

JANUARY 2010

# OFID Quarterly

THE OPEC FUND  
FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



## *A Royal mission – fighting cancer in Jordan and the Middle East*

MIFTAH: the key of hope for Palestinians ♦ IEF holds energy symposium in South Africa

Vienna High-Level Symposium reviews aid effectiveness

Venezuela's Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra visits Austria ♦ Save the fish: food for thought?

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

OFID is the development finance agency established in January 1976  
by the Member States of OPEC (the Organization of the Petroleum  
Exporting Countries) to promote South-South cooperation by extending  
development assistance to other, non-OPEC developing countries.

**OFID Quarterly** is available free-of-charge. If you wish  
to be included on the distribution list, please send your full mailing  
details to the address below. Back issues of the magazine  
can be found on our website in PDF format.

**OFID Quarterly** welcomes articles and photos on  
development-related topics, but cannot guarantee publication.  
Manuscripts, together with a brief biographical note on the author,  
may be submitted to the Editor for consideration.



PUBLISHERS

**THE OPEC FUND FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (OFID)**

Parkring 8, P.O. Box 995, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel: (+43-1) 515 64-0; Fax: (+43-1) 513 92-38

Email: [info@ofid.org](mailto:info@ofid.org)

[www.ofid.org](http://www.ofid.org)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Mauro Hoyer Romero **EDITORIAL COORDINATOR** Audrey Haylins

**CONTRIBUTORS** Reem Aljarbou, Sam Ifeagwu, Anna Ilaria-Mayrhofer,

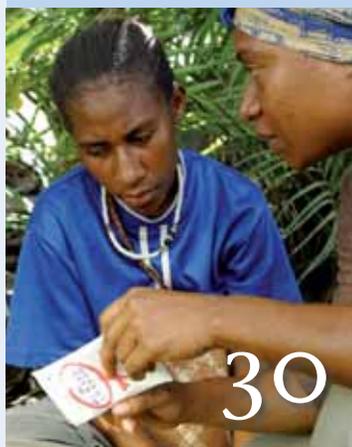
Verena Ringler, Fatimah Zwanikken, Project Syndicate (Tarun Khanna)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Rana Wintersteiner (Unless otherwise credited) **PRODUCTION** Susanne Dillinger

**DISTRIBUTION** Hala Elsayed **DESIGN** [etage.cc/krystian.bieniek](http://etage.cc/krystian.bieniek) **PRINTED IN AUSTRIA** Stiepan Druck GmbH

# CONTENTS

January 2010



Cover photo:  
HRH Princess Ghida Talal and HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan's King Hussein Cancer Foundation during the Amman International Marathon, where 3,000 people participated in the name of the Foundation.

PHOTO: KHCF

## COMMENT

Strengthening aid effectiveness 2

## COVER STORY

A Royal mission – fighting cancer in Jordan and the Middle East 4

## OUTREACH

MIFTAH: The key to hope for Palestinian Society 10

Society's forgotten victims 14

AIDS vaccine breakthrough 18

OFID partners with Standard Chartered PLC 22

OFID Diary 24

Meetings attended by OFID 25

Loan signature photo gallery 26

129<sup>th</sup> Governing Board photo gallery 28

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

HIV/AIDS: protecting the vulnerable 30

IEF holds energy poverty symposium in South Africa 34

Asian footsteps in Africa  
*Chinese Premier pledges US\$10 billion in aid to Africa* 36

Migration as an engine of human development 39

Vienna High-Level Symposium reviews  
aid accountability and transparency 41

Arab countries debate climate change 43

## MEMBER STATES FOCUS

Kuwait hosts Arab Thought Foundation Annual Conference 46

Venezuela's Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra visits Austria 48

## PARTNERSHIPS

OPEC Secretariat moves to new location 51

## SPOTLIGHT

Save the fish: food for thought? 53

## Strengthening aid effectiveness

The availability of financing for development may be one of the less talked about casualties of the global financial crisis, but its wounds are nonetheless deep. By strangling aid and other capital flows, the recession has exposed the inherent fragility of the global development framework and thrown into sharp relief the imperative of getting the most out of every single cent – in other words the issue of *aid effectiveness*.

Aid effectiveness is a term coined to describe the degree to which aid objectives are achieved and target problems resolved. It is more about quality than quantity, although the latter is also very important when it comes to measuring actual results.

In recent years, important strides have been made towards improving the quality of aid. Representatives of donor and recipient countries and multilateral and bilateral development institutions – including OFID – have stood united in their determination to build a more inclusive and accountable aid cooperation framework. The *Second High Level Forum*

*on Harmonization*, Paris, France, 2005, and the *Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness*, Accra, Ghana, 2008, are good examples of this initiative, as are the outcomes of these meetings: the 2005 *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* and the 2008 *Accra Agenda for Action*.

These events created a powerful momentum to change the way aid donors and recipients work on the ground and spawned the establishment of a multiplicity of mechanisms for aid effectiveness, including the *International Aid Transparency Initiative*, the *Open Forum on Civil Society Organization Aid Effectiveness*, and the *Better Aid Platform*.

Such momentum, however, has slowed in the face of the global financial crisis and its repercussions. Some donor countries have cut back on the amount of funding made available, while others have tied the provision of funds to the acquisition of their own goods and services. These circumstances have served to highlight the relevance and importance of the concessional and untied support provided by OFID for more than three decades.

The *quantity* of OFID aid is not related to the economic performance of OFID Member Countries, or to the average spot price of the OPEC reference basket of selected crudes, or to the value of Member Country petroleum exports. OFID financing for development is consistent and predictable – two of the prerequisites for enhanced aid transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

Recognizing the need for continued improvement of the *quality* of South-South and Triangular cooperation, OFID has also been an active participant in the Development Cooperation Forum and in the Coordination Group of the Arab Funds, the Islamic Development Bank and OFID. OFID has also played an active role in the dialogue between the Coordination Group and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

OFID looks forward to continuing constructive dialogue – including with new partners – on issues related to aid effectiveness and reform of the international financial and aid architecture. For OFID, maximizing the impact of its development assistance has always been

*“OFID financing for development is consistent and predictable – two of the prerequisites for enhanced aid transparency, accountability and effectiveness.”*

a central tenet of its operational philosophy.

However, we must be mindful that aid effectiveness depends not just on the donors but on the recipients too. So results-oriented development cooperation must include open, respectful dialogue with developing country partners – what OFID calls a “contract among equals.” We must support

their choices and actively encourage them to take control of their own future.

Yet, as the target date of 2015 for reaching the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) draws nearer, the signs are that the pace of progress has remained too slow. If the MDGs are a measure of aid effectiveness, then as a global community we are failing on many counts. Much more must be done to accelerate implementation of the objectives set out in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

Meanwhile, in regaining the momentum, let us not forget what remains when we strip away the rhetoric – billions of men, women and children, who are depending on us to help build a better future. What greater inspiration do we need? ■



## **The King Hussein Cancer Center**

*Established by Royal Decree in 1997, KHCC has evolved into the leading cancer hospital in the Middle East, with state-of-the-art facilities providing life-saving treatment to over 4,000 patients every year, many of them children.*



PHOTO: KHCF



HRH Princess Ghida Talal (left) and HRH Princess Dina Mired (right) are tireless advocates for excellence in cancer care in Jordan.

## A Royal mission – fighting cancer in Jordan and the Middle East

BY AUDREY HAYLINS

The name is not all that is royal about Jordan's King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF). Leading the dedicated team of medics, support staff and fundraisers are two royal princesses – **Princess Ghida Talal**, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, and **Princess Dina Mired**, Director-General. Unlike some royal patrons, however, the princesses are more than just figureheads, as the *OFID Quarterly* discovered during a recent interview with Their Highnesses.

**T**ogether, they make a formidable duo. Utterly committed to their cause, the Princesses Ghida and Dina are powerful protagonists in Jordan's fight against cancer – the country's second biggest killer after heart disease. Behind their steely determination lies a special understanding borne out of their own first-hand experiences. As a young bride, Princess Ghida helped her husband successfully battle Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, while Princess Dina has nursed her young son through leukemia.

"We have both lived cancer in all its facets – from the terror to the taboo. We understand all the steps that go with it,

because we've actually been there. It is this that gives our passion an extra edge," explains Princess Ghida.

And it is the princesses' passion that has helped establish KHCF's medical arm, the King Hussein Cancer Center, as the leading hospital of its kind in the Middle East.

Established by Royal Decree in 1997, the Center has evolved into a comprehensive, state-of-the-art facility that is the equal of anything anywhere in the world. Testament to its standing is its accreditation as a "disease-specific" healthcare provider by the internationally-recognized *Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations* (JCAHO).

"We were the first cancer hospital outside the United States to receive this exceptional distinction from JCAHO, so it's something we are very proud of," says Princess Ghida. The Center has also recently been awarded membership of the prestigious College of American Pathologists.

In order to augment KHCC's pool of expertise and experience, the princesses and their team have labored hard to forge affiliations with some of the top cancer centers in the world, among them the USA National Cancer Institute, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA; and Georgetown University Lombardi Cancer Center, USA. Ties are likewise being nur-

## Surviving breast cancer: Sahar's story

Sahar Mifleh Jarrar, 49, is an educated woman with a master's degree in social sciences and population studies. In 2004, while conducting an early detection test for breast cancer at the King Hussein Cancer Center, a lump in her left breast was discovered. Even before getting the results of her biopsy, she knew she had cancer. The tests confirmed her suspicions.

Sahar says: "Dr. Yasar Qutaiba, the head of the early detection clinic, explained to me that I would need a partial or full mastectomy and that the lymph nodes in my armpits would have to be examined to restrict the spread."

On her second visit, Sahar met with surgeon Dr. Mahmoud Al Masri, who informed her that she was in the early stages of the disease and so recommended a partial mastectomy. Sahar, however, insisted on a full mastectomy to guarantee a higher chance of recovery. "I disregarded the affect it may have on my psychology as a woman, due to the threat to my feminine appearance. I was completely convinced of the importance of giving priority to recovery."

Sahar underwent the operation and her left breast was removed. "The surgery was followed by four sessions of chemotherapy as a preventative measure, although the doctor insisted I did not need it. The chemotherapy was my choice, although post-op tests showed the lymph nodes in my armpits to be disease free; even the removed lump itself was small at a size of 1.5 cm."

Sahar's chemotherapy treatments were not easy. She recalls, "I could hardly endure the third session and during the fourth, I started to cry hysterically before any needles were put in. I still suffer from the negative effects of the chemotherapy, as I feel a weakness in my joints and an increase in my weight due to the hormone treatment. However,

exercise and volunteering with the 'Sanad Support Group' program helped me overcome such negative effects."

Sahar remains confident, saying: "In spite of the psychological, physical and social suffering I went through, the support of my husband, family and friends helped me to overcome my ordeal and recover. My 13-year-old daughter was my reason for enduring the disease and treatments and ultimately the reason for my survival. She used to say: 'Mom you have to live to see my children. I love you as you are, with or without a breast, with or without hair. The important thing is that you are still alive and that you are beside me, talking to me and holding me close.'"

Sahar speaks in glowing terms of the care she received at KHCC: "It is not an exaggeration to say that I received wonderful health and psychological care, from the reception staff to the medical team. Nor can I forget the social team which alleviated the burden of treatment among the patients. My volunteer work at the Sanad Support Group allowed me, in turn, to help others as well as offer psychological and moral support."

Today, Sahar has resumed living a normal life, playing all the roles required of her as a wife, mother and effective woman in society, without problem. She admits that battling cancer taught her the importance of love and loved ones in our lives through their continuous support in times of need.



tured with the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center as well as the organization Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the USA's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists.

Located in the Jordanian capital Amman, KHCC's 180-bed hospital boasts state-of-the-art medical equipment and services, including surgical and intensive care facilities, and treats over 4,000 new cancer patients every year, including children. Its first-class team of oncologists and other healthcare professionals is drawn from around the world, with the aim of providing the highest quality of care. Innovations include a tele-synergy unit, which allows for real time consultations on difficult cases between specialists in two or more countries, and a multi-modality clinic, where the patient is treated holistically by a chemotherapist, psychiatrist and neurologist.

According to Princess Ghida, the "real jewel" in KHCC's crown is its bone marrow transplant program. The Center conducts around 100 of these delicate, life-saving procedures every year, on both children and adults, with a very high success rate. "A bone marrow transplant is usually the last resort for a cancer patient, the only option left when the treatment is not working," explains the Princess, who is quick to emphasize the importance of the program: "As the only transplant service in Jordan and the most advanced in the region, our work in this area is invaluable."

Despite the remarkable success of the bone marrow transplant program, both royal princesses agree that the Center's most outstanding achievement lies in its leadership of Jordan's national breast cancer campaign. Launched about three years ago by the Ministry of Health, this initiative seeks to offer comprehensive services for the early detection and screening of breast cancer for all women aged between 40 and 59.

Until very recently, 70 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer in Jordan were presenting at an advanced stage of the disease and were often be-



yond the chance of a cure. Today, thanks to a nationwide awareness campaign that has helped break down the taboos surrounding the "Big C," this statistic has been almost halved.

"It's amazing to see how in such a short time we have managed so emphatically to decrease mortality among Jordanian women, who were dying so unnecessarily," declares Princess Dina. "Now we are receiving women mostly with stage one and stage two cancers, and we are even seeing the emergence of a stage zero, where only minimal intervention is needed to effect a cure."

Advances in treatment notwithstanding, like every other cancer hospital KHCC is witnessing a steady rise in patient numbers, which are growing at the rate of about 1,000 per year. Princess Ghida believes that the rise is due to a number of factors, including a general increase in cancer rates, higher awareness, screening campaigns and early detection, as well as fewer taboos.

The number of outpatient visits, meanwhile, has multiplied 10-fold in just six years. This, assures Princess Dina, is a positive development: "The whole ►

*Two young cancer survivors unveil the "King Hussein Wall of Hope," which raised US\$820,000 in funding for the hospital. Each brick in the wall represents a donation and is engraved with the name of the donor or loved-one.*



◀ movement worldwide for cancer is to go for outpatient treatment, which is far better for the individual than spending a lot of time in hospital.” KHCC fully supports this idea and has introduced the use of portable “CADD” pumps that enable chemotherapy to be administered safely and effectively in an outpatient setting so that patients are able to continue living their lives as normally as possible. “With

the CADD pump, people can have their chemo at home and even continuing working if they feel well enough,” says Princess Dina. “This allows us to treat more patients every month.”

As a non-profit NGO, the Foundation relies almost exclusively on fundraising to finance its day-to-day operations. Patients with the means to do so pay for their treatment. But the hospital’s policy

*HRH Princess Ghida Talal, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of KHCF and OFID Director-General, Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, conclude the grant agreement.*



PHOTO: AGNES NEBHAY



*Equipped with cutting-edge technology and a first-class medical staff, KHCC boasts a clutch of international accreditations for its work.*

is to open its doors as much as possible to everyone in need. As Princess Ghida points out: “Cancer does not differentiate between rich and poor.” A full course of treatment, she estimates, can cost from US\$40,000 to US\$50,000.

Low-income Jordanians have their treatment subsidized by the Royal Court or the government. For patients who come from other Middle Eastern countries, most notably Palestine where health services are very basic, the Foundation has what is known as a Goodwill Fund, from which treatment, travel and accommodation can be financed. A separate, special fund for Iraqi citizens has so far raised over US\$2 million, mostly from wealthy compatriots.

“To be honest, funding is a huge burden,” Princess Ghida admits. “Our pockets are not bottomless, so we are heavily dependent upon donations.” Financial support for KHCF comes from a wide variety of sources, including philanthropists, private companies, foreign governments and national, regional or international agencies, such as OFID.

OFID’s partnership with KHCF began in 2006 with the donation of US\$400,000 towards the purchase of a digital mammography machine, which has been key in promoting early diagno-

sis. “This is hi-tech digital mammography,” explains Princess Dina. “It is incredibly precise and allows for much greater detection. Best of all, it has something known as a *Mammotome* system, which enables doctors to perform breast biopsies as an outpatient procedure.”

OFID’s latest contribution, a grant of US\$600,000, will co-finance a new state-of-the-art interventional radiology suite with special high-resolution imaging capabilities to improve accuracy and efficiency and, in many cases, eliminate the need for surgery for routine procedures. Princess Ghida explains:

“With cancer, you normally have to target all the cells, the good ones and the bad ones, but of course we strive constantly to harm as few healthy cells as possible and focus on the malignant ones. The images produced by this machine are so detailed they can provide us with a road map to do exactly that. So, for example, we can see where exactly to insert a radioactive pellet for the treatment of prostate cancer, or a Hickman Line for the delivery of chemotherapy, and all without a general anesthetic and the attendant side-effects. The benefits for the patients are incalculable.”

If all goes according to plan, the new radiology suite will be up and running by

the end of 2010, marking another step in KHCC’s journey to consolidate itself as one of the world’s leading cancer centers. In the meantime, the Princesses Ghida and Dina have another royal battle on their hands – how to raise the US\$100 million needed to realize their expansion plans for the hospital.

“There is so much more we need to do,” says Princess Dina. “We’ve never really believed in fancy buildings or big spaces, but we are so overstretched that we simply have to build a bigger hospital. We’ve already established the institutional capacity – the substance that makes a good hospital truly great – we just need to be able to accommodate more patients.” She adds that the plans have already been drawn up and include an expansion to the bone marrow transplant unit and an entire floor dedicated to breast cancer.

Big dreams they may be, but given the princesses’ tireless passion and determination, one thing can be guaranteed: they will not remain dreams for long. ■

# MIFTAH: The key to hope for Palestinian Society\*

BY REEM ALJARBOU

In October, OFID welcomed once again to its headquarters renowned Palestinian scholar and political activist **Dr. Hanan Ashrawi**, who called on Director-General Al-Herbish to brief him on the achievements of her NGO, MIFTAH.



PHOTO: AGNES NEBEHAY

In a wide-reaching discussion, Dr. Ashrawi also spoke about her vision for Palestine, her activism within civil society networks, and her efforts to bring a woman's approach to government.

**Dr. Ashrawi** is the founder of the MIFTAH movement – the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy, of which she has been Secretary General since 1998. Ashrawi is also a member of a number of NGOs and institutions, including Woman for Peace and Justice in Palestine, and the National Reform Committee. In 2004 she became a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council Affairs Committee and in 2009 she was the first woman to be elected to the Executive Committee of the PLO. Dr. Ashrawi is also a former member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Dialogue between Civilizations.

One of the most amazing dimensions of the legend that is Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, is her ability to articulate the Palestinian cause with such profound conviction. Dr. Ashrawi was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), making her the first and only woman on the committee since its inception.

A regular guest at OFID headquarters, Dr. Ashrawi in her capacity as the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), presented Director-General Al-Herbish with a report on a project financed through a grant from OFID.

During the meeting, Dr. Ashrawi focused on the evident commitment and dedication of civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the overall development of the many facets of Palestinian society. She thanked the Director-General for OFID's sustained attention to Palestine's problems and the ongoing conflict facing her people. Mr. Al-Herbish conveyed OFID's strong dedication to the people of Palestine and pledged the institution's unwavering support to providing long-term assistance.

In December 2007, OFID extended a grant of US\$170,000 under the Special Grant Account for Palestine to MIFTAH. Established in 1988, MIFTAH is

\*MIFTAH means KEY in Arabic

*To help Jordanian women and youth become more self-sufficient, MIFTAH works to promote income-generating activities, such as this beekeeping enterprise.*

a Jerusalem-based NGO that is dedicated to fostering democracy and good governance within Palestinian society through the promotion of public accountability, transparency and the free flow of information. As MIFTAH's founder, Dr. Ashrawi had called on OFID for assistance with a project to empower marginalized groups in rural areas and enhance their involvement in the development process. The primary focus of the project was the promotion of income generating initiatives that would grant women and youth greater economic opportunities and improved living standards. ▶



PHOTOS: MIFTAH



## OFID and the Palestinian people

The relationship between OFID and the Palestinian people dates back more than three decades. During this time, OFID has worked hard to lay foundations for the empowerment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as for those in refugee camps in neighbouring countries. OFID's support to Palestine reaches deep into people's everyday lives, building human capacity and focusing on projects that offer Palestinians the hope of a long-term, sustainable future.

### Targeted assistance

In response to escalating needs, OFID in 2002 took steps to intensify its involvement in Palestine by setting up a special program to accelerate the delivery of assistance. Endowed with its own resources and officially known as the Special Grant Account for Palestine, this program provides support primarily to areas of long-term concern, such as basic infrastructure and essential health and social services.

Education is a key focus of the program, which since its launch has provided ongoing support to help universities and colleges remain open by subsidizing the tuition fees and subsistence costs of students. Another important initiative is the Scholarship Fund for Talented Palestinians, which was launched in 2009 by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). OFID played a major role in developing this initiative and was its very first sponsor. Under the scheme, all talented Palestinian youth can apply for funding to attend a degree course of their choice, at a university of their choice, including overseas institutions.

OFID's special program for Palestine also provides funding to hundreds of grassroots civil society organizations in the West Bank and Gaza, where enforced movement restrictions continue to impede economic activity and drive poverty levels and unemployment ever higher. Operating at community level, these NGOs provide a wide range of essential services, including working with the disabled and young children, supporting rural development and building capacity among women.

### Micro-financing

Another important component of OFID's support to Palestine is the PalFund, a micro-enterprise program. Since its launch in 2004, the PalFund has provided small loans to several thousand micro-entrepreneurs and artisans. The amounts injected into the scheme by OFID have been 'recycled' many times, as successful entrepreneurs pay back their loan amounts and borrow larger sums to expand their businesses. All repaid amounts are channelled back into the 'revolving' PalFund scheme. Administered by UNRWA, the PalFund is the largest micro-financing program operating in the region.

PHOTO: IFAD/WENDY SUE LAMM





◀ Project activities included the formation of a steering committee comprising specialized representation from the private sector, the local community, donors and civil society, and a member of the local council. The project also facilitated coordination with local councils and women's associations in marginalized communities in the Ramallah and Bireh Districts.

MIFTAH's strategic objectives involve the dissemination of discourse to decision-makers as well as the ability to influence policy and legislation in ensuring civil rights and good governance. Additionally MIFTAH works to empower effective leadership and raise awareness on civil rights and positive citizenship.

Dr. Ashrawi talked about Palestinian women's perseverance on the ground in the Occupied Territories, especially in rural areas, stressing that "we need women to find solutions." Emphasizing social developments and the overall situation in Palestine, Dr. Ashrawi discussed the building blocks of the proj-

ect which brought true change to peoples' lives. She said: "I have noticed immensely that women are the ones to make a difference, they are the pacesetters, the ones who break the barriers within society."

In covering issues regarding the integration of Palestinian society and government, Dr. Ashrawi focused on the importance of female leadership in economic, political and social factions. On her new position in the Executive Committee of the PLO, she stressed the importance of gender integration adding that "it is crucial to bring a female perspective into the political arena for the survival of programs supporting Palestinian civil society."

In their exchange of views on ongoing cooperation between OFID and Palestinian CSOs and NGOs, Mr. Al-Herbish reiterated the importance of partnerships with such entities, adding that "the mechanisms and active in-depth dialogue that MIFTAH works on is essential for the progress of Palestinian livelihoods." ■

*A group of women nurture their greenhouse seedlings under another MIFTAH project. MIFTAH seeks to provide marginalized groups with greater economic opportunities.*

# Society's forgotten victims



PHOTO: AGNES NEBHAY

BY ANNA ILARIA-MAYRHOFER

For many years, the International Committee of the Red Cross Special Fund for the Disabled (ICRC/SFD) has worked to help physically disabled people in poor countries regain their mobility and self-respect and lead productive, fulfilling lives. In the following interview with the *OFID Quarterly*, **Professor Claude le Coultre**, Chairwoman of the SFD Board,

highlights the plight of these “forgotten people” and the challenges they still face, even with support from institutions like OFID.

**A**ccording to Professor le Coultre, the disabled in the developing countries are very often overlooked or cast aside in favour of more high-profile causes: “In terms of allocating more funds to the disabled, it’s simply not a priority for many governments and health ministries. So if the SFD and donor organizations such as OFID didn’t provide this valuable niche, these vulnerable people would be truly forgotten by society.”

It is particularly difficult to raise funds for a cause that isn’t headline news, she notes. While the plight of landmine victims used to be a highly publicized issue; today you hear little about the topic.

“However, even if there is no longer war or conflict in these countries, those left disabled are still there – and require assistance.” she says.

Which is why OFID has previously extended support to SFD’s regional centers in Nicaragua and Vietnam, and more recently to help bolster operations in 15 SFD collaborative national centers in Eastern Africa, as well as to its regional office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. “OFID has really made a difference to the SFD, as it supports activities that aren’t necessarily in the spotlight,” concludes Professor le Coultre. “We consider OFID to be one of our key stakeholders.”

According to the World Health Organization, over 600 million people across the globe experience some form of disability. Approximately 80 percent live in developing countries and are poor; and thus, are unable to access the medical and rehabilitation services that would enable them to re-integrate into society. One of the most prevalent afflictions in these countries is missing limbs resulting from accidents. While in some cases these injuries are caused by auto- or work-related mishaps, in other cases, the individuals are victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

“It’s a terrible situation for anyone to face, no matter where one lives,” says

Professor le Coultre. “But to lose a limb or become otherwise disabled in resource-poor countries brings insurmountable obstacles, as the victim usually cannot work and support their family.”

New amputees must also grapple with the psychological aspect of their disability and often face stigmatization and social exclusion. According to the Professor, this is particularly true for women, who are typically the most vulnerable members of poor societies. “Having a missing limb, for example, might mean that they won’t be considered suitable for marriage, which, in many countries, is seen as the primary means for women to achieve proper social status.”

These challenges would indeed be insurmountable were it not for the dedicated efforts of the SFD. Established in 1983 by the ICRC to streamline efforts to assist the disabled in impoverished areas and to continue projects where the ICRC no longer operates, the SFD’s main thrust is to provide rehabilitation centers in low-income countries with the technical support and training, as well as the equipment needed to produce low-cost, high quality prosthesis and orthoses (devices that provide support to an improperly-functioning limb). The Fund also provides walking aids, such as canes and crutches, and wheelchairs, and even pays travel costs for patients to reach a center. In 2009 alone, some 15,000 people in 30 countries were able to benefit from rehabilitation services sponsored by the SFD.

The SFD operates out of three main bases. The Africa region is covered by a prosthetic/orthotics center (POC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which provides specialized training to orthopaedic technicians and physiotherapists, and offers basic coursework and refresher courses for those working at assistant-level positions. Other regional centers are in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Managua, Nicaragua.

Working out of the regional hubs, experts make regular visits to local rehabilitation centers and also conduct on-



PHOTO: ICRC/SFD

site training. As it is a highly specialized field, prosthetic/orthotic technicians must undergo three to four years of rigorous training. And here, too, the SFD is willing to help, by means of a scholarship program, which is available to assistant technicians or physiotherapists who have completed basic coursework at the POC. Successful candidates attend a school selected by the SFD “to insure that the graduates receive a diploma that is internationally recognized by the Society of Prosthetics and Orthoses.”

On-site evaluation is also carried out. For instance, a team of SFD experts regularly carries out visits at rehabilitation ►

*“To walk and work again” is SFD’s watchword. Here, an SFD physiotherapist helps a beneficiary get used to his new prosthesis. Renewed mobility will make it easier for him to obtain gainful employment and become self-sufficient.*

## Case study: Ethiopia

**Tesfahun Hailu from Ethiopia lost his leg and part of his arm six years ago in a landmine accident. Thanks to an artificial leg provided by the ICRC/SFD, Tesfahun was able to return to school. Now 19, he is determined to become a doctor.**

### How old were you when you had your accident?

I lost my leg when I was 13 years old. I was playing with a landmine that my friends and I had found. I was curious. I heard some rattling and wanted to see what was inside. When I tried to open it, it exploded. I remember it very clearly. Surprisingly, I didn't feel any pain, probably because the nerves in my leg were burned. I mostly felt shock because it happened so fast and I didn't expect it.

I live in a small village and it took a while to get treatment. We first had to see the police, to report the accident. When we reached the hospital, 25 minutes away, they told me I couldn't be treated there. I had to go to another hospital that could help me.

My mother died when I was five years old so I was always working, doing odd jobs like shoe shining. After the accident I wondered how I could continue to work.

### Is it difficult walking with an artificial leg?

I was so eager to walk. When the limb-fitting centre gave me my first artificial leg, I started running and the thing broke! But it wasn't difficult learning how to walk with an artificial leg. I could do it immedi-

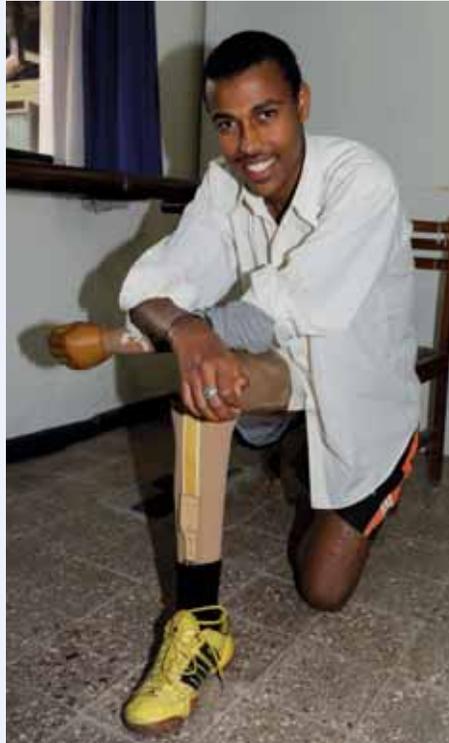


PHOTO: ICRC/SFD

ately, even though the first one was heavy and not very comfortable. I later learned about the Special Fund for the Disabled and about the Prosthetic Orthotic Centre that made lighter ones, which made walking much easier.

I have had to get a new leg every six months. There have been seven so far, because I've grown so quickly. I'm one metre ninety now, but I don't think I will have to go to the Centre so often because I've stopped growing.

### Has the Centre looked after you well?

All the people at the centre have looked after me – they're like family now. They don't just fit artificial limbs, they want to make sure I'm doing well. They give me advice if I need it and a lot of encouragement, especially with my studies. They've really made a difference in my life.

### What advice can you give other people in a similar situation?

First, people need to learn about the dangers of landmines. Both parents and children must know what can happen if they hold or play with one. If they are injured like me, they need to accept that they are disabled and not let it defeat them.

A lot of disabled people sit at home and feel useless because society doesn't give them a chance. But if they are given a chance they can really lead full and active lives. They must exercise and practice using their artificial limbs so they can be independent.

Even with a disability, you can do almost everything, but it does take hard work. Me, I plan to go to university to study to become a doctor. In the village where I live, there is only one doctor for 6,000 people. We need more doctors.

*Source: ICRC*



PHOTO: ICRC/SFD

◀ centers throughout Africa. Each remains at the center for three to four weeks, where they conduct comprehensive patient evaluations and provide staff – who are mostly local – with thorough feedback on the devices that have been produced and fitted there. “We want the local technicians to understand that they must carry out this delicate task as perfectly as possible,” explains Professor le Coultre.

For a rehabilitation center to receive assistance from the SFD, it has to undergo an evaluation process to ensure that it has the necessary infrastructure and technical capacity to treat patients. It must also possess some level of financial and managerial autonomy.

“What also must be borne in mind is that the rehabilitation centers are providing continuous services to each patient,” says Professor le Coultre, who ex-

plains that a prosthesis needs to be replaced every two to three years or about every six months in the case of children. “We estimate that someone first fitted with a prosthesis at the age of five would need approximately 25 replacements throughout life.”

Physiotherapy is also vital for helping an individual become accustomed to the new device, learn to walk and carry out day-to day-tasks. “It gives patients confidence, and the staff at the centers are also on hand to talk to these people and help ease their fears about this new chapter in their lives,” says the Professor. Indeed promoting mobility is the SFD’s ultimate aim, as captured in its motto: “To walk and work again.” ■

For more information about the ICRC/SFD, visit their website at <http://www.icrc.org/fund-disabled>

*Becoming a prosthetic/orthotic technician requires three-four years of rigorous training. SFD sponsorship helps rehabilitation centers develop these vital skills.*



PHOTO: IAVI CARE

Village women in India holding AIDS vaccine trial kits provided by the International Aids Vaccine Initiative.

# AIDS vaccine breakthrough

## OFID supports clinical trials

In furtherance of its mission to fight the global AIDS pandemic, OFID in December pledged its support to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI).

An OFID grant of US\$3.5 million will bolster IAVI's research and development program, as it works to develop a vaccine to limit further transmission of the virus.



**S**ince the initial identification by scientists of HIV as the cause of AIDS, the relentless spread of the disease has transformed it into the worst recorded pandemic in human history. While billions of dollars have been poured into initiatives that seek to halt transmission by raising awareness of protection methods, for example, IAVI is the only global organization dedicated exclusively to developing an effective AIDS vaccine.

According to Dr. Seth Berkley, President and CEO of IAVI, the severity of the pandemic is such that it is vital to look beyond temporary, stop-gap measures: “The world is unfortunately focused on short-term issues, and in this case it is an emergency and rightfully so, yet we must focus on the long-term issues. Short-term interventions do not work, so the question is how to balance our efforts, recognizing the long-term issues as well.”

The OFID grant comes at a crucial point in IAVI’s research, coinciding with the announcement of modest achievements in Phase II of the Initiative’s clinical trials. Says Berkley: “This small success can only mean positive results.”

IAVI was born out of discussions stemming from a meeting of the Rockefeller Foundation with 24 authorities on the disease in Bellagio, Italy, a decade after HIV was identified. The initiative was formally launched at the start of 1996, as a non-profit public-private product development partnership. Its first challenge was to make AIDS vaccine development a priority on the global public health agenda. Today, IAVI has a strong network of research center and operates in 25 countries worldwide, many of them functioning as regional hubs.

IAVI’s chief hub is its clinical research center in Kenya, where a high incidence was discovered of women who were exposed to the virus yet remained uninfected. Scientists began to study the type of immune responses these women had and recreate it via a vaccine. These



PHOTO: AGNIES NIEBHAY

Dr. Seth Berkley, President and CEO of IAVI with OFID Director-General Al-Herbish.

findings led to trials being conducted in Nairobi and the creation of a Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI). IAVI launched its first vaccine development partnership in 1998 with KAVI and has since conducted six HIV vaccine clinical trials and seven epidemiology studies. The OFID grant will target further study on identifying the relevant antibodies with a view to eventually providing protection before exposure.

In parallel to the Kenyan efforts, IAVI began work in India in 2000 after signing a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Ministry of Health ►

*Achievements in clinical trials have raised hopes that progress is being made in identifying antibodies that could form the basis of a vaccine against the HIV virus.*



PHOTO: VANESSA VICK, COURTESY OF IAVI

◀ and Family Welfare. IAVI believes India to be a strong partner because of its rich pool of medical professionals and scientists together with a successful pharmaceutical industry. Its potential in playing a leading role in the AIDS vaccine research and development pushed IAVI to activate its efforts in the country in 2001.

In its global efforts IAVI has created a broad program that covers technical capacity-building, reaching out to the local communities, advocacy and political engagement. IAVI believes that these elements together form the foundations for creating the long-term solution necessary for eradicating the epidemic.

High-level political support and sound policy are also essential to the sustainability of the AIDS vaccine ef-

fort. With this in mind, IAVI systematically cultivates and sustains such support in its worldwide initiative. Dr. Berkley considers the sustainability of political support to be an essential aspect for the success of any trial: “In the end, bad science will destroy a trial, but so will bad politics or misunderstandings,” he states.

Another integral part of the trial is IAVI’s strong emphasis on reaching out to the community. Much of IAVI’s activities in each country are followed with thorough attention to different religious and cultural community groups and strong collaboration on the specific needs of each community. What makes IAVI’s work so valuable is the strong ethical human research component in conducting its trials. IAVI believes that relying on community relationships allows

for a deeper understanding of the limitations, one of which is cost: for every two people put on treatment, another five infections go untreated.

IAVI understands that community buy-in is critical and requires layers of support. One of the main areas IAVI focuses on is women and their participation in the clinical trials. Due to gender constraints in many of the communities it operates in, IAVI pays special attention to all elements that are gender specified, allowing for access to specific needs, from counselling, to medical care and advocacy in relation to stigmatization.

One of the major trends in IAVI's programs in Asia and Africa is the small number of women enrolments due to constraints such as marital issues and pregnancy as well as cultural factors. A crucial element in the success of the trials to date is the considerable research into why women were not participating and the substantial efforts that followed to ensure their integration.

IAVI continues to work closely with communities on the ground to work around difficulties relevant to those communities. On the other hand, IAVI discovered that due to its standardized lab values and strong technical capacity building, the operations within Africa and India have an even better standard than in the west. "We need to know that a vaccine tested in Africa can be tested elsewhere," says Dr. Berkely.

OFID's grant will support IAVI's extensive research and development program in Africa and India. The IAVI/OFID partnership also includes capacity-building measures and provision of support to IAVI's highest-priority research program at its clinical research center in Kenya, under the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative. At the signature of the grant agreement, Dr. Berkely expressed his appreciation of OFID's support to the initiative and stated that, "We will find a vaccine, not only for those communities, but for the whole world." ■

*The severity of the AIDS pandemic is such that it is vital to look beyond temporary, stop-gap measures. Short-term emergency needs need to be balanced with the pursuit of a long-term solution.*

## IAVI in brief

IAVI is a global non-profit organization working to speed the search for a vaccine to prevent HIV and AIDS. IAVI sponsors public-private research partnerships to build vaccine candidates and test them in humans. Following its official launch in 1996, and with the support of organizations and partner countries, IAVI helped build an advocacy initiative that resulted in the G8 issuing a "Call for Action" on HIV vaccines in 1997. The following year, the young product development partnership produced the first Scientific Blueprint for AIDS Vaccine Development, which called for greater international collaboration to fast-track the parallel development of multiple HIV vaccines, and for a stronger focus on vaccine candidates devised to combat strains of HIV circulating in Africa and Asia. IAVI also advocates on behalf of vaccine developers worldwide, and for public policies that assure accessibility.



PHOTO: DAISY OUYA OF IAVI

# OFID partners with Standard Chartered PLC

As the circle of partners and cooperating countries involved with OFID in trade financing continues to grow, the institution in October, 2009, signed a risk sharing agreement with Standard Chartered Bank PLC, to help boost trade, particularly South-South trade, and encourage greater financing for emerging markets and developing countries.

**T**he agreement with Standard Chartered provides for implementation of a program of risk-sharing in an amount of US\$500 million. This would be equally shared between the two partners. The agreement is expected to generate an estimated incremental trade of US\$2 billion annually.

The accord was signed on behalf of OFID by Director-General Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, while Ms. Karen Fawcett, Standard's Global Head of Transaction Banking, signed for the bank. Eighty banks in 18 emerging markets and developing countries stand to benefit from the program, which may be expanded to include more countries and more banks as demand manifests itself.

At the signature ceremony, Mr. Al-Herbish said OFID sees the program as part of its strategy of "scaling up sup-

port" to cooperating countries to help alleviate difficulties relating to accessing credit "in these days of credit disruption." The agreement will build on Standard Chartered's global network and trade origination capacity. This is in line with OFID's Trade Finance Facility (TFF), which was initiated in 2006 to promote economic development (through trade financing) and strengthen the financial systems of partner countries.

In her own statement at the signature ceremony, Ms. Fawcett said the agreement and the expected incremental trade would be "an excellent example for multilateral agencies and private sector financiers looking for a well-structured method for supporting trade originating from developing economies in these difficult times."



Ms. Karen Fawcett, Global Head of Transactional Banking, Standard Chartered, and Mr. Al-Herbish, OFID Director-General.

OFID's TFF took off to a speedy start and has seen a trajectory of growth not predicted at its establishment. The facility takes the form of guarantees, lines of credit and straightforward loans. It is responding to growing demand for financing to help overcome obstacles.

For OFID, trade financing is a natural progression in its efforts to align with the economic development demands of partner countries. Trade financing complements OFID's broadening range of financing windows, which include long- and medium-term projects and programs in the public and private sectors. OFID's TFF promotes development by meeting the trade financing needs of institutions in partner countries, including governments, banks and private enterprises.

Many low-income countries have the resources and technical ability to

expand their engagement with global trading partners, but uncertainties regarding performance may inhibit potential suppliers and customers. International banks may not be able to accept letters of credit or other guarantees offered by local banks, reflecting concerns about the speed and effectiveness of payment or exposure to political and commercial risks. Through the TFF, OFID can help overcome these obstacles. All developing countries, with the exception of OFID member states, are eligible to benefit from the facility.

For its part, Standard Chartered is listed on the London- and Hong Kong Stock Exchange. It ranks among the top 25 companies in the Financial Times' FTSE-100 by market capitalization. With headquarters in London, the Standard Group has operated for over 150 years in

some of the world's most dynamic markets, leading the way in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The Group's income and profits have more than doubled over the last five years, primarily as a result of organic growth.

Standard Chartered earns around 90 percent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, from its Wholesale and Consumer Banking businesses. The Group has over 1,600 branches and outlets located in more than 70 countries. OFID is pleased to be involved with the Bank in pursuit of economic development, in low-income countries, via trade financing. ■

### OCTOBER 2

#### Emergency assistance grant approved

**Indonesia and the Philippines.** US\$750,000. This grant helped to procure emergency supplies and finance relief operations for earthquake and typhoon victims. The grant was channeled through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The proceeds were distributed to the National Red Crescent Societies of each country as follows: US\$500,000 to the Republic of Indonesia and US\$250,000 to the Republic of the Philippines.

### OCTOBER 2-6

#### Public Sector loan agreements signed

**Ethiopia.** US\$15 million. Nekemte-Bedelle Road.  
**Colombia.** US\$30 million. La Linea II (Centennial) Tunnel.  
**Congo Republic.** US\$7 million. Rural Development in the Likouala, Pool and Sangha Departments.  
**Haiti.** US\$15 million. Péligre Hydroelectric Plant Rehabilitation Program.  
**Rwanda.** US\$10 million. Electricity Access Scale-Up.  
**Mauritius.** US\$8.07 million. Terre Rouge Verdun Ebene Road (Phase II).  
**Paraguay.** US\$29 million. National Rural Roads Program (Phase II).

### OCTOBER 5

#### Trade Financing agreement signed

OFID and Standard Chartered Bank signed a US\$500 million risk sharing agreement to help boost trade and to encourage more trade financing to emerging and developing countries. See story, page 22.

### OCTOBER 9

#### 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Board approves US\$170 million in fresh financing

##### Project loans approved

**Botswana.** US\$40 million. Integrated Transport.  
**China.** US\$10 million. Gansu Healthcare.  
**Cuba.** US\$17 million. Las Tunas Province Water Supply System Rehabilitation.  
**Malawi.** US\$11 million. Teacher Training Colleges.  
**Philippines.** US\$30 million. Road Sector Institutional Development and Investment Program.  
**Tajikistan.** US\$13 million. Kulyab-Kalaikhum Road.  
**Tanzania.** US\$12 million. Poverty Reduction, Phase II.  
**Turkey.** US\$36.8 million (€25 million). Ankara-Istanbul Railway Upgrading.

#### Grant approved under the Special Grant Account for HIV/AIDS Operations

**OFID/IAVI (International AIDS Vaccine Initiative).** US\$3.5 million. This grant will co-finance a joint initiative of OFID and the IAVI, the only global organization dedicated exclusively to developing an effective AIDS vaccine. See story, page 18.

#### Grant approved under the Special Grant Account for Palestine

**Assistance to Civil Society Organizations in the West Bank, Palestine, Phase II.** US\$2.5 million. This grant will be distributed among 25 Palestinian NGOs that are providing vital assistance in the areas of education, health and agriculture, as well as social and community development. The funds will help ensure that the NGOs can continue delivering services that would otherwise be unavailable to the Palestinian population.

#### Technical assistance grants approved

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).** US\$1 million. This grant will support the reintegration assistance activities of the UNHCR, which is ensuring the safe return of Mauritanian refugees from Senegal and Mali. UNHCR plans on providing returnees with the support services needed to facilitate their reintegration; ensuring that they receive access to basic social services; and developing projects aimed at assisting communities that will accommodate the returnees.

#### International Committee of the Red Cross Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD). US\$800,000.

This grant will support operations in 15 SFD collaborative national centers in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), as well as the SFD regional office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. See story, page 14.

#### King Hussein Cancer Center.

US\$600,000. This grant will co-finance the upgrading of radiology equipment at the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) in Jordan. See story, page 4.

### OCTOBER 13

#### Emergency assistance grant approved

**World Food Program (WFP).** US\$500,000. This grant was approved to assist global efforts to battle growing hunger across the world. It was announced on World Food Day, which this year had the theme *Achieving Food Security in Times of Crisis*. Proceeds from the OFID grant, which will be channeled through the WFP, will be used to support the organization's latest emergency food assistance program in low-income countries.

### OCTOBER 16

#### OFID Director-General receives Moroccan national award

OFID Director-General, Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, was awarded the Moroccan Order of Wissam Al Alaoui. The honor, with the Grade of Commander, was conferred on Mr. Al-Herbish by HE Dr. Omar Zniber, Ambassador of Morocco to Austria and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna, acting on behalf of King Mohammed VI of Morocco. Mr. Al-Herbish was praised for accomplishments relating to the worldwide engagement of OFID and the institution's support toward the promotion of socio-economic development in Morocco.

### NOVEMBER 2-4

#### OFID Director-General meets with Albanian President

OFID Director-General, Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, led a high-level delegation to Tirana, Albania. One of the highlights of the mission was an audience with the Albanian President Professor Dr. Bamir Topi. The Director-General delivered a keynote address at the 2nd International Conference on Foreign Investment in Albania and held a number of meetings with various government officials. The delegation also visited sites of two OFID co-financed projects.

### NOVEMBER 17-20

#### Al-Herbish heads high-level mission to Lebanon

Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, OFID Director-General, led a high-level, four-day mission to Lebanon, where he met with Lebanese President, General Michel Sleiman, and attended the Second Annual Conference of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED). See story, page 43.

## NOVEMBER 23

### Research grants approved

**Center for World Food Studies.** US\$150,000. This grant will sponsor a project entitled *Improving Pastoral System's Drought Resilience in Afar State, Ethiopia*. The project will implement a Decision Support Tool, which will assist policy-makers in the planning of drought-coping strategies for pastoralist societies in the Awash Basin.

**Fransalian Organization for Social Transformation, Education and Renewal (FOSTER).** US\$100,000. This grant will support the construction of a secondary school and hostel for homeless and impoverished children and youth in Tabora, Tanzania. The scheme will also ensure that beneficiary children are provided with clothing, meals, medical care and shelter.

**University of Vienna, Austria.** US\$15,000. This grant will sponsor the translation of the *Virtual Museum of Islamic Art* website from German to English. This project will enable non-German speaking public internet users, as well as university libraries, journalists, museum staff and scholars, to benefit from the website.

## DECEMBER 9-10

### Mr. Al-Herbish heads delegation to Kuwait

OFID Director-General, led a delegation to Kuwait to attend the FIKR 8 Conference, which was organized by the Arab Thought Foundation. The Conference was co-sponsored by OFID with a US\$100,000 grant. See story, page 46.

## DECEMBER 14

### Public Sector loan agreement signed

**Panama.** US\$1.8 million. Participative Development and Rural Modernization.

## DECEMBER 16

### Trade financing agreement signed

**Amrahbank of Azerbaijan.** US\$2 million Line of Credit.

## DECEMBER 17

### 129<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Board approves 10 public sector loans

#### Project loans approved

**Azerbaijan.** €20 million. Janub Power Plant.

**Benin.** US\$11 million. Kandi-Segbana-Nigeria Border Road.

**Burundi.** US\$8 million. Ntamba-Ndora Road.

**Central African Republic.** US\$9.3 million. Commodity Import Program.

**Jamaica.** US\$10 million. Eastern Jamaica Rural Roads Rehabilitation.

**Kenya.** US\$10 million. Dundori Olkalou Njabini Road (Supplementary Loan).

**Morocco.** US\$30 million. Rural Roads Rehabilitation and Construction - Phase II.

**Sri Lanka.** US\$16 million. Kalu Ganga Development.

**Tanzania.** US\$12 million. Same Water Supply.

**Uganda.** US\$22.95 million. Vocational Education.

#### Technical assistance grants approved

**Austrian Red Cross (ARC).** US\$450,000. Since 1983, the ARC has been working in cooperation with the Nepalese Red Cross Society to help reduce poverty in some of the poorest areas in the country by carrying out community development programs. The present scheme will conduct similar activities in nine villages in the Rukum District in Nepal.

**Carter Center.** US\$500,000. This grant will support an ongoing Guinea Worm Disease eradication program in six endemic African countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and the Sudan. The program, which is in its final phase, aims at achieving full eradication of the illness by the end of 2012. OFID has also provided support to earlier phases of the program.

**Center of Arab Women for Training and Research.** US\$500,000. This grant was extended to support a project that aims at helping improve socio-economic conditions among women in six Arab countries; namely, Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Jordan,

the Sudan and Yemen. This will be achieved by carrying out capacity-building among NGOs and governmental institutions that target the needs of disadvantaged women.

#### Grant approved under the Special Grant Account for HIV/AIDS Operations

**World Health Organization (WHO).** US\$3.5 million. This grant will support an OFID/WHO Partnership on the Prevention of Transfusion-Transmitted HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Infections in Priority Countries. Activities will be carried

out in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan.

#### Grant approved under the Special Grant Account for Palestine

**United Nations Development Program (UNDP).** US\$2 million. This grant will support interventions necessary to increase the efficient use of water for irrigation in the northwestern districts of the West Bank. Works to be carried out include the upgrading of groundwater wells and irrigation systems, as well as the construction of water storage facilities.

## Meetings attended by OFID

### OCTOBER 7

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Austro Arab Chamber of Commerce

### OCTOBER 2-7

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY**  
2009 World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, G-24 Ministers Meeting, Development Committee Meeting and the Meeting of the Multilateral Finance Institutions

### NOVEMBER 1-3

**RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA**  
Meeting of the Coordination Group of Arab/OPEC/Islamic Development Aid Institutions

### NOVEMBER 13-14

**OXFORD, UK**  
Oxford Energy Institute Board Meeting / Oxford Energy Policy Club Session

### NOVEMBER 17-18

**BEIRUT, LEBANON**  
Byblos Bank Africa, Byblos Bank Syria Board Meetings

### NOVEMBER 16-18

**ROME, ITALY**  
World Food Summit on Food Security, FAO

### NOVEMBER 18-19

**LONDON, UK**  
Sierra Leone Investment and Donor Conference

### NOVEMBER 16-17

**WASHINGTON DC, USA**  
Joint Conference of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), European Central Bank (ECB) and the World Bank

### NOVEMBER 19-20

**BEIRUT, LEBANON**  
Annual Conference of the Arab Forum on Environment and Development

### NOVEMBER 25

**ROME, ITALY**  
Assembly of Parties, Annual meeting of the International Development Law Organization

### DECEMBER 7-11

**COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**  
United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15)

### DECEMBER 8-9

**JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**  
International Energy Forum Symposium on Energy Poverty

### DECEMBER 9-10

**KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT**  
FIKR 8 Conference Arab Thought Foundation

[www.ofid.org](http://www.ofid.org)

LOAN SIGNATURE  
photo  
gallery



October 3

HE Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia (*far left*) shakes hands with Mr. Al-Herbish after signing a US\$15 million loan agreement for a transportation project.

October 5

HE Dionisio Borda, Minister of Finance of Paraguay, secured a US\$29 million loan to help upgrade rural roads in a number of mountainous parishes.



### December 16

Mr. Emil Mammadov, Chairman, Amrahbank. The Bank has taken a US\$2 million line of credit to help expand its services.



### October 3

HE Daniel Dorsainvil, Minister of Economy and Finance of Haiti, signing the loan agreement. The US\$15 million credit will help finance upgrading of the Péligre Hydroelectric Plant.

### December 14

Mr. Luis Enrique Martinez, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Panama in Vienna, concluded a US\$1.8 million loan in support of a multi-faceted rural development project.



*The full list of loan signatures can be found on pages 24-25.*

HE Jamal Nasser Lootah,  
Chairman of the Governing Board.



Mr. Elboueshi M. Ellafi,  
Governor of the GSP Libyan Aj to OFID.

## 129<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Board

Meeting in its 129<sup>th</sup> Session in Vienna, the Governing Board of OFID approved over US\$160 million in fresh financing for development. The funds will support public sector projects in 10 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean in sectors as diverse as agriculture, education, energy, water supply and transportation. Six grant-financed initiatives were also approved.

HE Dr. Ochi Chinoyerem Achinivu,  
Nigerian Governor to OFID.



Mr. Mohamed Benmeradi,  
Governor of Algeria to OFID.



Mr. Azez J. Hassan,  
Iraqi Governor to OFID.





*Education and awareness are key tools for shaking off the ignorance and stigma that surround AIDS, especially among young women, who remain the most susceptible to infection.*

## HIV/AIDS: protecting the vulnerable

BY VERENA RINGLER

A decade ago, our TV screens were alive with stories and pictures of children affected by AIDS. Today, millions of youngsters are still living with the fallout of a pandemic that has fractured their families and changed their lives forever. As experts gear up for the July 2010 XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria, the *OFID Quarterly* asks what lessons these children have taught us.

**M**polokeng and Sello are the faces of thousands of children confronted with enormous odds: Both Mpolokeng, an 18-year-old girl, and Sello, an 18-year-old boy, live in Lesotho, where HIV/AIDS prevalence among adults stands at 23.2 percent. Both youngsters recently lost their parents to AIDS; both are heading their households and taking care of younger siblings; and both are struggling to make ends meet. Mpolokeng has had to drop out of school; Sello takes care of the family's few remaining cattle.

Mpolokeng and Sello are just two of an estimated 17 million children worldwide who have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Many more are affected in other ways by HIV/AIDS in their communities. All of them face a complex set of problems.

Governments and experts continue to pay into large programs to combat HIV/AIDS among children – just consider the robust commitment of OFID and UNICEF in 17 countries from Guyana to Angola to Sri Lanka (see box). Medical efforts include prevention of mother-to-child transmission and direct treatment. Celebrity ambassadors like Annie Lennox parade the PR-catwalk to promote the unity of purpose needed in this overwhelming struggle. Three decades into the global spread of HIV/AIDS, the development community realizes just how profoundly HIV/AIDS has challenged us to debunk truisms, break taboos and admit truths.

We know a lot more than we used to: we know children are not merely an extension of adults. We know children deserve to be high on the global AIDS agenda. We know that the current economic crisis is likely to worsen poverty in households, which in turn negatively affects children's wellbeing. We also know that any effort to help vulnerable children needs to involve the whole community in order to avoid abuse and conflict.

On the medical front, we know that pediatric HIV care and treatment needs to become an integral part of infant and child survival and health programs. We know that, fortunately, many lives have

been saved or improved in the past years, and more mothers can access transmission prevention programs to protect their unborn children from infection.

But we also know a massive social effort is needed. Even with antiretroviral treatment becoming more widely available, it is crucial to include human rights, legal, social, psychological, cultural and other perspectives in our effort against HIV.

We further know that the face of AIDS is increasingly young and female. Girls in sub-Saharan Africa continue to be disproportionately vulnerable to HIV infection and account for nearly 75 percent of all infections in young people because of strong social, cultural and economic dependency. Gender-based discrimination and violence are significant barriers to accessing social services and negatively ▶



PHOTO: UNESCO

*Peer-to-peer outreach, as in this OFID/UNESCO project in Uzbekistan, has proved an effective means of conveying important messages about HIV and AIDS among young people.*

## OFID and UNICEF – making a difference



The joint OFID/UNICEF Mother/Child Global Project to Fight HIV/AIDS was launched in 2006 with a number of key objectives: to offer protection, care and support for children made vulnerable by AIDS, including orphans; to provide HIV prevention and life skills development to street children; and, to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV. The initiative covered 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, four in Latin America and the Caribbean, and two in Asia.

By the conclusion of the two-year initiative, great strides had been made in all three target areas, with many of the advances the result of capacity building and the scaling-up of responses at both national and community levels. In Rwanda, for example, the establishment of a tracking system for mother-to-child-transmission successfully brought back 400 HIV positive children, who had been lost to follow-up. In Haiti, OFID's grant provided support to a community program offering psychosocial assistance to children and their family caregivers living in Port-au-Prince. And in Sri Lanka and Myanmar, life skills development programs were devised to help support young people and adolescents, especially those most at risk to HIV and AIDS.

◀ impact individual ability to exercise self-protection choices.

Last but not least, we know that peer education harbors a large potential for triggering behavioral change among sexually active teenagers. Current attempts include the Sister-to-Sister program in Malawi, Tanzania and Namibia. Here, female peer counselors (big sisters) supported by young female health workers are trained to deliver intensive classes to girls. The content of such sessions surrounds life skills including sexual topics and how HIV/AIDS infection can be avoided.

So, our knowledge about HIV/AIDS and how it relates to children has vastly improved. But how can we harness these insights and turn them into positive action? Rachel Yates, UNICEF's Senior Adviser on Children and HIV/AIDS, and a development practitioner of many years experience, summarizes the lessons learned and points to the way forward:

**Lesson One:** Children living with AIDS need access to treatment. By the end of 2008 only an estimated 275,000 were receiving treatment out of a total of 730,000. Whilst this represents an increase of nearly 40 percent over 2007, the gap is still huge.

**Lesson Two:** Children need the love and support of families and communities. Institutional care such as orphanages should be a temporary measure and a last resort.

**Lesson Three:** Orphans and other vulnerable children are often at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing basic services such as education. Keeping boys and girls in school is very important to ensure continuing access to education and also to keep children in a supportive environment where they can get access to other services (e.g. life skills for HIV prevention and psycho-social support for children who have lost parents).

**Lesson Four:** Protecting children from all forms of abuse is crucial. Children affected by AIDS are often at higher risk of being driven into harmful child labor, or of being physically and sexu-

ally abused. Supporting community child protection committees can be a way to help safeguard children at risk of abuse.

Lessons Five: Adolescents and young people need comprehensive and correct knowledge about HIV and how to avoid transmission. Many young people continue to be infected. In 2007 an estimated 45 percent of new cases were found among young people age 15-24.

Mpolokeng and Sello, the two Lesotho teenagers, would probably agree with Rachel Yates about her emphasis on a robust combination of social and medical interventions. After all, these two teenage orphans know the particularly vicious circle opening up for children affected by HIV. Can you go to school? Can you escape stigma and sidelining in your community? Can you avoid the avenues to violence or illegal activities? Can you pursue a career? Do you get information, support, and counselling – and do your non-affected peers get the same?

Thus, Mpolokeng and Sello would likely not be surprised to hear the tale of 15 HIV-positive children at the Mai Hoa Centre near Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. On a Monday morning in September 2009, they were excited to be starting high school. “But when we got to school, the parents of the other children were just standing there and then they started taking their children home. I was so sad. Because I knew they were scared of us, scared of our disease,” 12-year-old Tuyen told a reporter of the United States National Public Radio. Jesper Morch, Vietnam’s UNICEF representative, took the incident as a reminder that “the misconceptions, the myths, they exist anywhere and at any time. Stigma and discrimination is close to unavoidable.”

Mpolokeng and Sello might also relate to the gender factor which Linda Richter, a Swedish expert on the topic, explores: “While girls are, overall, more vulnerable than boys, studies of school drop-out, child labor, children’s time-use, trafficking and sexual exploitation show that boys are also vulnerable and should not be neglected. Moreover, neglect for boys’ care may contribute later to the violence men perpetrate on women and children.”

Mpolokeng and Sello might furthermore subscribe to the best practice package for fighting the impact of HIV/AIDS everywhere: this mix includes high level government ownership and sustained leadership in fighting HIV, donors with a good understanding of local politics and the policymaking process, the involvement of and support by civil society organizations, as well as accountability and political pressure. A successful process also needs committed, dynamic individuals, consultative practices, and the availability of resources.

Despite the great challenges they face in their own lives in Lesotho, both Mpolokeng and Sello possess what especially vulnerable children need: an astounding resilience. These two orphaned teenagers have hopes and dreams for the future. The reason for that is a large, ongoing participatory effort of providing child-headed households in the country with cash grants. Mpolokeng and Sello are two of the recipients. “My greatest wish is to go back to school so that I can become a teacher and help other children learn and grow,” says Mpolokeng. Sello, now an experienced herd boy, voices his passion, saying: “Cows are my life. Now, I can buy a new cow. My cattle make sure that we survive and that my younger brother and sister can stay in school.” ■

## Lessons learned about children and AIDS

- Children living with AIDS need improved access to treatment.
- Institutional care such as orphanages should be a temporary measure and a last resort.
- Children should be kept in school to ensure access to vital psycho/social services.
- It is crucial to protect children affected by AIDS from abuse.
- Adolescents and young people need to be taught about HIV and how to avoid infection.

**Further Reading:** The Fourth Stocktaking Report on Children and AIDS, a joint annual effort by UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO, is published at [www.uniteforchildren.org](http://www.uniteforchildren.org), a site also offering teaching and advocacy kits. The BetterCareNetwork, <http://www.crin.org/bcn/>, deals with best forms for protection and care for children, which exclude orphanages.



## IEF holds energy poverty symposium in South Africa

Participants call for tangible results in alleviation efforts

PHOTO: IEF5

The Republic of South Africa, December 8-9, hosted in the City of Johannesburg, an International Energy Forum (IEF) Symposium on Energy Poverty. This was a joint effort by the Riyadh, Saudi Arabia-based IEF and the South African Ministry of Energy, bringing together energy specialists and independent experts from various countries and international organizations, among them OFID.

**T**he objective of the symposium was to explore ways and means of reversing the difficulties associated with energy poverty and, *via* informed dialogue, move toward achieving the *Millennium Development Goal (MDG)* of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Participants included officials from developed and developing countries; representatives of government and industry; finance institutions; non-governmental organizations and international aid agencies. They made recommendations on ending energy poverty

for presentation to energy ministers at the 12<sup>th</sup> IEF scheduled for Mexico, March 29-31, 2010.

The symposium agreed that energy poverty programs are severely underfunded; and that the current financial crisis has made an already difficult situation critical. Lack of access to, and affordability of, modern energy services burdens nearly two billion people and continues to impede the achievement of the MDGs. Despite efforts, energy poverty has retained an upward trend through recent years.

The symposium followed the recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> IEF which was held in Rome, April 20-22, 2008. The Rome Forum noted that “lack of access to modern energy services...perpetuated the poverty cycle and inhibited economic development, availability of clean water and food, while preventing education and training and acceptable health standards.”

Ministers at the Rome Forum called for solidarity among IEF countries and a change in the collective efforts of all relevant international organizations to help achieve the MDGs by halving poverty rates. The message echoed that of the *ad hoc* Jeddah and London Energy Meetings (June and December 2008, respectively), where Ministers called for the intensification of efforts from national, regional and international finance and aid institutions to alleviate the consequences of high and volatile oil prices on the least-developed countries and agreed on the importance of multilateral measures to mitigate this effect.

Participants at the Johannesburg symposium concluded that concerted action should be taken against energy poverty, as the issue stalls progress in achieving the MDGs. They said capacity

building in statistics was necessary to provide a basis for the development of benchmarks and indicators for energy poverty against which needs could be defined and progress measured. A Venezuelan delegation drawn from the Venezuelan national oil company, PDVSA, presented a *Proposal for a Solidarity-Based Energy Cooperation* designed to combat energy poverty in the 49 poorest countries of the world. The delegation posited that the potential existed for inter-governmental cooperation to assist in the reduction of energy poverty. They called for the creation of an *ad hoc* group to discuss the feasibility of their proposal.

In its own presentation, OFID stressed that it was “not waiting for the announcement of a new Millennium Development Goal” to step up its fight against energy poverty, but had already “intensified its assistance,” using all the financing facilities at its disposal. Indeed, OFID has approved a number of energy-oriented public sector loans in recent months and expects to see growing private participation in the power sector in response to the huge scale of the investment required.

In general, Symposium participants observed that, in addition to their traditional role of lending to public and

private sectors, international financial institutions should scale-up their operations, enhance international coordination and effectiveness, support national or regional programs and trans-border projects and back human resource and institutional capacity building. Participants suggested that financing from international financing institutions should be refocused on infrastructure, regional integration projects and local projects that have tangible results in alleviation of the poverty situation.

Speaking at the close of the symposium, IEF Secretary General, Mr. Noé van Hulst stated that “...no nation in history has significantly reduced its poverty levels without increasing its energy usage. It is crystal clear that access to modern energy services is one of the cornerstones of poverty reduction and a key element in achieving the MDGs.”

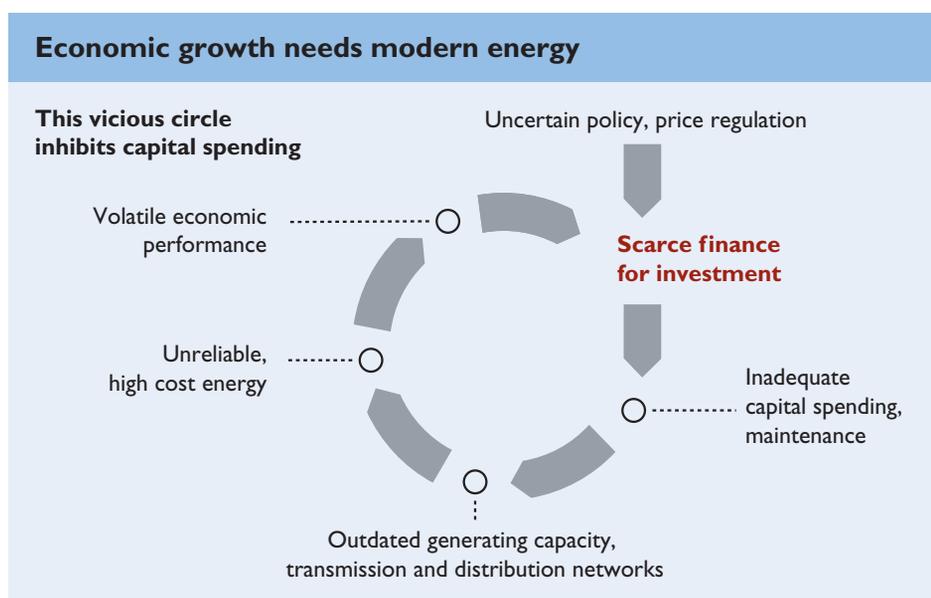
Symposium participants reviewed the role of different stakeholders and reached a number of conclusions and recommendations:

- Energy poverty affects nearly every corner of the globe to some extent, but is felt most in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. Some 2.5 billion people lack access to modern fuels for cooking and heating and this figure

is set to increase to 2.6 billion by 2020, according to IEA projections.

- The causes of energy poverty cannot be separated from the causes of general poverty; the two are related.
- Improving energy access may not be a sufficient condition to accelerate economic and social development, but no nation has significantly reduced its poverty levels without increasing its energy usage.
- The use of non-commercial fuels poses a severe health risk, affects longevity, reduces the productive capacity of entire communities and makes education more difficult.
- Although an international problem, energy poverty has a local dimension and can be improved through domestic energy policy reform.
- Energy poverty programs are severely under-funded, and the credit crisis has made this even worse.
- There is a need for greater dialogue between governments, and international efforts can better leverage economies of scale to reach the largest number of energy consumers and help reduce energy poverty.
- The role of developed countries would be to provide financial and technology-related assistance to developing countries, to help and support human resource development as well as institutional capacity building.
- New impetus and more widespread participation are called for in the “Energy for the Poor” Initiative.

The IEF is the world’s largest recurring gathering of Energy Ministers. IEF member countries account for more than 90% of global oil and gas supply and demand. Through the Forum and its associated events, ministers and energy industry executives participate in dialogue which is of increasing importance to global energy security. The next IEF Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by Mexico in Cancun, March 29-31, 2010. The co-hosts will be Germany and Kuwait. ■





*With the help of expertise from Indian agribusiness specialists Olam, Mozambique's cashew farmers have increased processing capacity to meet rising demand.*

PHOTO: OLAM INTERNATIONAL

# Asian footsteps in Africa

BY TARUN KHANNA

Tarun Khanna is Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School. His latest book is *Billions of Entrepreneurs: How China and India are Reshaping their Futures and Yours*.

**D**on't look now, but capitalism – maligned in these bailout-ridden recessionary days – is reshaping Africa inexorably. What is different today is that it is emanating from China and India, rather than from the conventional bastions of capitalist prowess.

Devi Shetty, a celebrated cardiac surgeon in Bangalore, brings health relief to India's masses through his Narayana group of hospitals. Some years ago, I witnessed his early experiments with rural telemedicine, especially in the Indian states of Karnataka and West Bengal. In my visit last month, the wall was adorned by a large map of Karnataka festooned with colored pins, to indicate that he now served most district capitals in the remotest parts of the state. Moreover, a world map showed outreach to rural areas of East Africa and Southeast Asia, and the

room has been upgraded to reflect a still-expanding global reach.

All this comes from carefully acquired experience – technical and socio-logical – with delivering expert medical advice through teleconference facilities, aided by satellite links. Shetty's team has successfully participated in telemedicine consultations – multi-specialty, non-stop availability, and supplemented by continuing education – with hospitals in 14 African countries. This effort is part of then Indian President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's ambitious pan-African e-Network project to link all 53 African capitals to tertiary care facilities across India.

Shetty is a healer, first and foremost. But he is also an entrepreneur, and this is the latest in his many efforts to create successful, low-cost, but cutting-edge medical ecosystems in tough locations worldwide. He aspires audaciously to what he calls the universal Walmartization of healthcare – a reshaping of medical care that the world's indigent need, and in Africa more than most other locations.

Working out of India, Dr. Devi Shetty has pioneered telemedicine services with hospitals in 14 African countries.



PHOTO: NARAYANA HRUDAYALAYA

## Chinese Premier pledges US\$10 billion in aid to Africa



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao

China is to further strengthen ties with Africa, following an announcement by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt, in early November. In addition to US\$10 billion in soft loans over the next three years, China has pledged to provide US\$1 billion for on-lending to small and medium-sized enterprises and to write-off government loans to certain heavily-indebted poor countries. Other measures announced by Wen included closer cooperation in tackling climate change, a China-Africa science and technology partnership, and enhanced access to Chinese markets for African products.

China will also support efforts to boost food security in Africa and otherwise improve human development through investments in the healthcare and education sectors. The new measures succeed those put forward by Chinese President Hu Jintao at the landmark Beijing Summit of FOCAC in 2006.

PHOTO: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Cynics say that India's e-Network is currying favor with Africa in exchange for natural resources. Perhaps. But in that effort, India must contend with its neighbor, China, which speaks with a louder voice and carries a larger stick.

Chinese Communist Party President Hu Jintao's peripatetic diplomacy

across Africa has ensured that the Chinese are omnipresent there. China has traded much investment in physical infrastructure in places otherwise shunned – Angola, Sudan, and Zimbabwe – for access to natural resources.

Witness also an unprecedented convening of 48 African heads of state and senior officials in Beijing in 2006 to signal unequivocally that China would speak with the loudest voice. India tried to mimic the event, with an India-Africa summit in New Delhi in 2008. Fourteen countries attended to discuss food price inflation, energy needs, etc. Alas, India's voice was drowned out, not by China's attempts to provide medicine and education to Africa, but by the sheer magnitude of Chinese state-owned enterprises' investments in physical infrastructure.

But loud voices need not be the most effective. Indian influence will no doubt exploit assets less available to others, particularly the Indian diaspora in countries like South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria. India and Africa have been linked over the centuries by trade, religion, and post-imperial political consciousness. Gandhi and the Non-Aligned Movement remain important symbols. Indians are more part of Africa's social ►



PHOTO: OLAM INTERNATIONAL

*Olam has set up a cocoa program in Côte d'Ivoire to improve livelihoods among the farming community. Here, workers at a sustainable cocoa farm carry out quality control on solar-dried beans.*

◀ tapestry than are the Chinese, a fabric that has been strengthened through opportunity and adversity through the ages.

Consider Olam, a Singapore-headquartered but Africa-centric global agribusiness company. From the soybean farms of Brazil's Matto Grosso to the granaries of Ukraine, Olam is prized for its ability to add value in disparate conditions.

Olam was started by Indians in Nigeria and remains a world-beating trader in cotton, coffee, cashews and the like. To succeed, Olam has had to work "up-country" – a euphemism for difficult conditions far from comfortable port cities – requiring it to rely on Indians' familiarity with, and willingness to work in, Africa's interior. Indeed, so competent is Olam that when Wilmar, a Southeast Asian firm run by overseas Chinese and a force in its own right in China and across Asia, sought to expand in Africa, it sought out Olam in a joint venture.

The connection between Nigerian cashew farmers and Devi Shetty's pediatric cardiac surgery is that they both represent decentralized private activity, undertaken through the market, unlike the operations of the China National Petroleum Corporation, Sinopec, and others in Darfur and elsewhere. They all add value, but decentralized market-based activity appears likelier to engender additional goodwill.

But there is more reshaping to come, again fostered by mutual self-interest, rather than by fiat. The Olam and Wilmar joint venture is, in a sense, symptomatic of the combination of assets from across Asia that can catalyze productive change in Africa. It is fitting that Olam, in Hebrew, means "transcending boundaries."

Such symbiosis requires a healthy disregard for convention. Failures will result, surely. But, to my mind, for the most part, decentralized experimentation beats Africa's partial addiction to aid. ■

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# Migration as an engine of human development

According to the 2009 Human Development Report, an annual publication of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), nearly one billion – or one out of seven – people in the world are migrants. The Report, *Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*, argues that migration is often motivated by unequal socio-economic opportunities – both between and among nations – including incomes and access to social services such as education and healthcare.

**M**ost migrants move within their own country: 740 million people are internal migrants, almost four times the number of international migrants. Of the world's 200 million international migrants, the majority relocated from one developing country to another, or from one developed country to another. Less than one-third moved from a developing to a developed country. For example, only three percent of Africans live outside their country of birth.

The Report provides ample evidence of the positive effects of migration on human development. Contrary to commonly held beliefs, migrants typically boost economic output and give more than they take: immigration generally

raises employment levels in host communities and does not crowd out locals from the job market. While the impact of migrants on public finances is relatively small, there are broad gains in innovation and investment in new business initiatives.

Since 1998, workers' remittances have been the second largest source of external financing for development after foreign direct investment. More recently, rising unemployment as a result of the global financial and economic crisis reduced remittances to an estimated US\$290 billion in 2009, from US\$305 billion in the previous year. Nonetheless, remittances have shown a far more stable trend than private capital flows to devel-

oping countries during the global economic downturn, and continue to outstrip the volume of official development assistance (ODA), which was estimated at US\$119.8 billion in 2008. OFID Member Country Saudi Arabia remains the second largest remittance sending country after the United States. As for recipients, India receives the largest share, followed by China and Mexico.

Most migrants reap the gains in the form of higher incomes, better access to education and health, and improved prospects for their children. Proportionately, the poorest and lower-skilled people of the world stand to gain most from emigrating: migrants from the poorest countries saw on average a 15-fold ►



PHOTO: GREGORY WRONALANY

*An ethnic food store in London, England. Contrary to commonly held beliefs, migrants typically boost economic output in their adopted countries and frequently give more than they take.*

◀ increase in income, a doubling in school enrolment rates and a 16-fold reduction in child mortality after moving to a developed country. Yet, they also faced the greatest risk and the largest legal, financial and social barriers.

There is further evidence that migration can empower traditionally disadvantaged groups, including women, whose migration often leads to significant gains in education and income, and who more frequently send a larger proportion of their incomes home than men. In most developing countries, emigration rates for skilled workers are substantially higher

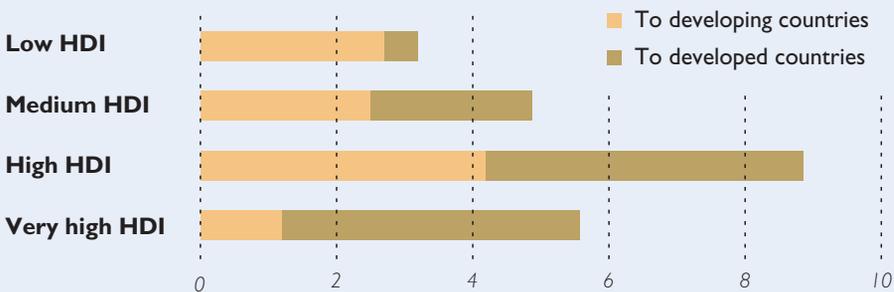
among women than men, and women with tertiary degrees from developing countries are at least 40 percent more likely than male graduates to emigrate to developed economies.

However, migration does not always bring the desired benefits. Risks to human development are present where migration is a reaction to threats and denial of choice, and where regular opportunities for movement are constrained by conflict, natural disaster or severe economic hardship. An estimated 14 million refugees – or about seven percent of the world’s migrants – have been forced to live outside their country of citizenship. Moreover, the exodus of highly skilled workers abroad continues to pose major concerns for policy makers in many developing countries.

The Report recommends several policy reform measures to create a more conducive environment for migration as a part of national social and economic development strategies. These include host country restrictions to the movement of workers, and ensuring fair treatment for migrants, including labor rights and basic human rights. In the area of international migration, the Report makes a strong case for increased access to sectors with a high demand for labor in developed countries with ageing populations, where the demand for low-skilled migrant workers is likely to increase over time. ■

### Emigration rates by Human Development Index and income

Median emigration rates by origin country HDI group



Source: HDR team estimates based on Migration DRC (2007) and UN (2009e).

Median emigration rate (%)

# Vienna High-Level Symposium reviews aid accountability and transparency

BY FATIMAH ZWANIKKEN

**T**he High Level Symposium on *Accountable and Transparent Development Cooperation: Towards a More Inclusive Framework* brought together some 150 high ranking representatives from both North and South, UN agencies, multilateral, regional and bilateral development agencies – including OFID – academia and civil society. The main objective of the gathering was to review the *quality* of aid in preparation for the second biennial UN high-level *Development Cooperation Forum* (DCF), which is scheduled to take place in New York in July 2010.

The DCF was launched in Geneva, in July 2007, as a new biennial function within the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The first DCF was held in 2008. The Forum aims at bringing

greater coherence to the fragmented landscape for international development cooperation by offering an inclusive platform for global dialogue and policy review, and by making recommendations

on means to improve the quality and effectiveness of the development assistance provided.

The July 2010 DCF will focus on three inter-related and mutually reinforcing areas: (i) aid policy coherence, (ii) mutual accountability and aid transparency, and (iii) South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Forum will be held in conjunction with the 2010 UN-ECOSOC *Annual Ministerial Review (AMR)*, a body tasked to review trends in development cooperation and improve coherence in the activities of various development cooperation actors. Organized under the sub-title *Implementing the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADG) and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women*, the 2010 AMR will assess progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other IADGs. Considering the disproportionate impact of today's multiple crises on women, the 2010 AMR will pay special ►

As the international development community gears itself up for the July 2010 Development Cooperation Forum, a preparatory high-level meeting at UN Headquarters in Vienna has been examining some of the tools and mechanisms needed to make development aid more effective.



PHOTO: LIBA TAYLOR/ALAMY

Attending an adult literacy class in Kenya. Women's empowerment has been identified as a critical factor in determining the quality and effectiveness of aid.

*Institutional capacity building among national parliaments, civil society organizations and local government is one of the essential components of well-functioning mutual accountability mechanisms.*

◀ attention to reviewing progress towards achieving gender equality and empowering women by 2015, as set out in MDG3. The AMR will explore key challenges in achieving the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* adopted at the end of the Fourth UN World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995, and make action-oriented recommendations on means to help countries bridge the gender gap.

In the run up to the 2010 AMR, discussions at the Vienna Symposium focused on addressing the major challenges that donors and recipient countries face in making development cooperation more effective at the global, regional and national levels in the three areas of focus set out for the Second DCF.

Among the key issues featured were means to enhance *mutual accountability* and *transparency* and ways to make aid more *predictable* and less volatile; the latter a weakness exposed by the current financial crisis. Participants agreed that institutional capacity building – including a strengthening of the role of national parliaments, civil society organizations and local government – together with sound data and performance targets are important requirements for well-functioning mutual accountability mechanisms.

A special session was dedicated to *gender equality and the empowerment of women* and their impact on aid quality and effectiveness. Participants underscored the importance of integrating gender into mutual accountability mechanisms, in line with the *December 2008 OECD/DAC Guiding Principles for Aid Effectiveness, Gender Equality, and Women's*

*Empowerment*. Particular attention was drawn to the importance of *gender-sensitive budgeting* as a tool for linking financing for development with gender mainstreaming.

Preparatory activities in Vienna also included specific sessions on improving policy coherence and setting common standards with respect to South-South and triangular development cooperation. Participants discussed, amongst other things, how such cooperation can promote other types of financing for development, including domestic sources of financing, foreign direct investment flows, and worker's remittances from the perspective of developing countries.

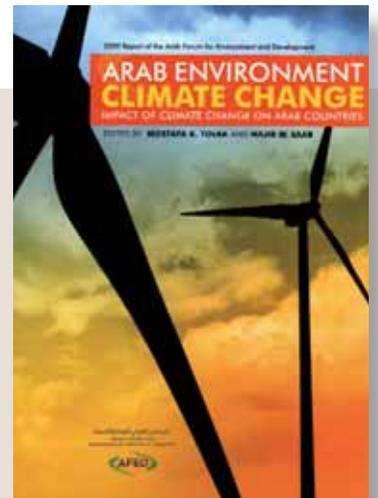
In view of the growing importance of South-South and triangular cooperation, the need to improve information and data on the financial flows arising from such cooperation was emphasized. It was recognized that accurately measuring such flows is fraught with difficulty because of the lack of clarity on definitions and methodology.

Acknowledging these difficulties, participants proposed to collect data on such flows on a *voluntary* basis in two phases. In a first phase, national data would be shared on the basis of agreed data concepts and definitions with a view to achieving as much international *data comparability* as possible. In a second phase, the data compiled would be reported in a standardized database format to the DCF for the purpose of fostering knowledge and understanding of the scope of South-South flows as a manifestation of solidarity among developing countries. ■

# Arab countries debate climate change

OFID sponsors and participates in AFED conference

Climate change, the vulnerability of Arab countries and the need for regional collaborative action were the key themes of the 2nd Annual Conference of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), which was held in Beirut, Lebanon, in November. OFID was a key sponsor of the event and its Director-General, Suleiman Al-Herbish, a keynote speaker.



OFID Director-General, Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, delivered a keynote address on the theme “The way forward for a sustainable environment.”

**A** FED’s second conference brought together some 500 delegates, representing corporations, NGOs, academia, research institutions and the media from 22 countries. Ministers and representatives of government and international organizations participated as observers. The main purpose of the meeting was to deliberate the findings of a report issued by AFED on the Impact of Climate Change on Arab Countries and to draft recommendations ahead of the December 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP 15).

The Conference endorsed various recommendations, including the overall agreement that Arab countries are among the most vulnerable to the potential negative impacts of climate change, which were summarized as water stress, ►

## AFED in brief

The Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) is a non-profit non-governmental organization, established in Beirut in June 2006, at the conclusion of a regional conference on Public Opinion and the Environment. AFED has subsequently earned the status of international NGO, with the associated immunities for its secretariat based in Beirut, and has been endorsed by the League of Arab States, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council. OFID's cooperation with AFED started in 2006 and includes: support to the organization of AFED's round table on "Public Opinion and the Environment", held in Beirut in June 2006, sponsorship of AFED's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in Manama, Bahrain, in 2008, support to the production and publication of the AFED report "Arab Environment: Future Challenges", and sponsorship of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, held in Beirut, Lebanon, November 19-20, 2009.

◀ declining food production, rising sea levels, loss of biodiversity and worsening human health.

The conference also highlighted the lack of specialized databases and scientific expertise to guide mitigation or adaptation efforts that would better prepare Arab countries to address climate change vulnerabilities.

Arab governments were called upon to endorse the 2007 Arab Ministerial Declaration and the 2009 Statement on Climate Change, issued by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment. They were also encouraged to make climate change a public policy issue by creating strong national bodies that would be responsible for climate change assessments.

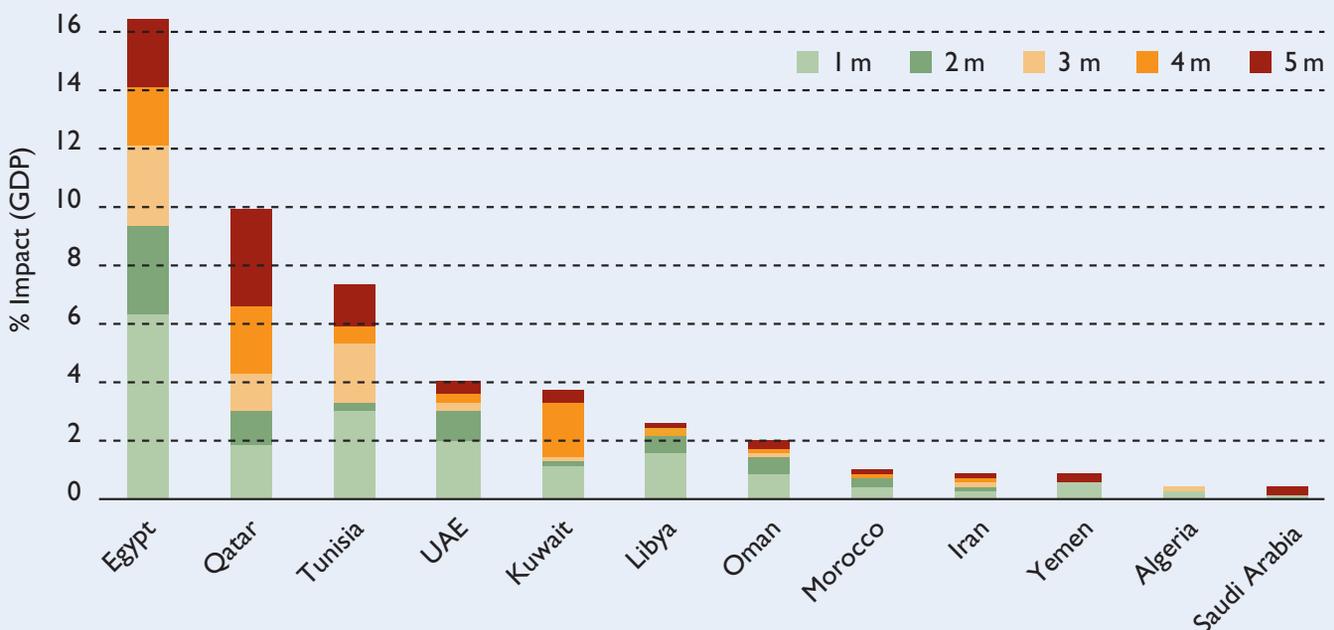
The Conference also asked for greater efforts and resources to be devoted to monitoring and assessing climate change, and proposed the establishment of a regional centre for the coordination of research and scientific knowledge.

In conclusion, the conference resolutions highlighted the need to formulate a clear Arab position for the climate change negotiations at COP 15. This was desirable in order to reach an effective post-Kyoto agreement that would ensure that greenhouse gas emissions do not reach critical levels, support the international goal of limiting global temperature increase to 2°C, and assist developing countries, including Arab countries, to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

Widely evident in the outcome was the call on civil society, mainly NGOs, academia and the private sector, to participate in the implementation of effective measures. The conference stressed that a prerequisite for carrying out its recommendations was securing political will at the highest level of government in each Arab state.

In his keynote speech entitled "The way forward for a sustainable environment," OFID Director-General Mr. Al-Herbish, touched on many of the issues that would later be debated at the Conference.

### A comparison of percentage impacts of sea level rise on the GDP of Arab countries



Source: Dasgupta et al., 2007 Note: Countries not mentioned did not provide data

## Lebanese President and OFID Director-General exchange views

In the course of his visit to Lebanon to attend the AFED Conference, OFID Director-General, Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, met with Lebanese President, General Michel Sleiman. The meeting was a reflection of the high regard in which OFID is held in Lebanon and an opportunity for Mr. Al-Herbish to brief the President on OFID's many operations in the country. General Sleiman acknowledged OFID's continuous presence and conveyed his appreciation for the institution's active role in Lebanon's development: "OFID has, on various occasions, extended much-needed assistance, especially during the recent challenging periods that we have experienced," he noted. OFID and Lebanon have been partners for over three decades.



Mr. Al-Herbish separated the challenges of environmental sustainability in the Arab region into three core areas. First, the Director-General focused on the characteristics unique to the region, specifically water and desertification, which he said required prioritization in investment commitments and added scientific efforts. Regarding Arab contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, he noted the relative weight of this issue, stating: "According to the World Resource Institute, between 1900 – 2005 the Arab region contributed 2.3 percent of the world total cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions." In contrast, the urgency of depleting water resources and desertification calls for immediate action.

The second issue the Director-General addressed was the abundant fossil fuel resources that are utilized moderately in comparison with industrialized nations. He further stressed the presence of energy poverty in some parts of the region, where the annual consumption of

electricity is as low as 150 kW-h in comparison to 10,000 kW-h in industrialized nations. OFID, he noted, has allocated 20 percent of its overall commitments to energy related projects and is playing an active role in responding to the global energy poverty initiative.

For the third issue, Mr. Al-Herbish talked about the wealth of solar energy in the region and the lack of technology development and infrastructure which could enable it to occupy a bulk share in the energy mix. He added that, "If OPEC countries are expected to meet the 86 percent of increased demand for oil from now until 2030 according to the International Energy Agency, then moving towards renewable energies requires gradual repositioning that does not affect economic conditions that burden the poor populations as exemplified in the recent economic crisis."

During the Conference itself, the Director-General also chaired a session entitled: *Towards Lower Carbon Economy:*

*Challenges and Opportunities.* Other participants included Dr. Mohamed El-Ashry, former head of the Global Environment Facility and member of the International Committee on Climate Change and Sustainable Development; Ms. Carol Sanford, Chief Executive Officer of Development Economics Group International; and Dr. Marwan Iskandar, Economist Consultant. The three speakers addressed, from their own perspectives, the challenges and opportunities of transition to a green economy to help fight climate change.

In a separate session during the conference, Mr. Faris Hasan, Director of Corporate Planning and Economic Services at OFID, presented a study conducted in partnership with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) on *Biofuels – Environmental Impact and Food Security Issues*. The study was first released at the 4<sup>th</sup> OPEC International Seminar which took place in March 2009 in Vienna, Austria. ■

# Kuwait hosts Arab Thought Foundation Annual Conference

## FIKR 8 gives voice to Arab youth

Under the auspices of the Emir of Kuwait, HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Arab Thought Foundation (ATF) held its 8th Annual FIKR Conference in early December. Convened around the theme “Integrating Arab Economies; Partners for Prosperity,” the gathering tackled a host of topical issues pertinent to the Arab region.



**E**stablished in 2001, the ATF was set up to promote constructive dialogue between the business community, academia and civil society, as a means of contributing to the future development of the Arab region. An integral part of ATF’s work is to foster information exchange between Arab leaders and their non-Arab counterparts in the generation of progressive initiatives and ideas.

The annual FIKR Conference provides an opportunity for various stakeholders to come together to exchange views and propose practical solutions to the complex challenges associated with the region’s economic growth path. The gathering also helps raise awareness of the region’s thought leadership, its business models and its status on the global economic stage.

December’s FIKR 8 brought together 800 delegates from 36 countries, representing corporations, non-governmental organizations, academia, research institutions, NGO’s and media entities. OFID, led by Director-General Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, participated actively in the various sessions and discussions, and held an interactive exhibit to disseminate information on its activities worldwide.

Some of the pressing issues addressed during the Conference included: economic integration and trade protectionism; prospects for trade and monetary union; food security and global agriculture; Arab corporate social responsibility and the role the private sector; and, Islamic finance and its significance as a



HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait (left), with HRH Prince Khalid Al Faisal Al Saud, Governor of Mecca Province, Saudi Arabia, and President, Arab Thought Foundation.

financial model within the global economy. Throughout the Conference, there was an over-arching focus on the region's youth, with various panels dedicated to focusing attention on the agendas most important to young people as the drivers of development in the Arab world. Youth engagement was encouraged through the sponsorship of young delegates from around the region.

The importance of the youth role was summarized in one of the sessions by Ms. Soraya Salti, Senior Vice President of Injaz Al Arab, an independent, not-for-profit organization that focuses on youth development under the patronage of Queen Rania of Jordan. Ms. Salti said: "How we invest in our children reflects on our society, where we are, and where

we are heading. We have the highest youth unemployment in the world and the lowest female participation".

ATF estimates that more than two-thirds of the population in the Middle East are aged between 25 and 32. Rising unemployment rates across the region severely affect this most vulnerable group. Under Ms. Salti's leadership, Injaz has expanded into 12 additional countries, reaching some 500,000 young people. The dedication of Injaz was exemplified among other pioneering stories which reflect the importance of incorporating a strong youth mandate within the private and public sectors alike.

In this regard, a unique event at the conclusion of the Conference was the 2009 Arab Creativity Awards, which was

covered live by Al Arabiya TV. The event celebrated the best of young Arab talent and achievements.

With the aim of creating a platform for the different issues affecting Arab youth, ATF has created several programs to tackle some of the most immediate problems. An example of the many projects ATF works on is the *Youth without Borders: e-Arab Youth Network*, an online gateway for open and ongoing debate on crucial issues. ATF strongly believes that online social networking platforms enable young people to share ideas, engage together, and unite in bringing about positive change for their generation. ■



# Venezuela's Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra visits Austria

OFID hosts reception

BY SAM IFEAGWU

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela sent young, distinguished representatives to Vienna, Austria, October 2009, to promote relations and mutual interest in classical and brass music. The reference is to a rousing, successful visit by the Venezuelan Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra (VSBYO), which is part of El Sistema. The orchestra drew admiration and critical acclaim from across Austrian society.

## Vienna Concert House

The orchestra was hosted by the Vienna Concert House (*Wiener Konzerthaus*) which paid the orchestra the highest compliment: the Concert House would seek to emulate and replicate the example of El Sistema and create similar children's and youth orchestras in Austria. The Austrian objective would be the same: to assist children from poorer backgrounds and draw the poorest away from street life.

At a packed press conference in October, the Concert House announced preparations to establish its own "Das System," along the lines of the vision of José Antonio Abreu (70, pianist, economist, educator, activist and politician), who created El Sistema in 1975.

The Venezuelan youth orchestra performed creditably to full houses all through their tour of Austria. This included a number of performances with Mr. Gustavo Adolfo Dudamel Ramírez as conductor. The orchestra paid a courtesy call on OFID, where Director-General Suleiman J. Al-Herbish gave a reception in their honor. OFID saw the visit as opportune and as coinciding with OFID's continuing drive to exhibit, whenever feasible, the rich cultural heritage of its Member Countries.

The 200-strong youth orchestra comprises young people, aged 12-26. El Sistema as a whole employs over 15,000 music teachers, and includes training in instrument-making, arts administration and new media. Specific accomplishments of El Sistema are regional children's and youth orchestras and brass groups. In addition, national children's and youth orchestras have been formed from the selection of top players from the regional orchestras. The VSBYO has entertained audiences across the world attracting the attention of top names in the music business. In 2007, they undertook an epoch-making tour with sell-out concerts in Mexico, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston and also Carnegie Hall in New York, where the orchestra was guest-conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. More recently in December 2008, the orchestra had a debut-tour of Asia, with concerts in Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo.

VSBYO current conductor, Dudamel, 28, in the meantime, one of the world's most renowned conductors, was born in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. He is also already an accomplished violinist. He is co-terminously music director of the *Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra*. He practically began his music career with ►

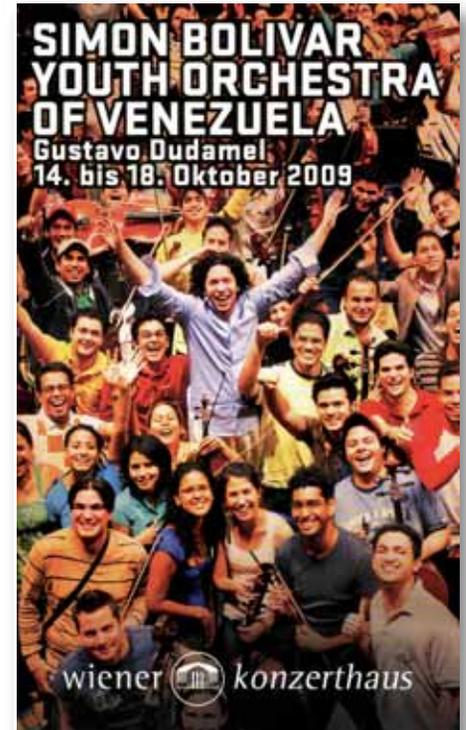


PHOTO: AGNES NEBEHAY

*From left: OFID Director-General Al-Herbish welcomes Gustavo Dudamel, conductor of the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra, and José Antonio Abreu, founder of the El Sistema movement, to OFID Headquarters.*

◀ **El Sistema.** He rose in the ranks of the orchestra and took up the violin at age 10. Dudamel attended the *Jacinto Lara Conservatory*, studying conducting. In 1999, he was appointed music director of the *Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar* of Venezuela.

On the international stage, Dudamel debuted with various philharmonic orchestras and signed a recording contract with *Deutsche Gramophone*. In 2006, his additional guest-conducting appearances included concerts with the *City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra*, the Dresden *Staatskapelle*; and the *Royal Liverpool Philharmonic*. In September, 2007, he conducted the *Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra* for the first time at the Lucerne Festival.

Yet other accomplishments of Dudamel have been work with the Gothenburg Symphony at the BBC Proms; the orchestra at Walt Disney Concert Hall; the

Chicago Symphony Orchestra; and the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra. In July, 2009, Dudamel was named winner of the prestigious City of Toronto Glenn Gould Protégé Prize.

El Sistema was founded by José Antonio Abreu, whose initial goal was simply to contribute to poverty alleviation in his home country and give hope and perspective to young children growing up in poor circumstances. El Sistema was his vehicle *ad hoc*. Abreu imagined that via music, the children would acquire education and go on to live more constructive lives. Says Abreu: For the children we work with, music is practically the only way to a dignified social destiny. Poverty means loneliness, sadness, anonymity; an orchestra means joy, motivation, teamwork and the aspiration to succeed.

Abreu was born in the western Venezuelan city of Valera. He was trained as an economist. He holds a doctorate in

economics from the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello. He served as a deputy in the Chamber of Deputies in the old Congress of Venezuela. After his political career, he worked as a professor of economics and law at Universidad Simón Bolívar and in his *alma mater*. He would return to politics briefly in 1983 to serve as Minister of Culture.

El Sistema is formally known as the Foundation for the National Network of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela. Under the guidance of role-model Abreu, El Sistema has participated in exchange and cooperation programs with Spain, Latin American countries and the United States. The group was an innovative youth education method in which music was the primary avenue for social and intellectual improvement. Abreu received the Venezuelan National Music Prize for his work with El Sistema in 1979. ■



PHOTO: AGNES NIEBHAY

An ensemble from the Venezuela Youth Orchestra played to delighted guests at the reception held by OFID to honor the young musicians.

## OPEC Secretariat moves to new location

Management and Staff express satisfaction



**T**he old building, alongside the Danube canal, had housed the Secretariat for more than three decades. The Secretariat had begun life in Geneva, Switzerland – OPEC’s initial, global headquarters – moving to Vienna in 1965. At first in Vienna, the Secretariat was housed in two small buildings and was later transferred to Vienna’s landmark Ring road.

The move from Geneva to Vienna was at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Austria and the City of Vienna. The Secretariat took possession of its penultimate building in March, 1977. Management at the Secretariat has repeatedly spoken of Austria’s “far-sightedness” with regard to international relations and the country’s offer of “a congenial working environment” as well as the sustained warmth and hospitality offered by the people. Today, Austria is host to some 30 international organizations, many of them United Nations organs and specialized agencies. Yet others include varied international busi-

The Secretariat of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), hitherto based in Vienna’s Second District, moved on November 30, 2009, to a new location in Vienna’s central First District. In a report for the OPEC Bulletin, author Keith Aylward-Marchant, described the new headquarters building as “state-of-the-art.” He reported a move that went smoothly and efficiently, after more than two years of planning.

nesses and inter-governmental institutions as well as civil-society and non-governmental organizations

The new OPEC headquarters opened its portals for business on Monday, November 30. Secretariat staff remarked that, geographically, the relocation was simple. The distance between the two buildings is less than a kilometer, requiring crossing only a natural landmark, the

Danube canal, which separates the first from the second district of the city. The new Secretariat is located close to Vienna’s old Stock Exchange (*die Boerse*) and the glass-panelled Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna.

For the Secretariat’s 138-strong staff, the total usable area of the new building is about 9,000 square metres, which allows for possible expansion in the future, ►

◀ as OPEC takes on new assignments to meet impending challenges in the international oil market and related areas. Work began on the project in January, 2007, with the demolition of an old building, previously housing the Austrian Association of Trade Unions. The architects were *Atelier Hayde Architekten* of Austria. A consortium carried out the construction. *Bene Consulting* were responsible for the interior design and logistics of the move, *ACP* for the IT work and several other companies for the audio-visual arrangements. The lease agreement between OPEC and the owners, *Euro-PRISA*, was signed in September of the same year.

For traditionalists and admirers of continuity, the Secretariat took with it, to the new premises, a large artefact, which had adorned the reception area of the old headquarters. Carved from solid blocks of teak, the five-metre-long, 2.5-metre-high work of art took three Balinese craftsmen three months to complete, before it was flown to Austria. It depicts a scene from

the *Great Epic of Bharata* and was donated by the Indonesian Government. The work was originally unveiled by current Secretary General, HE Abdalla Salem El-Badri, in his capacity at the time as OPEC President and Secretary of the GSP Libyan AJ People's Committee of Energy. Staff Members were delighted to see the artwork decorating their new building.

The move to a new building necessitated an amended headquarters agreement between Austria and OPEC. The agreement was signed on September 30 by Secretary General El-Badri, and Austrian Foreign Minister, HE Michael Spindelegger. Also present at the signature ceremony was HE Ambassador Ernst-Peter Brezovszky, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for International Conferences and International Organizations. OPEC formally took possession of the building on October 30, 2009, and the official opening ceremony will be when the OPEC Conference next meets in Vienna, in March, 2010. ■

*OPEC's move to its new premises was a major logistical feat that involved two years of careful planning. In the end, it was accomplished without a hitch.*



PHOTOS: KEITH AYLWARD-MARCHANT AND DIANA LAVNICK

# Save the fish: food for thought?

While climate change has conquered global headlines for the past decade, the sorry state of the world's fish stocks has barely penetrated the public consciousness. The tide, however, is about to turn: "Imagine a World without Fish," suggests a new movie. "Aquacalypse!" cries a biologist. As stakeholders in Europe get set for a massive overhaul of the fisheries sector, the Quarterly looks at the need for reform and explores what insights can be shared with marine resource managers in the Red Sea region.

BY VERENA RINGLER

"The End of the Line – Imagine a World without Fish," is the title of a new documentary movie about the devastating effects of overfishing and its direct connection to the tuna roll on our dinner table. The movie chronicles man emptying the ocean like there is no tomorrow. It asserts "peak fish" happened in 1989. What has followed since has resulted in plunging numbers of fish and a hike in costs. Director Rupert Murray recounts: "Many places have seen fish populations crash. We tried to tell one story, about one problem, affecting one global ocean. We found it was, tragically, the same for everyone."

Murray and script writer Charles Clover are not the only whistleblowers about global overfishing.

Fisheries biologist Daniel Pauly joined the chorus with his 2009 tale *Aquacalypse Now* in *The New Republic* magazine, stating: "It is not just the future of the fishing industry that is at stake, but also the continued health of the world's largest ecosystem." A 2006 forecast by 14 academics in the journal *Science* predicted that by 2048, commercial fish stocks would be generating 10 percent or less of their peak catches. Ransom Myers and Boris Worm, authors of a 2003 article in

the magazine *Nature*, suggested that our oceans had already lost more than 90 percent of their predatory fish stocks – cod, tuna and salmon, for example.

Given that fish move across national borders and that the actions of one fishing fleet affect the opportunities of others, fish should have been attracting global, holistic attention since fleets were first industrialized in the 1950s. However, fish have received mostly national and industry attention. As a result, a global crisis has long been unfolding, as governments and fisheries quibble over quotas, increase subsidies, and invest in GPS ►

\*A peak in the biomass, or weight, of fish caught from the world's oceans.



PHOTO: MAREMA CENTRE, NORWEGIAN COLLEGE OF FISHERY SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ

*Without a more responsible approach to fishing, abundant displays of seafood, like this one at a market in Norway, may soon be a thing of the past.*

◀ and onboard computerized trackers. There is no global regime for controlling what may be fished where, when and how.

In the 1990s, scientific studies first demonstrated the global fish depletion. Governments watched in awe when Canada closed the Grand Banks in 1992. By then, two structural rifts in the sector had already deepened: first, marine biologists would tend to focus on the oceanic ecosystem and exchanged little information with fisheries biologists, who in turn were more concerned about the ocean's profits and often worked for governments or the industry. Second, the public had not been properly alerted to the threat facing their tuna roll or fish and chips. Exploitation of fish stocks has continued, although many other items on our menus have seen a move to eco-friendly, fair-trade products.

The United States was the first to see its fish crisis unfold. Now, this struggle is on in the European Union which aims to

reform its common fisheries policy in 2012. Here, there is not only an environmental problem due to overfishing, but the industry is also expensive and inefficient. In a number of EU member states, taxpayers pay more to support their fisheries than they get back in terms of product value. The EU, with the world's third-largest fleet, still has to import 70 percent of the continent's fish and aquaculture needs.

The EU regime is the Common Fisheries Policy from 1983, which has seen scathing assessments from the EU Court of Auditors and the British House of Lords. Even the European Commission (EC) – the very body proposing and executing EU legislation – rang the alarm bells in a Green Paper in April 2009. "Overfished stocks and poor economic performance in the fishing industry has created a momentum for further deterioration, a vicious circle...(This) leads to even stronger pressures from the industry

to let short-term concerns compromise the long-term sustainability of fisheries even further. It has proven difficult for governments to resist this pressure,” reads the EC’s Green Paper. Facing overfished stocks of 80 percent in the EU, the EC concludes that “industry incentives need to be turned around...to a situation where fishermen would be made responsible and accountable for the sustainable use of a public resource.”

Over the past months, European stakeholders have started waking from their slumber. Not only have Greenpeace and the WWF been calling for reforms. Also, and more remarkably, a new choir of voices has emerged. Ocean 2012, an alliance formed in 2009, mobilizes and coordinates a large cohort of stakeholders, among them organizations representing environmental, development and consumer interests as well as divers, aquariums and scientists. Ocean 2012 was initiated by the Pew Environment Group in Brussels, which considered a move to broader consultations to be long overdue. “Fisheries reforms suffer from a vested interest problem. So we expanded the voices of interest,” says Markus Knigge, Policy and Research Director of Pew’s European Marine Program.

Without much tinkering, Ocean 2012 plugs itself right into the EU fisheries reform process, summarizing stakeholder demands on four points: First, catch limits should be set by scientists and not by politicians. Second, fishing capacity must be brought in line with available fishing resources. Third, access to fish resources should be based on environmental and social criteria. And fourth, subsidies and other financial instruments awarded in a discretionary manner by EU member states should target facilitating the transition towards environmentally and socially sustainable fisheries. In other words – a principle-centered approach to fishing.

While Ocean 2012 faces three hard-working years ahead, this new alliance already provides a first collection of best practice and lobbying lessons from regional, sustainable fisheries management.

What would Ocean 2012 members share with the seven Red Sea sharing countries who have joined up for a Marine Resources Management Program (see box)? Just three years ago, analysts looking at that region concluded dryly: “If fisheries management means the cyclical and iter-

ative process enunciated in the code of conduct for responsible fishing, then fisheries management does not exist to any significant extent in countries of the Red Sea basin.” Increasing coastal populations, rapid development and human exploitation threaten the sustainability ▶

## Marine resources management in the Red Sea



For the past three years, an important fisheries management project has been underway in the Red Sea, a unique waterway shared by seven countries – Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Led jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), with co-financing from OFID and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social development, this multi-partner initiative has two main aims – firstly, to promote the sustainable management of the Sea’s resources; and secondly, to protect the interests of some 850,000 people in the region who are dependent on the artisanal fisheries sector.

The hub of the project is a regional forum – involving all countries and stakeholders – which is working to enhance national institutional capacities to support the development of a common policy framework. Underpinning the framework is a comprehensive database on actual and potential Red Sea resources to guide how all stakeholders operate in future.

According to IFAD, one of the greatest challenges of the project has been to balance the interests of the industrial fisheries with those of the artisanal fisher folk. This has meant organizing and empowering the latter to better articulate their needs, and harnessing their expert knowledge of the local situation for the benefit of all concerned.

## Further Reading

The books, “Cod”, by Mark Kurlansky (1998), “The Unnatural History of the Sea” by Callum Roberts (2008), and “The End of the Line: How Overfishing is Changing the World and What We Eat” by Charles Clover (2008; DVD 2010) introduce lovers of tuna roll and cod to the consequences of our eating habits.

The EU policy is with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu). The coalition for transforming European fisheries is Ocean 2012, [www.ocean2012.eu](http://www.ocean2012.eu). The site [www.fishsubsidy.org](http://www.fishsubsidy.org) details subsidy flows to countries and vessels. Globally, stakeholders might consult the Marine Stewardship Council [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org). Fishworkers and their organizations, especially artisanal and small-scale fisheries in developing countries, can download the guide, Understanding the Work in Fishing Convention 2007, in many languages, including Arabic, at [www.icsf.net](http://www.icsf.net).

◀ and special conservation value of the sea. Yet, marine resources there are among the globe’s most precious, and the joint management of fisheries in the region is vital for people, sea and fish alike. Artisanal fisheries alone are estimated to support one million jobs in the seven Red Sea sharing countries Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

Sure enough, looking at Europe versus the Red Sea, “you need to take the special oceanographic conditions of the Red Sea into account. This is a tropical zone, with particular cultural traditions and geopolitics,” cautions Brian O’Riordan from the ICSF, an Ocean 2012 member and fishworkers’ collective that contributed to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Yet some insights are generally applicable, suggests Knigge of the Pew Environment Group. His magic word for regional management is “accountability.” He says: “If you set rules for people, you better get them to the table. You want to establish clear objectives, against which practitioners are then measured.” Similar

advice comes from Magnus Eckeskog, a policy officer with the Fisheries Secretariat in Sweden, another Ocean 2012 member. Eckeskog suggests fisheries managers should “include a wide range of interest groups. The public should have at least as much – or perhaps even more – say than the industry, when discussing the use of a public resource.”

Eckeskog’s magic word for successful fisheries management is “long-termism.” He dreams of an end to discussions on annual quotas and outtake, and a move to long term-management based on the precautionary and ecosystem approach. Also, he suggests reversing the burden of proof so that government bodies draw up the general rules, while the fishermen make an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), showing that their fishery is not harmful to the environment and conducted in a responsible manner. Based on the EIA, they would receive or buy their fishing rights. Hence, the responsibility would be with the fishermen, just like it is with factories or sewage plants in pollution issues. Eckeskog: “Perhaps that is the way to go in the Red Sea.”

Biologist and *Aquacalypse* author Daniel Pauly also suggests a new – albeit controversial – approach to fishing rights. He says fishermen should do it like ranchers, who, in many countries, pay for the privilege to graze their cattle on federal lands. If governments auctioned off quotas with access privileges to fisheries, the highest bidder would secure the right to a certain percentage of the catch quota. Society as a whole would benefit from providing private access to a public resource.

While environmental economists race over their calculators and graphs to trigger a sea change in regional management bodies, consumers have their own tool to save the fish literally on their plate. “Everyone can demand sustainable seafood,” proposes Rupert Murray, director of *The End of the Line*. He says, “If you consider how simple and universally agreed the solutions are ... Healthy oceans are a win, win, win situation.”

If the alert signals start travelling, turning the tide seems possible. At a reception in July 2009 for instance, Prince Charles Mountbatten-Windsor publicly demanded more awareness-raising among consumers. The crowd the Prince addressed were fishing industry leaders and caterers, and the occasion was the 10-year anniversary of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

The MSC promotes sustainable fishing via the certification of products. The dark-blue MSC label on a frozen fish carton means the MSC can trace the product back to the fishery and often the very boat that caught the fish. Two months after Prince Charles’s address to the MSC, the restaurant group *Fifteen*, backed by British celebrity-chef Jamie Oliver, said these restaurants would now commit to using MSC-labeled fish on their menu. Consumers might start thinking: what is good for Jamie Oliver, might certainly be good for me and my children. ■

# Securing a better future for the world's poor

Sustainable development is all about results that last. Results that continue making a difference from one generation to the next. It's about healthy, well-educated populations, clean water and food security, and an end to isolation.

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Parkring 8, A-1010 Vienna, Austria  
P.O. Box 995, A-1011 Vienna, Austria  
Telephone: (+43-1) 515 64-0  
Fax: (+43-1) 513 92-38  
[www.ofid.org](http://www.ofid.org)