization, Alborky asked people what they associated most with the phrase 'Four degrees'. With a background in engineering, Alborky worked on what he believes to be some of the region's main and interrelated challenges: climate change, the environment, health and economic growth.

ONE-PERSON TEAM: ALZUBAIR ALBORKY

DAY 3: FINISHING TOUCHES

After refining ideas and capturing relevant data, teams create their first visuals.

"With a background in engineering, Alborky worked on interrelated challenges: climate change, the environment, health and economic growth"

TEAM: ACT GREEN

Team Act Green from Syria visualized a hopeful future for its country where warplanes are a thing of the past and green living has become commonplace; a stark contrast to the images of today.

To see Act Green's video, go to <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/act-green>

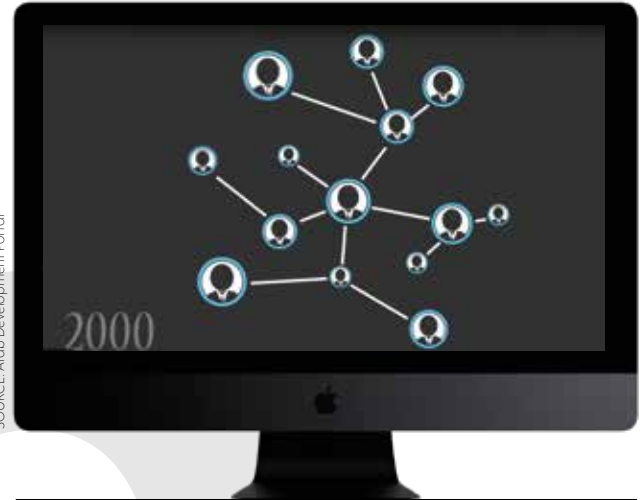
Warplanes are a thing of the past



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal



SOURCE: Twitter / Arab Development Portal



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

ONE-PERSON TEAM: NAWAFEL SHEHABI

Nawafel Shehabi from Bahrain focused on the power of social media to drive public perceptions, particularly for her country Bahrain, where 14 out of 15 citizens has an online presence, yet less than half interact with the government through the sources provided.

To see Nawafel's video and Twitter feed, go to <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/nawafel-shehab> and <https://twitter.com/arabdevportal/status/1051496378499776512>



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

TEAM: WE DESERVE

Team We Deserve from Oman used their platform to highlight the benefits of renewable energy.

To see the video, go to <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%B7-%D9%B6%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%B7%D9%84>



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

SOURCE: Twitter / Arab Development Portal

TEAM: INFO TIMES

This team, from Egypt, worked to raise awareness of the 6.4 million Egyptians who have no household water connection. Via an animation, Info times illustrated how infrastructure, efficient irrigation and good water management can help reduce 'lost' water in the home, in industry and in agriculture.

To see the video, go to <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/infotimes>

Teams felt the time pressure by Day 4, tweeting about their progress @arabdevtportal

TEAM: YOUTH'D

From Lebanon, Youth'd used a short but striking video to highlight that 100,000 Lebanese under the age of 24 are unemployed. The video states that Lebanon needs to create six times as many jobs to absorb new graduates.

To see the video, go to <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/youthd>

DAY 4: COMPLETION

After three intense days of gathering data and bringing their ideas to life, all teams were tasked with finalizing their projects.



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

DAY 5: THE WINNERS



PHOTO: Marwan Tachah / ADP

Visualize 2030 concluded in a historic building known as Beit Beirut – now a museum and a cultural center – where teams presented data visualization projects to a panel of judges.

As judges deliberated, the participants took part in a roundtable discussion about issues ranging from gender equality to unemployment, which was broadcast in a two-part television series on the German channel *Deutsche Welle*.

Ghassan Hasbani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health for Lebanon, spoke with the teams, telling them we need to change the way we "think and do" to improve the world by 2030.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

3rd



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

To see the video, go to
<http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/dania-alkhalaf>

ONE-PERSON TEAM: DANIA ALKHALAF

Having witnessed the crisis in her country, **Dania Alkhalaf** drew attention to the plight of the forcefully displaced children of Syria. Dania shows in her video that one million children in the country are orphans and more than two million remain out of school.

2nd



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

TEAM: ARTMOONY

Artmoony's animation focuses on the importance of the social contract in Tunisia. The team's vision is to ensure that corruption is eliminated via greater transparency and building public trust.

To see the video, go to
<http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/artmoony>



SOURCE: Arab Development Portal

To see the video, go to
<http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/content/hekaya>

1st

TEAM: HEKAYA

From Yemen, team **Hekaya's** winning visuals highlighted the importance of maternal care and family planning in Yemen. Since 2015, more than three million children have been born into crisis there. The team's animation follows the story of Zahra, a teenager at high school in Yemen, who, like 23 percent of girls under the age of 18 in the country, is subjected to child marriage and forced to leave school. By 28, Zahra has already given birth to nine children who live with her in a one-bedroom home. The story takes an optimistic turn when Zahra receives help from a maternal health organization and dedicates her life to helping women with similar issues. Team Hekaya stated concrete goals, aiming to increase the number of women seeking professional help (from 47 percent now, to at least 70 percent by 2030).

ARAB DEVELOPMENT PORTAL

The Arab Development Portal (ADP) is an initiative of the Coordination Group of Arab, National and Regional Development Institutions (CG), the Islamic Development Bank and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The initiative aims to enhance the development knowledge of people in the Arab region.

For more information, see
arabdevelopmentportal.com



PHOTOS: The King Hussein Foundation and Center.

Cancer care and education in Jordan

By Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer

At the end of October, OFID's former Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish concluded his 15-year tenure at the institution with a mission to Jordan to sign grant agreements supporting cancer care and education.

The first agreement of US\$400,000 was extended to the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) to finance specialized diagnostic and treatment equipment, which is expected to benefit over 4,000 patients per year. OFID previously extended two grants totaling US\$1 million to the KHCF to help purchase radiology equipment.

KHCF Chairperson Princess Ghida Talal counter-signed the agreement and expressed her gratitude for OFID's generosity: "The support we receive from OFID helps us save patient lives every day. We truly value this empowering

partnership, which advances our mission of providing the best treatment to our cancer patients."

A US\$150,000 grant agreement was also signed with Inas Taifi, Director of the Saudi Center for the Rehabilitation and Training of Blind Girls, to help fund the expansion and upgrading of the center (see story on pages 24-25).

OFID previously extended a US\$130,000 grant to the Saudi Center to support the participation of visually impaired girls from Jordan and neighboring Arab countries in two training courses for the academic years 2011-2013.

Al-Herbish referred to the signings as another milestone in the history of OFID's cooperation with Jordanian institutions: "I am proud to conclude my tenure at OFID with a humanitarian mission that represents the mandate of our institution."

"The support we receive from OFID helps save patient lives every day..."

KHCF Chairperson Princess Ghida Talal



Better water for Argentina's rural provinces

By Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer

While potable water coverage in Argentina's larger cities is estimated at upwards of 90 percent, only around 45 percent of rural populations has access to piped-in water. This is the case in the province of Santa Fé, where 1.8 million people rely on groundwater sources that are frequently polluted by aging, deteriorating infrastructure. This problem is compounded by the presence of naturally occurring elements in groundwater such as arsenic, nitrates, fluorine, chlorides and sulfates.

This pollution not only jeopardizes the health of the province's citizens, but also limits the economic potential in an area that supplies the country with around one-quarter of its national meat exports and one-third of national milk production – in addition to being the highest producer of soybeans.

Argentina's government has devised a number of strategies to address this situation in both its National Development Plan 2016-2020, as well as Vision 2030 – the Provincial Strategy Plan of Santa Fé – which defines access to water as a basic right. OFID's partnership

with Argentina, which began in 2014, falls firmly in line with these plans. The organization has approved US\$150 million in public sector lending to help strengthen Argentina's water and sanitation sector, and in late October, OFID signed its most recent agreement with the country: a US\$50 million loan for the 'Desvío Arijón Water Supply Project Phase II' in Santa Fé Province.

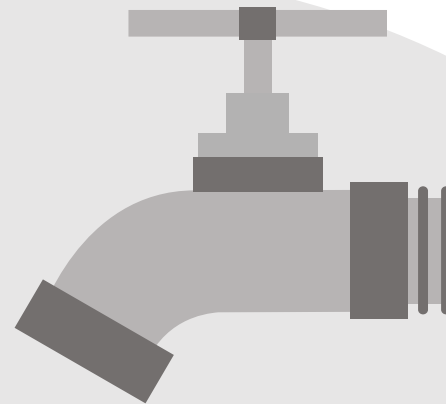
Co-financing from OFID's sister institution, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, as well as from the provincial Santa Fé government, will enable the project to construct 122 km of pipelines to connect the Desvío Arijón water purification plant with the city of Rafaela and surrounding towns, benefitting more than 220,000 people.

Better water quality will improve health and living standards and favorably impact the environment, helping to attract more investments and boosting the local economy. The project is also expected to help strengthen the agricultural sector by enabling improved crop irrigation and livestock management practices. Tourism also stands to receive a boost – providing yet more income-generating opportunities to locals.

PHOTO: Rustana Lurchenko/Shutterstock.com



Gst/Shutterstock.com



OFID and Argentina

All of OFID's public sector loans to Argentina are in line with the organization's strategic focus on the energy-water-food nexus approach to sustainable development. Furthermore, OFID has approved US\$20 million through its private sector window to support the country's small and medium-sized agribusiness.



New development funding for China, Benin and Niger

By Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer

The World Bank Fall Meetings in October afforded OFID the opportunity to strengthen relationships with other development finance institutions and attend meetings about the United Nations 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development. As has become the norm, OFID also scheduled loan signing ceremonies with partner countries – this time China, Benin and Niger – on the sidelines of the meetings, which took place in Bali, Indonesia.

The loans will be co-financed with the respective governments of the beneficiary countries and with OFID sister institutions the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. Totalling US\$80 million, the loans are as follows (see right):



PHOTO: World Bank

China

US\$41.6 million will support the expansion of the Hohhot Mongolian Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine through the construction of a 700-bed medical and care center for the elderly. The new facility will increase and improve in-patient capacity, and offer out-patient services for more than **510,000 people** per year.

Benin

Benin is receiving **US\$24 million** to upgrade a stretch of road in an area inhabited by more than one million people. The project, titled 'International Road Corridor Cotonou-Niamey: Beroubouay-Malanville section (**169.4 km**)', is expected to promote regional trade between Benin and its landlocked neighbors Niger and Burkina Faso.

Niger

A **US\$15 million** loan to Niger is co-funding the Niamey Express Highway project that will rehabilitate a 9.6 km road connecting the Diiori Hamami International Airport to the city center, benefiting over **1.2 million people**.

OFID helps Cameroon boost energy potential

OFID has signed a term loan of up to €50 million with Nachtigal Hydropower Company (NHPC) for the development, construction and operation of a 420 MW hydropower plant in Cameroon.

The Nachtigal Project is being developed as a public private partnership by a joint venture between the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Electricité de France (EDF) and the government of Cameroon, with support from the World Bank Group.

Deemed high priority by the government of Cameroon, the plant, once in operation, will be the country's largest generator of electricity, meeting about one-third of Cameroon's electricity needs. The project is at the heart of Cameroon's

Electricity Sector Development Plan and its quest for low cost electricity. Presently, an estimated nine million people, including the vast majority of Cameroon's rural population, lacks access to electricity.

With an economic investment cost of €1.2 billion over five years, the project is thought to be one of the largest foreign direct investments in Cameroon and is expected to make a significant economic and development impact. About 1,500 people will be employed during the five-year construction phase, providing a solid footing for industrial growth and enhancing the country's capacity as a future exporter of electricity.

OFID's Assistant Director-General, Private Sector and Trade

Finance Operations, Tareq Alnassar, explained that OFID's facilities provide important long-term project finance that help with lowering tariffs and de-risking, and that enhance the overall bankability of projects. This particular loan also demonstrates OFID's strong partnership with other development finance institutions and its commitment to financing infrastructure in low and middle-income countries.

The long-term debt financing committed to the project was provided by AFC, the African Development Bank, CDC Group, Proparco, FMO, DEG, Agence Française de Développement, the the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund, the European Investment

Bank, IFC (acting as DFI Coordinating Bank) and local banks, together with OFID.



Economic investment cost:
€1.2bn

PHOTO: Deborah Lee Rossiter/Shutterstock.com



Birzeit University in Palestine: A center of excellence against the odds

By Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer

Birzeit University in Palestine – an independent, non-profit institution – has undergone a remarkable transformation. Once a small girls' school (way back in 1924), the facility has grown and evolved to become a center of excellence with a strong sense of social and community responsibility that celebrates diversity, intellectual freedom and creativity. Even more noteworthy, this achievement has been realized against the backdrop of political uncertainty and movement restrictions – as well as a forced closure that lasted more than four years.

The university's emphasis on

community engagement was a driving force behind the establishment of the Birzeit Testing Laboratory Center (BZUTL) in 1982 – the first of its kind in Palestine. The laboratory carries out testing on food, water, pharmaceuticals, animal feed and petroleum products (see right). Its mission is: "To serve and protect the Palestinian community by conducting research and analysis of consumables, resources and materials that improve lives, protect the Palestinian consumers, enhance development and deliver BZU values to the community."

OFID's support of BZUTL began in 1990, when it granted US\$250,000

to help purchase equipment and establish an advanced technical workshop. In 2016, the university approached OFID to help upgrade ageing analytical equipment and OFID was able to extend a US\$500,000 grant. The equipment helps the center carry out new and more accurate testing methods. A recent video posted by Birzeit University showcases the project and OFID's support.

For more information see bit.ly/2E3POgL

BZUTL RUNS A NUMBER OF SAFETY-RELATED UNITS:

Pharmaceutical safety Monitors the quality of pharmaceutical and veterinary drugs available on the Palestinian market.

Food safety Performs quality and contamination tests on human food, bottled water and animal feed.

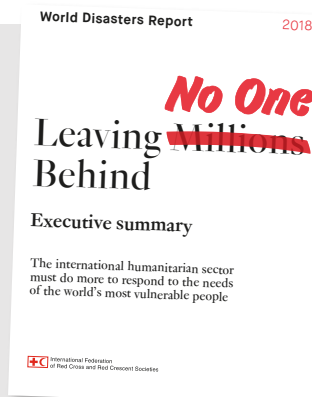
Environmental health and water Conducts research and provides services related to: water and wastewater; pesticides and their impact on health and the environment; heavy metals and organic contaminants; solid waste management and pesticides.

Petroleum products and lubricating oil Monitors the quality of these products according to international standards.

Soil and concrete Conducts regular testing and research of soils, concrete, asphalt and iron.

2018 World Disasters Report

The 2018 World Disasters Report warns that the international humanitarian sector must do more to respond to the needs of the world's most vulnerable people. Commitments to ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind are not being reached, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) argues. The report, launched recently by the IFRC, identifies flaws that are allowing many people to 'fall through the cracks'. Too many affected people are out of sight, out of reach or left out of the loop, the report states, or they find themselves in crises that are out of money or deemed to be out of scope. The humanitarian sector, the report argues, cannot help people if it fails to see them.




OFID has a strong relationship with the IFRC, having extended emergency aid grants in support of **80 operations** totaling nearly **US\$27 million**.

To read the report and its recommendations, see media.ifrc.org/ifrc/world-disaster-report-2018/

REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES: WHERE NEXT?





Vienna development-displacement nexus roundtable event addresses some of the world's most complex and pressing challenges. Interviews and reporting by **Steve Hughes** with help from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

O FID recently hosted a roundtable at its Vienna headquarters to discuss policy options to address the interrelated challenges associated with development, refugees and international protection, and host communities. Working in partnership with ICMPD, OFID gathered key stakeholders from governmental institutions in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, international organizations and the donor community to focus on the ‘development-displacement’ nexus.

Host country stakeholders engaged on their needs and discussed how these needs can better align with protection-oriented policies directed toward refugee populations and host communities. Attendees also gave positive feedback on how better to implement development perspectives into humanitarian responses to refugees. The *OFID Quarterly* talked with some of the attendees...



FEDA FALEH GHARAIBEH

Director, Humanitarian Relief Coordination Unit, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan

“The population of Jordan is around 9.5 million. Of these, 3.6 million are refugees, including 1.3 million Syrians*. They have access to free education, they receive subsidized healthcare and obviously consume resources (the consumption of water has increased significantly and the annual water share per person has dropped). The quality of services has been driven down. At the same time, competition for employment is also up. The unemployment rate in Jordan is extremely high – around 18 percent – and unemployment among Jordanian youth is at more than 30 percent. This is a record high.

Conditions are critical. There is a lot of pressure on citizens and the government. We are being asked to improve our situation by the IMF**. Courageous decisions need to be made without adversely impacting Jordanians. In parallel to all the reforms needed, the social protection of Jordanians needs to be improved. This is why the government of Jordan is keen to ensure the international community steps in and invests in our social programs – mainly the National Aid Fund – to enable the fund to expand the base of beneficiaries and ensure the poverty

“If there is a cut in support for education, healthcare, shelter etcetera, the government will bear this burden”

rate does not increase further.

Another concern is funding for UNRWA*** – the highest number of refugees are Palestinians, so if there is a cut in support for education, healthcare, shelter etcetera, the government will bear this burden.

All these factors add up to a major challenge. We hope we can reach some solutions with the help of the international community. I am here to highlight this situation and to urge the international community to continue to support Jordan – we need investment to create more jobs and to stimulate growth (currently less than 2 percent) and enable the government to continue with its reform program.”

Estimated refugees as percentage of population:

Jordan: 38%

Lebanon: 40%

*According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jordan is host to 673,414 Syrian registered refugees. The Jordan government’s figure may be higher because of the inclusion of Syrians in Jordan before 2011 and other different measurement techniques.

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has repeatedly urged the international community and regional donors to shoulder more of the burdens of Jordan’s hosting of over a million Syrian refugees and providing security in the region, all of which have placed extraordinary strains on its public finances. The IMF also states that Jordan’s public finances needs to remain underpinned by broadening the tax base so the burden is broadly shared, including by removing large tax exemptions on income and sales taxes.

*** United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is the mandated agency for assistance and protection of Palestinian refugees. The agency is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN member states. UNRWA also receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.

CHRISTOPH BIERWIRTH

Head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Liaison Office to the OSCE and Vienna-based UN agencies

“The sheer size of today’s global displacement challenges requires increased involvement of development actors in a comprehensive response, in particular in view of working toward durable solutions. The overarching principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ which guides the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offers direction as many of the SDGs can be applied in the refugee context. I was pleased that today’s discussions allowed us to look at displacement scenarios and to exchange experience and lessons learned in

a more comprehensive manner. It is important to consider host populations and displaced people equally. Cooperation of development and humanitarian actors helps to develop common strategies, response plans and consolidated action, and to align advocacy efforts. The world is so complex that working alone is not an option and synergies must be found to maximise the use of limited resources, in order to mitigate suffering and create a future for refugees, displaced populations and the societies that host them. It’s important for the different actors to get together for events like this, but also for specific training exercises.”

**MÉLISSA BADER**

Advisor on International and Humanitarian Affairs, Office of the Minister of State for Displaced Affairs

“Lebanon continues to be a large haven for refugees. The majority are Syrians (950,000 registered, and an estimated 300,000 unregistered) and Palestinians (225,000*).

Hosting a refugee population amounting to 40 percent of a country’s total population requires not only hospitality, but also resilience and courage. The capacity of host communities and government infrastructure is being overstretched and exhausted. Tensions have increased between refugees and host communities due to competition for limited resources and job opportunities. The Office of the Minister for Displaced Affairs has promoted key protection oriented policies, including:

- Maintaining respect for the principle of ‘non-refoulement’ (the practice of not forcing refugees or asylum seekers to return to a country in which they are liable to be subjected to persecution) and ensuring that any return to Syria is voluntary and undertaken in coordination with UNHCR.
- Improving refugee freedom of movement by waiving residency fees and respecting the right of refugees to access livelihood opportunities (allowing refugees to work mainly in the three sectors of construction, agriculture

and environment).

- Preventing statelessness by granting Syrian refugees access to civil documentation.

As much as the government of Lebanon believes in developing protection oriented policies for refugees in countries of first asylum – and forums relating to discussing solutions – it believes that the root causes of forced migration should be addressed, especially in cases of conflict, via a proper and real application of international law (rather than political interests). We insist on the right of return of displaced people from Syria to their country of origin. We are committed to facilitating this return, based on plans set out and coordinated by the United Nations, where the safety of refugees is guaranteed even if the war has not ended.”

“Hosting a huge refugee population requires not only hospitality, but also **resilience** and **courage**”

*According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) 449,957 Palestinian refugees have been registered in Lebanon.





LOUISE DANN

Resource and Partnerships Adviser, United Nations Population Fund

“Primarily, I’m here to listen – and to contribute – to the development displacement nexus conversation. My organization focuses on the needs of women, families, girls and unaccompanied minors in a migration or refugee context. These are particularly vulnerable groups while on the move and in transit situations. We need to think about both their immediate and longer-term needs. Many people focus on the big picture when it comes to refugees and displaced populations, but today, we are all bringing our unique focus, experiences and knowledge. Sexual exploitation, human trafficking, violence and simple general health needs are all important topics particularly when it comes to the aforementioned groups.

We have to consider what the implications are of not meeting these needs. We also want to include women as a specific focus when it comes to employment opportunities. Without focusing on women specifically, some of the larger employment programs may overlook women – they have families and other responsibilities. They are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation: sex for aid, human trafficking and very lowly paid work. People are receptive to these arguments from a moral and ethical viewpoint, but what’s interesting about today is that we’re also focusing on the economic and political implications – these tend to move governments quickly.”

SULEIMAN J AL-HERBISH

**OFID Director-General
(at the time of the roundtable)**

OFID’s former Director-General emphasized the negative effect displacement has on development, affecting poverty reduction, economic growth, human and social welfare, and environmental sustainability. He explained that OFID has committed considerable resources to “addressing the underlying socioeconomic factors of conflict and crisis, in addition to supporting operations aimed at tackling fragility and poverty – while in parallel supporting the development of comprehensive policy and institutional frameworks for displacement.”



“OFID has committed considerable resources to addressing the underlying socioeconomic factors of conflict and crisis”

DR MICHAEL SPINDELEGGER

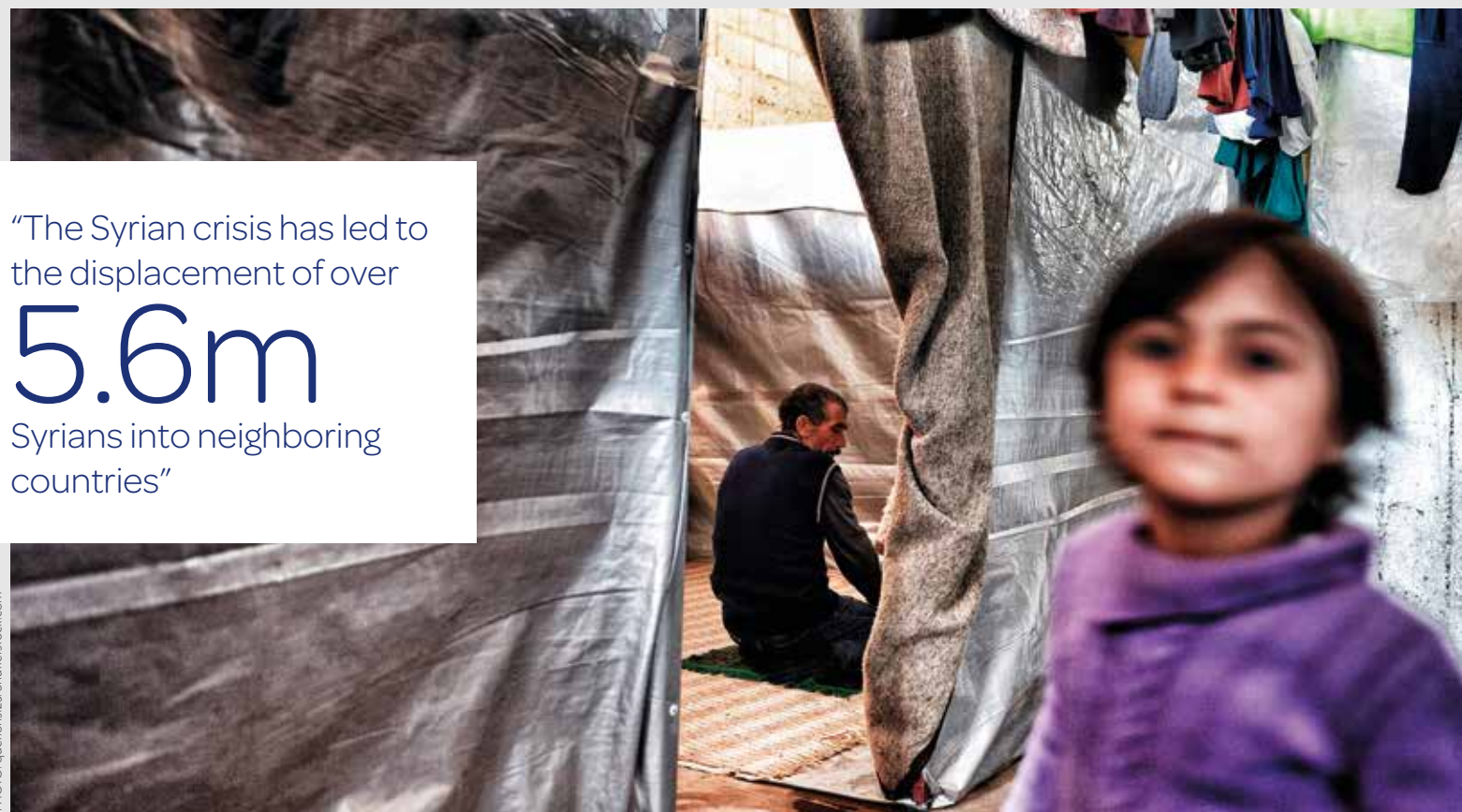
ICMPD Director General

Michael Spindelegger highlighted the value that development approaches can have on ensuring the protection needs of refugees and other displaced populations are met, and the important role the international community must play in ensuring durable solutions: “We all have to work toward enhancing the pathways to protection and resettlement. But we also need to step up the support for the main refugee hosting countries and – this ‘and’ is the important one – to work on creating perspectives for refugees in those countries.”



“The Syrian crisis has led to the displacement of over **5.6m** Syrians into neighboring countries”

PHOTO: quefionst23/Shutterstock.com



THE IMPACT OF INFLUX: TWO NEW WORKING PAPERS

Now in its eighth year, the Syrian crisis has led to the displacement of over 5.6 million Syrians into neighboring countries. Turkey and Lebanon host the highest number of registered Syrian refugees, with 3.6 million and 950,000 respectively, and Syrians now represent approximately a quarter of the Lebanese population. This influx has had important – and mixed – impacts on Turkey and Lebanon’s economy, labor market, social systems and society more broadly. Two new Working Papers, published by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, analyze the impacts of this influx on the respective countries. Published in the context of broader research conducted on the development-displacement nexus, and co-funded

by OFID, the Working Papers discuss aspects related to protection and humanitarian responses to Syrian refugees, as well as development-related issues for the host country. The papers outline the evolution of the refugee influx in Lebanon and Turkey, the characteristics and legal status of Syrians in the countries, the impact of the refugee crisis on various sectors, as well as wider societal implications, and the relevant national policies and responses. The papers provide a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Turkey and Lebanon, and offer a solid basis for those interested in learning more about the impacts of the Syrian refugee crisis for these two important host countries.

Assessing the Development-Displacement Nexus in Lebanon by Lama Kabbanji and Jad Kabbanji and *Assessing the Development-Displacement Nexus in Turkey* by Fulya Memişoğlu are available at: www.icmpd.org and research.icmpd.org

BRIDGING REFUGEE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The roundtable and its results will feed into an ICMPD study *Bridging refugee protection and development*, which is co-funded by OFID. The study’s main goal is to enhance knowledge about the potential of protection-oriented policies to support durable solutions and resilience-based development. Ultimately, the study aims to propose viable policy options to address the development-displacement

nexus, developed based on input from key stakeholders from major refugee-hosting countries, donors and implementing partners in the field. The roundtable event was held on the sidelines of ICMPD’s 3rd Vienna Migration Conference – co-sponsored by OFID – at the Aula of Sciences in Austria’s capital city. The title of this year’s conference was: From Crisis Management to Future Governance.

SPOTLIGHT

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

OFID sponsored 20 delegates to attend the 2018 One Young World summit – one of the largest youth platforms on our planet that aims at motivating and supporting young people to address the world's most pressing challenges

By Fatma Elzahra Elshhati

OFID-SPONSORED DELEGATES FOR 2018 INCLUDED:



Bryan Chesoli from Kenya, the founder of **Youth LITE Kenya** – a student-led organization providing opportunities for young people to be part of 'community problem solving' via partnerships between youth, local authorities and local businesses.

Kiko Muuo from Kenya, the co-founder of **Angaza Elimu** – an 'ed-tech' social enterprise that aims to improve education across Kenya and the African continent by developing more appropriate classrooms and educational material.



Ganesh Dhungana from Nepal, who aims to help enhance the livelihoods of people in his community – particularly children – by improving water and sanitation.



Hossam Serag from Egypt is the co-founder of **Science Crafts** and helps improve science education through using more engaging, creative and practical techniques.



Anousha Junggee from Mauritius is the founder of **Sakili** and promotes responsible and sustainable consumption. Her social enterprise makes up-cycled bags and eco-friendly hygiene products. After attending the summit, Junggee won a major award for Africa's 'Most Influential Women in Business and Government' in the SME sector. Her start-up also won a Southern Africa award for start-ups.



PHOTO: One Young World

More than 1,800 young leaders from 190 countries converged in the International City of Peace and Justice – The Hague in the Netherlands – recently to attend the 9th Annual One Young World (OYW) summit. The summit, which took place over four days, provides young leaders with unparalleled access to a global network of peers and counselors who share a vision of making the world a better place.

Education, environment, health, human rights, poverty alleviation and other big-ticket topics were on the agenda, and debates and motivational addresses highlighted on-the-ground examples of initiatives to achieve a safer, more sustainable world.

Jayathma Wickramanayake, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, presented her vision for empowering young leaders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and announced One Young World’s latest initiative: Lead2030 – US\$500,000 of private sector commitment to support youth-led initiatives.

This year, OFID supported 20 delegates to attend the summit, bringing the total number of OYW delegates supported by the organization over the years to 130 from nearly 80 countries. They join a global platform of over 10,000 OYW ambassadors driving positive change.

Gunel Huseynova from Azerbaijan attended the summit with her one-year-old child. Huseynova is the creator of **Pitapitch**, an online ‘clean-tech’ fundraising platform, which aims to support the growth of start-ups.



Khamutima Tumwebaze from Uganda is the founder of the **Young Farmers Champions Network** – a group of young farming role models and future influencers working together to shape the agricultural sector.



Rayouf Alhamedi from Saudi Arabia was voted one of *Time* magazine’s 30 most influential teens in 2017 for her design of the ‘headscarf emoji’. Alhamedi has most recently partnered with the non-profit **Girls Who Code** to encourage girls to pursue STEM subjects.

Daroath Phav from Cambodia is the Executive Director of **WaterSHED**, which aims to provide access to toilets for rural households in his country. In recognition of his efforts, Phav was voted one of *Forbes* magazine’s ‘30 under 30 Social Entrepreneurs in Asia’.



Tanmoy Rony from Bangladesh, whose start-up **NutriMush** aims to make Bangladesh a malnutrition-free country and provide employment opportunities to rural youth and women.

SOURCE: OYW delegate photos were provided by the delegates themselves.

SPOTLIGHT

AWARD WINNER

**360 km by bus,
15 km by motorbike,
bad roads and €5,000**

Fatoumatta Kassama from the Gambia was announced OFID's first 'One Young World Development Leader' at the closing ceremony of the summit. The award, which comes with a €5,000 prize, was conferred on Kassama for her leading role in fighting non-communicable diseases (glaucoma, in particular) in her home country.

In 2016, Kassama founded Eye Care for All – a community-based organization that provides free home and community eye care services for the elderly, people with disabilities, prisoners, refugees and orphans. Working with a team of 35 volunteers, Kassama has helped close to 17,500 people living in the Gambia.

"During our nationwide glaucoma campaign, we travelled 360 km by bus for 12 hours and then 15 km on motorbikes over bad roads to offer eye care services to neglected rural communities in the Gambia," Kassama said.

In 2018, Kassama also co-founded the non-profit Prospect for Girls to help young women and girls access vocational training and health education. Up to now, she has helped train 30 girls and more training is already in the pipeline.

"The OYW summit was a life-changing experience for me," Kassama told the *OFID Quarterly*. It gave me the opportunity to network with people from different walks of life all around the world and we shared our knowledge, skills, ideas and best practices. I have learned new and innovative ideas from others, which I can work on in my community to change the lives of many people. As a delegate speaker, I shared the stage with influential leaders, gave voice to my story and experience, unlocking my potential to inspire other delegates to help change their communities."

"The OYW summit was a life-changing experience for me"

Fatoumatta Kassama



PHOTOS: Courtesy of Fatoumatta Kassama



Speakers shine, roar and take home inspirational messages

Mary Helda Akongo from Uganda shared her journey through domestic violence to becoming a program manager at **Zimba Women** – a social enterprise providing tools and technology platforms, business training and mentoring to women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. **Zimba Women has helped more than 10,000 female entrepreneurs from Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda and provided support for over 200 small and medium-sized women-owned enterprises.**

“The One Young World Summit experience is hard for me to describe because it exceeded all the expectations that I had,” Helda Akongo told the *OFID Quarterly*. “I sometimes sit back and remember the words of wisdom and actions of different counselors who inspired me and have challenged me to be and do better. “Sharing my story on stage was a truly life-changing experience for me,” she added. “I found so much strength and courage in the support of the community. It gave me the opportunity to shine and roar.”

OFID also sponsored Tamana Asey to attend the OYW summit. Asey is an advocate for women’s health and rights in her home country Afghanistan. An obstetrician and gynaecologist by profession, she has campaigned against ‘virginity testing’ – a practice condemned by the World Health Organization as degrading, discriminatory and unscientific. She continues to raise awareness and dispel the myths surrounding virginity testing.

“If you’re a young leader contributing to the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) and you want further support, inspiration, recognition and persuasion, then attend One Young World,” Asey told the *OFID Quarterly*. “It’s like a family from all over the world giving you all the positive vibes, cherishing your work and standing by you. “I am taking back the message don’t let anything limit your creativity: not your age; social constructs; not what’s imposed on you; not even your job. Go and look for barriers to SDGs in your society and work to change them.”

Following the One Young World summit, OFID-sponsored Tunisian delegate Aya Chebbi was appointed the first African Union (AU) Youth Envoy, charged with helping mobilize support for Africa’s Agenda 2063, among other sustainable development-related targets. In 2015, Chebbi founded the Afrika Youth Movement to raise the profile of African youth in regional and international discourse.



Mary Helda Akongo (left), Tamana Asey (above) and Aya Chebbi (below)

SPOTLIGHT

AN A-LIST LINE-UP OF OYW COUNSELORS INCLUDED:

- Former UK prime ministers **John Major** and **Gordon Brown**
- **Mary Robinson**, the first female president of Ireland
- Sudanese-British businessman **Mo Ibrahim** (of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation)
- Unilever CEO **Paul Polman**
- Nobel Prize winner **Tawakkol Karman** – a journalist, politician, and human rights activist from Yemen
- Nobel Prize winner **Professor Muhammad Yunus** – a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, banker, economist, and more.



PHOTO: Courtesy of Aya Chebbi

CARBON CAPTURE

The energy landscape in developing economies is increasingly accommodating low carbon technologies. Major international organizations such as the World Bank Group and the United Nations have emphasized the importance of such technologies in meeting the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 7 calls for developed and developing countries to 'ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all' by 2030.

China, India and Brazil have increased the percentage of low carbon technologies in their overall energy generation mix during recent years. Government policies in various African countries also encourage research and development of low carbon technologies. The developing economies of South and South-East Asia are also beginning to champion the cause for an increased percentage of low carbon technologies in their energy mixes. Let us look at some specific types of low carbon technologies that are taking hold:

Carbon capture and storage (CCS)

The In Salah CCS project in central Algeria is a world pioneering onshore project capturing 800,000 tons of carbon annually at low-cost. Apart from In Salah, the remaining six fully integrated, commercial-scale CCS projects in operation in the world today are in OECD countries (USA, Canada and Norway) or led by OECD-based companies. However, developing economies such as China, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and India are currently focusing resources to maximize the opportunities that CCS technologies provide.

The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of power plants using CCS technology are around one-third those of existing coal power plants – representing a major advantage. However, while CCS has

the potential to become increasingly relevant, there remain concerns about its environmental implications and its associated technologies. The main environmental risk associated with CCS relates to the efficient storage of the captured carbon dioxide gas. Research is currently ongoing to find suitable methods of mitigating this risk.

Hydropower

Currently the world's largest source of renewable electricity, hydropower provides more than 16 percent of total energy supply and the installed amount grows annually. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), hydropower accounts for over 1,150 GW of global energy installed capacity. Micro-hydropower is regarded as a cost-effective energy solution in developing countries, as its capital costs are below those of some other low carbon technologies. New initiatives are focusing on implementing small-scale hydropower plants across African countries such as Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Wind power

Over the past decade, global installed capacity of wind power increased at an average annual rate of more than 25 percent, reaching about 53 GW by the end of 2017. Due to advances in both onshore and offshore wind technologies, and the increasing size of wind power plants, more wind energy is harvested at lower costs. Energy analysts envisage that this trend will continue over the next few years. A major barrier to the use of wind power in developing countries is the lack of awareness of policy makers and the absence of an enabling legal framework. While this type of energy has a large land footprint and impacts wildlife, life cycle assessment results score wind power from an environmental perspective as 100 to 200 percent better than power generation from coal and natural gas (with or without CCS).

Concentrated solar power (CSP)

CSP systems generate solar power by using mirrors or lenses to focus a large area of sunlight onto a smaller area. Electricity is generated when the concentrated sunlight is converted to heat, which drives a steam turbine connected to an electrical power generator. The major CSP technologies currently in use are known as the parabolic trough (wet-cooled), power tower (dry cooled), linear Fresnel and the dish / engine systems. The global installed capacity of CSP had increased to over 5,100 MW by the end of 2017 representing an increase of 2.3 percent over the past year. The World Bank reiterated that CSP has tremendous potential for scaling-up renewable energy, diversifying the generation portfolio mix, powering development and mitigating climate change in developing countries. However, there are market and technical impediments to its acceptance, including cost competitiveness, an understanding of technology capability and limitations, and intermittency. Many developing countries are currently working to address these barriers in order to scale-up CSP power generation.

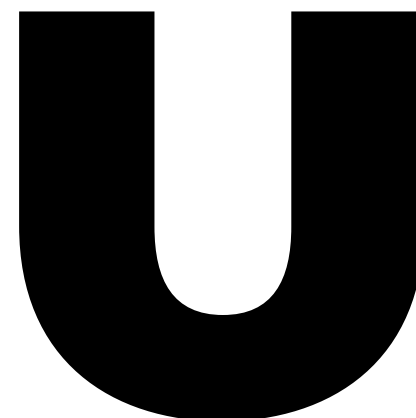
Solar photovoltaic power (PV)

Solar PV is growing rapidly with a total global installed capacity of about 400 GW, representing more than a 500 percent increase in over the past five years. This growth, which is expected to continue, has largely been driven by the decreasing cost of PV systems and collectors; and the abundance of solar insolation (or sunlight) on the earth. Solar PV has many advantages, especially for rural communities in developing countries, which lack access to electricity because the power grids do not extend to them. Solar PV minigridd installations can be used to solve this problem. The use of this solution in rural communities is cheaper in the long term compared with the cost of diesel and gasoline

MIXING IT

LOW CARBON ENERGY AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

By **Sasaenia Paul Oluwabunmi**, Operations Officer at OFID and **Gabriel Hurtado Gonzalez**, Energy Solutions Manager at Mitie



WINDPOWER

MA

CO₂

MIN

powered electricity generators and supports developing economies aiming toward a sustainable energy future.

Geothermal power

The global installed capacity of geothermal energy is about 13 GW. The largest installed capacities are in China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Mexico and New Zealand. Although the land use for geothermal energy is minimal compared with wind power, the main risks are atmospheric emissions, water use, solid waste and noise. This energy resource has potential in developing countries and is projected (given better technology) to become more commercially available in such countries over the next two decades.

HOW DO LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES IMPACT ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY?

Low carbon technologies have the following main positive attributes:

- The GHG emissions (throughout their lifecycle) of renewable sources are approximately 5-6 percent of those for coal and 8-10 percent of those for natural gas.
- Renewables cause significantly lower pollution, but have a higher demand for structural materials.

The world's population is expected to grow from seven billion today to nine billion in 2050. Couple this to increasing industrialization and the strident globalization of trade, and it's easy to see why global

energy demand is expected to double by 2050. More than 75 percent of this growth is expected to come from developing countries. Massive energy investments will be required and low carbon technologies will play a key role in the sustainable development of the future energy landscape as countries attempt to manage GHG emissions and impacts on land, air and water. The key to a sustainable energy future, however, lies in choosing the right mix of technologies given local or regional circumstances and ensuring there are safeguard procedures in place to mitigate and monitor impacts.

P

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC

OFID DIARY

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018

OCTOBER

9

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

US\$400,000. To support relief efforts to victims of an earthquake and tsunami that struck Sulawesi Island, Indonesia, weeks after a series of earthquakes hit the island of Lombok.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

US\$600,000. To purchase and distribute food for around 40,000 people as part of ongoing aid operations in Yemen.

NOVEMBER

14

TRADE FINANCE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Natixis. US\$50 million. Under this agreement, OFID guarantees trade finance instruments issued by banks in developing countries to support the trade transactions of local businesses and corporations. The agreement focuses in particular on African countries.

30

Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

US\$50 million. To support Egypt's purchase of crude oil, petroleum products and liquefied natural gas via a mudaraba (participation) agreement.

DECEMBER

12

165TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

PUBLIC SECTOR LOANS APPROVED

Argentina. US\$60 million.

Córdoba Sanitation System Development Project. To improve health and living conditions for around 418,000 people in four towns in the Córdoba Province by building new sanitation systems. The project will also reduce environmental pollution and help boost key economic activities such as agriculture and tourism.

China. US\$50 million.

Hezhou Healthcare. To construct a medical and care center for the elderly in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China. The 900-bed facility has the capacity for 50,000 patients per year.

Egypt. US\$14 million.

Port Said Grain Storage Facilities. To boost food security and reduce losses by building and equipping two new storage facilities that will increase capacity by 1.5 to 2 million tons of wheat grain each year.

Ethiopia. US\$22 million.

Dilla-Bulle-Haro Wachu Road Upgrading. To improve a 68 km road that will help enhance economic development in a region where agriculture is a primary source of income. At least 730,000 people will benefit from improved access to social services and marketplaces.

Guinea. US\$25 million.

Family Farming, Resilience and Markets in Upper Middle Guinea Program (AgriFARM). To help alleviate poverty and enhance food security by upgrading infrastructure that will assist farmers in adopting more efficient technologies. The project is expected to benefit around 455,000 people.

Malawi. US\$15 million.

Shire Valley Transformation Project (SVTP-I). To provide access to irrigation and drainage services, help secure land tenure, and strengthen wetlands management to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization for about 56,000 smallholder families.

Senegal. US\$20 million.

Support to the Development of Agricultural Production Areas (PDZP/PNDL). To raise yields, reduce post-harvest losses and facilitate farmers' access to inputs by developing agricultural value chains and capacity building. Also planned is the upgrading of 550 km of rural access roads, to benefit around 600,000 people.

Tajikistan. US\$10 million.

Improvement of Water Resources Management in Khatlon Region. To enhance the health and living conditions of approximately 115,000 farmers and their families by building / improving water and sanitation systems and modernizing irrigation systems and land reclamation activities.

GRANTS APPROVED

Humanity and Inclusion. US\$900,000.

To provide children with disabilities from conflict-affected communities in Palestine with access to a high quality, needs-focused



Juan Schiaretti, Governor of the Province of Córdoba, Argentina with OFID Director-General Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa (see December 12)

education, with a strong focus on promoting inclusion in mainstream schools (supported by better equipping such schools).

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). US\$500,000.

To enhance food security in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen by providing technical assistance and capacity building. Beneficiaries will include more than 30,000 farmers – particularly small wheat growers – and at least 10,000 researchers, scientists and technicians.

International Trade Center (ITC).

US\$350,000. To support a ‘SheTrades’ project in the Gambia aimed at improving women’s livelihoods by strengthening their participation in trade and providing a supportive business environment and training, among other activities. Targeted beneficiaries are policy-makers, business support organizations and women-owned businesses.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). US\$500,000.

To promote access to modern energy in rural areas in Zambia by installing mini-grids based on renewable energy sources and providing operation and maintenance training. At least 3,500 people and a number of public institutions connected to the mini-grids will benefit.



Michael Barth Kamphamambe Nkhoma, Ambassador of Malawi to Germany (see December 12)

18

PUBLIC SECTOR LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNED

Malawi. US\$12 million. To finance infrastructure related to potable water and safe sanitation as part of the Nkhata Bay Water Supply Project, which aims at improving health and living standards for circa 125,000 people.

20

PUBLIC SECTOR LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNED

Dominican Republic. US\$75 million. The loan will support the project known as the ‘Electricity Distribution Rehabilitation and Loss Reduction Program Phase III’, by co-financing the rehabilitation of approximately 1,048 km of power lines, targeting about 543,000 users in 21 distribution networks.

Estimated number of beneficiaries of Malawi’s Nkhata Bay Water Supply Project:

125,000

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY OFID

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018

OCTOBER

1–2 UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS
FMO 'The Future of Finance' Conference

1–4 MARRAKECH, MOROCCO
11th Arab Energy conference

11–14 BALI, INDONESIA
World Bank and International Monetary Fund
Annual Fall Meetings

12–16
BEIRUT, LEBANON
Arab Development Portal: Visualize 2030

14–18
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
7th Arab Gulf Program for Development Forum

17–20
THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS
One Young World Summit

18–19
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
International Centre for Migration Policy
Development Vienna Migration Conference

18–19
TBILISI, GEORGIA
European Bank for Reconstruction and
Development Trade Finance Forum

22–24
BANGKOK, THAILAND
Asian Development Bank Special Operations
Conference

NOVEMBER

5–9
WASHINGTON DC, US
World Bank Legal Vice-Presidency Law, Justice
and Development Week

7–9
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
Africa Investment Forum

12–14
PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
52nd Annual Assembly of the Latin American
Banking Federation

15
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Informal Meeting of Director Generals for
Energy

20–21
ROME, ITALY
Meeting of the Assembly of Parties and
Partnership Forum of the International
Development Law Organization

21–22
PARIS, FRANCE
Annual Meeting of the OECD Development
Communication Network

26
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
19th Vienna Energy Club Meeting

30
NEW YORK, US
16th Meeting of the Global Partnership
Steering Committee

DECEMBER

2–8
NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA
High Level Donors' Conference of the G5-Sahel

6–7
BEIRUT, LEBANON
1st MENA Energy Economics Conference

11
PARIS, FRANCE
Building New Partnerships for the Sustainable
Development of Cabo Verde conference

13
OFID, VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Executive Committee Meeting of the Oil and
Gas Industry Energy Access Platform

17
PARIS, FRANCE
Senegal Donors' Conference





VISITORS TO OFID

Clockwise from top:

Dr Sun Xiansheng, IEF Secretary General

Dr Usama Al Nashy, Chargé d'Affaires of Iraq

Jalal Alashi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Libya

Veronica Gomez, Chargé d'Affaires, Ecuador

Jesse Alonso Chacón Escamillo Governor of Venezuela



OFID approves more than US\$328m of development finance



OFID has approved more than US\$328 million of new funding to benefit developing countries across the globe. **The 165th Session of OFID's Governing Board**

approved the funding at the organization's Vienna headquarters. Approved public sector loans, which total US\$216 million, will support projects in Argentina,



China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Malawi, Senegal and Tajikistan. Other approvals included four grants totaling more than US\$2.25 million. Under OFID's private sector

facility, US\$73 million was approved, and under OFID's trade finance operations, US\$37 million was approved. Please see pages 50-51 for more details.

THE 165TH SESSION OF OFID'S GOVERNING BOARD

PHOTO GALLERY







PHOTO: UNFCCC

OPEC says oil industry must be part of solution to climate change

“Let me begin by stating unequivocally: the oil industry must be part of the solution to the climate change challenge,” said Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, OPEC Secretary General, in a statement to the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference in December. “We too believe that ‘there is no Planet B.’”

Addressing the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, Barkindo said that the oil industry possesses know-how and experience for reducing its environmental footprint, explaining that working practices and fuel efficiency standards have improved exponentially over the decades. “Of course, more needs to be done,” he said. “Nevertheless, the industry’s capacity for technological innovation must be harnessed within this process.”

Barkindo also highlighted the challenges of energy poverty, which are addressed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy. “Today one billion people lack access to electricity and three billion

lack clean fuels for cooking,” said Barkindo. “An ever cleaner oil industry, driven by technological innovation, can improve the livelihoods of billions of people in a sustainable way.”

With this in mind, Barkindo urged governments to promote all-inclusive policies that are not discriminatory in content and implementation. “Appropriate technologies that would address carbon emissions leading to the elimination of these emissions are not beyond reach and are indeed feasible,” he said. “The funding of the [research and development] of these technologies is the responsibility of both producers and consumers. Our member countries are playing their role creditably in this regard to ensure that the over 1.2 trillion barrels of proven oil reserves are not stranded. Oil and gas will continue to account for more than 50 percent of the global energy mix well beyond 2040.”

“The energy transition is therefore not a transition from one energy source to another,” Barkindo added. “All sources of energy are needed to meet current and future demand.”

“An ever cleaner oil industry, driven by technological innovation, can improve the livelihoods of billions of people in a sustainable way”

Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo,
OPEC Secretary General



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