This publication was produced under the auspices of the IBSA Fund Board of Directors. A special thank you is extended to H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations and Chair of the IBSA Fund Board in 2017; H.E. Mr. Mauro Vieira, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations; H.E. Mr. Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations; Mr. Ephraim Leshala Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations; H.E. Mr. Frederico Salomão Duque Estrada Meyer, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations; and H.E. Mr. Tanmaya Lal, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. Appreciation is also expressed to Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation. The publication benefited from the guidance and comments of IBSA Fund experts: Mr. Mbulungeni Sydney Muenda, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations; Ms. Livia Oliveira Sobota, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations; and Mr. Mahesh Kumar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations.

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ABOUT THIS REPORT
This Overview of the IBSA Fund Project Portfolio summarizes the accomplishments of the IBSA Fund through 31 December 2017 and serves as the annual report for 2017 activities. It presents information for 2017 submitted by project managers to the IBSA Fund secretariat by March 2018. For the latest information on the IBSA Fund, visit http://unossc1.undp.org/ibsa

DISCLAIMER
The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation or Governments. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or its frontiers or boundaries.

COVER PHOTOS
Right: Horticulture training for youth in Canaan, Haiti. Top left: Ms. Lay, Chey Chumeas Hospital in Cambodia, teaching a child with special needs. Middle left: Vulnerable youth from Bel Air and Cité Soleil communities in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, participating in extracurricular activities such as learning the dance elements of capoeira. Bottom left: The Mohéli Director of Agricultural Production, an expert from the South African Agricultural Research Council, a focal point from the National Educational Research and Training Institute, and a technician from the Centre for Development and Extension Services on a field visit to the Mimbani farm on Mohéli island.

BACK PAGE PHOTOS
Top left: Training in biological monitoring for Community Conservation Group members in Coms marine protected area of Nino Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste. Bottom left: Viengthong farmer at work in a rice field where an irrigation project has helped to improve water supply during cropping seasons. Top right: Inauguration of a warehouse for storage of agricultural inputs and produce, Guinea-Bissau. Bottom right: FAO staff preparing legume seeds for distribution to the project beneficiaries in Coms, Timor-Leste.
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The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund)

The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) is a remarkable example of cooperation among three developing countries, which pioneered the implementation of South-South cooperation initiatives for the benefit of other Southern countries in partnership with the United Nations system. Its purpose is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as examples of good practices in the fight against poverty and hunger. The IBSA Fund, which was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006, supports projects on a demand-driven basis through partnerships with local governments, national institutions and implementing partners. Initiatives are concrete expressions of solidarity, and objectives range from promoting food security, to addressing HIV/AIDS, to extending access to safe drinking water – all with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Important concerns of IBSA partners in the design and implementation of the Fund’s projects include capacity-building among project beneficiaries, built-in project sustainability, and knowledge-sharing among Southern experts and institutions. During the 15 years of implementation of the IBSA Fund, its successes and innovations have been recognized by governments, United Nations officials, academics and development practitioners.
3 Southern leaders in South-South cooperation

$35.1 million in contributions

19 partner States, mostly least developed countries

17 SDGs advanced:
poverty and hunger eradication, education, gender equality, child and maternal health, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, environmental sustainability and global partnerships
Development impact across the world includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Impact Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</td>
<td><strong>120 wells providing water</strong> for livestock production and for indigenous farming communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td><strong>39,000 yearly reproductive health consultations enabled</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
<td><strong>12,000 residents</strong> provided with access to safe drinking water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td><strong>13,000 farmers’ diets enhanced</strong></td>
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<td>Comoros</td>
<td><strong>1,140 farmers</strong> implementing sustainable and productive agricultural practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td><strong>1,500 women</strong> empowered to participate in economic activities and improve livelihoods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td><strong>a national health insurance programme</strong> to provide universal health-care services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td><strong>120 wells providing water</strong> for livestock production and for indigenous farming communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td><strong>1,000 adults, mostly women,</strong> attained functional literacy</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>25 villages</strong> afforded access to solar energy</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>6 doctors and 11 paramedics</strong> trained</td>
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<td><strong>over 1,200 youth</strong> improved their employability through volunteering</td>
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<td><strong>450 people</strong> from remote communities gained access to health-care services</td>
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<td><strong>1,500 women</strong> empowered to participate in economic activities and improve livelihoods</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
180,000 residents gained access to better solid waste management infrastructure and practices
**GUYANA**

442 youth received vocational training and secured jobs
**HAITI**

400 livelihoods supported in waste management activities
**HAITI**

a national coconut-sector development strategy to improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers
**KIRIBATI**

7,700 farmers’ agricultural yields improved thanks to irrigation structures
**LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

150 sheep and goat farmers improved their productivity, livelihoods and nutrition
**SAINT LUCIA**

Presidential Cabinet and 5% of ministerial staff trained
**SIERRA LEONE**

100,000 people having access to loans and savings through digital financial services
**SIERRA LEONE**

1,200 youth engaged in sports and team activities
**STATE OF PALESTINE**

2 hospitals and a medical centre built or refurbished
**STATE OF PALESTINE**

2,995 young labourers improved their skills and secured jobs
**SUDAN**

at least 1,437 subsistence farmers increased their resilience and food security
**TIMOR-LESTE**

4,000 household livelihoods enhanced through improved rice production
**VIET NAM**

300 health-care staff improving their ability to treat non-communicable diseases
**VIET NAM**

2,000 smallholder farmers improving productivity, income and household nutrition
**ZAMBIA**
Accolades from Global Leaders

The IBSA Fund is a vital example of deepening South-South cooperation, an increasingly valuable dimension of our work for development. This form of cooperation among developing countries is a unique asset for knowledge exchange, transfer of appropriate technologies, and tested development solutions – as valuable to developing countries as financial resources.”

Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

The IBSA Fund represents a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, to zero poverty and zero hunger actions, and to multilateralism. The partnership is critical in bridging the financing gap in sustainable development and shows India, Brazil and South Africa’s commitments to their Southern neighbours and to the principles of the United Nations. It represents a remarkable example of South-South cooperation in partnership with the United Nations system. I hope their valuable experiences, best practices and success stories will be shared at the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.”

H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly

India, Brazil and South Africa are key actors in South-South cooperation, a critical contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The IBSA Fund’s partnerships and rich portfolio of projects are improving many lives across the global South, delivering concrete development results for those in need. UNDP is very pleased to support the strategic priorities of the Fund and looks forward to continuing to work together to realize the tremendous potential of South-South cooperation in development.”

Mr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Development Programme Administrator
Established by India, Brazil and South Africa, the IBSA Fund is a trilateral partnership model that showcases how South-South cooperation complements traditional development cooperation as a concrete and effective mechanism in achieving sustainable development. Within the overarching goal of addressing poverty and hunger, the initiatives implemented under the IBSA Fund reinforce the importance of solidarity among developing countries and national ownership of the recipient countries, which characterize the IBSA Fund’s work.”

H.E. Mr. Adonia Ayebare, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

The IBSA Fund Board of Directors

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

Financial contributions to the IBSA Fund, 2004–2017 (in $)

Financial implementation of IBSA Fund projects, 2004–2017 (in $)
Budget Approvals

by Thematic Area

Agriculture 34.2%
Employment and Livelihoods 21.2%
Health 20.9%
Water and Sanitation 10.0%
Youth Engagement 3.2%
Education 3.0%
Governance 3.0%
Other 2.5%
Energy 1.8%

by Geographic Region

Africa 37.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean 24.5%
Asia and the Pacific 20.9%
Arab States 15.1%
Global 2.5%

by Development Classification of the Countries

Least Developed Countries 64%
Other Developing Countries 36%
Fund Manager: The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Established within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by the General Assembly in 1974, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) is mandated to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis. The pillars of its work are the provision of policy advisory services, support to intergovernmental processes, innovative programming, knowledge management and analyses, and trust fund management.

UNOSSC continues to provide advocacy, management and advisory services to Member States and United Nations entities on South-South and triangular cooperation to enable developing countries to effectively and collectively face their most important development challenges and harness global opportunities to address them. In its role as the secretariat for the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC monitors and reports on the progress of the international community and the United Nations system in implementing South-South and triangular cooperation. This includes the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document.

UNOSSC engages with Member States globally and regionally as well as within the United Nations system to facilitate practical expressions of Southern solidarity towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals. It works with a wide range of partners, such as global centres of excellence, to intensively explore how building endogenous capacity can be encouraged, how broadening and sharing technological advances within the global South can be achieved systematically, and how emerging innovative financing mechanisms can be harnessed through South-South and triangular cooperation. UNOSSC ensures that its Southern constituencies have timely access to high-quality analytical planning, mapping, programming and reporting on trends, emerging issues and opportunities in order to promote and advance South-South and triangular cooperation approaches to development.

UNOSSC serves as the Fund Manager and secretariat of the IBSA Fund, supporting its Board of Directors as it establishes the strategic vision and programmatic activities of the Fund. It also serves as the Fund Manager and secretariat of the steering committees of other South-South cooperation trust funds implemented jointly with the United Nations system, namely, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund), the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC).

“

The IBSA Fund benefits from a Board of Directors comprised of Southern thinkers that very strategically ensures that 31 projects across the trust fund portfolio are designed and implemented in alignment with South-South cooperation principles. Jointly with the United Nations, the IBSA Fund capitalizes on both local and global expertise to improve national systems and the lives of those most vulnerable, and directly contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation
CAMBODIA

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

Overview

This project contributes to the creation of decent work opportunities for Cambodian youth through skills development and volunteerism. It implements volunteer programmes focused on developing transferable skills of over 1,000 youth, who are matched with volunteer placements and will be able to pursue paid opportunities after the programme. In addition, it facilitates skills training and accreditation of youth and provides tools to engage in social entrepreneurship. In addition, the project contributes to building the capacity of the Government of Cambodia in implementing mechanisms to manage volunteers and enhance cooperation with the private sector, civil society and academia. As of 31 December 2017, project expenditures totalled $5,624.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

• Strengthened national capacity to establish an enabling environment for volunteerism;
• Enhanced inclusion by promoting the engagement of vulnerable youth in volunteerism as a means of developing employable skills; and
• Strengthened national capacity to implement volunteer management mechanisms.

Summary of Accomplishments

Strengthened national capacity to establish an enabling environment for volunteerism

• Stakeholder consultations to identify opportunities for pilot volunteer programmes and define a road map for the national youth service concept and strategy;
• Mapping of existing accreditation frameworks and schemes; and
• Initial engagement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), including Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO), to build partnerships that support the accreditation frameworks and pilot volunteer programmes.

Enhanced inclusion by promoting the engagement of vulnerable youth in volunteerism as a means of developing employable skills

• 1,200 youth participated in the 7th National Forum for Volunteerism and International Volunteer Day in December 2017 in Phnom Penh and Kandal Provinces, with a focus on youth employment and skills development through volunteerism.
• 629 youth participated in an advocacy activity on skills development of youth through volunteerism in December 2017 in Siem Reap.

Strengthened national capacity to implement volunteer management mechanisms

• 300 copies of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) 2017 report Volunteerism and Youth Employment in Cambodia were disseminated and available online.
• Social media advocacy materials were developed to promote volunteerism and skills development with the help of online volunteers.

“Youth are the backbone of Cambodia. Helping youth to develop means helping the future of this nation.”

Mao Sopheak, age 15, from the Angkor High School, Siem Reap Province, 2018
Engagement with Microsoft and UNV Online to develop a customized online platform with mapping of volunteer organizations began in order to acquire initial data.

Challenges Encountered

- The UNV restructuring has impacted the level of support available to the project, which is now provided primarily by the UNV regional office.
- Recruitment of project personnel has been delayed, which affected the delivery of project activities during the initiation phase.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

This project advances the implementation of the National Policy on Cambodian Youth Development, which specifically includes the promotion of volunteerism. It also contributes to the National Employment Policy in that it promotes access to quality education and technical/vocational skills by making volunteerism a stepping stone towards increased decent and productive employment opportunities.

Youth volunteerism outreach at Orang High School

Mapping exercise with youth from 25 provinces

Training on “100 Reasons to Volunteer”
**Overview**

This project aims to enhance and improve the production conditions and commercialization of agricultural products on the island of Mohéli. It consists of three phases: (a) topographic, soil and water surveys; (b) irrigation infrastructure and training; and (c) vegetable production. A pilot school farm will be set up, which will serve as a learning centre for demonstrating commercial farming practices to local farmers. Moreover, this project will promote South-South knowledge-sharing on agricultural extension services between the South African Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and the Government of the Comoros. The project will partner with 1,140 farmers from eight villages on Mohéli island, of whom 50 per cent are women and 10 per cent are youth. Training and demonstrations will also take place on the two islands of Ngazidja and Anjouan.

**Results (Intended Outcomes)**

- A production model for vegetable crops is tested and developed for replication throughout the Comoros.
- Markets for agriproducts are developed through marketing and support to remove bottlenecks in agricultural production.
- New agricultural practices are developed and disseminated in other sites on Mohéli island and neighbouring islands.

**Summary of Accomplishments**

- Prior to the project, South African experts from ARC concluded a soil fertility and topographic study aimed at advising the selection of the optimal project site, vegetable varieties, training modules on vegetable production and pest control, and the appropriate irrigation system.
- The Mimbani farm on the island of Mohéli was selected for establishing the school farm. Diboini farm on the island of Ngazidja and Bambao la Mtsanga farm on the island of Anjouan were also selected to disseminate best practices and capacity-building.
- Training in soil analysis, irrigation and vegetable production were undertaken at all selected sites.

**Challenges Encountered**

- The project budget has not allowed hiring of a permanent ARC staff member stationed in the Comoros, as had been recommended by the project Steering Committee.
- Logistics related to the procurement of personnel and materials to build the irrigation structures on Mohéli island have been a challenge.
• The Steering Committee recommended a partnership between ARC and the National Educational Research and Training Institute (INRAPE), which will enable better knowledge-sharing and capacity-building between the two institutions. However, the logistics for incorporating this idea were not included in the original UNDP-ARC contract.

**Link to National Strategies and Priorities**

This project advances priorities defined in the rural development framework, the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development, and the new agricultural policy of the Comoros. It enhances food production for small-scale farmers through an adaptive research strategy, demonstration of sound agricultural techniques for a variety of crops, and the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices. The project benefits vulnerable groups, especially small farmers, women and youth, through their participation at the Rural Economic Development Centres.
Empowering Rural Women: Scaling Up the Rocket Stove Project

Overview

This project contributes to improving the livelihoods and health of women in rural areas of Fiji through the adoption of a new cooking method using the rocket stoves. These are small, efficient stoves that are built from resources available locally, use little wood and produce clean flames with no smoke. The project will train women and girls in using rocket stoves and climate-change awareness, build a storage warehouse to facilitate the distribution of sample stoves to communities, and provide training toolkits and follow-up visits to support the successful adoption of the new cooking techniques among households.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- 1,500 women empowered through participating in the production of rocket stoves and gaining knowledge about climate-change adaptation and mitigation;
- Savings in household expenses by reducing the use of fossil fuels such as kerosene and gas;
- Deforestation reduced as demand for firewood falls;
- Carbon emissions lowered owing to cleaner flames and reduced cooking time; and
- Health and well-being improved through the reduction in firewood collection duties, in risks of cooking accidents and fires and in respiratory diseases.

Challenges Encountered

The project document was signed in October 2017. However, lack of effective communication between the implementing partners led to delays in project implementation, which was postponed until 2018.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

This project addresses the national targets set out in the Green Growth Framework, contributing specifically to the thematic areas of building resilience to climate change, inclusive social development, energy security, and technology and innovation. It also advances the objectives established in the Women’s Plan of Action 2010–2019, which identifies opportunities to improve the quality of life and reduce poverty among women through their increased participation in economic activities.
Overview
This project has enhanced the ability of the Government of Guyana to address its solid waste management challenges, reduce environmental impact and improve urban sanitation. It equipped local governments with waste-collection trucks and excavators, and rehabilitated selected markets and market tarmacs, thereby providing alternatives to illegal vending. In addition, the project distributed waste bins and posters in schools and developed a national communications strategy on solid waste management to raise public awareness. Currently, the project provides support for the review of the Guyana Solid Waste Management Bill. As of 31 December 2017, project expenditures totalled $1,076,711.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
• Strengthened solid waste management capacities of local governments;
• Construction and rehabilitation of seven markets and four tarmacs; and
• Greater public awareness of good practices in solid waste management.

Summary of Accomplishments
Strengthened solid waste management capacities
• Two garbage compactor trucks and two mini-excavators were purchased and used by 15 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils and three municipalities. This contributed to improving the sanitary conditions of municipalities and the drainage and irrigation network, benefiting a population of over 350,000 residents.

Improved solid waste management facilities
• Eight markets and two tarmacs have been rehabilitated and included in waste collection routes. Additional space in the markets is available for accommodating more vendors, together with garbage storage and collection points as well as improved sanitary facilities. Over 100,000 residents have benefited from the market construction and improvements.

Greater public awareness of good practices in solid waste management
• 2,500 classroom posters, five retractable banners and 91 standing cutout posters were placed in schools.
• 1,968 colour-coded bins were distributed to schools to promote waste separation. Over 50 primary schools in nine municipalities have benefited from this programme.
• A National Public Education and Communication Strategy was developed by the University of Guyana to help to raise awareness on solid waste management.
Challenges Encountered

• The Guyana public procurement procedure is complex and requires compliance with lengthy processes and checks.
• The 2016 elections resulting in the change of local government structure as well as subsequent audits delayed the project implementation and led to some changes in project scope.
• There were difficulties finding technical staff to effectively manage the project, leading to issues of overpayment and delay in payments to several contractors. To address that problem, a new project management team comprised of more qualified and experienced technical staff was assigned to the project.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

This project responds to the Guyana National Development Strategy, Chapter 18, Environmental Policy, Section J, Waste Management and Pollution Control, and Chapter 23, Urban Development and Housing Sector. According to National Development Strategy data, municipal solid waste management in Georgetown suffers from years of underfunding, and the city has had to use contractor vehicles for waste collection because of a lack of city garbage trucks. This project has increased the ability of Georgetown to respond to its waste and sewage management limitations.
HAITI
Promote the Socioeconomic Integration of Vulnerable Children and Youth

Overview
The project undertook a holistic, integrated approach to support the improvement of the employability of vulnerable youth and facilitated their access to decent jobs through professional training, job placement, entrepreneurship and citizenship development in Bel Air and Cité Soleil neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince. Democracy and citizenship values were also advocated within the targeted communities. Youth trained by the project received State certificates and have been placed as interns, apprentices or regular employees in formal and informal enterprises. In addition, some youth have received support for their basic education. As of 31 December 2017, project expenditures totalled $1,591,137.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
- Improved employability and entrepreneurial capacities of adolescents and youth;
- Improved access by adolescents and youth to the labour market;
- Strengthened capacity of the National Institute of Vocational Training (INFP) and training centres; and
- Strengthened capacity of communities and institutions to address the prevention and eradication of child labour and violence-related issues.

Summary of Accomplishments
Improved employability and entrepreneurial capacities of adolescents and youth
- 442 youth (149 women, 293 men) participated and received certificates in vocational training by INFP on the topics of civil construction, culture and environment.
- 30 youth (14 women, 16 men) participated in business development training.

Improved access by adolescents and youth to the labour market through job placement services
- 442 youth were placed in various jobs, of whom 85 received contracts at the football academy in Brazil and 54 found jobs in the construction industry.
- Viva Rio established partnerships with four private businesses to offer job placements for 54 youth through the two Placement Offices in Bel Air and Canaan.
- 34 youth (11 women, 23 men) received training in employment preparation at the Placement Offices, including interview and résumé preparation and vocational training.

Strengthened capacity of the INFP and training centres
- Four manuals on masonry, carpentry, painting and cultural production and two manuals on sanitation and environment were developed.
- 360 youth received pre-employment training, coaching and mentoring.
- A booklet on vocational training for youth was developed and is available online.
Strengthened capacity of communities and institutions to address the prevention and eradication of child labour and violence-related issues

- 90 youth received high-level training and 1,200 youth received regular training in football.
- 100 community leaders (40 women, 60 men) were trained in child-labour victim detection, monitoring systems, prevention and eradication.
- 12 teachers and over 300 children took part in extracurricular activities such as dance, music and capoeira, thus reducing their vulnerability to child labour.

Challenges Encountered

- The areas of Bel-Air and Cité Soleil grew increasingly fragile through the electoral protests in 2015 and 2016. Consequently, the project activities were moved to Canaan. Viva Rio offered transportation to youth and maintained strong networks within the community and close consultations among stakeholders to mitigate risks.
- In December 2016, Hurricane Matthew devastated the south of Haiti, which led to ILO focusing its priorities on recovery action and working only part-time on the project.
- Some youth encountered discrimination because of their origin. There was resistance from community leaders to ensuring that the female quota was met. The implementing partners ensured transparency in the youth selection process, inclusion of community members as participants in the dialogue and adequate representation of women (30 per cent).
- Owing to the unpredictable conditions of the labour market, the project encountered difficulties in finding sustainable employment solutions for youth. The Placement Offices and implementing partner ensured awareness of market dynamics by engaging with the private sector and keeping abreast of market research by other organizations.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

This project falls under the Strategic Plan for Development of Haiti: An Emerging Country by 2030, which outlines the strategies and priorities of the Government. These include economic reform to increase labour productivity and employability of the workforce, including youth, as one of the strategies for the development of employment and livelihoods. This strategy places an emphasis on universal access to basic education and on qualifications derived from a relevant vocational training system.
SAINT LUCIA
Poverty Reduction through Livestock Development

Overview
This project has increased the production and commercialization of quality livestock products through the establishment of infrastructure and the introduction of relevant technologies and support systems. The Beausejour Agricultural Station (BAS) was established as a National Centre of Excellence for demonstrating technologies and best practices in livestock production and management. It has also focused on training and transfer of technology to enable farmers to become more productive and sustain their businesses. Complementary activities have included the establishment of communal production facilities and the rehabilitation of pastures and fodder banks for livestock feeding. The project also has strengthened the technical and managerial capacities of livestock farmers organizations, extension officers and veterinarians. As of 31 December 2017, project expenditures totalled $899,865.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
• Farmers trained in best practices in livestock production through the BAS;
• Improved efficiency of the Veterinary and Livestock Services Division;
• Strengthening of the livestock sector and institutions through policy and strategy guidelines; and
• Strengthened small ruminant farmers organization through the establishment of two community-based feeding systems and training.

Summary of Accomplishments
Farmers trained in best practices for livestock production through the BAS
• The BAS was established as a National Centre of Excellence, with training, management and agricultural extension and research facilities.
• 40 small ruminant farmers, 44 broiler and layer farmers and 29 swine farmers participated in the farmer field school (FFS) training modules and received certificates.
• The FFS training assessment received positive reviews. A case study report was compiled to highlight the practical sessions and demonstrations.
• 15 livestock extension officers and 40 farmers participated in a one-week training workshop on small ruminant breeding and reproduction as well as the best management practices for livestock production led by an expert from Jamaica in March 2017.
• 36 kids and lambs have been born from the imported animals, some of which were distributed to farmers. The imported breeding stock of sheep and goats have continued to perform well and have been introduced into the national breeding programme.

“The four legacy programmes of this project, namely, the Farmer Field School, the National Livestock Policy and Strategy, the forage production and distribution, and the artificial insemination programme have the net impact of reducing the poverty level among the rural populations.”

Mr. Augustus Cadette,
Deputy Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries, Physical Planning,
Natural Resources and Cooperatives, 2018
Improved efficiency of the Veterinary and Livestock Services Division

• The Agriculture Information Management System (AIMS) was initiated in May 2017 to enable public access to information relating to livestock development. A mobile application was also developed to enable real-time data entry and data analysis.

Strengthening of the livestock sector and livestock institutions through policy and strategy guidelines

• Stakeholder consultations were conducted with livestock farmers, government officials, private-sector organizations and other stakeholders to prepare the national livestock policy and development strategy, which will guide the livestock-sector development over the next decade.

Strengthened small ruminant farmers organization

• In November 2017, a Letter of Agreement was signed between FAO and the Propagation Unit of the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry to facilitate the propagation of 4,000 high-protein forage species, which would be distributed to goat and sheep farmers to establish forage banks to supplement the livestock nutrition and hence increase their productivity.

Challenges Encountered

• Owing to the Government decision to relocate the project site, the construction of the BAS was delayed. A new project work plan and budget had to be developed in mid-2017.

• Delays in procurement that were beyond the control of the project team also contributed to the delay of some activities. As a result, an extension of the project to September 2018 has been approved to support the full implementation of all planned activities.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

This project responds to the Saint Lucia National Agricultural Policy, which seeks to promote economic development, generate employment and enhance the viability of rural communities. It will contribute directly to four broad objectives: increase the efficiency of the island’s agriculture, promote improved and appropriate technology, and expand the agricultural production and market base, thereby enhancing national food security.
Overview

This project supported the rapid creation of employment opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled young labourers. It reached out to unemployed, underprivileged youth and facilitated their engagement in apprenticeships for on-the-job skills training. The project also supported the placement of those youth workers in public or private enterprises primarily in the road maintenance and waste management sectors and in auto-mechanical, electrical and other vocational activities. Thanks to the skills acquired through the project partnerships, those youth are expected to develop long-term employment and livelihood opportunities. In addition, the project facilitated their access to microfinance opportunities for small business development and contributed to improvements in the urban infrastructure of Khartoum. As of 31 December 2017, project expenditures totalled $1,104,057.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Establishment of a labour-based coordination unit (LBCU) within the Ministry of Labour and Administrative Reform (MoLAR) to increase the demand for youth employment opportunities, link the unskilled young labourers with training centres, and establish an information database for labour-intensive opportunities; and
- Rapid job creation for 2,000 young, unemployed unskilled and semi-skilled labourers by facilitating access to finance and by developing their technical capacities to undertake road maintenance and waste management work as well as manage small businesses.

Summary of Accomplishments

Establishment of a labour-based coordination unit

- The LBCU was established with staff trained in project management, labour-intensive coordination and documentation methods, and information and communications systems.
- A database of labour-intensive records was developed and is functional, with 1,785 files (827 for entrepreneurship and 958 for vocational training).

Capacity-building for unskilled young workers

- 1,238 youth were trained in waste management and 1,208 in entrepreneurship and 549 received vocational training, which included vehicle mechanics, interlock systems and general electricity.
- Job placement and opportunities have been made available to youth beneficiaries, such as working at the Saudi medical factory or accessing microfinance from the Family Bank.
- 105 youth beneficiaries started to participate in the process of microfinance.
Challenges Encountered

• A lengthy process of identifying the target beneficiaries owing to the lack of proof of identity as well as verifying their educational level, which also created challenges in documenting/filing trainees’ records;
• Lack of commitment of the registered beneficiaries to continue attending sessions on vocational and entrepreneurship training;
• Difficulties in securing the commitment of the contractors for job placement, which depends largely on the availability of jobs; and
• High staff turnover at MoLAR, which affected the operation of the LBCU, with staff reassigned to perform other duties at the Ministry and working only partially on the project.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

The project is part of the national strategic response to unemployment. It is aligned with the Sudan National Strategic Development Plan, the National Employment Strategy and the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy. These strategies aim to reduce poverty through rapid, sustainable and shared economic growth, with a special focus on actions to build the foundation for rapid, broad-based economic growth, structural transformation and diversification of the economy over the medium and long terms. They respond to four broad pillars, of which the promotion of economic growth and employment creation has been robustly emphasized.
Overview

This project has promoted the adoption of sustainable production techniques and intensification and diversification of smallholder farming and fishing systems. Local farmers and fishers have been trained in rainwater harvesting, agroforestry, conservation agriculture (CA), permaculture, integrated fisheries and food-processing technologies. These activities increased the food security of about 1,850 farmers and fishers while also improving their nutrition and livelihoods. Primary school students, teachers and women groups in the targeted communities also increased their awareness of sustainable food production and the importance of diversified diets. As of 31 December 2017, project expenditures totalled $1,098,807.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Effective and sustainable CA technologies and practices are adopted.
- The enabling environment for the development of district-level land-management strategies is improved.
- Effective and sustainable permaculture techniques are adopted by farmers.
- The reliability of fish stocks for coastal communities is sustainably increased.

Summary of Accomplishments

Effective and sustainable conservation agriculture technologies and practices adopted

- 1,070 small-scale farmers tested and adopted CA techniques, with technical assistance from FAO and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) field staff.
- CA technology led to an increase in the average maize productivity of 128 per cent and required less labour than traditional farming.
- Farmers are increasingly using organic matter such as mulch to protect and improve their soils instead of burning it.

Improved enabling environment for the development of district-level land-management strategies

- Information and guidance on CA have been shared with the National Conservation Agriculture Network to promote sustainable farming techniques.
- FAO supported the revision of the Timor-Leste agriculture policy and advocated for the inclusion of a more climate-resilient farming approach and technologies.
- FAO organized a two-day training session on CA for teachers at the Agriculture Technical School of MAF.
Effective and sustainable permaculture techniques adopted
- Construction of the permaculture training centre on Atauro Island started in November 2017.
- 165 small-scale farmers started adopting permaculture techniques on their farms.
- NaTerra provided training sessions on school garden management to 97 students and 15 teachers from three primary schools.
- NaTerra conducted food-processing training sessions for women groups (30 women and 4 men) on preserving vegetables and making natural soap.

Reliability of fish stock for coastal communities sustainably increased
- 168 fishers and Community Conservation Group members participated in Conservation International (CI) training sessions on sustainable fisheries management, conservation and marine protected areas, and monitoring of reef health.
- Data on fish species and fish catch were transferred from logbooks to the online platform.

Challenges Encountered
- In Lautem district, the implementation of CA encountered some constraints due to the livestock free-grazing practices. To address this, FAO and MAF supported farmers to plant live fencing using legume trees and distributed barbed wire to prevent livestock from entering crop land.
- The permaculture centre faced the challenge of limited water sources during the dry season. NaTerra is identifying measures to address this challenge.
- Engagement of and training sessions for government officials have been delayed owing to the presidential and parliamentary elections.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities
This project contributes directly to achieving the Action Plan for a Hunger- and Malnutrition-free Timor-Leste. It does so particularly by promoting the practice of sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, cross-sectoral policy coherence for food security, and a 100-per cent increase in the productivity and income of smallholders, including youth and women farmers. The project is also closely linked with the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan, 2011–2030, and with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Strategic Plan, 2014–2020, which focuses on promoting agricultural growth and sustainable food security.
9 VIET NAM
An Innovative e-Learning Approach for Health

Overview

This project has developed electronic training modules to enhance the capacities of medical students and health professionals to provide health-care services in the northern coastal region of Viet Nam. These e-modules and platform improve the coverage and quality of services in the underserviced regions, with priorities on learning related to noncommunicable diseases and marine medicine. The project has also established facilities at five remote sites for greater outreach and connectivity. These sites facilitate access by medical students and other medical and paramedical staff in the communities to health information through a digital learning resources centre housed at Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HPUMP). As of 31 December 2017, project expenditures totalled $580,135.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

• Improve knowledge of pre- and in-service health professionals through the development of replicable e-learning modules;
• Improve access of medical students and health professionals to information and training through the construction of a digital learning resources centre and skills training lab; and
• Build the capacity of at least 20 university-provincial based trainers, 40 districts trainers, 80 district health staff and 160 commune health staff in selected regions.

Summary of Accomplishments

Improve knowledge of pre- and in-service health professionals

• Technical exchange and knowledge transfers were carried out between Hanoi, Hue and Hai Phong universities in March–April 2017 on how to set up an e-learning platform at the technical and operational levels.
• Technical exchange was carried out between HPUMP and the Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation in India on how to improve the service delivery model of e-learning courses in remote and rural areas.

Improve access of medical students and health professionals to information and training

• Information technology equipment was installed and operational in the e-learning classroom, including furniture, laptops and computers, high-speed Internet, projectors and TVs, printers, videoconferencing equipment and a recording studio.
• Delivery and installation of information technology equipment were finalized at four remote project sites: Tien Lang District and Cat Hai District of Hai Phong Province, Hai Hau District of Nam Dinh Province and Van Don District of Quang Ninh Province. This will enable health workers in remote communities to access training and continuous medical education.
• The Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative (HINARI), a WHO tool to access research in health databases, was installed and is now functional at HPUMP and remote locations.

Build capacity of trainers and health staff in selected regions
• Workshops were held with relevant stakeholders, including core lecturers of HPUMP and with the technical support of a national consultant from Hanoi Medical University, to develop the curriculum for a course in non-communicable diseases and methods of delivery as well as educational tools.

Challenges Encountered
• The development and customization of Moodle software for delivering e-learning courses have been delayed owing to the lack of a qualified local software service provider.
• Development of training materials and the launch of the first e-learning course have been delayed owing to the delay in identifying a software service provider and the time that it took the academic council to approve the e-learning content.
• As a result, an extension of the project to December 2018 has been approved to support the full implementation of all planned activities.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities
This project contributes directly to the outputs and outcomes on health that have been agreed by the Government of Viet Nam and the United Nations under the One Plan for 2012–2016. In particular, it helps to improve access to quality, equitable health services at the grass-roots level, especially by the poor, the ethnic minorities and those living in hard-to-reach areas. Hence, it makes a significant contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals in Viet Nam.
RECENTLY APPROVED PROJECTS
**Overview**

This project will address the issue of access to water for the ranchers associations and indigenous farming communities to improve their livestock production, livelihoods and food security. Water wells will be built for daily use as well as for raising cattle herds in the urban and rural communities. The project will also strengthen capacities of the ranchers associations to increase their resilience against droughts. Technical assistance from the Autonomous University of Bení (Universidad Autónoma del Bení José Ballivián) will be provided to strengthen local capacity for the construction and maintenance of wells.

Partnership between the private sector and State authorities promotes an inclusive development approach that potentially enables the project to be scalable and replicable. While strengthening the livestock-production sector, it will engage urban and rural communities and rural and indigenous peoples as beneficiaries so that they can jointly address the problem of access to water in 19 municipalities of the Department of Bení.

**Results (Intended Outcomes)**

- 120 water wells drilled for the ranchers associations and urban, rural and indigenous communities, of which 82 are for the provision of water for livestock and 38 for indigenous farming communities (two wells per municipality); and
- Increased capacities of FEGABENI and its partners to evaluate the impact of drought with updated information and the design of recovery and resilience measures.

**Link to National Strategies and Priorities**

The 2025 Agenda is the Government strategy to achieve the objectives of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016–2020. The Government is focused on increasing the resilience of the productive systems for food security with sovereignty within the framework of “life systems”, as indicated in Pillar 9 of the 2025 Patriotic Agenda. On the other hand, as indicated in Pillars 2 and 9, the Government aims to ensure that 80 per cent of the rural population has safe water services and to promote the rights of indigenous farming communities.
Overview

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

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Establishment of the NHI secretariat, including infrastructure and human resources;
- Costing analysis for proposed services included in the NHI benefits package;
- Review and recommendations of the governance structure for the NHI programme as well as capacity-building and technical support for NHI management;
- Analysis and framework development for NHI programme options for revenue generation;
- Analytical report of a macroeconomic study for Grenada;
- Drafting of NHI legislation and regulations;
- Technical support in the development of standards of care and contracts with health-service providers;
- Research and identification of the requirements for the NHI health information technology platform and NHI website; and
- Stakeholder validation of recommendations and decisions on the NHI programme.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

Universal health coverage delivered through an NHI coverage mechanism will align with the Government of Grenada Health Sector Strategic Plan 2016–2025 that notes the following as key to supporting the reform of health systems and increasing access to care: equitable access to comprehensive, quality, people- and community-centred health services; strengthening of stewardship and governance; increasing and improving financing; promoting equity and efficiency; and eliminating out-of-pocket expenditures. The Government began to explore the development of an NHI programme in 2013. This project will accelerate these efforts and is in alignment with current efforts of the Ministry of Health to fundamentally reform the health sector through legislative and other changes.
12 KIRIBATI
Enhancing Inclusive Sustainable Economic Development through Coconut-sector Development

Overview
The overall goal of the project is to foster income-generation for smallholder farmers and improve their livelihoods through value-added coconut products while contributing to inclusive, sustainable economic development as envisaged in the national development strategy. The project will support the development of the Coconut Sector Strategy and finalize the roadmap to engage smallholder coconut farmers along the coconut value chain, with identification of commercially viable value-adding opportunities along the chain.

The need to formulate the strategy is informed by the globally recognized socioeconomic value of the coconut industry. Coconut is known to have a central role in the diets of Pacific people and is vital in contributing to food security, health promotion and sustainable livelihoods. The motivation to develop the coconut sector is also triggered by the new interest in coconut-related products such as virgin coconut oil, coconut oil for electricity generation and transportation, coconut water, coconut sap sugar, timber products and toddy, among others.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
- Develop a coconut-sector development strategy with a focus on value-added services to benefit smallholder coconut farmers;
- Establish a multi-stakeholder platform with strong linkages with the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; and
- Conduct a feasibility study of the production of virgin coconut oil to develop a viable project on selected outer islands.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities
Developing the coconut sector will address Key Priority Area 2 of the Kiribati Development Plan 2016–2019 on economic growth and poverty reduction. It will also contribute towards the implementation of the National Quality Policy 2017–2023, which seeks to enhance trade competitiveness by improving the quality and standards of the products in sectors where Kiribati has a comparative advantage, such as the coconut sector. The Government of Kiribati recently embarked on a 20-year development plan for 2016 to 2036 to develop economic activities on the outer islands through the creation of new industries and improved trade, with a view to enhancing inclusive growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.
Overview

The project will pilot digital financial-service products such as savings, mobile credit, insurance and financial literacy for women, youth, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). It will also contribute to the policy development and technical support in the area of financial technology as well as strengthen the financial sector to support financial inclusion of low-income populations. Three core interventions will be undertaken: establishment of an investment facility (catalytic funding), advocacy and capacity-building, and evidence-based learning and knowledge-sharing. This project will enable 100,000 people to have access to loans and savings, which can be used to access better health care, education and other services.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

• Women, youth and MSMEs have improved access to digital financial services and products.
• Institutional capacity to formulate and implement a regulatory framework for digital financial services is strengthened.
• Lessons and best practices in implementing digital financial innovations are documented and disseminated.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

Digital inclusion, particularly digital financial services, is a key priority for the Government of Sierra Leone, a West African country with a population of 7.4 million. In 2009, Sierra Leone joined the Alliance for Financial Inclusion and in 2012 signed the Maya Declaration alongside 50 other countries to advance financial inclusion. In 2015, following the successful digitization of payments to Ebola response workers that led to a savings of $10 million and stopped the disease from spreading, the Government of Sierra Leone joined the Better Than Cash Alliance, with a commitment to leverage advances in technology to support financial inclusion. The Bank of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with development partners, is currently implementing the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2017–2020. The strategy is a road map for enhancing financial inclusion in all sectors of the economy. The project will contribute to building local capacities and supporting the Government in meeting the NSFI objectives.
Overview

The project will contribute to the increased productivity, capacity and income of rural households through the promotion of the intensification and diversification of the existing cropping system and improvement to the marketing system. This will significantly increase the production, productivity and income of the smallholder farmers while improving household nutrition and the management of natural resources.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Establish a soya bean processing plant with a capacity of 20-50 tons per day to process raw soya into oil and by-products that include soya cake.
- Support (a) the training of 34 extension officers and 2,000 smallholder farmers (50 per cent of whom are women and youth) in water management, seed and crop production, and pest control technologies, in environmental mitigation measures and health aspects related to irrigation, and in techniques of financial management and business planning, aspects of post-harvest handling and simple market research concepts, and (b) construction of community storage facilities and market centres.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

The proposed project is anchored to Pillars 7 and 8 of the Seventh National Development Plan, 2017–2021 (7NDP), which seek to increase the level of support to agricultural and rural development. The 7NDP interventions are linked directly to the strategic priorities of the SDGs and aligned with the 2030 Agenda.
COMPLETED PROJECTS
**Overview**

This project built and equipped a centre for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment. This centre is providing various health-care services covering reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, prenatal care and family planning. The facility supports and expands existing operations providing care and preventive services by the Burundi Chapter of the NGO Society of Women against AIDS in Africa (SWAA). Moreover, this project strengthened the capacity of the Government and civil society to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to care for people living with HIV/AIDS through training workshops, technical exchanges, a study for developing a new national communication strategy and tools, and capacity-building activities in various regions of the country.

**Results (Intended Outcomes)**

- Reduced the lack of adequate infrastructure to prevent HIV infection and care for HIV-positive individuals through the construction of a health centre focusing on reproductive health;
- Provided greater and more inclusive access to quality health care for vulnerable populations, particularly groups at risk of HIV infection, since the health centre enabled around 39,000 consultations per year;
- Strengthened government capacity to plan, communicate and implement strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention and care; and
- Reduced technical limitations and capacity gaps to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS through training and closer collaboration, thereby increasing access to care for HIV-positive individuals.

**Summary of Accomplishments**

**Infrastructure development**

- A three-storey health centre was built and inaugurated in Bujumbura. It is currently hosting prevention and treatment services for HIV, AIDS and other reproductive health matters.

**Capacity development**

- Training sessions were conducted for government and civil-society actors on several HIV and AIDS topics, including the more severe impact of the AIDS epidemic on women, combating stigma and discrimination, and community-based approaches for prevention and care. Four technical exchanges took place in Bujumbura, Brasilia, Dakar and New Delhi.
Enhancing local capacity to monitor, programme and deliver

• Three monitoring and support missions with a feedback workshop were conducted in the regions of Gitega, Ngozi and Bururi. The project also supported the world journey against AIDS and HIV in Kirundo.

Equipment

• Vehicles were purchased for the Government and the partner NGO. Information-technology and medical equipment was purchased and delivered.

Challenges Encountered

• Delays were experienced due to lack of a legal framework for engagement with UNFPA as an implementing partner fund. Coordination among the Government, SWAA and the United Nations agencies also proved time-consuming.
• The geotechnical study revealed conditions that resulted in a minor reorientation of the building.
• During the project, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry to Combat HIV/AIDS at first were two ministries but subsequently they were merged. Those processes had an impact on the project, but challenges were overcome.
Overview
This project increased the availability of safe drinking water on the island of São Nicolau, where water quality meeting World Health Organization standards for human consumption is scarce and its supply is unreliable. The stability and availability of safe drinking water through the desalination of sea water and its transportation to the communities helped to reduce or eliminate the health risks associated with intake of poor-quality water and improved the health and quality of life of the communities. This project constituted a climate-change adaptation measure since global warming is making the water supply in Cabo Verde increasingly scarce.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
• Over 13,500 individuals benefit from safe drinking water, making this basic public service more inclusive and enhancing the scope of its delivery.
• Vulnerable groups increase their sustainable access to, and use of, safe water, resulting in health, nutrition and sanitation benefits.
• Safe drinking water is produced through desalination, thereby releasing existing scarce water resources, which are used for sanitation and enhanced agricultural activities.

Summary of Accomplishments
Access to safe drinking water for all
• The supply of safe drinking water increased in São Nicolau, with a more constant supply throughout the year for household consumption and agricultural purposes.

Water infrastructure
• A water desalination plant was built and connected to the main water distribution system, including:
  - Two containerized reverse-osmosis desalination units and filters capable of processing 1,200 m³ of sea water per day;
  - A 1,000 m³ reservoir for water storage;
  - Office and support facilities for operation and maintenance;
  - A power transformer unit; and
  - High-pressure pipes connecting the sea, the production plant and the reservoir and transporting the water to the main water distribution infrastructure in Ribeira Brava.

Knowledge products
• Feasibility and technical studies conducted informed the project engineering works and layout. A study on non-billed water conducted with funds mobilized from other partners supported the sustainability strategy of the project.
Ownership and partnership

- The project was launched and subsequently inaugurated with the presence of the Cabo Verde Prime Minister, Jose Maria Neves. Additional resources were mobilized for this project by the Municipality of Ribeira Brava ($150,000), the Government of Cabo Verde ($80,000) and UNDP Cabo Verde ($60,000).

Challenges Encountered

- Difficulties relating to the lack of consultation with Southern providers during the procurement of the desalination plant were settled.
- Additional resources to connect water to the distribution infrastructure were required and were mobilized locally and used to purchase high-pressure connection pipes.
- Commercial difficulties with the supplier of the desalination plant and related accessories concerning contractual terms caused some delays but were overcome.
- The two wells drilled to provide water intake to the desalination plant presented technical problems, delaying the start-up of the plant.
- The installation of high-pressure pipes was complex owing to the changes in elevation and pressure.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

Cabo Verde is extremely water-scarce. To address this scarcity, a $41.1 million water, sanitation and hygiene project was implemented to facilitate delivery of water and sanitation services to Cabo Verdean households and businesses. The Government and the municipality of Ribeira Brava believed that the support of the IBSA Fund was of paramount importance, paving the way for the sustainable management of water resources and contributing to enabling conditions for ecotourism, agriculture and small industries to flourish.
Overview

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

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Two rehabilitated health-care facilities.
- Improved access for 230 inhabitants in a remote area to health care in an infrastructure adequate for the provision of health services.
- Enhanced infrastructure for the provision of health-care services, which directly benefited 221 additional individuals, mainly the elderly.

Summary of Accomplishments

This project was completed in 2008. After their refurbishment, both health-care centres were opened to provide services to their communities, including women, pregnant women, children and the elderly.
Overview

This project supported the development of infrastructure and capacity to provide quality services for children and adolescents with special needs through constructing and equipping a pavilion at the Chey Chumneas Hospital to serve those patients and their families. The project also trained, through residency programmes, 17 health professionals in specialties serving children with special needs. In addition, it engaged in public-information and various community or group training activities to prevent some disabilities and support the provision of care for children with them.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Established capacity to provide medical care for children with disabilities by training, through residency programmes, six doctors and 11 paramedics. This constituted the first generation of Cambodian professionals in this specialized field, which was expected to train subsequent generations of specialized medical professionals;
- Built appropriate infrastructure necessary to care for children with special needs: a dedicated hospital pavilion;
- Provided 2,000 children and adolescents with special needs and their families with comprehensive services towards maximum independence and inclusive development; and
- Popularized best practices for prevention and care by empowering parent organizations and other groups (an estimated 200,000 individuals) to avert disabilities or to care for children living with them.

Summary of Accomplishments

Infrastructure development

- The hospital pavilion was built, equipped and inaugurated. It is hosting services for early stimulation, special education, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, multiple handicaps, epilepsy, and art and drama therapy.

Capacity development

- Six physicians and 11 paramedical professionals were recruited and received specialized training in Cambodia and/or abroad. Twenty villages and thousands of community and family members were trained in inclusive practices, supporting and caring for children with special needs.

Awareness campaigns

- Informational materials were produced, published and distributed. Workshops were hosted on learning development and on various disabilities and techniques for care. Awareness days were held on Down syndrome and on autism.
Prevention
• Iodized salt was distributed. Destigmatization campaigns were carried out.

Establishing minimum standards
• Thousands of consultations for neuro-psychiatric, developmental, psychological, physical and intellectual disabilities were supported as well as check-ups for children and adolescents.

Challenges Encountered
• Delays in obtaining a building permit were resolved.
• Capacity-building activities experienced some delays, partly due to the challenge of medical and paramedical staff achieving the necessary English-language proficiency level for training abroad.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities
This project fell within the objectives of the National Disability Strategic Plan of Cambodia, which established as a key outcome improving services for people with disabilities through partnerships between the Government, non-governmental and private sectors. It represented a new milestone in the disability policy and strategies of Cambodia as it fulfilled the unmet needs of the most vulnerable among the disabled, namely, children with developmental disabilities who are marginalized, unable to raise their voices and lobby for their rights.
Overview

These projects improved agricultural production in partner villages by training over 4,500 farmers in enhanced agricultural techniques for rice cultivation. They also offered alternatives for new crops, thereby supporting diversification of production. Moreover, they introduced new seed types that improve yield and permit agricultural production during the Guinea-Bissau rainy season. In addition, these projects conducted training in water management and processing and conservation of agro-products. Furthermore, they provided solar energy equipment to five villages, trained 966 adults to become functionally literate, and introduced short-cycle animals for reproduction. Those activities enhanced household diets and livelihoods.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Enhanced the livelihoods of 4,500 farmers (60% women) through improved and diversified agriculture and enhanced the raising of small animals;
- Increased rice yield by 12%, improving local diets and enhancing villagers’ food security;
- Provided 3,000 individuals in five villages with access to solar energy; and
- Enabled 966 adults (85% women) to attain literacy and numeracy skills and other basic education competencies.

Summary of Accomplishments

Agricultural development

- Farmers in partner villages were trained in agricultural techniques that enhance yield and were supported in planting a greater number of crops, thereby diversifying and improving agricultural production. Farmers were further trained in water management and in simple agro-processing techniques (project I).
- 24 villages received continuous and progressively advanced training in agricultural and agro-processing methods (project II).

Literacy

- 966 adults, mostly women, in partner villages learned to read and write to a functional level and learned simple mathematics. Twenty-four teachers were trained to conduct literacy courses.

Enhanced animal herding

- Short-cycle animals were provided as well as sanitary products and vaccinations to improve animal health.
Solar electrification

- Five villages installed and are using solar energy equipment, including public lighting and indoor lighting in schools, community centres, health centres and public administration buildings as well as solar water-pumping systems. Five Guinea-Bissau technicians were trained in India in solar-system installation and maintenance to provide qualified services to partner villages and raise awareness of the use of renewable natural resources.
- Partner villages organized themselves to receive training and to manage solar energy equipment.

Challenges Encountered

- Some solar panels were stolen or temporarily out of use owing to insufficient security infrastructure. Remediation measures included enhanced security requirements for the solar panels and support to communities to ensure that they developed the necessary infrastructure to safeguard the equipment.
- Difficulties in identifying technical capacity regarding local biofuels were overcome.
Overview
This project reduced poverty and enhanced food security by rehabilitating low-lying coastal lands for rice cultivation and distributing better varieties of rice seeds to increase agricultural productivity. It supported hydraulic infrastructure works that improve lowlands, such as small dams, canals, drainage and plot levelling. Among other benefits, those improvements reduce and compensate for increases in the salt content of the soil, thereby enabling the continuous use of those lands for rice production. Those anti-erosion measures also constitute an effort at climate-change mitigation and reduce the practice of shifting cultivation that results in continuous deforestation.

In addition, this project provided equipment and training in simple food-processing, conservation and commercialization techniques. It enhanced the capacity of women farmers to add value to products in local markets, to avoid waste and to better account for and manage their incomes.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
- Significant improvement for almost 20,000 rural inhabitants in food security, quality of their diets and poverty reduction;
- Broadened and improved livelihood opportunities available in 24 villages through sustainable natural resource management, enhanced farming and processing of agricultural products;
- Rehabilitation of 300 hectares of lowlands, which continue to be used for farming activities; and
- Increased self-reliance of rural populations and reduced vulnerability to weather conditions.

Summary of Accomplishments

Technical expertise
- Partner communities, working closely with the technical officers of the project, improved their knowledge of agricultural techniques, thereby enhancing their production methods and diets.

Equipment
- Tools for food preservation, transformation and transportation were supplied to partner villages, including 24 rice peeling machines, 24 mills, six fruit driers and 80 donkey carts. Three motorcycles and one 4x4 vehicle were purchased in support of project activities.
Rehabilitation of agricultural fields
- Limited-productivity lowlands were improved through PVC tube-based, small-scale hydraulic enhancements that assist in the management of water and saline content. Over 800 farmers were trained and involved in the rehabilitation of rice fields.

Knowledge products
- A water management plan was developed for rice fields of partner villages, based on an assessment of local soil, climate and water conditions. Over 320 farmers improved their water-resource management skills.
- In addition, through surveys, data were collected in the 24 partner villages on crop yields of current agricultural practices and village needs, priorities and challenges. Those data served to better target IBSA cooperation and helped to benchmark the progress of the project.

Challenges Encountered
- This project had an ambitious scope of activities ranging from water management to agro-processing. The technical shortcomings of project staff in those diverse technical areas had to be partly compensated for through short capacity-building activities in specific areas in cooperation with government specialists and with support from technicians.
- The illiteracy rate in partner villages remains high. The training offered by the project was adjusted and simplified to better reach the participants and facilitate absorption of content shared; simultaneously, literacy classes were offered in all 24 rural communities.
Guinea-Bissau
Rural Electrification through Solar Energy Systems

Overview
This initiative brought solar energy to 20 villages and expanded the solar energy component of a previous IBSA Fund project in Guinea-Bissau, incorporating lessons from the five pilot villages that had initially received and been using solar equipment. It supported all villages to develop effective and sustainable management of solar equipment, thereby improving village life enormously. For example, indoor lighting in schools enabled study and village activities in the evening. Solar water pumps reduced the hardship of obtaining water from wells, making it accessible at fountains or as running water. Street lighting and portable lanterns for village leaders provided enhanced security. Cell phone chargers in community centres facilitated connectivity and sometimes served as a source of income for village associations.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
- Broadened access to energy for 20,000 people residing in rural villages, benefiting women and children;
- Improved the environment for education, sanitation, safety and enhanced quality of life;
- 24 teachers trained in a partnership programme with the Ministry of Education;
- Participation of about 1,100 people in functional literacy courses in their villages, with women participation at almost 90%;
- Access by about 600 families, comprising more than 6,000 people, to drinking water through a water pumping system powered by solar energy; and
- Increased engagement of the community in more inclusive governance practices, particularly in the management of its solar power and micro-utilities.

Summary of Accomplishments
Sharing of solar technology
- 20,000 villagers benefited from solar equipment, including street lights, indoor lights for schools and community centres, cell phone chargers and other light battery-operated equipment and solar water pumps.

Capacity-building
- 120 beneficiaries (five per village and 62% women) participated in workshops on village mobilization and proactivism, with a focus on the management of solar energy systems.

Infrastructure development
- Civil works necessary for the installation of solar equipment were advanced by partner villages as their contribution to this project, including construction of fountains linked to solar water pumps, repairs of school and community centre walls and/or ceilings, and fencing for protection against theft.
Women empowerment
• The Guinea-Bissau illiteracy rate hovers around 45% and is even higher in rural areas, where it affects mainly women. The adoption of solar energy in youth centres and schools helped women, many of whom had no opportunity to study, to learn how to read and write during the evening. When village associations were constituted, priority was given to the participation of women.

Sustainable development
• The adoption of solar energy for street lighting, common access areas and houses contributed to human development through environmentally sustainable processes, enabling communities to engage in nighttime activities and increasing village security.

Challenges Encountered
• This project benefited from the lessons learned during previous IBSA Fund projects in Guinea-Bissau, particularly the pilot initiative providing solar energy equipment. It incorporated concerns about community organization for the management of micro-utilities as well as the safety and security of solar energy systems.
• Heavy rains damaged solar panels in one of the partner villages. The external infrastructure for hosting the equipment was subsequently reinforced, and a partnership was established with the Secretary of State for Energy to assist in reviewing and maintaining solar panels installed by the project.
HAITI
Collection of Solid Waste as a Tool to Reduce Violence (Phases I and II)

Overview
This project organized and mobilized a community with a history of violence and gang clashes around the labour-intensive process of waste collection and recycling. It developed a culture of waste disposal and collection, thereby providing livelihood opportunities, reducing the incidence of disease, preventing flood risk from garbage-clogged canals, and reducing environmental impacts (particularly by introducing cooking briquettes from recycled paper products). This collaborative community work built local capacity and aided pacification efforts.

Results (Intended Outcomes)
• Improved the quality of life and working conditions in Carrefour Feuilles through the establishment of a waste-management system;
• Contributed to the pacification of a security red-zone area and the reduction of gang violence;
• Improved livelihoods through the creation of sustainable income-generation opportunities for 400 heads of households;
• Enhanced sanitation, sanitation awareness and sanitation infrastructure; and
• Reduced and mitigated environmental impact through the recycling of 30% of the community waste.

Summary of Accomplishments

Pacification and reduction of urban violence
• Thanks to pacification initiatives, including this project, Carrefour Feuilles was reclassified in 2009 from a security red zone to a yellow zone.

Livelihoods
• The project offered decent employment to 400 heads of households.

Sanitation
• 70% of the neighbourhood waste was regularly collected and removed, thereby reducing the incidence of diseases transmitted by waste, insects and rodents.

Environmental impact reduction
• 30% of the community waste was recycled. Cooking briquettes made of recycled paper products provided an alternative to charcoal as a source of energy.

Building local capacity and enhancing democratic governance
• The project organized the community and furthered collaborative work through waste management activities, thereby building capacity and improving its governance.

“Urban aesthetics and cleanliness are a side effect of this project; its main objectives are employment generation, sanitation and good governance. Its impact is a lot greater than its official title.”
Mr. Jean-Yves Jason, Mayor of Port-au-Prince, 2007
Sanitary awareness and education
  • Workshops were held in schools, churches and associations.

Improvement of urban infrastructure
  • 50 waste-collection points were established as well as collection routes for waste removal.

Gender empowerment
  • 57% of project workers were women, two of whom were on the community board of the project.

Resilience
  • This project withstood the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 and contributed to early recovery efforts as part of a cash-for-work scheme.

Challenges Encountered
  • Expansion activities planned as a response to the earthquake faced many challenges, did not prove to be feasible and hence were not undertaken.
Overview

The project improved the overall livelihoods and food security of local communities in the two poorest districts of Bolikhamxay Province by supporting the development of irrigated agriculture and the community-based management of watershed resources such as forests and fisheries. It benefited over 7,700 farmers, expanding rice cultivation from 150 hectares to 500 hectares in the dry season through the repair of three small irrigation schemes. It also set up water, watershed, fishery and village forest management and user groups within the communities, which served to promote more sustainable management of watershed resources by partner communities.

Furthermore, the project improved shifting cultivation practices and promoted village forest management and diversification, guaranteeing economic and ecological sustainability for farmers even in a climate-change scenario.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Increased and diversified incomes of rural households in two districts through enhanced irrigated agriculture and fisheries activities;
- A watershed management plan developed and implemented;
- Water-supply availability ensured in both seasons for irrigation of the area under cultivation;
- Co-management of irrigation projects by government authorities and the water-user associations, with women's participation; and
- Improved fisheries in Nam Phou reservoir through the establishment of co-management.

Summary of Accomplishments

- Three irrigation infrastructure works completed in Nam Ser, Nam Yang and Nam Phou, providing water to an agriculture extension area of 630 hectares;
- Watershed management plans developed with community participation at the district and provincial levels and made publicly available;
- Over 300 farmers trained in watershed management; rice-seed preparation, selection, storage and transportation; dry-season vegetable extension; after-harvest conservation; and techniques for growing nine selected cash crops;
- Introduction of cash crops piloted across 7.4 hectares by 40 households in four villages;
- Water-user groups created and their activities supported, optimizing water management and improving agricultural practices;
- A fisheries co-management committee established in Nam Phou, and several workshops held, including on policies, practices and the new fishery regulations of the country; and
- Farmers’ capacity for sustainable fisheries management enhanced through a study tour.
Challenges Encountered

- Improvement of irrigation infrastructure took longer than expected owing to heavy rain in late 2014 and the thick layer of hard rock found in the Nam Phou subproject site, causing delays in other technical activities.
- Current gold mining concessions and uncontrolled timber logging practices in and around the Nam Phou watershed area were key constraints and risks for the implementation of the Watershed and Forest Management Plan, undermining sustainability, ownership and adequate natural-resource management awareness.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

The Government agricultural-sector strategy focuses on achieving self-sufficiency in food production, promoting crop diversification and expanding irrigation development. This project responded directly to those objectives by supporting the people in the project area, the majority of whom rely on agriculture for both food and income, to enhance rice cultivation and expand agricultural activities through the repaired irrigation infrastructure.
Overview

This project strengthened the capacity of key State institutions in Sierra Leone to implement macroeconomic reforms and good governance practices for poverty eradication. It supported human-resource planning and management, strategy and policy development, implementation and monitoring of delivery. Through South-South cooperation knowledge-sharing activities, the capacity of the Office of the President and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) was enhanced to support the further betterment of leadership to advance human development and poverty reduction.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Strengthened the capacity of ministers and senior government officials for strategic and modern management and decision-making;
- Enhanced the MoFA institutional and functional capacity through the establishment of a planning and policy unit, an in-house training unit, and an information and telecommunications platform;
- Enhanced the results-based management platform, strengthened a system of performance monitoring and trained public officers in their use; and
- Enhanced the technical and advisory functions of the Cabinet secretariat.

Summary of Accomplishments

Capacity development
- Designed and rolled out learning, knowledge, networking and retooling initiatives:
  - Mounting of a reform initiative for MoFA, with a specific focus on revamping its Policy, Planning and Research Unit;
  - Establishment of institutional “surge” capacity support to the Cabinet secretariat;
  - Design and roll-out of competency and skills development on results-based management for technical staff of ministries, departments and agencies; and
  - Design and roll-out of training in performance contracting in the public sector starting in seven pilot ministries.

Technical exchanges
- A joint commission of cooperation between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Government of Kenya was established. Its work was complemented by South-South exchanges among senior Government officials of those two countries.
- Sierra Leone Presidential Cabinet officials undertook technical missions, meeting their counterparts in the Governments of Ghana and India. Those study tours enabled learning from partner countries and enhanced capacity to deliver public services.
• Experience-sharing exercises took place among Sierra Leone ambassadors and between them and the Nigerian Foreign Service Academy.

**Knowledge products**
• A roster of experts was developed through the Web of information for Development (WIDE) platform for effective sourcing and management of technical expertise.

**Equipment**
• Information-technology equipment was provided to MoFA and to the Policy, Planning and Research Unit.

**Challenges Encountered**
• Since it supported capacity-building at the Office of the President and MoFA, this project called for political sensitivity but no major challenges materialized.
Overview

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

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Increased access for youth in the State of Palestine to sporting activities that encourage team-building, positive role models and the development of leadership skills;
- Established youth sports leagues, with the participation of over 1,000 boys and girls in various sports. The leagues supported volunteer coaching of teams by families; and
- Enhanced participation in sports by the construction of a sports facility.

Summary of Accomplishments

Infrastructure development

- The sports facility was completed. Since June 2013, over 23 organizations and over 6,600 persons have used it.

Leadership development

- Youth (ages 5 to 17) sports leagues were launched and members are playing soccer, basketball and volleyball; swimming; and participating in track and field events, with family involvement through volunteer coaching. This is promoting team and skills development, enhancing leadership qualities, promoting volunteerism and acting as a catalyst for social unity.

Challenges Encountered

- Ownership/sale issues for the land where the centre was built were addressed.
- Proposals to enlarge the scale of the sports centre that were presented after all approvals had been obtained were withdrawn.
- Soil conditions at the building site and price increases caused delays but a slight increase in budget was approved and construction was completed.
Overview

This project built and equipped a centre to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities in Nablus in the West Bank. The centre includes consultation, physical therapy, multipurpose and staff rooms as well as general services. It runs a protection and rehabilitation programme for adults with disabilities to provide care, technical aids, vocational training for various types of disabilities, rehabilitation services and, in some cases, temporary accommodation. As part of its comprehensive approach, the centre also operates a referral system for services from other providers. The Ministry extends services to around 10,000 Palestinians with disabilities each year but faces major constraints in delivering care and supporting their rehabilitation. The building of this facility enables the Government of the State of Palestine to expand its reach and provide people, particularly adults with special needs in the West Bank, with adequate health-care services.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

• The population of Nablus and the northern area of the West Bank have increased access to health-care services, particularly people with severe intellectual disabilities.
• A centre that caters to youth under the age of 18 with intellectual disabilities is designed and built.
• The rights of people with disabilities are promoted and advanced.

Summary of Accomplishments

• The construction of the centre was completed, consisting of a basement and two floors, and was handed over to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in January 2016.
• MoSA negotiated with a local NGO specialized in the care of individuals with special needs to run the facility.
• IBSA approved a budget increase for this project, which enabled keeping the planned size of rooms and facilities despite budget challenges. It also permitted the expansion of the centre and its capacity for services from the initially planned 1,000 m² to 1,900 m² by adding a physiotherapy unit, a necessary electro-mechanical room, general services on the basement level and some essential external works.

Challenges Encountered

• Despite diverging perspectives on the minimum requirements for the centre to be fully functional, agreement on the design for the facility was reached within the available budget.

"This centre built by IBSA is of great importance for persons with severe disabilities and a significant step towards upgrading the services available to them and ensuring respect for their humanity and dignity. We are extremely grateful to IBSA."

Mr. Amin Inabi, Director General for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Affairs of the State of Palestine
• The land provided by the municipality of Nablus for the construction of the centre proved difficult to excavate owing to hard rock soil.
• The review of bids for the construction work revealed that overall costs for construction of the facility were higher than initially predicted.
• Delays in the planned construction schedule were encountered.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

This project falls within the Government of the State of Palestine MoSA core strategy and programmes to protect and rehabilitate persons with disabilities. The MoSA approach is to provide protection and care services either directly or through a referral system, with services purchased from other service providers. MoSA has found that there is a very limited ability to provide shelter and infrastructure to care for people with special needs, particularly in the northern area of the West Bank. This project directly addressed this constraint while also ensuring compliance with Palestinian disability rights law.
Overview

This project initially rebuilt the Cultural and Hospital Centre for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in the Gaza Strip. The subsequent phase expanded the rehabilitation of the building and upgraded its medical capacities through refurbishing the nine-storey hospital, which was damaged during armed confrontations. The rehabilitated hospital includes patient recovery rooms, administrative offices, a cafeteria and rooms for psychosocial support activities. The project equipped and furnished an operating room to enable surgical procedures, emergency responses and medical interventions for chronic diseases. It also increased patient rooms by an additional 50 to 60 beds. This project has ensured the scope and continuous reach of health-care services to the population of the Gaza Strip.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

• Improved access of the population of Gaza to health-care services, including urgent care, surgery and psychosocial treatment; and
• Contributed to strengthening the national health-care system, which has been better able to prepare for and respond to emergency and chronic disease requirements affecting the Palestinian population’s general health.

Summary of Accomplishments

Improved access of the population of Gaza to health-care services

• The rebuilding of the Cultural and Hospital Centre was completed, and the building was handed over to PRCS in April 2013.
• All subsequent works, including the rehabilitation of the open heart and catheterization operation theatre, patient recovery rooms, administrative offices, cafeteria and rooms for psychosocial support activities, were completed and handed over to PRCS in September 2016.
• Owing to the successful reopening of the Cultural and Hospital Centre and its provision of continuous health-care services, additional resources were mobilized to establish an operating theatre and other improvements through this project.
• $14,700 were mobilized to repair damage caused by exchanges of fire in 2014.
• Entry of the necessary construction materials into the Gaza Strip was once a significant challenge and therefore constitutes a notable accomplishment.
**Contributed to strengthening the national health system**

- Facility improvements have resulted in enhanced crisis management responses to emergencies and chronic diseases affecting the Palestinian population’s general health and in increased access for the population of Gaza to health-care services.

**Challenges Encountered**

- As the hospital refurbishment was ongoing, minor additional damage was caused by hostilities in 2014.
- Permission to have construction materials and hospital equipment and furniture enter Gaza was obtained but some delays were incurred.

**Link to National Strategies and Priorities**

These projects were designed in line with the Palestinian National Health Strategy, which has the objective of assuring the rights of all citizens to quality, sustainable primary, secondary and tertiary health-care services. In line with this strategy, these two interrelated initiatives sought to strengthen partnerships to ensure access for all Palestinians to health services.
Overview

This project rebuilt and enhanced access to public health infrastructure through the reconstruction of Atta Habib Medical Centre in the eastern Gaza City neighbourhood of Shujaia. The building was also supplied with the necessary equipment to run the health-care clinic. The construction work undertaken included maternity and child wards as well as facilities for dental and lab services. Furniture and communication systems to enable the operation of those services were also provided. The newly constructed medical centre will serve almost half of the population of Shujaia, estimated at 180,000 residents.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

- Reconstruction of a 1,000 m² area of Atta Habib Medical Centre, including maternity ward, blood lab, biochemistry lab, dental services, pharmacy and administrative offices as well as the provision of equipment, furniture and communication systems; and
- Strengthened quality and availability of medical attention by improving infrastructure and hygienic conditions, facilitating patient flow, and permitting the continuous delivery and expansion of health-care services.

Summary of Accomplishments

Rehabilitation of the Medical Centre

- Construction works for a 1,220 m² four-storey building with mechanical, electrical, finishing and painting works;
- Provision of medical equipment for the operation of the maternity section, blood lab and biochemistry lab, and dental clinic;
- Provision of necessary furniture and communication system;
- Installation of PV solar system; and
- Renovation of Atta Habib Medical Centre road.

Strengthened quality and availability of health-care services

- Health-care services are provided in the facility through one pharmacy, two chronic disease clinics, three vaccination clinics, two motherhood clinics, one dental clinic, one laboratory, two inspection rooms and three multipurpose halls.
- The Medical Centre became fully operational in mid-December 2017, with an initial average of 120 visitors per day until the end of January 2018.
Challenges Encountered

- Permission for the entrance of construction materials into Gaza was obtained in April 2015. However, after the tender was awarded, the permission was suspended, which resulted in the delay in project implementation. Following efforts by UNDP and IBSA Ambassadors in Ramallah, permission for the entrance of construction materials was reactivated in November 2015.

- When the construction of the pile works for the roofing commenced, the Gaza Strip was hit by storms and heavy rains. Since the subsoil was clay, the contractor faced difficulties in resuming work, and it took two months to finish the foundation and retaining walls.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

This project responded to the Government priority of providing emergency support to the health sector in the Gaza Strip and restoring a sense of normalcy. It provided a platform for the Government and partners in the relief and early recovery effort to advance the Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan 2014–2016. The initiative was part of the Ministry of Health call to address chronic shortages in medicine, medical supplies and equipment in Gaza as well as rebuild primary health centres and hospitals.
This project established a production hub for rice seeds that are improved and appropriate for the local conditions in Hoa Tien commune, Hoa Vang district of Da Nang City. It contributed to enhancing agricultural yields, improving local farmers’ livelihoods, and reducing poverty and hunger among communities in the area. This initiative also strengthened rice cultivation by improving farmers’ knowledge and production capacity and by enhancing the post-harvest processing methods and activities of the community. Those heightened farming and agro-processing techniques resulted in higher-quality rice and value-added products for both consumption and sale. In addition, the project established a seed quality-control and certification system for the city and improved farmers’ marketing tools and sales channels.

**Results (Intended Outcomes)**

- 4,000 households directly benefiting from enhanced livelihoods;
- Strengthened rice-seed production, storage and quality conservation in Hoa Tien;
- A rice-seed quality-control and certification system established;
- A “Seed of Hoa Tien” brand developed and marketed; and
- Farmers’ livelihoods enhanced through capacity-building in farming, processing and trade.

**Summary of Accomplishments**

**Increased agricultural productivity and quality**

- Rice productivity at the project site increased to 6.63 tons per hectare, representing an increase of 0.78 ton per hectare. In addition, the cost of production materials was reduced by $73,100 per hectare.
- 12 new rice-seed varieties were tested, and two successful varieties were identified.
- A marketing strategy for the new seed varieties was developed with the support of the public and private sectors.

**Improved farming practices**

- 249 households were trained in seed production, irrigation, fertilization, integrated pest management, and impurity elimination and monitoring.
- 100 households were engaged in the demonstration of new techniques in rice fertilization, plant protection and saving water for 6.2 hectares of paddy land.
- Organic fertilizers were introduced and substituted for chemical fertilizers, thereby improving the environmental quality of Hoa Tien communes.
Infrastructure and equipment

- A seed-testing laboratory, based in the local Agriculture Extension Centre, was renovated and equipped with new facilities to provide certification for seeds.
- Seed driers were procured and handed over to the cooperatives.
- Seed preservation warehouses were built.

Capacity-building for field inspection and laboratory operation

- Field-inspection capacities of extension staff and officials of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Da Nang improved through two hands-on training courses and fieldwork.
- Good practices and lessons learned were documented and shared.

Challenges Encountered

- In Viet Nam, the licensing process of a seed-testing lab is complex and time-consuming, requiring at least three months for necessary certification including ISO verification.
- Time and budget proved limited for marketing strategy and trademark development.

Link to National Strategies and Priorities

The project followed the Government of Viet Nam Socio Economic Development Plan for 2011–2015, under the Social Economic Development Strategy for 2011–2020, with the focus on three key issues mentioned in Communist Party Central Executive Committee Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW and Government Resolution No. 24/2010/NQ-CP: agriculture, rural areas and farmers. In particular, it advanced the Prime Minister-approved scheme for restructuring the agricultural sector towards agricultural value addition, linking the crop-production subsector to larger-scale production, preservation, processing and consumption while boosting the application of advanced science and technology in productivity and quality improvements.
MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS
Overview

This project supports the development of the IBSA Fund, particularly the formulation, feasibility assessment, management, monitoring, evaluation, communications, and ad hoc and cross-portfolio activities. Initiatives are individually approved by the IBSA Fund Board of Directors, as the need arises, in support of IBSA Fund partners and project activities.

Results (Intended Outcomes)

• Support to partners on the ground in their formulation of effective IBSA projects to alleviate poverty and hunger;
• Oversight of the IBSA Fund portfolio, including project evaluation, audit, additional monitoring and cross-portfolio analysis;
• Establishment of quality standards for the Fund and support to quality enhancements at the project level;
• Promotion of South-South knowledge transfer through technical exchanges or ad hoc activities; and
• Awareness-building and communication of the IBSA Fund mission and project portfolio.

Summary of Accomplishments

Project formulation

• Supported the formulation of the IBSA project “Poverty Reduction among Youth: Development of Youth Volunteers’ Skill Sets for Increased Employability” in Cambodia;
• Supported the formulation of the IBSA project “Increased Access to Water, Improved Livestock Production and Post-drought Food Security” in Bolivia (Plurinational State of);
• Supported the formulation of the IBSA project “National Health Insurance Scheme Support Project” in Grenada;
• Supported the formulation of the IBSA project “Enhancing Inclusive Sustainable Economic Development through Coconut-sector Development” in Kiribati;
• Supported the formulation of the IBSA project “Leveraging Zambia’s Agro-industry Potential in Rural Areas through Enhanced Soya Bean Production and Processing” in Zambia;
- Supported the formulation of the IBSA project in Saint Lucia “Poverty Reduction through Livestock Development” through a Fund Manager-led multi-stakeholder formulation workshop;
- Facilitated the revision of the IBSA project in Saint Lucia following the re-zoning of the land where the project site is located through a Fund Manager visit and multi-stakeholder consultation;
- Facilitated the design of the IBSA project in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic “Support to Integrated Irrigated Agriculture in Two Districts in Bolikhamsay”, including the undertaking of a comprehensive feasibility study comprising geotechnical, topographic, hydraulic and technical feasibility assessments as well as economic viability and environmental impact studies;
- Enabled the formulation of two IBSA projects in Guinea-Bissau: “Support for Lowland Rehabilitation and Agricultural and Livestock Processing” and “Rural Electrification through Solar Energy Systems”; and
- Supported the formulation of the IBSA project in the State of Palestine “Rehabilitation of the Cultural and Hospital Centre”, including preparation of the detailed design work and bill of quantities.

**Monitoring and oversight**
- Supported cross-portfolio or project-specific additional monitoring, oversight, reporting, evaluations and audits; and
- Assigned a United Nations Volunteer to support IBSA activities in Guinea-Bissau, in particular the implementation of agricultural development, literacy and solar energy initiatives.

**Knowledge-sharing**
- As the IBSA Focal Points embarked on a Strategic Review of the IBSA Fund and at their request, UNOSSC prepared a zero draft Policy Note “Strategic Review of the IBSA Fund” describing the value of the IBSA-UN Partnership, strategic considerations and a proposed roadmap.
- Three Timor-Leste officials participated in a technical exchange mission with Indian NGOs active in waste management issues to learn about their practices and methods.
- Discussion papers were produced by the IBSA Fund secretariat, which also engaged with researchers, academia and think tanks to disseminate and enhance the impact of the IBSA Fund learning and policies.
Awareness-building

- Advanced the IBSA Fund vision for poverty and hunger alleviation worldwide by communicating the accomplishments of its project portfolio through exhibitions in global forums, publications, annual reports, photobooks, videos and panel discussions or events promoting the IBSA Fund, its values and activities;
- Contributed to high-level endorsements of the Fund and its accomplishments from the current and former United Nations Secretaries-General, the UNDP Administrator, various Presidents of sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, and numerous Ambassadors to the United Nations from IBSA and IBSA-Fund partner countries; and
- Hosted high-level events on the IBSA Fund at United Nations New York Headquarters (annually); the Global South-South Development Expo (annually) in Washington, D.C., Geneva, Rome, Vienna, Nairobi, Dubai and Antalya; the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi; the Fourth IBSA Summit of Heads of State and Government in Brasilia; the 8th India, Brazil, South Africa Trilateral Ministerial Commission in Durban in 2017; the United Nations Pavilion of the Shanghai World Expo 2010; the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul; the sixty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok; the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Asian-African Conference in Jakarta; and several other high-level conferences in cities across the world.