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OFID Quarterly

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AFRICA
A bright future?

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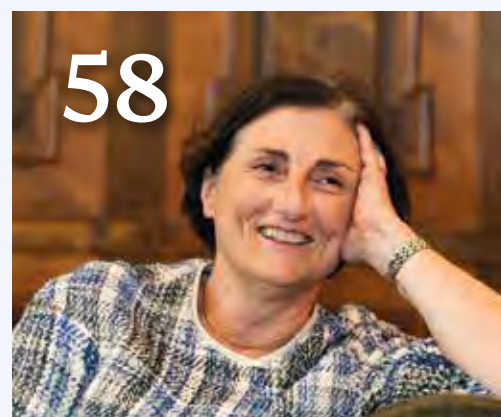
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Africa: Development, diversity and a daunting amount to do

The 55 countries of the African continent sometimes seem so different from one another it's possible to imagine they were grouped together at random. From the fastest growing economy of Ethiopia in the east (averaging a rate of 10.3 percent a year from 2005/06 to 2015/16) to the multi-ethnic and culturally diverse federation of 36 autonomous states that constitutes Nigeria in the west; from the conflict-beset Sudan in the north, to Botswana, one of the world's shining development success stories, in the south – and everything in between; Africa is rich in diversity.

It's impossible to prescribe a one-size-fits-all development approach for such a huge and multi-faceted continent – one that's three times the size of the US and home to more than one billion people. It's also a real challenge to gauge Africa's progress toward sustainable development, especially given the gaps in data (one report suggests that approximately six out of every ten SDG indicators cannot be tracked in Africa due to severe data limitations, see page 11). Despite all this, it is possible to identify a number of development-related challenges (and opportunities) that are common to many African countries.

Ask any expert on African development (we have asked quite a few – see our special feature on

pages 5 to 13) and over and over you'll hear the words 'infrastructure', 'trade', 'integration' and 'population'. Africa today still "faces widespread poverty; unemployment; a growing population; rapid urbanization; significant infrastructure deficits and sluggish economic growth from just a few undiversified sectors," says one expert interviewed on page 6. "We strongly believe that deepening physical and digital regional integration is key to Africa's economic transformation. Deeper regional integration can improve market efficiency, minimize the costs of large infrastructure projects and optimize the use of shared natural resources in Africa," says another.

Despite the challenges, there are already some heartening examples of innovative and sustainable practices on the continent, perhaps more usually associated with a certain technical adroitness. Take the global leadership shown by Kenya in mobile banking, for instance, the use of drones to deliver medical products in Rwanda, or the start-up Hello Tractor that provides an 'Uber-like' solution to tractor shortages in Nigeria. Read more on page 8.

Then there is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that close to 50 African Union member states signed earlier this year. The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a

single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business people and investments, and to pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union. How will this pan out? Read more on page 12.

As far as Africa's journey toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 (in 2015, African leaders adopted Agenda 2063 as the continent's new long-term vision for the next 50 years) goes, things become less clear. While some recent reports find positive progress – “strong domestic demand, progress in the pursuit of macroeconomic policies and efforts to diversify national economies have been ‘major drivers’ of Africa's recent growth”, the aforementioned deficiencies in data make it difficult to get a good view of exactly where we're at. What does appear painfully clear, however, is that there is a daunting amount of work still to be done.

OFID is committed to supporting this journey toward sustainable development, no matter how challenging it proves to be. In 2017, the organization approved US\$695.6 million for development operations in Africa – representing 46 percent of OFID's financing commitments for the year. The operations supported by these funds included solar, wind and clean cooking energy initiatives, irrigation, drainage and livestock initiatives,

transportation projects, and water and sanitation operations. A total of 32 African countries shared the funding.

More of OFID's work in support of African countries can be read about on pages 24 to 29, including two recent commitments: US\$40 million for a revolving trade financing facility for Export Trading Group (ETG) – one of Africa's largest agricultural conglomerates – and a US\$60 million loan agreement with the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB) in support of international trade. We've also included a report about an OFID grant of US\$800,000 to improve access to safe drinking water in the Senegal River Basin and loans to support gender neutral education in Uganda.

OFID also recognizes the importance of culture in sustainable development – viewing it as the fourth pillar of development, in addition to the three widely-recognized economic, social and environmental pillars. In September, OFID hosted an exhibition of Nigerian art to showcase the work of four talented artists. A work called Freedom Rhythm by one of the exhibiting artists – Ben Ibebe – adorns the cover of this magazine. Read more about the exhibition on page 35. ■



Africa: Roaring toward sustainable development or ambling into trouble?

A growing population, rapid urbanization and significant gaps in infrastructure are just three of the many challenges that require targeted development policies now if Africa is to roar toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and beyond.

BY STEVE HUGHES

The *OFID Quarterly* asked the three pictured Africa development experts to ruminate on the continent's current and future potential and select shining stars from among Africa's 55 constituent countries.

On considering Africa as a 'region'...

Eunice Kamwendo, UNDP

I will begin from a positive note: considering Africa as a region helps in visualizing African challenges from a common platform; and it enhances unity of purpose and the development of common solutions to continental / regional / sub-regional challenges. That approach enhances development cooperation, the pooling of funds and expertise, and helps reduce costs for large projects. On the other hand, given the diversity of African countries in terms of peace, levels of growth and human development, taking Africa as a whole masks differences, makes it difficult to target development policy / assistance and can promote a sense of complacency among countries. There are many big differences between countries and sub-regions that make for important policy distinctions. For example, North Africa is distinctly different from sub-Saharan Africa in terms of levels of development, governance and culture; and sub-regions and individual countries within sub-Saharan Africa are different from each other.

Belkacem Ouzrourou, OFID

For a continent of one billion people, three times the size of the US, it's quite problematic to call it by one single name – Africa. In reality, Africa is a grouping of 55 countries (16 of them are landlocked) ranging in diversity from the region's largest economies of Angola, Nigeria, and South Africa, to many more fragile countries where drought, conflict and worsening security conditions weigh heavily on economic activity. But we must keep in mind that, just as the United Nations notes, the assignment of countries or areas to specific groupings – like 'Africa' or 'North Africa' – is primarily for statistical convenience only. Each African region and country must be considered separately if we're to arrive at a more complete picture in terms of policy options and prospects for socio-economic development and growth.

"Africa's socio-economic challenges are deeply structural."

Eunice Kamwendo,
UNDP Africa SDG
Policy Advisor

Dr Albert G Zeufack, World Bank

At the World Bank, we strongly believe that deepening physical and digital regional integration is key to Africa's economic transformation. Deeper regional integration can improve market efficiency, minimize the costs of large infrastructure projects and optimize the use of shared natural resources in Africa. As an example, integrated power trade in West Africa could lead to cost savings of US\$5-8 billion per year.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (see page 12), which opens doors to a potential single market of 1.2 billion people worth a combined GDP of US\$2.2 trillion, is also a great step forward. But much work remains to be done to address the challenge of market segmentation and 'thick' borders that plague Africa. We need to go beyond reducing tariffs to eliminating non-tariff barriers and allowing free circulation of people to make this dream a reality. Most importantly, we need to foster Africa's digital integration. Digital dividends are potentially huge for Africa. But we'll only be able to reap these returns if we have the appropriate digital infrastructure and a conducive policy environment. Since 2005, the World Bank is one of the major players fostering regional integration in Africa, and we intend to continue this effort, in partnership with countries, sub-regional institutions and the African Union.

On the main challenges and / or opportunities related to development in Africa...

Eunice Kamwendo, UNDP

Africa's socio-economic challenges are deeply structural. Significant transformation of Africa's economic base and its structures is required in order to drive positive results in socio-economic indicators. As a whole, Africa today faces widespread poverty; unemployment; a growing population; rapid urbanization; significant infrastructure deficits; and sluggish economic growth from just a few undiversified sectors. Although growth prospects are picking up from the 2016 global slump (from 2.2 percent to 4.1 percent in 2018), this is far from sufficient and well short of the SDGs' growth target (7 percent). The continent needs to make the right investments in productive capacities to make an impact on its socio-economic development pathway. Africa's growing population, its youth 'bulge' and plentiful natural resources can benefit and power the continent's development once constraints to growth are removed.

Belkacem Ouzrourou, OFID

Without question, one of the main challenges is the continent's infrastructure gap. Good and well maintained infrastructure, especially transport, energy,



PHOTO: LAMINE BAL

Eunice Kamwendo, UNDP Africa SDG Policy Advisor



Belkacem Ouzrourou, OFID Director, Africa Region

“It is estimated that closing the infrastructure gap in Africa would need about US\$90 to US\$110 billion annually.”

*Belkacem Ouzrourou,
OFID Director,
Africa Region*



PHOTO: THE WORLD BANK

Dr Albert G Zeufack, the World Bank's Chief Economist for Africa

and water and sanitation, is critical for the attainment of the SDGs. Indeed, sub-standard roads, ports and airports add to the cost of producing and exporting, and provide obstacles to regional and global trade. About 600 million Africans lack access to electricity and more than 80 percent of them rely on biomass as their main source of energy. Also, access to water and sanitation is a major issue, particularly in rural areas. It is estimated that closing the infrastructure gap in Africa would need about US\$90 to US\$110 billion annually. This inhibits economic growth and means that development is more difficult. But where there is a challenge, there is also an opportunity. Infrastructure projects are attracting development institutions such as ourselves as well as other private partners (as an example, during the last three years, OFID alone has approved about US\$745 million for the development of infrastructure in Africa). This is necessary because governments alone can't shoulder the responsibility for such a huge gap in funding. They have other focus areas too, such as carefully managing external debt to keep it at sustainable levels.

Dr Albert G Zeufack, World Bank

The good news is that growth is rebounding in sub-Saharan Africa. The region's GDP growth is projected to reach between 3.1 and 3.5 percent in 2018, and to average 3.6 percent in 2019–20. While this growth rate is still far from the average of the past two decades, it's a clear relief from 2016 when sub-Saharan Africa only grew at 1.3 percent. African governments, especially those in oil rich countries where growth is still sluggish, must speed up and deepen macroeconomic and structural reforms. Oil-producing countries will also need to pay particular attention to the challenging task of diversifying their economies to reduce growth volatility. In addition, recent major political changes in key countries like Ethiopia, Angola or South Africa, are an opportunity to revive reforms and boost investors' confidence and growth. However, some challenges remain. First, African countries need to pay attention to the rising public debt relative to GDP. This is very important as the composition of debt has changed, with countries shifting away from traditional concessional sources of financing and toward more market-based ones. In March 2018, 18 countries were classified at high-risk of debt distress compared with eight in 2013. A second challenge is that African countries must equip the 11 million youth who will enter the job market every year for the next decade with the right skills and training. Investing in human capital will be a key factor of success. Harnessing the potential of new technologies and fully embracing innovation perhaps represents the biggest opportunity of all for Africa. ▶

◀ On Africa's progress toward the UN SDGs and Africa's own Agenda 2063... (see page 13)

Eunice Kamwendo, UNDP

There are reasons to be optimistic for the future if the right investments are made within and across countries geared toward the achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Investments in developing Africa's infrastructure and industrializing its agriculture sector will create sufficient jobs for the majority of Africans and could reduce widespread poverty on the continent (41 percent in 2016). Progress is being seen in other indicators such as overall human development in education, health and gender; and in governance. Challenges remain with regard to food security, access to energy, infrastructure development, reducing inequalities, maintaining sustainable cities and conservation of the environment.

Belkacem Ouzrourou, OFID

The SDGs comprise ambitious targets – as does Africa's own development agenda. On the up side, Africa has enormous assets for addressing its sustainable development requirements. These include a young and enterprising population, natural resources, fast-growing and dynamic economies and rapid urbanization. But it must capitalize on these assets. Launching *Africa's Development Dynamics 2018* report, Victor Harison, Commissioner of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission, was quoted as saying: "...far too often, public policies have failed to leverage these assets effectively. The implementation of the reform program as set out in Agenda 2063 requires an increase in government capacities, greater responsibility, transparency, coordination and the promotion of institutional action." The report proposed there was still significant work to do on sustainable economic development, social development (including to expand and improve education) and on strengthening institutions (including broad ranging strategic aims, like improving Africa's partnerships with the rest of the world).

"Among several possible examples, I would mention the global leadership taken by Kenya in mobile banking, the great innovation in the use of drones to deliver medical products in Rwanda, or the start-up Hello Tractor that provides an 'Uber-like' solution to tractor shortages in Nigeria."

*Dr Albert G Zeufack,
the World Bank's Chief
Economist for Africa*

On 'shining stars' in Africa...

Eunice Kamwendo, UNDP

Overall, North Africa's performance is better (looking at aggregate development indicators) when compared with sub-Saharan Africa, although there are instances, depending on the indicator one is looking at, that other sub-regions within Africa are also doing well. For example, although economic growth was subdued in all regions in 2015, West Africa outperformed all the other sub-regions (including North Africa) in Africa. This achievement was buoyed by strong performances in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Togo; and this in spite of downturns in Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Strong growth rates in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania also shored up East Africa's growth prospects to an average of 6.76 percent in the same year. On the other hand, while the GDP growth rate for North Africa was very low as a region at -2.8 percent in 2014, robust growth in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco pushed the regional average up to 3.4 percent in 2015. Similar examples exist in other indicators (like education, health and inequalities, among others) showing the different progress within sub-regions and across countries.

Belkacem Ouzrourou, OFID

There are many shining stars. Rwanda has been able to make important economic and structural reforms, and sustain its economic growth rates over the last decade. These growth rates have been accompanied by substantial improvements in living standards. Ethiopia's economy experienced strong, broad-based growth averaging 10.3 percent a year from 2005/06 to 2015/16, compared to a regional average of 5.4 percent*. Again, economic growth brought positive trends in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas. In 2000, 55.3 percent of Ethiopians lived in extreme poverty; by 2011 this figure was 33.5 percent*. There are many more success stories, such as Botswana, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Côte D'Ivoire, which has followed a National Development Plan designed to transform the country into a middle-income economy by 2020 and further reduce the poverty rate. These countries need to sustain the focus and momentum and inspire those around them.

**Figures from the World Bank*

Bill Gates on Africa

As this magazine was going to press, the UK's *The Guardian* newspaper carried an article entitled 'What worries Bill Gates most?' The answer? The booming population of Africa, which "looms over his foundation's latest global survey". By the end of this century, the newspaper reported, there will be four billion more people on Earth – and three billion of these extra people will be born in Africa. The challenge, according to Bill Gates, is that "Africa must almost quadruple its agricultural productivity to feed itself. That's very daunting."

Dr Albert G Zeufack, World Bank

Among several possible examples, I would mention the global leadership taken by Kenya in mobile banking, the great innovation in the use of drones to deliver medical products in Rwanda, or the start-up Hello Tractor that provides an 'Uber-like' solution to tractor shortages in Nigeria. These examples need to be scaled-up across Africa to boost productivity across and within sectors,

and accelerate growth. In terms of country examples, Ethiopia's growth remains high, as government-led infrastructure investment continues. The strides toward export diversification in Ethiopia are also worth noting. Appropriate macroeconomic and structural policies must continue to be implemented to sustain this effort. Rwanda has also invested significantly in infrastructure and implementing policies to transform the country into a knowledge-based, service economy. Finally, solid growth, supported by infrastructure investment, continues in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), led by Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

On how the international community can support Africa...

Eunice Kamwendo, UNDP

Africa's development vision is well articulated through Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The international community's support needs to align to such analysis and visions to realize the much-needed transformative shifts within Africa. To this end, critical support would have to be channeled toward the following: financing, investments, technology transfer and partnerships to support infrastructure development and industrialization; domestic resource mobilization efforts through policy advice and other special support measures (including international trade) to crowd in domestic resources and expand African countries' fiscal spaces; overseas development aid, since a lot of countries still need such support (like catalytic financing); and targeted financing for resilience building to strengthen institutions and deal with climate change, health-related outbreaks and other shocks.

Belkacem Ouzrourou, OFID

Support of the international community alone will not be sufficient. It is imperative that more domestic resources from both private and public sectors be mobilized. In 2017, my organization, OFID, approved more than US\$913 million for development projects in Africa. A good proportion of this financing supported international trade and infrastructure – two essential ingredients for socio-economic development. OFID is also clear that rather than driving a mandate, it will act in response to the priorities of developing countries. This means the onus is on the leaders and governments of individual African countries to design their development plans and define investment priorities correctly. Capacity building is also important to ensure that development operations are successfully implemented and, once completed, they are properly managed in order to ensure their long-term sustainability.

Africa: A continent of many countries



■ Northern Africa

Algeria
Egypt
Libya
Morocco
Sudan
Tunisia

■ Western Africa

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cabo Verde
Côte d'Ivoire
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo

■ Middle Africa

Angola
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
DR Congo
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Sao Tome and Principe

■ Eastern Africa

Burundi
Comoros
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Réunion
Rwanda

Seychelles
Somalia
South Sudan
Uganda
Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

■ Southern Africa

Botswana
Eswatini
Lesotho
Namibia
South Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa

The designation sub-Saharan Africa is commonly used to indicate all of Africa except northern Africa, with the Sudan included in sub-Saharan Africa.

Please note: this map is for illustration only and is not to be taken as an accurate representation of borders.

Africa's integration into the global economy

Growth

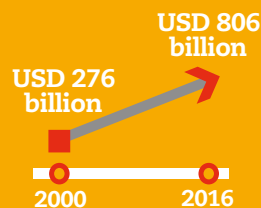
Since 2000, Africa's GDP has tripled



Trade

Africa has diversified its trade partnerships

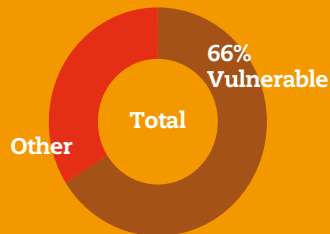
Africa tripled its trade with China, India and other emerging partners



In 2016, Africa's trade with emerging partners accounted for:



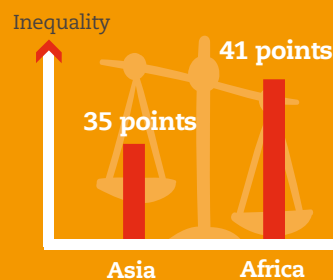
Employment



Agenda 2063's target for vulnerable employment of **41%** by 2023 is still far away

Inequality

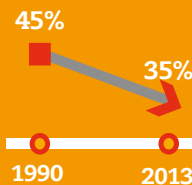
Africa's Gini coefficient average



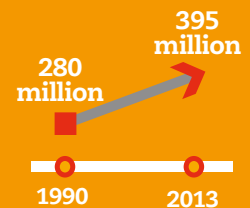
Poverty

Extreme poverty levels decreased, but more people are living on USD 1.90 a day or less

Extreme poverty levels



Extreme poor



Policy options for better growth

Deepening regional integration could boost Africa's GDP by 1%, total employment by 1.2% and intra-African trade by 33%



Helping African producers tap fast-growing domestic markets

Demand for food products alone is expected to triple by 2030



Unlocking private finance for productive investment



Domestic savings

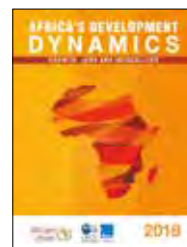
External financial inflows

Africa's development dynamics: A remarkable emergence

This summer, the African Union Commission, working in partnership with the OECD Development Centre, produced its first annual economic report called *Africa's Development Dynamics 2018*. The report's high-level finding was that Africa needs more coherent development strategies that prioritize improved public action to address the growth, employment and inequali-

ties resulting from the continent's "remarkable emergence".

The report found that, among other things, strong domestic demand, progress in the pursuit of macroeconomic policies and efforts to diversify national economies have been "major drivers" of Africa's recent growth, which is forecast to reach 4 percent annually between 2018 and 2020. On the down side, the report finds



that Africa's growth has not created enough decent jobs, and around 282 million people are currently working in unstable employment.

The report intends to play a part in furthering the project to integrate and transform Africa as set out by the adoption of Agenda 2063 in January 2015 and of the Continental Free Trade Area in March 2018 (see page 12).

Africa: Progress on the SDGs and Agenda 2063

The 2017 *Africa Sustainable Development Report** considers regional progress made toward Agenda 2063 and the SDGs since their adoption in 2013 and 2015.

The findings of the report are broadly in line with *Africa's Development Dynamics 2018*: despite the accelerated growth enjoyed over the past decade, progress toward poverty reduction in Africa has been slow. It notes the disproportionate prevalence of poverty among women and youth and highlights the lack of inclusiveness and sustainability of primary commodity driven growth.

Africa's infrastructure deficits are again highlighted, and according to this report, they "...undermine industrial development and underline the stagnation in value addition in manufacturing". Even though value addition in agriculture has been rising, the report states "...it remains substantially low by global standards due in part to limited investments and inefficiencies at

all levels of the agricultural production chain."

Some of the key messages and findings of the report are summarized below.

For more information, please see www.africa.undp.org

1. Slow progress made in reducing poverty and inequality owing to limited decent employment opportunities and weak social insurance mechanisms.
2. Rising food insecurity and undernourishment are a growing concern in Africa (excluding North Africa).
3. Agricultural value added is rising, but remains low, due in part to limited irrigation coverage and declining investment in the sector.
4. Gender disparities in education and national parliaments are declining, but conservative norms and practices are holding back progress.
5. Measures aimed at improving access to contraceptives and skilled birth attendants have reduced adolescent births and child and maternal deaths.



Despite the accelerated growth enjoyed over the past decade, progress toward poverty reduction in Africa has been slow.

6. Enforcing road safety regulations mediates the impact of alcohol consumption on deaths due to road traffic injuries.
7. Weak infrastructure and limited manufacturing value addition are undermining overall job growth.
8. Limited investment in research and development obstructs prospects for innovation and technology development.
9. Significant increases in the coverage of mobile cellular services is an opportunity for social and financial inclusion.

It's worth keeping in mind, however, that the usefulness of the 2017 *Africa Sustainable Development Report*, like many other SDG-related studies, is marred by the availability of data. In its Foreword, the report's publishers acknowledge that: "Approximately six out of every ten SDG indicators cannot be tracked in Africa due to severe data limitations. Strengthening statistical systems in Africa is an imperative for successful implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 as it underpins evidence based policy making."

* By the African Union, Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme

Agenda 2063, the African Continental Free Trade Area and ‘the Africa we want’

In 2015, African leaders adopted **Agenda 2063** as the continent’s new long-term vision for the next 50 years. Led by African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Agenda 2063 aims to optimize the use of Africa’s resources for the benefit of the continent’s people. The NEPAD Agency, the implementing agency of the African Union, has been tasked with fast-tracking the implementation and monitoring of major continental development programs and frameworks, including Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). See www.nepad.org for more.

Close to 50 African Union Member States are reported to have signed the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** in March 2018.

According to the African Union Commission website, the main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of

business people and investments, and pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union. A press release issued by the Union included a prominent note to editors, which read: “The African Continental Free Trade Area Protocol is a Means towards Building the *Africa we want*.”

Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, announced recently that the establishment of the AfCFTA will result in a unified market of over 1.2 billion people with a combined gross product of over US\$3 trillion. He added that it would also result in an increase in intra-African trade of 52 percent by 2022 and culminate in substantial improvements of the lives of Africans.

In a recent interview with *Africa Renewal**, Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD (the main United Nations body dealing with trade, investment and development issues) spoke about what countries stand to gain from AfCFTA and what



The African Continental Free Trade Area Protocol is a means towards building the ‘Africa we want’

challenges to expect. “For Africa, a clear determination to expand trade among ourselves is an important step,” he said. “...Africa trading among its component states strengthens its ability to trade. The experiences gained from that will deliver a greater market share internationally. Africa needs to build the capacity and structural transformation necessary to be a competitive international player. The creation of a continent with a free trade area is therefore an important step towards building, collectively, the competitiveness of African labor and African products internally and internationally.”

* The *Africa Renewal* information program, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. Among the major items it produces is the magazine, *Africa Renewal* (formerly *Africa Recovery*), which first appeared in 1987.

Agenda 2063
is Africa’s
long-term
vision for the
next decades.



Africa's development agendas side by side

AGENDA 2030 GOAL	AGENDA 2063 GOALS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 4. Transformed economies and job creation 5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production 6. Blue / ocean economy for accelerated economic growth 8. United Africa (federal or confederate) 10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa 19. Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens 4. Transformed economies and job creation 5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 8. United Africa (Federal or Confederate) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 8. United Africa (federal or confederate) 16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent 20. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa 12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels 16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation 16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent 17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life 18. Engaged and empowered youth and children 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 4. Transformed economies and job creation 5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels 16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens 5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production 10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa 17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Transformed economies and job creation 6. Blue / ocean economy for accelerated economic growth 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 6. Blue / ocean economy for accelerated economic growth 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities 10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 2. Transformed economies and job creation 12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels 16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent 17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life 18. Engaged and empowered youth and children 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched 12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels 13. Peace, security and stability are preserved 17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life 18. Engaged and empowered youth and children
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all 4. Transformed economies and job creation 10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa 12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels 19. Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence 20. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development



PHOTO: MARCUS ROSE/IAS

Africa, AIDS and a gathering of experts in Amsterdam

Africa is the region most affected by HIV / AIDS. Though it continues to be a major public health problem, the continent (and other regions of the world) has made important progress in prevention and treatment. But human rights violations and discrimination continue to undermine this progress, making Breaking Barriers – Building Bridges, the theme of the recent 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) in Amsterdam, a highly appropriate focus. *OFID Quarterly* Deputy Editor **Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer** reports ...

AIDS 2018 brought together one of the world's largest gatherings of leading HIV experts and heard how, despite groundbreaking medical research and highly-effective prevention and treatment options, gains are slow in reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized populations such as sex workers, migrants, transgender people, drug users, and women and children.

A plenary session organized jointly by OFID, the International AIDS Society (IAS) and the Global Institute for Health and Human Rights brought together top HIV / AIDS-focused legal and medical experts, including Fariba Soltani, a Senior Expert from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Soltani highlighted the gender specific barriers that limit access to life-saving HIV services for women who use drugs – and who are in prisons. These include stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence and lack of gender-responsive services.

Although fewer women use and inject drugs than men – women

account for 20 percent of the global estimate of injecting drug users – in terms of risks, these women have a greater vulnerability to HIV and other blood-borne infections than men*.

Soltani explained that in many countries, the gender-specific needs of women in prisons are not addressed. Many women are pregnant or give birth in prisons; others are incarcerated with their children and limited health services are available.

To help change this situation, she said, it is essential to develop gender-responsive HIV prevention and care programs for these women, including developing and implementing alternatives to imprisonment.

A UNODC project launched in 2008 and supported by OFID (via grants totaling US\$1.2 million) addressed HIV issues among women who use drugs and women in prisons in Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan. This initiative – the first of its kind in these countries – included approaches that: ensured HIV / AIDS policies and programs were gender responsive; supported more humane approaches, such as



Fariba Soltani

alternatives to imprisonment for women; and supported meaningful engagement of civil society and community-based organizations representing women.

One of the project's most notable achievements was its instrumental role in bringing about legal and policy reforms that are being applied in various health care settings in the targeted countries. It is clear that legal and policy reforms and bringing together law enforcement officials, health care workers and other stakeholders to share the responsibility are key to success, noted Soltani.

*UNODC World Drug Report 2018

**OFID
helped
to organize
a plenary
session.**



OFID, AIDS 2018 and beyond

OFID Technical Assistance Grant Officer **Shirin Hashemzadeh** made the opening remarks at the OFID / IAS Special Session at AIDS 2018 (see box). Here, she talks with the *OFID Quarterly* about OFID's involvement in combating HIV / AIDS.

“OFID is a development finance organization that has been in business for 42 years with a mandate to eradicate poverty. We have provided more than US\$22 billion in financing for development projects in over 130 countries around the world, of which US\$664.3 million has been in the form of grants.

We became involved in combating HIV because of its impact on development. At the beginning of the millennium we witnessed how devastating the pandemic was in undoing decades of progress. As a consequence, under special health programs (including HIV / AIDS, non-communicable diseases [NCDs], and neglected tropical diseases [NTDs]), OFID has committed US\$98.9 million to 62 operations across the globe. This represents 25 percent of our total grant commitments.

Jointly with OFID's global partners such as WHO and UNODC, as well as UNAIDS and the International Labor Organization (ILO), we help beneficiary countries accelerate their progress by providing finance to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIV prevention and treatment programs and to support even better prevention methods.

OFID's approach to health projects is in line with the WHO's newly adopted strategy that strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage. We encourage cross sectoral interventions to build on what



Shirin Hashemzadeh

we have already achieved and are also looking to provide a systematic approach to the prevention of hepatitis and other communicable diseases in healthcare settings.

Because our resources represent only a small portion of worldwide funding to combat HIV, we concentrate on areas where existing funds are insufficient and we support cases that aim at ensuring cost-effectiveness for high impact programs in low- and middle-income countries. We support expanding simplified HIV treatments and improved and effective use of interventions to prevent new infections. We finance projects that apply combination treatments and address HIV / AIDS in association with other 'dual epidemic' scenarios such as NCDs and hepatitis B / C.

We will continue our practice of selecting our projects based on their ability to enhance community responses to HIV and supporting grass-roots organizations and communities on the front line (of which women make up about 50 percent). ”

Combating HIV and AIDS in conservative social settings

The IAS in partnership with the Global Institute for Health and Human Rights (GIHHR) with support from OFID held a special session that focused on a 'Call to Action' for governments, lawmakers and stakeholders to remove legal barriers to health and human rights relating to HIV and AIDS care in conservative social settings.

OFID has been supporting initiatives aimed at addressing HIV-related challenges in conservative social settings since 2014. A regional consultation process was launched with the IAS which led to the identification of a range of recommendations presented during the AIDS conferences held in 2014 in Melbourne and in 2016 in Durban.

Building on this, a consultation on HIV in Conservative Social Settings was held in Beirut, Lebanon in January 2018. The special session at the AIDS 2018 conference presented the outcomes of this consultation for discussion.

See bit.ly/ANALYSISTOACTION for more information.

OFID-sponsored delegates share their experiences

OIFD sponsored over 70 delegates from developing countries to attend the Amsterdam conference – the majority were from Africa. Here's what some of them had to say, as told to Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer

Leonarda Pastory

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Tanzania, Coordinator for adolescent and youth-friendly health services

My organization is supporting government efforts to provide HIV / AIDS care and treatment services in 19 countries worldwide. In Tanzania, my organization operates in six areas in the northern and central regions. We provide integrated HIV / AIDS health services that focus on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and providing young children and adolescents with HIV / tuberculosis treatment.

Adolescents, as a special group, are offered access to youth-friendly services including information about sexual and reproductive health and care and treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS. Being at this conference has been very helpful in learning more about dealing with adolescents, as many of them don't have the right information when it comes to these issues.

In my country, discussing these topics is still taboo – many parents are not open with their children – so we are striving to bring health education to schools. Many teachers haven't been ready to accept this – they say this will promote bad behavior. But since Tanzania has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates on the African continent, it's crucial we bridge this gap.

We also have a communication gap with parents. So we first began orienting primary and secondary school teachers about sexual and reproductive health and we've seen some changes in attitudes.

And since the teachers are close to the parents, it's easier to arrange for a meeting with them together with our health service providers. Now, the providers can come to the schools and offer health education, including family planning, and teachers can direct the students to additional services, such as HIV care and treatment at the nearest health facility.

What's most important is to engage with the parents and empower adolescents. So we've planned meeting parents and children to discuss what kind of support is needed. We're seeing adolescents facing challenges in adhering



PHOTOS: ORIDANNA ILARIA-MAYRHOEFER



"In my country discussing these topics is still taboo."

Leonarda Pastory

to their antiretroviral regime – particularly when they are away at boarding school. In one of my projects, therefore, we're organizing forums among parents / caregivers, health service providers, counselors and social workers to discuss how we can best support these children.

I'm glad these issues are being highlighted at this conference. I've been happy to see how engaged the young people are – they are open, free and eager to gain access to sexual rights, education, reproductive services. At one session [#PassTheMic: Meaningful youth participation in the fight against HIV] panelists were very expressive when describing their work with adolescents. In fact, this has given me the inspiration to create a WhatsApp group for young people to interact with one another – to ask questions and get the information they need. This will be the first thing that I do when I return home.



Patience Atuhaire

Makerere University, Johns Hopkins Research, Uganda

I'm a study coordinator and medical officer involved in HIV and tuberculosis (TB) research trials. During the conference I hope to gain knowledge about new anti-retroviral therapy (ART) strategies for women and children and about the drugs' safety – especially their interaction with drugs used for treating TB. This will help me with the management, follow-up and severe adverse event reporting of clinical trial participants.

My current work focuses on women and children as they are particularly vulnerable in low resource settings. Most of the time they have no one to look after them; they are trying to cope with different socioeconomic problems and from time to time need a hand. This includes advising them about their drug regimens, discussing interventions regarding the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, counseling, issues regarding breast-feeding and nutrition. In Uganda, we have very high rates of stunting among children...this isn't just due to HIV but under-nutrition in general.

At AIDS 2018, I've been attending sessions relating to policy, science and biomedical innovations. What has amazed me about the conference is its diversity – the global village and all these different advocacy groups. This brings an interesting aspect to the management of HIV / AIDS as we often get stuck in the scientific aspects.

The sponsorship has been very important to me – I've met researchers from across the African continent; from the US and Europe; professors from different universities; and people doing research similar to mine. If it wasn't ►

◀ for this conference I'd never have had the chance to meet them. Collaborations are very important – I've been able to interact with these experts in the field and this has helped me gain more knowledge regarding the different successes and challenges in my area of research.



Maliness Banda
Baylor College of
Medicine, Children's
Foundation, Malawi

I'm a life skills coach / counselor working with children and adolescents living with HIV. One of our projects is a special 'Teen Club' initiative where fully disclosed, HIV-affected adolescents

meet at a designated health facility once a month – on Saturdays, so they don't miss school. We bring them together to teach them about their health, refill their anti-retrovirals (ARTs) and help them cope with psychosocial issues – and also to just have fun.

We also provide counseling through a special teen hotline so they can immediately seek help. As counselors, we are specially trained to help them in difficult situations. Some of the issues they are experiencing relate to being stigmatized and bullied or being kicked out of their homes – as well as experiencing sexual assault.

Those facing stigmatization at school are encouraged to stay in school. We try to empower them...to give them hope and tell them to 'let it go' and focus on their education. In one case, a high school student was suffering from such severe stress and depression that she was contemplating suicide after her classmates saw her taking her ARTs and began bullying her. Fortunately, she called us and we had her come to the clinic so we could talk to her. Then we, along with our social workers, spoke with school management and eventually we helped her transfer to another school so she could have a fresh start.

At Baylor, we're working with around 800 adolescents living with HIV. We tell them that they can do anything and to not let their HIV status define their future. And they've been doing very well.

Full disclosure is crucial; we had a case where a young man wasn't aware that he was HIV positive. His parents had told him the ARTs were for his asthma. After finding out accidentally from a classmate who was also involved in our program what the drugs were actually for, he became furious with his parents. His mother called our hotline and we worked to resolve the conflict. It wasn't easy.

At this conference they've gone over similar issues that will really help make a difference in my work. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity. ■

U=U

HELPING TO CHANGE PERCEPTIONS – AND LIVES

At first glance, it looks like an abstract slogan. But U=U, or Undetectable = Untransmittable, is a key public health message coined by the Prevention Access Campaign – a global health equity initiative that will change the way society views those living with HIV.

The campaign aims to broadcast a simple message to all: people with HIV can live long, healthy lives, and not worry about passing on their infection, so long as they receive the correct treatment. U=U aims to reduce stigma and discrimination, and the science supporting the initiative is changing the lives of millions of people living with HIV.

Prevention Access Campaign, an ever-growing global community of researchers, scientists, activists, advocates and community partners, launched a Consensus Statement in 2017 that has been endorsed by more than 700 organizations in 100 countries as well as a number of leading experts in the medical community: *People living with HIV on ART [anti-retrovirals] with an undetectable viral load in their blood have a negligible risk of sexual transmission of HIV...*

The statement is backed up by an extensive range of studies that analyzed viral loads in 'semidiscordant' partners (an HIV positive individual with a HIV negative partner). Data from both heterosexual and homosexual couples were studied. Results revealed zero transmission rates to HIV negative partners – as long as the HIV positive individuals had low viral loads and had been taking their daily ARTs for a minimum of six months.

World-renown infectious disease expert Dr Anthony Fauci, Director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Institute of Health states: "From a practical standpoint, the risk is zero ... the science really does verify and validate that U=U."

Such groundbreaking news deserves the spotlight, and AIDS 2018 helped publicize the campaign, with a pre-conference session 'U=U 2018: Celebrate, activate and implement!'

The well-respected medical publication *The Lancet* puts it this way: "U=U is a simple but hugely important campaign based on a solid foundation of scientific evidence. It has already been successful in influencing public opinion, causing more people with HIV (and their friends and families) to comprehend that they can live long, healthy lives, have children, and never have to worry about passing on their infection to others."

Read more about the Prevention Access Campaign:
www.preventionaccess.org

Africa and health: Leaders are accountable, says WHO Director-General

BY STEVE HUGHES

WHO leader calls for political commitment to improve health in Africa

Reviewing progress made by African countries in tackling major public health issues – particularly neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – and achieving universal health coverage were among agenda items in Dakar, Senegal, at the 68th session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa. The WHO also presented its ongoing and planned work in the aforementioned areas, as well as measures to ensure a more effective response to partner countries' needs and how it will help increase preparedness to cope with recurrent outbreaks of diseases such as Ebola.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the event that brings together health ministers from the 47 Member States in the WHO African Region, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus identified political commitment, partnership and a transformed WHO as key to improving the health and wellbeing of all people in the world, especially in Africa.

"It's you as political leaders who are accountable for the decisions you make and the results you achieve," he said. "WHO's role is to give you the best support we can." He reminded delegates that to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is a need for innovative, dynamic and purposeful partnerships. According to Dr Tedros, the achievement of SDG 3 on good health and



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

PHOTO: WHO

"It's you as political leaders who are accountable for the decisions you make and the results you achieve."

wellbeing will be through effective coordination of collective efforts.

"It will not happen if all of us just do our own thing," he said. "It will not happen if fragmentation and duplication continue. But it can happen if we work together. It can happen if the arrays of actors on the global health stage leverage their collective strength."

Dr Tedros noted that there were achievements to celebrate, but also challenges in the area of universal health coverage*. "Many countries are taking bold steps towards universal health coverage," he said, naming South Africa, Madagascar and Rwanda as member states that have made tremendous progress.

Dr Tedros also warned delegates that if nothing is done about the shortage of health workers now, the world will face a huge gap of 18 million of such by 2030, and six million of these will be in Africa.

* Universal health coverage is defined as ensuring that all people have access to required health services of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.

New WHO report finds big health gains in Africa

A new report by the WHO, launched at the Regional Committee for Africa meeting, shows a high improvement in health in the region. However, this achievement can only be sustained and expanded if countries significantly improve the way they deliver essential health services to the people who need them most, it says.

The *State of Health in Africa* report shows there has been a significant improvement in health in Africa, with healthy life expectancy – time spent in full health – increasing from 50.9 years to 53.8 between 2012 and 2015. This is the most marked increase of any region in the world.

The top killers in Africa are still lower respiratory infections, HIV and diarrheal disease and countries have focused on prevention and treatment with the result of a significant decline in deaths attributable to these diseases. Overall, the report notes, there has been a 50 percent reduction in the burden of disease caused by what have been the top 10 killers since 2000 and death rates have dropped from 87.7 to 51.1 deaths per 100,000 persons between 2000 and 2015.

This trend is continuing, with emerging data on healthy life expectancy showing a continued improvement. However, the report shows that chronic diseases like heart disease and cancer are now claiming more lives. A person aged between 30 and 70 in the region now has a one-in-five chance of dying from a non-communicable disease. It also notes that countries are failing to provide essential services to two critical age groups – adolescents and the elderly.

Health security in Africa

Welcoming delegates, WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti wrote: “Our continent faces a number of public health issues which challenge health security in the region, including the ongoing Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We have been able to respond to these challenges in a timely and robust manner because of the excellent collaboration of the Member States, our partners and donors.”

Dr Moeti emphasized that in Africa, universal health coverage (UHC) is an urgent requirement to the attainment of good health for all people as highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal 3:



Dr Matshidiso Moeti

“We applaud efforts by several Member States that have taken steps to improve public finance management

“Our continent faces a number of public health issues.”

Dr Matshidiso Moeti

which is one of the critical ways to progress towards UHC. The WHO African Region Secretariat is determined to support its Member States towards the attainment of UHC given our mandate and comparative advantage.”

Drawing attention to the “rapid increase in non-communicable diseases in many African countries”, Dr Moeti called for urgent action. “The good news is that the underlying causes of this problem such as tobacco use, physical inactivity, poor diets and harmful use of alcohol are well known. I urge member states to take deliberate and sustained actions to address these risk factors.”

OFID and WHO

OFID’s Head of Grants and Technical Assistance Dr Walid Mehalaine, who attended the Dakar event, explains the nature of OFID’s relationship with WHO and explains some of the meeting’s focus areas...

“OFID’s relationship with the WHO began nearly four decades ago when we extended a US\$2 million grant in support of one of the earliest initiatives to contain river blindness. Most recently, OFID signed a US\$1 million grant agreement with WHO to support the elimination of neglected tropical diseases.

This meeting is addressing some important Africa-related issues such as tackling disease outbreaks (not limited to Ebola, but also cholera and other communicable and preventable diseases), strengthening national health systems and achieving universal health coverage. One key aspect we have focused on is regional and transboundary cooperation, and how partners and donors could make their assistance to the continent more effective.

On a related matter, and while acknowledging budgetary constraints, WHO called on national governments to fulfil their commitments to allocate more domestic resources to the financing of the health sector, in order to reduce dependence on foreign aid.

This is a welcome development that should contribute to increasing countries’ ownership and the sustainability of their investments in the health sector.

To conclude, I found this event, which OFID attended for the first time, very useful in terms of not only keeping abreast of the latest developments in the health sector on the African continent, but also – and most importantly – in hearing the voice of the main stakeholders: partner countries themselves. In this regard, the meeting demonstrated that WHO is responsive to the needs of African countries and encouraging them to take more responsibility in national efforts toward tackling public health issues.”



OFID’s Dr Mehalaine



Africa, energy and the view from space

By Sasaenia Paul Oluwabunmi MIET PMP,
Operations Officer at OFID and
Gabriel Hurtado González MEng CEng MIET,
Energy Solutions Manager at Mitie

Satellite images released by NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) show Africa, seen from space at night, as almost completely unlit. The continent of more than one billion people appears as dark as Siberia, home to far fewer people. Africa's 1.2 billion people account for approximately 16 percent of the world's population, but the continent generates only about 4 percent of global electricity. Approximately 620 million of its people live without access to electricity.

Energy experts have opined that in order to achieve the targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy by 2030, sub-Saharan Africa should have an annual electrification growth rate of between 8 and 9 percent. The current growth rate is somewhere between 3 and 5 percent. As of 2017, more than 60 percent of people in sub-Saharan Africa had no access to electricity.

While the afore-mentioned figures may sound gloomy, an analysis of Africa energy ►

◀ trends shows that although Africa is not where it *should* be in terms of access, it's definitely in a better place than it was.

Three decades ago, based on data sources from the World Bank, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), the percentage of sub-Saharan Africa's population with access to electricity was just 23.4 percent, compared with about 42.8 percent today. This is a remarkable improvement, especially given that the annual population growth rate for sub-Saharan Africa was approximately 2.7 percent over the analysis period.

Despite these improvements, Africa – and sub-Saharan Africa in particular – has a highly underdeveloped energy sector compared with other continents. This is worrying on economic grounds (as well as on other socio-economic indicator bases). McKinsey and Company's analysis of the growth potential of the sub-Saharan Africa region shows that countries with electrification rates of less than 80 percent of the population consistently suffer from reduced GDP per capita. Figure 1 shows the relationship between electricity consumption and GDP – lower access / consumption points to lower GDP per capita.

More concerning still is that due to huge population growth, increas-

The next few years will be crucial for Africa's energy sector.

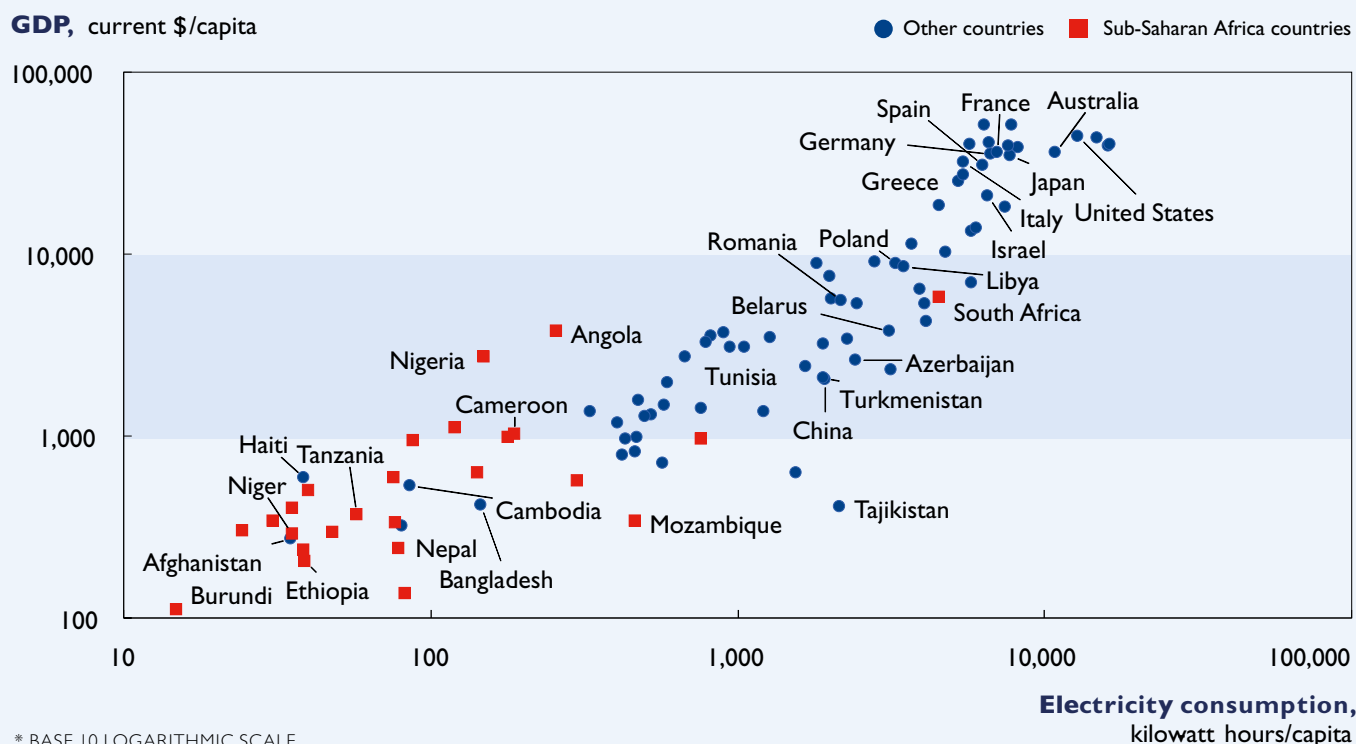
ing urbanization and other factors, by 2040 sub-Saharan Africa is projected to be ranked fourth globally in terms of energy demand per capita (out-ranked only by the US, China and the European Union – see Figure 2). Where will this energy come from?

A ray of hope

The next few years will be crucial for Africa's energy sector. According to African Energy Live Data, the installed energy capacity on the entire African continent is predicted to increase by about 50 percent over the next five years and this trend is expected to continue. Most of this expansion is expected to come from liquid fuel fired projects and gas power stations.

Figure 1

Relationship between electricity consumption and GDP,* 2011



SOURCE: IHS ECONOMICS; INTERNATIONAL ENERGY STATISTICS, US ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, 2013, EIA.GOV

GRAPH INITIALLY SOURCED FROM MCKINSEY & COMPANY; BRIGHTER AFRICA – THE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF THE SUB-SAHARAN ELECTRICITY SECTOR

Figure 2

Electricity consumption, terawatt-hours p.a., 2010

		Consumption/capita, kilowatt-hours
United States	3,962	13,395
China	3,557	2,944
European Union	3,035	6,264
Sub-Saharan Africa 2040	1,570	989
Japan	996	8,394
Latin America	841	1,961
India	760	626
Canada	522	15,137
Brazil	426	2,381
Sub-Saharan Africa	423	514

SOURCE: KEY WORLD ENERGY STATISTICS, ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, 2013, IEA.ORG; WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS, WORLD BANK GROUP, WORLDBANK.ORG
GRAPH INITIALLY SOURCED FROM MCKINSEY & COMPANY: BRIGHTER AFRICA – THE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF THE SUB-SAHARAN ELECTRICITY SECTOR

But renewables are expected to play an integral part in Africa's energy space in the longer term, with their share in the energy mix projected to reach more than 20 percent over the next five years. Solar photovoltaic (PV) and micro-hydro are currently the most popular renewable technologies in Africa, with each accounting for approximately one percent of the overall energy mix. These technologies are expected to lead the African renewable market over the next few decades.

The predicted prominence of solar PV and micro-hydro is in part down to their abundance¹, but more

¹ Compared to other continents, Africa has the highest hours of sunlight per year.

significantly, because both technologies can be deployed easily as off-grid and mini-grid solutions, removing the bottlenecks associated with connecting to national infrastructure.

Out of the dark

African Energy Live Data shows that East Africa has outlined an ambitious plan to increase its potential for energy trading and foster growth in off-grid electricity. West and South Africa currently have several power stations (with a combined capacity of about 14 GW) under construction. North Africa (especially Egypt and Algeria) is currently developing the continent's largest power stations, with a total

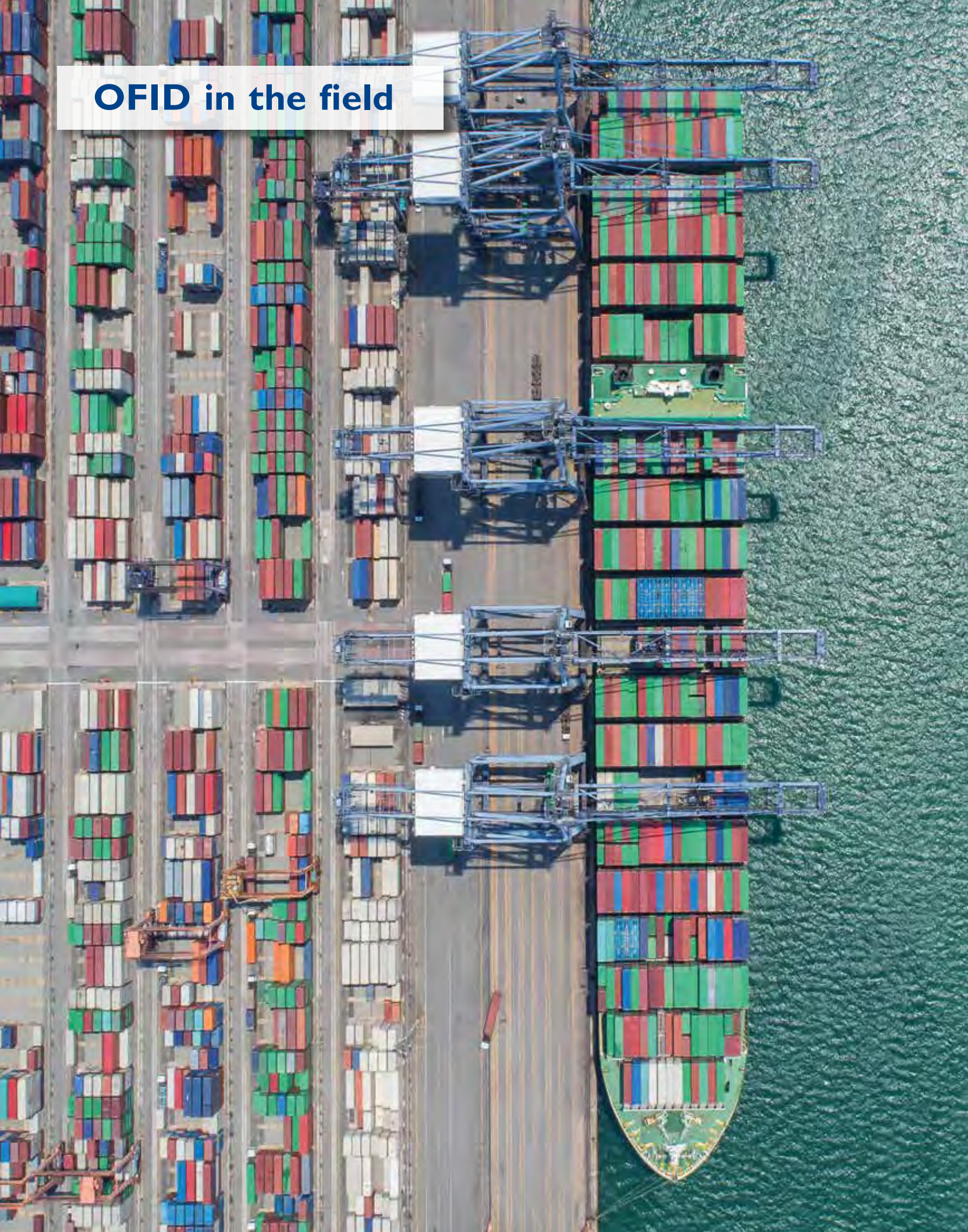
expected installed capacity of about 30 GW. And several countries in Central Africa have plans to construct small and medium-scale power projects with a total combined capacity of about 900 MW.

Despite the current situation, the energy landscape in Africa is promising. Liquid fuel fired projects and gas powered stations are expected to shape the future of Africa's energy baseload, while renewables will play a strategic part, especially in remote and rural areas.

If current energy projects continue as planned – with private sector participation mixed with good public sector policies – Africa's future could be bright; even when viewed from space. ■

Despite the current situation, the energy landscape in Africa is promising.

OFID in the field



Moving millions of metric tons

International trade is widely acknowledged to expand overall material wellbeing. So Africa is working hard to improve its record.

BY STEVE HUGHES

While Africa is home to six out of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, it accounts for only around three percent of global trade¹. Big gaps in infrastructure and access to finance still pose major hurdles. Intra-trade among African countries also remains disappointing, with high tariffs representing continual deterrents (see page 12 for news on Africa's Continental Free Trade Area).

OFID has long supported trade in Africa. In 2017 alone, OFID approved US\$425 million to support international trade on the continent. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Gambia, Senegal and Tunisia were among the beneficiary countries.

Two recent commitments that highlight OFID's focus in Africa are the US\$40 million the organization contributed to a revolving trade financing facility for Export Trading Group (ETG) – one of Africa's largest agricultural conglomerates – and a US\$60 million loan agreement with the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB) specifically in support of international trade (see page 45 for more on the TDB loan).

ETG's operations span procurement, processing, warehousing, transport, distribution and mer-

chandising. The company prides itself on connecting smallholder farmers to the global economy and the global economy back to smallholder farmers through a value chain that operates between the farm gates of emerging markets and supermarket shelves around the world. The OFID co-funded lending facility – led by Standard Chartered Bank – will help the various sub-Saharan African subsidiaries of the group import and export agricultural commodities.

ETG Chief Treasury Officer Anish Jain confirms that the main challenge to agricultural trade in Africa – like trade more generally – is poor infrastructure. But a lack of 'know-how' can slow things down, too. "We're often talking about moving millions of metric tons of soft commodities from landlocked countries to on-shore countries where they can be exported to international markets," he says. "Since the farmers lack logistics, a lot of the time their produce is limited to being sold in their own country, or even in the village or street where they are farming."

Jain says it's the role of commodity players such as ETG (backed by the likes of OFID) to help mobilize commodities and provide the means of getting them to market where ►

¹ According to the ITFC

◀ farmers can receive the best prices for their crop. “We can help in other ways too,” adds Jain. “We advise on what type of fertilizer to use, how harvesting can be improved, how to store crops most efficiently and how to improve yields.”

ETG runs what it calls a Farmers Foundation – a non-profit organization established in 2013 that seeks to establish meaningful partnerships with the public and private sectors to support smallholder farmers in the ways mentioned above. “We now engage with more than 40,000 farmers in different districts,” Jain says. “Research shows that the arable land available for cultivation and the number of individual farmers who can work that land make Africa an ideal region for global food production.”

“But we need to help address the challenges,” he continues. “Market buyers, government agencies, research and development institutions, donor organizations, transportation companies, farming technology companies and investors all need to play a part in making it happen.”

Much of OFID’s work in Africa is undertaken in partnership with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), which aims to ‘catalyze’ trade across Africa, and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. “Through the strategic partnership with OFID and other key financiers, ITFC targets to achieve an annual financing of US\$1 billion in sub-Saharan Africa by 2019,” says ITFC’s Nasser Al-Thekair, GM Trade and Business Development. “In addition, going forward, ITFC plans to scale up its interventions across the entire African continent to exceed the US\$11 billion already achieved from 2008 to 2017. This is expected to support ITFC’s pursuit to be the financier of choice in the region.”

Africa holds substantial growth potential in trade, Al-Thekair explains. “There are several challenges.



Anish Jain, ETG Treasury Officer

Through collaboration between OFID and ITFC, these challenges can easily be turned into opportunities. Already, the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB – see next page) presents an example of collaboration to unlock trade potentials and opportunities.

“One of the main requirements in Africa is the enhancement of knowledge and skills,” Al-Thekair continues. “For this reason, the AATB includes capacity building on trade matters as one of the main objectives and the action plan includes several capacity development interventions.”

The benefits of trade are well documented: it allows countries to specialize in producing what they do best; it makes markets bigger – enabling research and development spending, for example; it leads to the ‘survival of the fittest’ as less efficient producers either exit the market or improve; and it encourages contact with foreign companies and governments, often leading to cooperation and new ideas.

As John Van Reenen, an economist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), said in a recent interview with *The Economist*: “... free trade increases the size of the pie. The overall amount of material

wellbeing expands. But just because the size of the pie expands, it doesn’t mean that everyone is better off.” In the longer term, Van Reenen argues, education systems and social systems should guard against the negative consequences of trade by making people more resilient to shocks, so that if they are “hit by tough times, they can reskill and move around more easily to cope”.

OFID is optimistic about the power of trade to boost economic and social development in Africa. But the organization is cognizant of other priorities and supporting factors, too. This is why it continues to provide support to build essential infrastructure and strengthen social services. OFID’s work is people-centered, focusing on projects that meet basic needs – such as food, energy, clean water and sanitation, healthcare and education – with the aim of encouraging self-reliance and inspiring hope for the future.



Nasser Al Thekair, ITFC

PHOTO: 35STUDIO.COM

OFID's relationship with ITFC

In terms of trade development, OFID and ITFC enjoy a strategic partnership and collaboration mechanism through several platforms. The two organizations are collaborating directly under the Arab Coordination Group for Enhancing Cooperation on Trade Finance and Export Credit Insurance. Over the last 10 years, OFID and ITFC have supported over 70 trade

finance transactions in 23 partner countries, with a strong focus on Africa, providing these countries with innovative trade finance solutions to support their economic development. OFID and ITFC continue to support partner countries by facilitating the import and export requirements of a range of products, including petroleum and agricultural products, and helping partner countries with inventory and work-

OFID and ITFC have supported over 70 trade finance transactions in 23 partner countries.

ing capital needs. OFID is also a contributor to, and a founding member of, the Governing Board of the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program, which was designed and launched by the ITFC in collaboration with other institutions. AATB aims to enhance trade relations between the two regions through trade-related technical assistance interventions, as well as trade development projects. ■

Good health is thirsty work

Kiosks to provide affordable drinking water – and jobs – to vulnerable populations in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal

BY STEVE HUGHES



PHOTO: SWISS FRESH WATER

Around 12 million people live in the Senegal River basin – an area that covers around 337,000 km².

During the seven months of the dry season, rainfall averages only 2.5 mm per month, and daily temperatures can reach over 38 degrees Celsius*. Many poor rural communities living in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal – part of the basin – still lack access to safe drinking water. Population growth and human activity – including farming, industry and mining –

have contributed to the pollution and contamination of existing water sources, negatively impacting people's health.

Working with Swiss Fresh Water, the Access to Water Foundation (A2W) and local partners, OFID has provided a grant of US\$800,000 (toward the total project cost of US\$1,690,000) to improve access to safe drinking water in the region. The proposed project is a scale-up of an initiative successfully implemented in four regions of Senegal from 2011 to 2016.

“Safe water access is restricted in Senegal”

Badara Diom, Djirnda Mayor and President of A2W Senegal, says: “As in many countries of the world, safe water access is restricted in Senegal. In the Senegal River region more precisely, the main issues are that the water coming from different sources such as boreholes, rivers, public networks and wells is most of the time contaminated which means the population suffers from illnesses such as diarrhea, hypertension, kidney diseases and so on. In addition to the negative ►

* Figures according to the World Bank.



Phili, a female kiosk manager, Senegal

◀ health effects, this has a strong impact on absenteeism at school and work, and on life quality, and can push people from remote areas to migrate to cities.”

OFID’s Head of Grants and Technical Assistance Dr Walid Mehalaine says: “The two-year project is expected to benefit approximately 250,000 people directly and create 300 local job opportunities. We’re aiming to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases and improve living conditions significantly.”

Dr Mehalaine says that water treatment machines installed in ‘kiosks’ will produce drinking water from brackish, polluted or salty water, and these kiosks will sell the safe water at an affordable price – 1.5 US cents – per liter. This is much cheaper than bottled water or water sold in plastic bags by local shops or

private vendors. Around 100 water treatment machines are planned: 25 machines in both Mali and Mauritania, and 50 machines in Senegal. The project will also train local technicians and water kiosk managers.

A2W Project Manager Clémence Langone explains: “Each kiosk instal-

lation can generate around three direct jobs, to manage, administer, market, deliver and clean the facility. Some indirect jobs can also be created around the kiosk due to its daily activity: water can be used for fish cleaning, fruit juice production, etc. We are now setting up training sessions particularly dedicated to women and youth to teach them all these jobs.”

Renaud de Watteville, A2W Founder, says: “The first phase of the program in Senegal generated a lot of satisfaction and made a real and measurable impact thanks to the monitoring of each machine via the internet. Because of this, there is much demand for better access to clean water in Senegal. Every week, A2W receives new requests for help from developing countries in Africa and other parts of the world.” ■

About the project partners

The project will be implemented by Access to Water Foundation – a Swiss-based organization established by Swiss Fresh Water (SFW) in 2012. SFW was established in 2008 and is based in Switzerland. It has designed and developed decentralized desalination water treatment machines successfully tested in Senegal. Local partners will be engaged to encourage ownership and sustainability.

Sparking educational reform in Uganda

Vocational education project supports growing industrial, agricultural and commercial sectors.

BY JUSTINE WÜRTZ

Some 10 years ago, the Ugandan government initiated a program of education reform to promote professional training for young people. Known as the Vocational Education Program and driven by a growing demand for skilled workers, it has so far produced nine higher-learning colleges, each in a different region of the country.

OFID has supported this program with two public sector loans: the first loan of US\$22.9 million in 2009 helped finance the initial stages of construction; and a further loan of US\$14.3 million in 2015 is helping to expand capacity and drive quality teaching.

The technical and vocational education provided by these schools is essential to equip workers for



Uganda's growing industrial, agricultural and commercial sectors. By facilitating access to specialized training, the government is also addressing high unemployment rates and low income levels.

The nine colleges offer a spectrum of courses ranging from building

A student graduation ceremony.

and construction, through catering and computer applications, to fashion design and hairdressing. Enrolment across all courses is gender neutral – 50 percent of students are women and 50 percent men.

Solomon Amieyeofori, now retired but formerly OFID's country officer for Uganda, led OFID's cooperation with the Ugandan government on this project and praises the commitment to education reform and the successful completion of Phase 1. Sasaenia Paul Oluwabunmi has taken on the OFID mantle from Amieyeofori: "As an African, I understand the challenge of youth unemployment across the continent," he says.

"It's satisfying to see the objectives of this project already being achieved," Oluwabunmi continues, looking at a photograph of recent graduates from the Nawanyago Technical Institute. In August, 228 students graduated from this institute – one of the nine new facilities – in the Kamuli District of Uganda. These young graduates will be among the first wave of professionals to benefit from the country-wide program and have much better prospects than before.

"I hope this program becomes a model for other African countries," says Oluwabunmi. ■



Students in one of the new workshops.

PHOTOS: UGANDA VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

Uganda at a glance

In the latter half of 2017, Uganda's economy grew, driven largely by growth in information and communications technology services and favorable weather conditions for the agricultural sector. Real GDP growth is expected to be above 5 percent in 2018, and could rise further to 6 percent in 2019. This outlook assumes continued favorable weather conditions, robust external demand, an increase in foreign direct investment inflows and capital spending executed as planned.

SOURCE: WORLDBANK.ORG

A time to say goodbye

After 15 years,
Suleiman J Al-Herbish
hands over the
OFID reins

There is much that outgoing OFID Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish has achieved during his 15 years leading OFID. He has modernized the organization beyond recognition; he has made it a better and more progressive place for staff to work; and he's readied OFID for the future – both structurally and financially.

All this has involved an enormous amount of teamwork, of course, and Al-Herbish has surrounded himself with a modern, forward-looking team. It has also required a strong and visionary leader.

From modest but relatively comfortable beginnings, Al-Herbish grew up in the city of Ar Rass in Saudi Arabia. As a child, he tells, he hadn't heard of electricity, never mind experienced it. The young Al-Herbish would study by the light of a kerosene lantern each

Al-Herbish has spent the last 15 years fighting for the world's most vulnerable people.





PHOTO: OPEC

2004

Former Austrian President, the late Dr Thomas Klestil, welcomes Al-Herbish.

2004

Al-Herbish said his meeting with late Cuban President Fidel Castro was a "milestone" in OFID's relations with Cuba.



night. Later in life, on moving to Riyadh, he was still without electricity at home, but would visit the local mosques in the evenings – which did have electricity – to study.

These formative years shaped Al-Herbish, and if you ask the man himself about his greatest achievement in his long career, he doesn't hesitate. As he told OFID's Ministerial Council in his farewell speech last June: "Our efforts – along with our friends in the international arena – have culminated in something remarkable; something that will underpin the entire sustainable development agenda to 2030 and beyond: Access to energy for all is recognized as Sustainable Development

Goal 7 (SDG 7); a stand-alone goal in the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development."

"We have advocated tirelessly for energy poverty to be given the priority it deserves in the post-2015 Development Agenda after it was ignored in the Millennium Development Goals," he added. "It was such an omission; we called it the 'missing ninth MDG'."

Al-Herbish, who before dedicating his life to fighting for the world's most vulnerable people served for 14 years as the Governor of Saudi Arabia at OPEC, will be remembered by those who worked with him closely for being a demanding boss – wanting tasks completed ►



2005 Blaise Compaoré, former President of Burkina Faso, described OFID as a "valuable partner."



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE, NIGERIA

2006

Meeting with former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

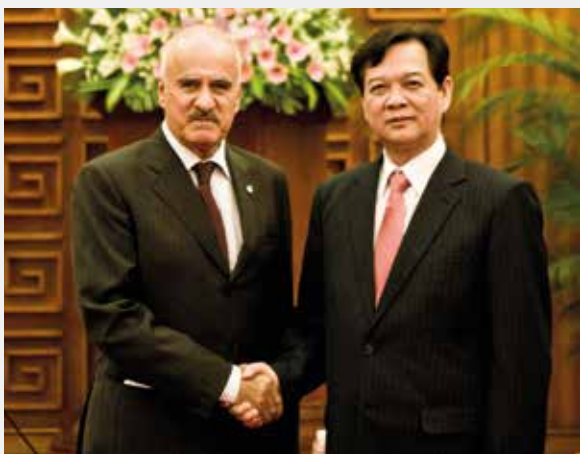
2008

With then Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov.





2009 During his Armenian mission, Al-Herbish was presented with the Anania Shirakatsi medal by President Serzh Sargsyan.



2011 Meeting with former Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung. During the mission, Al-Herbish signed three major agreements to intensify collaborations in the Asia region.

2012 Discussions with former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Raja Paksia focused on the long-standing cooperation between OFID and Sri Lanka.



◀ to perfection. His sense of humor will remain front of mind, too – he would often relieve the tension in a room or situation via a friendly quip. More memorable still will be his compassion. Al-Herbish is quick to recognize and reward good work; ready to listen and adapt; and above all, seems to be driven by some internal force to work relentlessly to make the world a better place.

He will also be remembered by many staff for his extraordinary memory. Al-Herbish has not once misremembered a date, no matter how far back, and beguiles with humorous stories of long-past missions – like flying all the way to New York as a young man only to discover the conference he was due to attend had been cancelled.

In and out of the organization, Al-Herbish built strong relationships. Friendships based on mutual interest and respect blossomed with the leaders of other international organizations. Kandeh K Yumkella, for example, then Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and CEO of the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Initiative, wrote: “Addressing audiences in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean and the USA, Al-Herbish has pursued the energy issue among students, political and business leaders, intellectuals and development workers alike...I would like to take this opportunity to thank Al-Herbish personally for his foresight, commitment and partnership.”

Similarly, LI Yong, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) called Al-Herbish one of the world’s leading advocates of energy poverty alleviation. “With Al-Herbish at the helm,” he wrote in the Foreword of *Uniting against poverty: OFID’s Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish and the fight for sustainable development*, “OFID has helped its development partners deliver on issues

relating to energy access, sustainability and efficiency...Our alliance was forged in our common desire to end poverty and it has been strengthened by the common conviction that access to modern energy services is a vital precondition to achieving sustainable development...”

Toward retirement from OFID, where many may have slowed down in preparedness for a different pace of life, Al-Herbish has done the opposite. This year alone: he has led a delegation to Bangladesh where he met with the country’s Prime Minister and signed two loan agreements to help bolster the transportation sector; in Bolivia, Al-Herbish met with President Evo Morales who expressed his gratitude for OFID’s support; on the same mission, Al-Herbish received an honorary doctorate from a Bolivian university in recognition of development financing supplied by OFID, and he signed loan agreements with Bolivia and Argentina to boost socioeconomic development in the water and sanitation, and transportation sectors.

And there’s more. Still during 2018: visiting Rwanda, Al-Herbish signed a US\$20 million loan agreement for a water and sanitation program that will improve living standards for nearly 1.6 million people; in Jordan, he signed agreements worth US\$1.16 million to implement projects in support of the resilience of Palestinians residing in East Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza Strip; and in Belize, he signed a US\$40 million loan agreement in support of an important road rehabilitation project with the Belizean Prime Minister Dean O Barrow. Couple this to meetings in India, Spain, Portugal, the UK and the US – in addition to a recent high-level mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina – and you get the picture. Al-Herbish is not one for taking his foot off the gas.

As this magazine was going to print, Al-Herbish had recently



2013 At the launch of OFID's children's book *One Planet Earth One People*, Al-Herbish explained to young participants how important it was for them to learn to act as responsible global citizens.

returned from Cairo, where he signed grants in support of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Bibliotheca Alexandrina, supporting three causes he holds extremely dear: access to energy, education and the preservation of culture; the latter of which he has more than once referred to as "the fourth pillar of development, in addition to the three widely recognized economic, social and environmental pillars."

Not long back from Cairo, Al-Herbish was preparing for a mission to Amman, Jordan. There, he plans to sign an agreement for a grant under OFID's Special Health Program amounting to US\$400,000 in support of the King Hussein

Cancer Foundation and Center (KHCF), which focuses on supporting underprivileged and vulnerable patients, including the large refugee community in Jordan, as well as patients from neighboring countries. The agreement is to be signed with Princess Ghida Talal, Chairperson of the KHCF.

Al-Herbish will also sign an agreement for a grant amounting to US\$150,000, in support of a project to be implemented by the Saudi Center for Blind Girls from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE and Yemen. Based in Amman, the Saudi Center is a charitable institution established with the aim of enhancing blind women's literacy ►



2014 Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said OFID was a strong partner in the fight against energy poverty.

PHOTO: ROYAL HASHEMITE COURT



2015

An audience with Queen of Jordan Ranya Al Abdullah.

2016

Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen thanks Al-Herbish for OFID's long-standing support.





2017 Al-Herbish with his 'OFID family' in front of the OFID monument that was presented to the City of Vienna as a lasting 'thank you' for playing host to OFID.

◀ and promoting their socio-economic empowerment through training and education. It will be gratifying to Al-Herbish that he is concluding his career by signing such important agreements.

Similarly, that this very 'farewell' article to Al-Herbish is printed within a special edition of the *OFID Quarterly* honed in on development in Africa will be particularly pleasing to Al-Herbish, since the continent is close to his heart. He is alert to Africa's development needs, and has helped maintain OFID's focus on this front. In 2017 alone, OFID approved US\$695.6 million for development operations in Africa –

46 percent of the organization's commitments for the year. A total of 32 African countries shared this amount.

It's doubtful that Al-Herbish will put his feet up even in retirement. In OFID's internal magazine – in which Al-Herbish has written a regular column for the past decade – he signed off to staff in typical style: "I hope and believe this new chapter in my life – and yours – will be filled with much more love, laughter, exciting challenges and successes."

"I will reflect on the journeys we've shared for as long as I live, and I hope I will always remain a

**"I hope
I will always
remain a part
of the OFID
family."**

part of the OFID family," he continued. "I believe what we have achieved together – for OFID and for people across the globe – will last far longer than any of us and will help many generations to come. I believe teamwork has been central to our success and I implore you to continue to work together."

There will be many people who will genuinely miss Al-Herbish's company; his drive and enthusiasm. But there is no need for immediate concern; all indicators point to him being a part of the international development community for some time to come. ■



2018

Meeting with Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, during OFID's first high-level mission to the country.

2018

Bolivian President Evo Morales was present at the loan signing for an OFID co-financed road project.





From left: Nigerian Minister of State for Environment Ibrahim Jibril; Nigerian Ambassador Vivian Okeke; OFID General Counsel Violet Onyemenam; and OFID Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish.

Art and the importance of peace and stability

“Nigeria is and will always be a country of peace,” says Ambassador Okeke

BY SILVIA MATEYKA



OFID never misses an opportunity to celebrate the culture and art of a member country

and recently hosted *Nigeria: Scenes of Peace* – an exhibition featuring the works of four talented Nigerian artists: Kaltume Gana, Ben Ibebe, Amedu Iklaga and nine-year-old Kanyeyachukwu Tagbo-Okeke.

Jointly opened by OFID Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Vivian N R Okeke, the exhibition marked International World Peace Day on September 21. With more than 50 works on display,

the artists presented their hopes for peace and harmony.

In his welcoming remarks, Al-Herbish highlighted the importance of peace and stability. “The artworks featured here depict scenes of freedom, of culture and of family life and they serve as a reminder for us to stop and reflect on the importance of peace and stability in a world filled with turmoil,” he said. “The very essence of peace allows us to move forward with our development and helps us leave behind a sustainable world for our children.” ►



Buni Yadi, acrylic on canvas.

Kaltume Bulama Gana



"My works are a cry for peace and stem from depressing events that emanated from the humanitarian crisis in north-eastern Nigeria. I work mostly with acrylics in shades of yellow ocher, maroon and umber to depict the terrain and portray anguish. Hope and gradual return to normalcy is portrayed by shades of blue and bright yellows; evidence of a new dawn."

◀ Ambassador Okeke said: “Peace, a prime desire of mankind is constantly threatened in our world today, owing to varied manifestations of intolerance. In this context, the exhibition highlights in a most unique way the underlying culture of peace in Nigeria, through an emphasis on the everyday life and engagements of the average Nigerian. Our message is that Nigeria is and will always be a country of peace.”

Particularly noteworthy is the work of Kanyeyachukwu Tagbo-Okeke. The nine-year-old artist has experienced the life changing properties of art; his parents believe that art represents a shining light in the sometimes dark world of autism in which he lives. “Kanye represents our future, and I am glad to see that he has drawn such a bright one,” said Al-Herbish.

Nigeria: Scenes of Peace is the third exhibition to highlight the art of

Nine-year-old artist Kanye has experienced the life changing properties of art.

Nigeria hosted by OFID. Previously, *Rhythm of Hope* showcased painting, sculpture and mixed media from three prominent Nigerian artists in 2013. The *Susanne Wenger Exhibition* provided another opportunity to experience Nigerian art and culture in 2017.

Other exhibitions hosted by OFID have highlighted the art and culture of member countries Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, as well as partner countries Kenya and Sudan. ■

Islamiya bound, oil on canvas.



Ben Ibebe

“The inspiration for my art comes from people: how they respond to social, economic, and political forces in their daily living. The issues, ideas and events arising from man’s quest to contain and contend with these forces form the subject of my paintings. Given this background, my paintings are highly figurative with women accorded prominent attention in my composition.”



Twist of melancholy, acrylic on canvas.



Amedu Iklaga

"I am a great believer in my African heritage and hope to use my work to promote peace in my country and Africa as a whole. I love my country deeply and am a promoter of the Idoma – an ethnic group in Benue State, Nigeria".



Kanyeyachukwu Tagbo-Okeke

"We began to understand that Kanye was comfortable in this environment and gradually we understood what he could be thinking and what certain pictures represented to him. We realized that Kanye is truly an exceptionally talented little boy who through art, expresses himself in a totally different way. Art has helped Kanye to connect with us, and with the society he lives in."

Chukwuemeka Tagbo Okeke, Kanye's father.



My family, acrylic on canvas.

OFID in Egypt

Grant agreements signed in Cairo support energy-related education and cultural preservation

BY ANNA ILARIA-MAYRHOFFER



OFID Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish with RCREEE Executive Director Dr Ahmed Badr.

September was a busy month for OFID Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish with a tightly-packed schedule of meetings and missions. One such mission was to Egypt to sign two grant agreements: one that supports the renewable energy youth program of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and another to fund a cultural initiative of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

RCREEE's Arab Program for Sustainable Energy Youth – APSEY – is a regional sustainable energy internship program targeting young professionals and post graduate engineering, economy and law students from the Arab region. OFID supported the 9th and 10th rounds of the APSEY program with two grants totaling US\$250,000. In 2015, Al-Herbish was invited to inaugurate the 'OFID Meeting Room' – in recognition of the institution's

support to the center – and also to attend a graduation ceremony at RCREEE's headquarters in Cairo.

This year, Al-Herbish was guest of honor at the graduation ceremony of the 10th APSEY program and signed a US\$180,000 grant agreement with RCREEE Executive Director Dr Ahmed Badr in support of the upcoming 11th round of students.

At the signing ceremony, Al-Herbish said: "The eradication of energy poverty requires effective synergies and partnerships, while capacity building is key to achieving development in any sector. This grant is an important milestone as it supports a much needed intervention in the Arab Region."

Thanking Al-Herbish, Dr Badr said RCREEE was "honored and excited" to continue its partnership with OFID: "We are privileged to have the opportunity to support the region's future leaders in a sustainable field," said Dr Badr.

"Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a place of dialogue, learning and understanding."

Al-Herbish

Al-Herbish signed another grant agreement in Alexandria with the Director of Egypt's Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Dr Mostafa el Feki. OFID's US\$200,000 funding will support a project titled 'The Arabs' Memory', which documents, preserves and digitizes Arab heritage. Inaugurated in 2002, Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a major library complex and cultural center housing books in Arabic, English and French.

At the signing ceremony, el Feki expressed his gratitude for OFID's continued support and explained that the latest project would "help to record and preserve the past, making it available to all people, as a timeless gift to the world."

Al-Herbish reiterated OFID's focus on culture as "the fourth pillar of development, in addition to the three widely recognized economic, social and environmental pillars." He commended Bibliotheca Alexandrina as "a place of dialogue, learning and understanding between cultures and peoples."

OFID's first grant to Bibliotheca Alexandrina supported a scientific conference, while the second co-funded production of an Arabic-language TV program series covering a variety of scientific topics for broadcast to the general public. ■



Al-Herbish and Dr Mostafa el Feki, Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA



PHOTO: MIDHAT KAPO

OFID Director-General Al-Herbish (left) at a press conference alongside Denis Zvizdić, BiH Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Boost for Bosnia and Herzegovina's major motorway project

BY STEVE HUGHES

OFID has signed agreements to support a major transport infrastructure project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH): two loans totaling US\$55.5 million will support the southeastern European country's 'Corridor Vc Motorway Project, Section Nemila Donja Gracanica' (Zenica North).

The project is part of the Trans-European road corridors network that connects Budapest, Hungary, in the north, with the Adriatic port of Ploče, Croatia, in the south. Complex physical and geographical characteristics of the route present significant engineering challenges and require the construction of 180 bridges and 80 tunnels, and an investment worth US\$5 billion.

OFID Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish signed the agreements with BiH Minister of Finance and

Treasury Vjekoslav Bevanda and the President of the Federation of BiH, Marinko Čavara. OFID's delegation also attended a high-level meeting hosted by BiH Chairman of the Council of Ministers Denis Zvizdić, alongside BiH Prime Minister of the Federation Fadil Novalić and other ministers and senior government figures.

OFID's Al-Herbish addressed a press conference alongside Zvizdić and Ismir Jusko, BiH Minister of Communications and Transport. Al-Herbish praised the excellent cooperation between OFID and BiH and underlined OFID's support of the government's development strategy, which prioritizes transportation. Al-Herbish noted that these new agreements represent OFID's third investment in the project.

OFID has a long-standing relationship with BiH, having now

Complex physical and geographical characteristics of the route present significant engineering challenges.

approved US\$195 million in development finance through its public sector window. Under OFID's private sector operations, three loans have been committed to BiH banks for on-lending activities. In addition, seven national grants have been extended to support operations including assisting refugees and providing humanitarian aid.

At OFID's 164th Session of the Governing Board two further transportation sector loans of US\$30m and €35m were approved for the construction of the Hrenovica-Gorazde Expressway and Hranjen Tunnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project aims to provide a more efficient and less expensive means of transport in a region where agriculture is a key sector. An estimated 900,000 people will benefit.

Annual Scholarship Award 2018

OFID sponsors 10 remarkable young students of development

BY FATMA ELZAHRA ELSHHATI

As part of the organization's vision to support sustainable development centered on human capacity-building, OFID's Annual Scholarship Award helps young people from its partner countries achieve their full potential. Close to 10,000 young people applied this year for the opportunity to pursue their graduate studies, sponsored by OFID. The following ten remarkable young students were successful...

"I will be able to set health promotion policies..."



Israa Mohammed from Sudan will pursue a degree in Public Health for Development at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Israa hopes to effect policy change back in her home country: "I will be able to set health promotion policies and evidence-based strategies to control health problems in Sudan," she says.

Alazar Lemedo from Ethiopia will be studying for a degree in Structural Engineering at the University of Manchester. During his studies, Alazar wishes to explore sustainable and resilient structures to engage in building a green and cost-effective housing sector in his home country. "For a country like Ethiopia, where construction consumes 60 percent of the national budget, implementing cost efficient infrastructure is indispensable," Alazar says.



"I am passionate about my country..."

Sri Lankan Amayaa Wijesinghe will attend Oxford University to pursue a Master's in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management. "I am passionate about my country, its people and its natural beauty and resources," says Amayaa, who aims to help build the resilience of rural communities.



Maria Ines Cubides Kovacsics from Colombia will study at the International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands, for a Master's in Development Studies. She has been fighting for the rights of excluded and marginalized people in Colombia. "I want to learn more about strategies for achieving justice from a developmental angle," Maria says. Upon her return home, she hopes to help increase community involvement in development projects.



"I have a strong drive to do more in society."



Originally from Somalia, Abdishakur Ahmed will study for a degree in Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University in the US. Abdishakur is the co-founder and CEO of SomLite, a solar financing and distribution social enterprise that focuses on providing energy access to off-grid rural residents. "I believe that access to sustainable energy is the pyramid base on which other foundations of sustainable development – such as agriculture, health, and livelihoods – can be built," he says.



From Malawi, Thokozani Chapomba will study at the University of Leeds, UK, for an MA in Health Management, Planning and Policy. "I have a strong drive to do more in society," she says. As a practicing nurse and midwife, Thokozani has experienced first-hand the challenges surrounding health service delivery in Malawi, such as the lack of resources and an enabling public health policy.



Hayatullah Bayan from Afghanistan will attend the University of Sussex, UK, to pursue a degree in Governance, Development and Public Policy. Hayatullah believes that sound and functional public institutions are the key to sustainable development and wants to focus on reforms that promote good governance and transparency. "The program will equip me with the knowledge and expertise for policy making and allow me to empower myself to push for sustainable development in Afghanistan," he says.

"These policies have lifted over 38,000 low income families in Zambia out of extreme poverty."



Evelyn Changala from Zambia will pursue a degree in Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Evelyn currently develops financial inclusion policies for small and medium-sized enterprises to promote food security. "These policies have lifted over 38,000 low income families in Zambia out of extreme poverty and enhanced their household food security and resilience," she says. She has also helped establish zero-interest loans for female entrepreneurs, benefiting 25,700 people.



From Armenia, Mariana Javakhyan will study for a degree in Sustainable Development. Mariana is part of the governmental working group for the national implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. "I am at the heart of the development process in my country and studying at the University of Sussex will give me enough strength to become one of the drivers of positive change," she says.

"My goal is to contribute to increased access to quality health care and wellbeing."



Nji Atanga Desmond from Cameroon will study Health Economics at the University of East Anglia, UK. "My goal is to contribute to increased access to quality health care and wellbeing," he says. Nji Atanga has been involved in promoting the sexual health of adolescents and helped establish the non-profit organization BlockFakeRx, which aims to provide low cost quality medication for low-income communities in Cameroon.

OFID invests in African education sector

OFID has committed a total of US\$5 million to the Regional Education Finance Fund for Africa (REFFA) – the first blended finance fund to exclusively support the development of the education sector in Africa.

REFFA aims to provide customized financial services for the education sector and increase equal access to primary, secondary, vocational and higher education, as well as enhance the quality of education.

“OFID is focused on helping its beneficiary countries make progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – the fourth of which focuses on education. We are therefore pleased to support this innovative initiative which aims to catalyze private financing to help develop human capital in Africa,” said Tareq Alnassar, OFID Assistant Director General, Private Sector and Trade Finance Operations.

As of June 30, 2018, REFFA had disbursed in excess of US\$25 million to eight financial institutions in seven countries in Western, Eastern, and Northern Africa. REFFA supports more than 700 schools and over 4,000 students. School fee loans are extended to more than 45,000 families and loans to private schools represent 49 percent of the Fund’s portfolio.



PHOTO: JAKE LYELL/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

US\$60m boost to international trade in East and Southern Africa

BY MANYA TANDAN



FID has signed a loan agreement with the Eastern and Southern African Trade and

Development Bank (TDB), demonstrating continued commitment to sustainable development in Africa.

Amounting to US\$60 million, the loan will support international trade in TDB's countries of operations by allowing the bank to on-lend, prioritizing sectors that augment the sustainable socio-economic growth of the region.

TDB operates in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) – a free trade area with 19 member states.

The loan has been approved through OFID's Trade Finance window, which supports private enterprises and governments by facilitating import and export requirements. This helps address working-capital needs and improves

About TDB

- Established in 1985 as a sub-regional multilateral development bank.
- Recently rebranded as TDB from PTA Bank.
- Provides development capital through trade finance and project finance loans to private sector institutions and sovereigns.
- Intends to further aims of COMESA region and make the economies of member states increasingly complementary.
- Aims to become a world-class financial institution contributing to the economic growth, prosperity and development of the Eastern and Southern African Region.

the cross-border trade prospects of partner countries.

In 2018, OFID also signed a membership and subscription agreement with TDB amounting to US\$20 million, which provides a platform for TDB to enhance its financing of trade and infrastructure in its

beneficiary countries. The investment further enhances a nine year partnership with TDB, during which time OFID has approved financing totaling US\$150 million to the bank for the benefit of countries in East and Southern Africa.

TDB regional members:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| ● Burundi | ● Kenya | ● Sudan |
| ● Comoros | ● Malawi | ● South Sudan |
| ● Democratic Republic of Congo | ● Mauritius | ● Swaziland |
| ● Djibouti | ● Mozambique | ● Tanzania |
| ● Egypt | ● Rwanda | ● Uganda |
| ● Eritrea | ● Seychelles | ● Zambia |
| ● Ethiopia | ● Somalia | ● Zimbabwe |



PHOTO: TAVARA STUBBS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Keeping heads above water in the wettest capital on earth

OFID has signed a grant agreement with Habitat for Humanity International (Habitat) to support a project to improve living conditions for slum dwellers on Peace Island in Greater Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.

BY ANNA ILARIA-MAYRHOFER

Liberia's most populous city Monrovia is inhabited by circa one million people – around three-quarters of whom live in slum settlements. Deemed the wettest capital in the world, Monrovia is subject to severe flooding owing to substandard drainage. This, along with poor sanitation, subjects communities to waterborne illnesses and impedes livelihoods and businesses that depend on reliable roads to transport goods and services.

OFID's US\$420,000 grant agreement (the project is co-financed by Cities Alliance) will support a broad program to provide affordable and

better-quality housing. Project activities will include building and renovating water and sanitary facilities, raising awareness of health and hygiene issues and providing support to community-led waste collection and management programs. Also planned is an affordable housing scheme that will provide construction materials and micro-finance loans, and support capacity building. The agreement was signed at Habitat's regional office in Bratislava, Slovakia, by OFID Director-General Suleiman J Al-Herbish and Habitat for Humanity's Area Vice President for Europe, Middle East and Africa, Torre Nelson.

At the signing ceremony, Al-Herbish spoke of OFID's strong commitment to helping boost socio-economic development in its partner countries – particularly the least developed in sub-Saharan Africa. He said OFID would continue directing a substantial portion of its resources to countries lacking adequate water and sanitation infrastructure and facing water shortages.

Torre Nelson thanked OFID for its support, which will dramatically improve the living conditions of families – especially children – who had to walk long distances to reach a water point. He said Habitat's



PHOTO: OFID/ARYA USIS

OFID Director-General Al-Herbish and Habitat for Humanity's Area Vice President for Europe, Middle East and Africa Torre Nelson sign a US\$420,000 grant agreement.

The Liberia Country Program will:

- Mobilize urban poor groups to help improve lives.
- Provide improved access to water and sanitation.
- Transform living conditions of poor urban households through investments in city-wide slum upgrading and incremental housing policy frameworks.
- Recognize the contributions of the informal economy by supporting street vendors in Greater Monrovia to negotiate better working conditions with city governments.
- Support communities to create vibrant local associations so they are better equipped to achieve long-term improvements in living conditions.
- Work with city and national government to improve strategic urban planning frameworks and enhance environments for Liberian cities through the country's first National Urban Policy.

The program is running from 2016 to 2021.

SOURCE: CITIES ALLIANCE WEBSITE

partnership with OFID will enable approximately 13,000 people to gain access to clean water, adequate sanitation and hygiene.

International NGO UN-Habitat strives to provide low-income households with affordable, decent housing through community-led schemes and aims to develop and expand market-based services, products and funding. This includes microfinance and disaster-reduction and preparedness services. Habitat is a partner in the five-year Liberia Country Program (see box) – an urban-upgrading program drafted by the global partnership Cities Alliance.

Liberia has been a beneficiary of regional OFID grants that have helped fund HIV / AIDS and polio eradication, fight Ebola and support water safety and clean cooking initiatives. ■

Habitat's partnership with OFID will enable approximately 13,000 people to gain access to clean water, adequate sanitation and hygiene.

Lombok earthquake response

OFID emergency grant supports Indonesia

BY STEVE HUGHES

OFID has extended an emergency grant of US\$400,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the delivery of shelter and immediate basic needs by the Indonesian Red Cross, nationally known as Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), to the victims of the recent multiple earthquakes in Lombok.

Two earthquakes struck Lombok Island within a week in late July and early August. Both earthquakes affected five districts in West Nusa Tenggara Province: North Lombok, East Lombok, West Lombok, Central Lombok and Mataram, with North Lombok the hardest hit. A third quake hit on August 9 and a fourth on August 18, and aftershocks continued long after.

Indonesia's National Disaster Management Authorities stated that the four earthquakes had caused more than 510 fatalities, at least

7,100 injuries and more than 431,000 people to be displaced. Economic losses are massive, thought (so far) to be in the region of IDR 5.04 trillion, or around US\$350 million.

PMI staff and volunteers were quickly mobilized to support search and rescue efforts and provide emergency first aid and non-food items including tarpaulin tents and blankets. Ambulances and water trucks were also deployed. OFID's grant will help scale-up this assistance. Longer term, the response aims to deliver humanitarian assistance to 80,000 people (20,000 families).

As this issue went to print, OFID approved another US\$400,000 grant to the IFRC to help meet the immediate needs of victims of a second earthquake and tsunami that struck Indonesia's Sulawesi Island. This brings the cumulative total of emergency grants to the IFRC to more than US\$25 million for 77 operations. ■



PHOTO: HUSNI/IFRC



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