



# IBSA Fund

## Annual Report 2023



India, Brazil and South Africa  
Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation





# DECADE OF ACTION

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## Credits

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**Cover page photo:** Assessing the progress of crops planted on farms under the Karamoja green belts women-led large-scale commercial farming of cereals, legumes and oilseed project, H.E. Ms. Lulu Xingwana, South African Ambassador to Uganda (right), with Ms. Kodet Mary (left), a youth leader of the Lomorinyange Women Farmers Group in Nakapiripirit District, northeastern Uganda. Photo credit: UNDP Uganda

**Photography credits:** UNOSSC and IBSA Fund project partners

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The present report is produced as part of the commitment by UNOSSC to continuously enhance the transparency, efficiency and accountability of the funds that it manages. It contributes to the efforts of the United Nations system to strengthen the quality of system-wide reporting on funding and performance and enhances programming for results.

This report presents the accomplishments of the IBSA Fund in 2023 and summarizes achievements in earlier years. For more information on the Fund and an electronic copy of the present report, please visit [ibsa2023.unsouthsouth.org](https://ibsa2023.unsouthsouth.org).

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

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# Joint Foreword by the Permanent Representatives of India, Brazil and South Africa to the United Nations



**H.E. Mr. Sérgio França Danese**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Permanent  
Representative of Brazil to the  
United Nations



**H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Permanent  
Representative of India to the  
United Nations



**H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Permanent  
Representative of the Republic of  
South Africa to the United Nations

The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, a dynamic interregional mechanism among three major developing countries, has firmly established itself as a powerful player in advancing South-South cooperation. The IBSA Fund, an initiative of the IBSA Dialogue Forum, is a concrete expression of solidarity and cooperation among countries of the Global South, born out of shared experiences and history to address developmental challenges.

Following the establishment of the IBSA Fund by the Prime Minister of India and the Presidents of Brazil and the Republic of South Africa in 2004, the trilateral partnership became fully operational in 2006 to help partner countries in the Global South in the common pursuit of their broad development objectives.

During its 16 years of operation, this pioneering initiative has become the a strong voice and representation of emerging economies and developing countries in the international arena to ensure equal opportunity for development with sustainable and inclusive growth.

Replicable and scalable successful best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger are identified and successfully translated into concrete projects on a demand-driven basis to help partner countries in the Global South to achieve their national priorities as well as other internationally agreed development goals. This demand-driven approach of the IBSA Fund enables partner countries to steer their own development and lead the design and implementation processes of all projects according to the needs and priorities of their populations.

Since its inception, 45 development projects have been supported in 38 countries allocating \$50.6 million. As of 2024, 10 projects are ongoing, 30 projects have been completed and 5 projects are being prepared for implementation, inclusive of January 2024 approvals.

In our determination to forge a more fair, inclusive and sustainable world, the IBSA countries – as three highly diverse democracies of the South – stress our commitment to social and environmental justice and to global governance that seeks to reduce inequalities, improving access to basic services for all.

# Messages from Global Leaders



**Mr. António Guterres**  
United Nations Secretary-General



**Mr. Achim Steiner**  
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

South-South cooperation highlights a fundamental truth: countries are stronger when they stand together. This report details the IBSA Fund's support for advancing sustainable development over the past year — from alleviating poverty and hunger, to expanding education, to improving access to safe drinking water, to promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

The United Nations is proud to partner with the IBSA Fund in this effort to deepen global solidarity for and with the Global South.

In 2023, the IBSA Fund continued to leverage the tried-and-trusted power of South-South and triangular cooperation to bring tangible improvements to the daily lives of people across the globe – from allowing 12,000 people to gain access to safe drinking water in Cabo Verde, to developing a national universal health insurance programme in Grenada, to constructing a new hospital pavilion that provides vital services to special needs children in Cambodia. As we seek to reshape cooperation to dismantle the global impasse, such initiatives epitomize the type of co-investments that ultimately yield immense benefits for our global community's collective efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



**H.E. Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III, Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru**  
Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations  
and Chair of AOSIS



**Ms. Dima Al-Khatib**  
Director, United Nations Office for South-South  
Cooperation

South-South cooperation plays an instrumental role in national, regional and international policies to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by the end of the current decade. This includes mitigating the social and economic fallout of COVID-19, which was particularly challenging for small island developing States as well as least developed and landlocked developing countries. In addition to the ongoing challenges, the impacts of climate change, food insecurity, the ocean's health and the sustainable management of its resources, safe drinking water and gender equality remain at the forefront of our development agenda. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) commends the IBSA Fund for its critical role in supporting developing countries and their partners to foster regional integration, self-reliance, capacity development and international cooperation in helping to address these challenges.

Strategic partnerships are essential for driving effective and impactful South-South cooperation, through which countries and organizations can identify and maximize their cooperative strengths, leading to mutual benefits, and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

UNOSSC takes pride in supporting a diverse range of South-South cooperation projects through the IBSA Fund. These projects are a testament to the transformational impact that results when developing countries partner with one another, and when United Nations system technical support is leveraged for an optimized advancement of countries' development agendas.

## About the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund)

The IBSA Fund is a remarkable example of cooperation among three developing countries, which pioneered the implementation of South-South cooperation initiatives for the benefit of other Southern countries in partnership with the United Nations system. Its purpose is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as examples of good practices in the fight against poverty and hunger. The IBSA Fund, which was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006, supports projects on a demand-driven basis through partnerships with local governments, national institutions and implementing partners. The IBSA Fund-supported projects are concrete expressions of solidarity for the benefit of the most vulnerable and marginalized people, with the objectives of promoting food security, extending access to safe drinking water, and promoting quality education and gender equality, all with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The Fund has exceeded \$50 million in contributions and allocations and has partnered with 38 countries in support of their sustainable development, making the eradication of poverty and hunger its utmost priority.

## IBSA Fund Board of Directors

The IBSA Fund Board of Directors comprises the Deputy Permanent Representatives of India, Brazil and South Africa to the United Nations in New York. The Board approves proposals and detailed project documents and continuously provides strategic direction to IBSA projects to ensure their successful implementation through strong South-South partnerships. It is assisted by technical experts, who closely monitor project progress and the Fund portfolio. UNOSSC serves as the fund manager and secretariat of the Board of Directors.



**H.E. Mr. Norberto Moretti**  
Deputy Permanent  
Representative of Brazil to the  
United Nations



**H.E. Mrs. Yojna Patel**  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of India to the United Nations



**H.E. Mr. Marthinus Christoffel  
Johannes Van Schalkwyk**  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of South Africa to the  
United Nations

## IBSA Fund Manager and Secretariat: United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), established by the United Nations General Assembly in UNDP in 1974, is mandated to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis.

UNOSSC provides policy and advisory services to Member States and United Nations entities on South-South and triangular cooperation to enable developing countries to effectively harness global opportunities to address most critical development challenges. In its role as the secretariat of the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, UNOSSC works to monitor and report on the progress of the United Nations system in South-South and triangular cooperation. This includes the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Nairobi outcome document and the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. As a robust knowledge hub, UNOSSC also analyses trends, emerging issues, and opportunities for the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation approaches to development.

The engagement of UNOSSC with Member States globally and within the United Nations system facilitates practical expressions of solidarity towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. UNOSSC ensures that its constituencies have timely access to high-quality analytical planning, mapping, programming and reporting on data, trends and opportunities that will advance South-South and triangular cooperation in ways that lead to successful outcomes. It works with a wide range of partners, including global centres of excellence, to intensively explore how building endogenous capacity can be encouraged, how broadening and sharing of technological advances within the Global South can be undertaken systematically, and how emerging innovative financing mechanisms can be harnessed through South-South and triangular cooperation.

UNOSSC is the fund manager and secretariat of the IBSA Fund, supporting its Board of Directors as it establishes the strategic vision and programmatic activities of the Fund. The UNOSSC Trust Fund Management Team, working closely with the IBSA Fund experts and partners, provides monitoring, quality-assurance and knowledge-management support across the IBSA Fund project portfolio.

UNOSSC also serves as fund manager and secretariat of the steering committees of other South-South and triangular cooperation trust funds implemented jointly with the United Nations system, namely, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund).

## Implementing UN Agencies



Handing over solar-powered boreholes to local communities under IBSA-funded WASH project.  
Photo credit: UNDP Eswatini

# Financial Overview of the IBSA Fund Portfolio, 2023



**42**  
Projects



**\$47M**  
Allocations



**38**  
Countries

**\$47M**  
Revenue

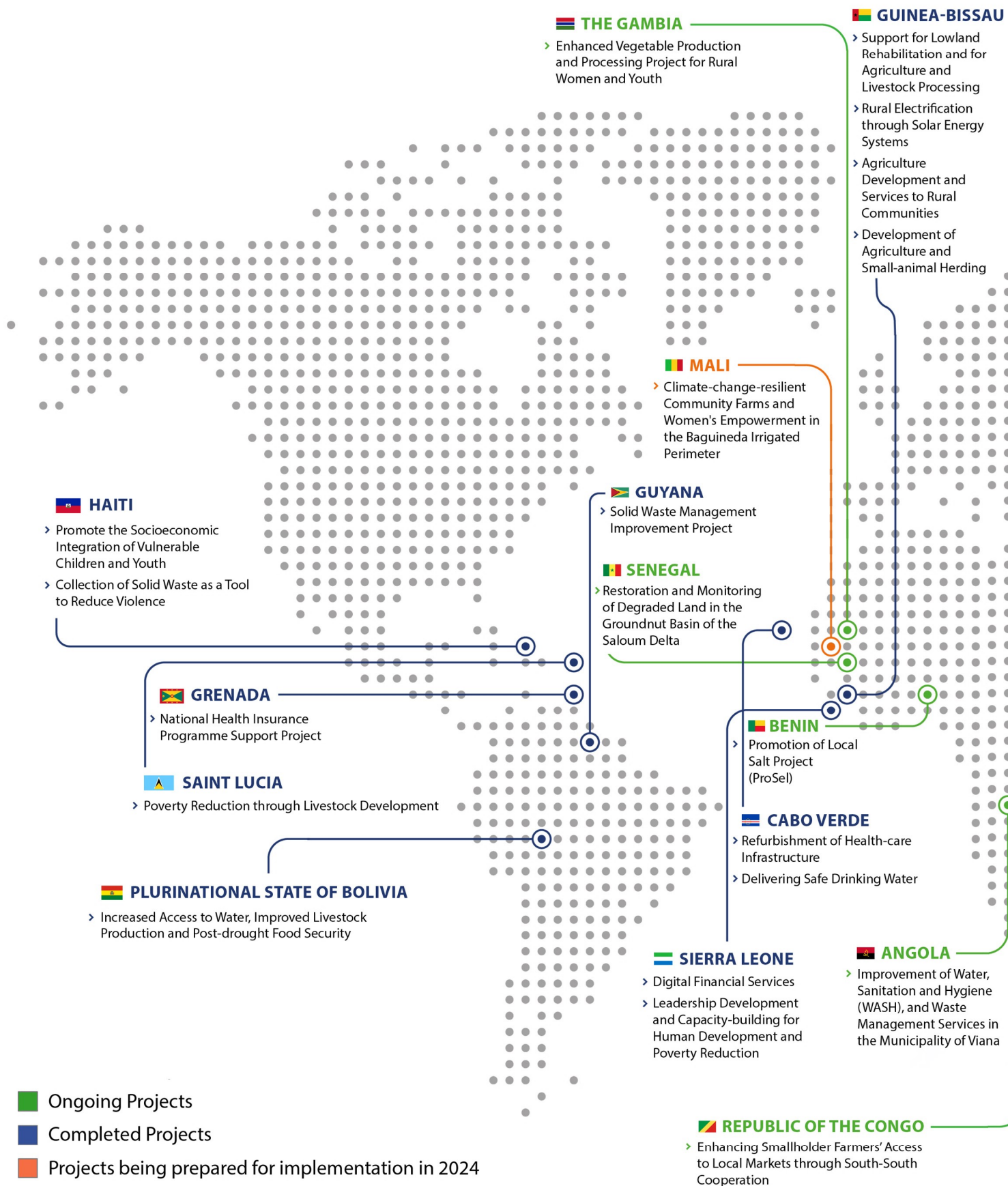
**\$35M**  
Delivery



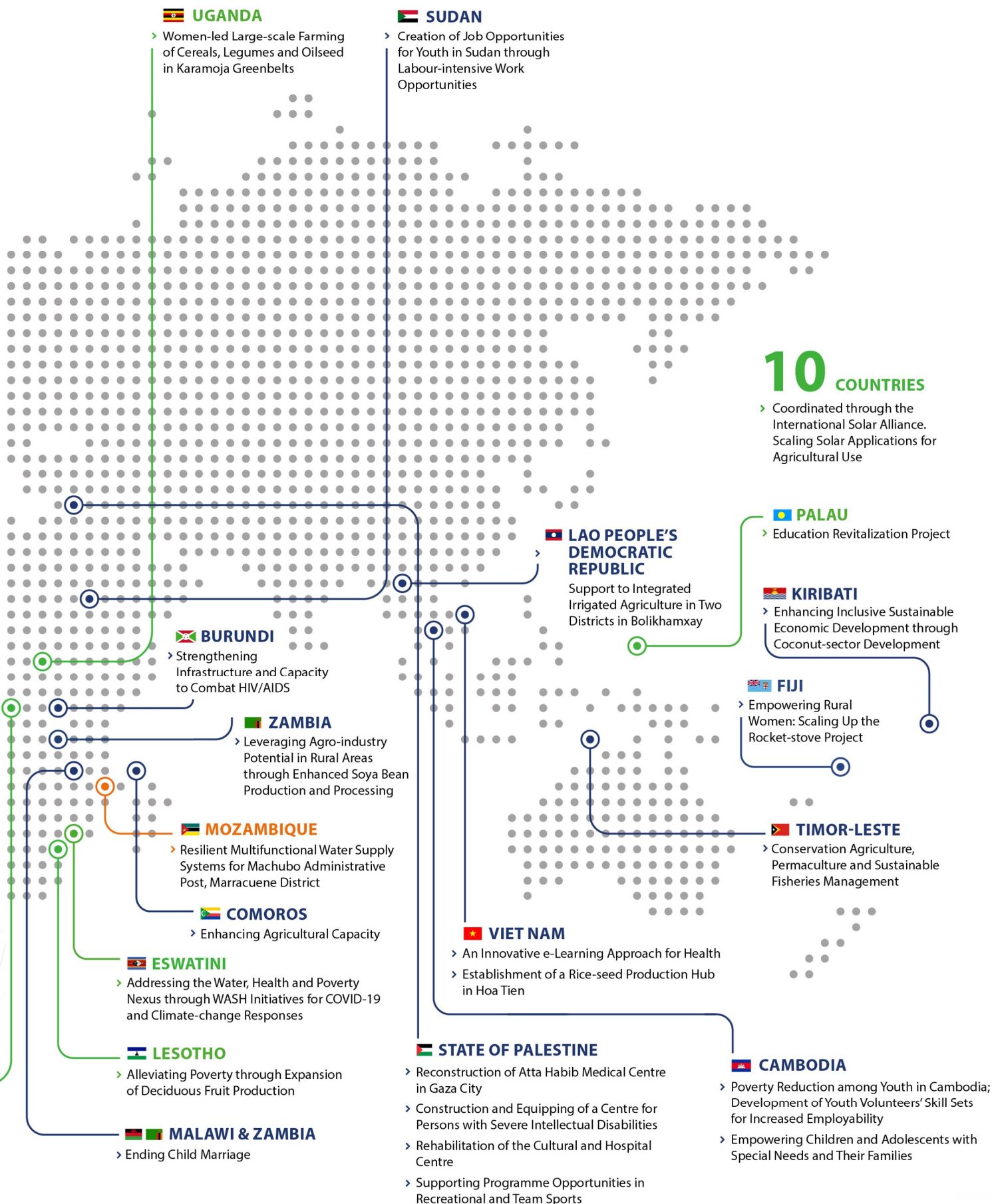
Training on Condominial Sanitation under the Cooperation Framework for the Condominial Sewerage System, Waste Management Services, and Public Health in Viana Municipality, Luanda, Angola.

Photo credit: UNICEF Angola

# IBSA Fund Project Status around the World, 2023



# IBSA Fund Project Status around the World, 2023

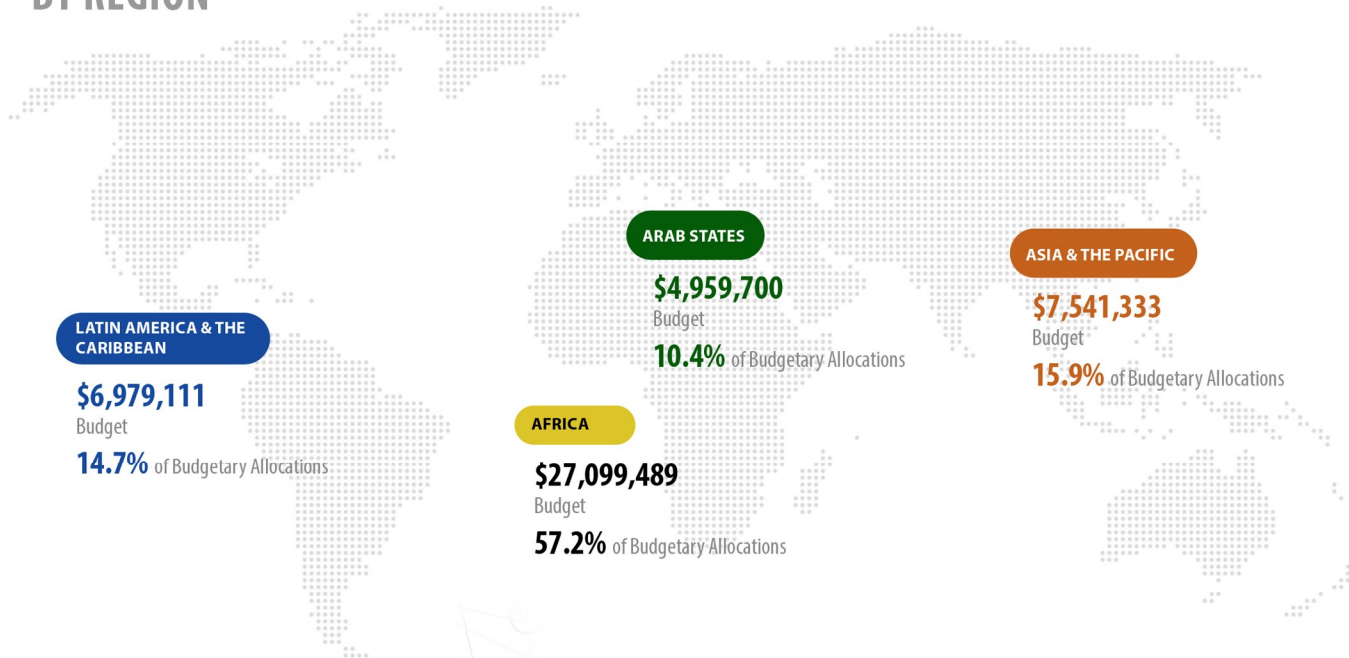


# IBSA Fund Budgetary Allocations, 2006-2023

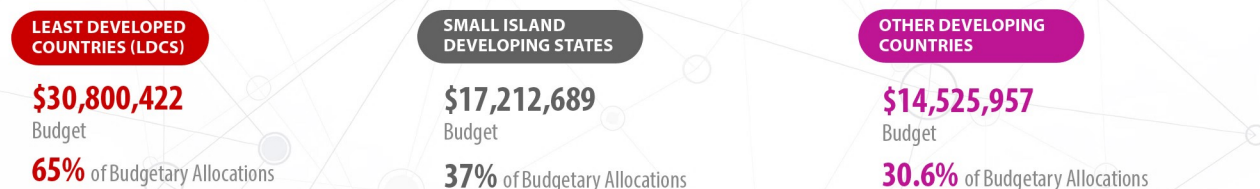
## BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)



## BY REGION



## BY COUNTRY TYPE



# Global Development Impact of the IBSA Fund, 2006–2023



# Global Development Impact of the IBSA Fund, 2006–2023



**400 livelihoods**  
supported with better waste management (2006-2011)



**440 youths**  
trained in vocational activities secured jobs (2015-2017)



**HAITI**

\$2,843,429 & \$1,601,657



**LAO PDR**

\$1,323,000



**630 hectares**  
of agricultural land enhanced through irrigation structures (2012-2015)



**MALAWI AND ZAMBIA**

\$1,000,000



**2,000 child-marriage survivors**  
provided with scholarships to re-enrol in schools (2019-2020)



**150 cattle herders**  
and farmers improved their livelihoods (2015-2018)

**SAINT LUCIA**

\$1,291,100



**3,000 underprivileged youths**  
trained on waste management to secure employment (2014-2017)

**SUDAN**

\$1,300,000



**SIERRA LEONE**

\$1,000,000 & \$1,000,000



**7 ministries**

and the Presidential Cabinet saw enhanced public administration capacities among their civil servants (2011-2013)



**75,209 new clients**

were acquired for digital financial products (2018-2021)



**STATE OF PALESTINE**

\$1,065,000, \$1,250,000, \$1,644,700 and \$1,000,000



**6,600 youths**

benefited from sports facilities (2008-2011)



**2 hospitals**

and one medical centre built/refurbished (2012-2016)



**30,000 patients**

from the Gaza Strip had their healthcare-services re-established (2015-2017)



**10,000 people**

with disabilities gained expanded access to a service centre (2012-2016)



**TIMOR-LESTE**

\$1,428,772



**1,600 smallholder farmers**

equipped with improved agricultural techniques (2015-2019)



**VIET NAM**

\$529,537 & \$990,000



**12+% increase in rice productivity**

and a reduction in production costs (2012-2014)



**1,000 health-care staff**

in remote medical settings benefited from an e-learning platform used to train COVID-19 frontline workers (2015-2019)



**ZAMBIA**

\$1,714,680



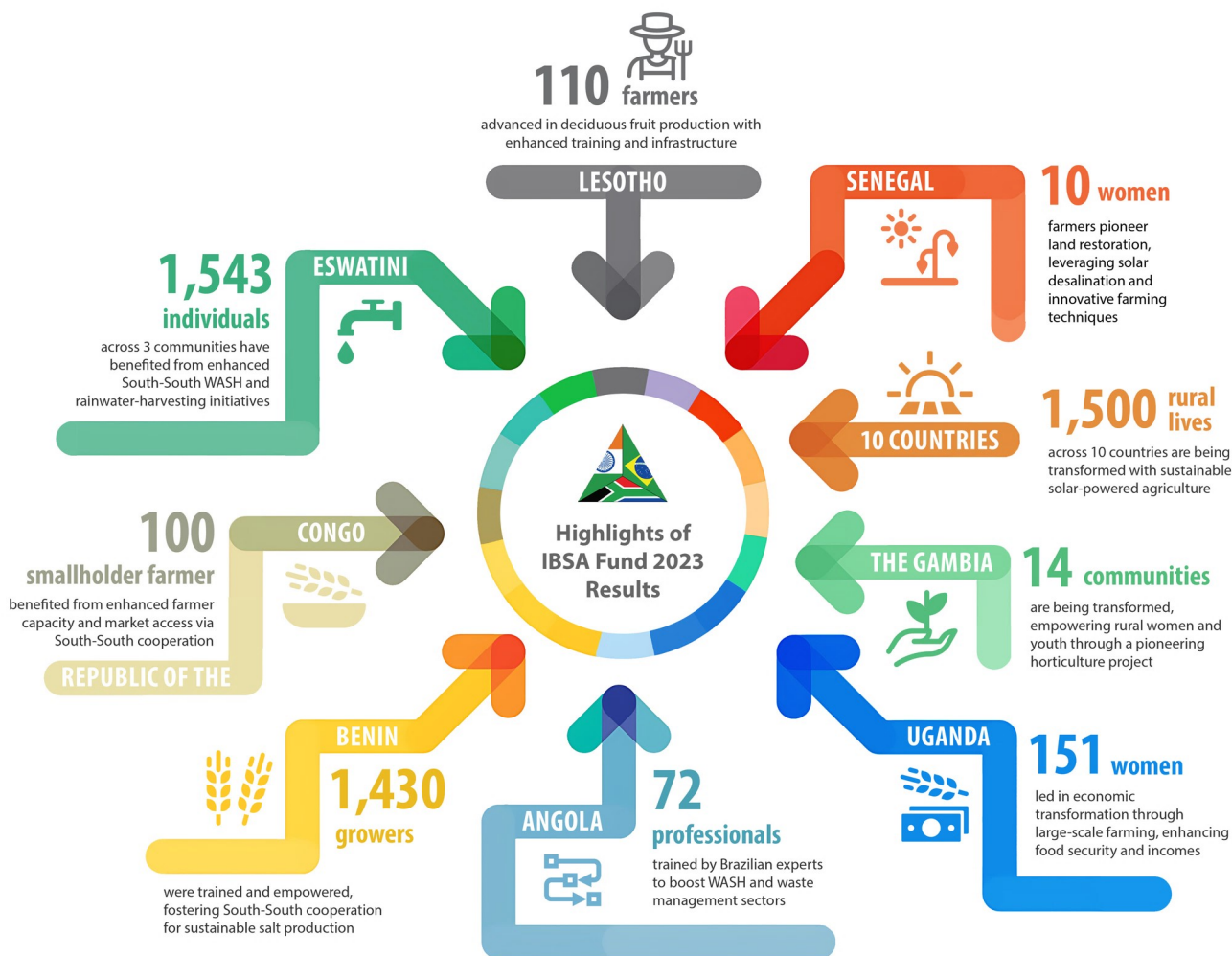
**1,850 farmers**

shifted to profitable, market-oriented soy-bean production (2018-ongoing)



# Highlights of IBSA Fund Results, by Country, 2023

IBSA FUND HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS, BY COUNTRY, 2023



A young leader farmer teaches other farmers how to grow organic carrots, as part of Enhancing Agricultural Capacity project in Comoros.

Photo credit: Saand Abdallah/UNDP Comoros

# IBSA Fund Ongoing Projects, 2023



## KEY FEATURES



**1,500**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$2,000,000**  
BUDGET



**24**  
MONTHS



**PARTNERS:** Governments of target countries; International Solar Alliance; UNDP India; UNDP in 10 target countries

## 10 Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use

### Overview

The project presents integrated solutions for the provision of sustainable livelihood opportunities while addressing structural barriers to solar energy deployment. It will install at least 196 solar-based irrigation systems in the 10 participating countries.

With its formal launch in 2023, the project is conducting market assessments for all 10 countries, with secondary research being verified and enhanced through consultations with government and the private sector. Those findings will serve as the basis for developing policy recommendations, including financial instruments and government mechanisms to facilitate scaling solar energy applications appropriate to each country. The technical and feasibility assessments completed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tuvalu provide essential information for project demonstrations as well as form the basis for procuring the solar water-pump systems.

### Lessons learned

Multi-country projects with linked operations at the country level are challenging to implement and to keep on a joint schedule. Consultations with the stakeholders in countries deemed at high risk for political unrest need to be undertaken prior to establishing the project timelines. Training and capacity-building among policymakers, financial institutions and local technicians are essential for reducing operational risks as well as anticipating and mitigating climate and disaster risks.

### Way forward





As the assessments and market studies are finalized in all 10 countries, the procurement and installation of the solar energy systems can proceed.

### Results highlights

- Engagement of implementing partners in 10 countries.
- Completion of site and technical feasibility assessments in 2 countries.
- Country-level market assessments being conducted in other participating countries.



**KEY FEATURES**

-  **20,000 people** (4,000 families)  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES
-  **\$974,700**  
BUDGET
-  **24**  
MONTHS
-  PARTNERS: Ministry of Environment; United Nations Children's Fund

**Improvement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Waste Management Services through Trilateral South-South Cooperation**



**Overview**

The project contributes to improving the quality of community life in low-income peri-urban settlements through training on, and implementation of, a simplified system of sanitary sewerage and waste management and through the promotion of actions to improve public health and hygiene in the municipality of Viana. An assessment conducted in 2022 through multi-stakeholder consultations and benefiting from South-South cooperation with Brazilian institutions revealed a need to enhance the legal frameworks and competencies of the country's WASH and solid waste sectors. As a result, work in 2023 focused on and achieved two significant results. First, it mobilized key stakeholders; built awareness; improved the understanding of the stakeholders' technical needs among institutions, academia and civil society; and, through those consultations and outreach, gained political support through formal commitments to support the attainment of the project outputs. Second, it built the capacities of technical officers from public health services, the community and municipal authorities through training on simplified sanitary sewerage, waste management, public health, environmental education and hygiene. These multi-stakeholder training modules also helped the stakeholders to understand the need and the approaches for intersectoral cooperation to enable better functioning of sanitation systems.

**Lessons learned**

An incomplete collaboration framework among various sectors and levels of government and the limited common understanding of the project made it complex and time-consuming to develop a multi-stakeholder common vision to roll out project activities. In addition, limited familiarity with urban sanitation and waste management issues among various key actors created challenges for successful collaboration. A change in government partners at the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), a new Ministry, brought with it a new team that did not benefit from institutional memory on the project design phase.

**Way forward**

To ensure accountability, ownership and sustainability, the project will engage high-level officials from the MoE as well as technical experts in planning and decision-making. Construction of the sanitation system is planned to start in 2024.

**Results highlights**

- 72 people (32 women and 40 men) from 14 Angolan institutions received training from Brazilian experts.
- Companies, municipal authorities and the Neighbourhood Committee were trained in how to operate and maintain the simplified sanitary sewerage system, how to establish a monitoring baseline and waste management.
- Preliminary topographic mapping as well as the mapping of water supply networks, river basins, and local services was carried out.
- The pre-project design and terms of reference for the engineering project design were drafted.
- The Government of Angola presented the project at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28) as an example of good cooperation on WASH.



## KEY FEATURES



**1,500 women salt producers**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$1,000,000**  
BUDGET

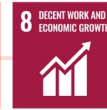


**24**  
MONTHS



**PARTNERS:** Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Employment Promotion; UNDP, UN agencies; local producers; and NGOs

## Promotion of Local Salt Project (ProSel)



### Overview

The project is designed to strengthen the ability of salt-producing communities to access sustainable energy sources and to create micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises for the production and marketing of local iodized salt. It focuses on the local development of the partnering localities and the protection of the mangroves in the coastal zone through the consolidation of technical, organizational and institutional links relating to salt production and marketing.

In 2023, the project tested and validated semi-modern salt production protocols to be used for salt collection, cooking and draining. The data collected through those tests were used to inform the future operations of the project in four participating communes. The design, production and establishment of a salt-production workshop, using locally sourced and sustainable materials, adapted to local climate conditions and attractive to tourists, was completed. Local Project Ownership Committees were established in each of the five communes and will help to ensure ongoing engagement on the part of project stakeholders. Motorcycles and smartphones were purchased for the Committees to facilitate implementation of the project and to support data collection and sharing. In addition, training courses on pricing techniques, sustainable use of mangroves, entrepreneurship, management and leadership were developed, and salt growers in five communes received training on forming cooperatives and the use of metric measurements. The project supported the participation of independent salt producers and representatives of two associations of salt producers, namely, Grand-Popo and Sèmè-Podji, in the national exhibition for local products.

### Lessons learned

A participatory, multi-criteria analysis of design options for salt production, coupled with the establishment of a simple framework for infrastructure monitoring, may reduce the risk of deterioration and/or theft of salt-production equipment. Engagement of the Municipal Council may be instrumental to raise awareness of the project objectives among community members.

### Results highlights

- 1,430 salt growers in five communes received training on forming cooperatives and the use of metric measurements.
- 90 women salt growers in Djègbadji District received small salt production kits.
- The contract to build the semi-modern production plant in Djègbadji was signed.
- A women's rights day was organized for Ouidah salt growers.

### Way forward

A South-South learning visit to gain insights and technical knowledge about salt production in an IBSA country is scheduled for 2024.

# REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



## KEY FEATURES



### 100 smallholder farmers

their households, 1,000 school children and 65 policymakers and technical staff

TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$996,450**

BUDGET



**24**

MONTHS



**PARTNERS:** Government of the Republic of the Congo; Government of Brazil; WFP Congo and Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil



## Enhancing Smallholder Farmers' Access to Local Markets through South-South Cooperation

### Overview

The project aims to contribute to improving the food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers, particularly women and school children, by strengthening capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and building the technical skills of farmers associations.

The project was launched in May 2023 during a technical mission from the World Food Programme (WFP) Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil to the Republic of the Congo. A high-level study visit from the Congo to Brazil focused on the Government commitment to the Global School Meals Coalition. Two Technical Committee meetings enabled awareness-building about the project among key stakeholders, including the Minister of Agriculture, the development of an operational plan and agreement on the 2024 schedule of activities.

Training materials and equipment for production processing (grater, press and refiner) and storage (sheds) were delivered to the 10 farmers associations to improve their production and access to markets.

### Lessons learned

Changes in Government administrations challenge project implementation even when commitment to advance project outcomes remains, impacting timelines and the need to onboard new actors. Multi-level technical staff support by WFP helped to ensure continuity regardless of political changes in project partnering countries. The project maintained constant coordination about the various institutions. Its participatory project design, validation and consultation with partners served to assure the flexibility and suitability of implementation approaches.

### Way forward





The project will advance policy coordination across various levels and sectors of government and capacity-building training to contribute to the establishment of an enabling environment for broad-based school feeding in the Republic of the Congo.

### Results highlights

- Project Coordinator on board.
- Operational Work Plan and Terms of Reference for market assessment and procurement of equipment finalized.
- Training materials and production processing materials delivered to 10 farmers; storage equipment delivered.
- Training-of-trainers manual elaborated for associations and cooperatives.



## KEY FEATURES

-  **600 households** (3 rural communities)  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES
-  **\$999,350**  
BUDGET
-  **24**  
MONTHS
-  PARTNERS: National Disaster Management Agency; UNDP



## Addressing the Water, Health and Poverty Nexus through WASH Initiatives for COVID-19 and Climate-change Responses

### Overview

The project enhanced access to water for 1,500 community members of Mangenge, Moyeni and Masheleleni to improve sanitation and hygiene as a long-term response to climate change. It increased the portion of the population that has access to adequate, equitable and sustainable water and basic sanitation and hygiene services in targeted households in both urban and rural areas. To improve food security, rainwater harvesting and drop irrigation systems for backyard gardens were established. Two towns built their respective rainwater harvesting systems using permeable concrete technology. These efforts were complemented with training and distribution of seedlings to rural households.

A mobile app designed to link farmers to markets efficiently and economically was launched in the presence of the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture. An information management system was developed to enable farmers to advertise their goods. In addition, 18 Eswatini officials undertook study visits to India and South Africa, where they exchanged experiences and knowledge on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in agriculture. The project also supported training in WASH in target communities.

### Lessons learned

Traditional authorities (community leaders) were mobilized to select the participating communities to ensure cooperation on the part of the community and to reduce the potential for theft. The size of the storage tank for rainwater harvesting to irrigate backyard gardens was considered inadequate for water to last throughout the dry season; the rainwater harvesting systems were designed only for irrigation use. A bigger storage capacity would have enabled beneficiaries to use the harvested water for both domestic and irrigation purposes; some of the beneficiaries would have preferred rainwater harvesting systems for domestic use.

### Results highlights

- 2 rainwater harvesting systems using permeable concrete were designed and constructed.
- 63 farmers were provided smart phones and related training in the use of a mobile app linking the farmers to markets
- 5 low-cost fishponds were constructed.
- 3 solar-powered pump water systems are benefitting 1543 individuals (evenly male/female) including 85 children under 5 years with access to handwashing facilities.
- 600 farmers were trained in rainwater harvesting for backyard gardens.
- 50 women received training in soap manufacture.

### Way forward

The project concluded in 2023.



## Empowering Rural Women: Scaling Up the Rocket-stove Project

### KEY FEATURES



**1,530 women and girls**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$275,525**  
BUDGET



**63**  
MONTHS



**PARTNERS:** Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation; Adventist Development and Relief Agency Community Centred Conservation; Gender Climate Change Alliance Fiji Ltd.; Grace Trifam Ministry; Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre; GEF, SGP, Small Grants; UNOPS



### Overview

The project contributed to improving the livelihoods and the health of women in rural areas of Fiji through the transition to rocket stoves: small, energy-efficient stoves that are built from locally available resources, use little wood, produce clean flames with no smoke, and reduce the deleterious health impact of traditional open-fire cooking. The project trained women and girls in fabricating and using rocket stoves while also improving awareness of climate change.

In partnership with local civil society organizations, the project identified 1,500 working women from 56 rural communities for the fabrication of rocket stoves. Through the training provided, the women increased their understanding of climate change and context-appropriate adaptation measures, the need to replant woodlots, and, in general, broadened their knowledge of methods for ensuring sustainability in the usage of natural resources.

### Lessons learned

The design phase of a project must be clearly communicated among partners; it is necessary to identify the right personnel and ensure that funds are available for their recruitment, working strategically to ensure that the project can be implemented on time. In case of unforeseen events, communication is key; that is what assisted the rolling out of the project despite the delay. There is a need to be realistic with respect to timelines and budgets as well as a need for detailed agreement among the implementing partners.

### Results highlights

- 56 communities identified in at least 10 provinces.
- 1,530 women trained in the fabrication of rocket stoves.
- Training video on rocket-stove production completed and widely shared.

### Way forward

The Clean Cooking Stove network is growing in recognition of the urgent need to transition to healthier and greener cooking practices. The women trained in rocket-stove construction are sharing their knowledge with their families and the Clean Cooking Stove network and helping to replace their rocket stoves. The storage and workshop facility is to be constructed by the Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre.



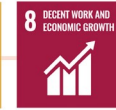
## KEY FEATURES

 **2,265 household members**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES

 **\$950,000**  
BUDGET

 **24**  
MONTHS

 **PARTNERS:** Ministry of Trade, Industry, Business Development and Tourism; UNDP



## Alleviating Poverty through Expansion of Deciduous Fruit Production

### Overview

The project aims to provide the support needed to scale up commercial deciduous fruit farming in Lesotho by building on the experience of the country's pilot farms, addressing gaps in the value chain for access to suitable land. Developing infrastructure, agricultural extension services, and skills in finance and the marketing of produce, all while promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, are core components of the project.

To enable farmers' access to finance, the Lesotho National Development Corporation and the project agreed to collaborate in the development and implementation of workable financing instruments for the horticultural industry in Lesotho. A master plan was finalized for the purchase of inputs, machinery and equipment required by the project. Specifications and bills of quantity were prepared for machinery and equipment, and bidding was launched. The establishment of linkages for South-South collaboration progressed, with collaboration on training on good agricultural principles articulated between the National University of Lesotho and Stellenbosch University in South Africa and with support from the Free State fruit industry.

### Lessons learned

Beyond training and extension services on agricultural techniques, enhancing farmers' financial literacy and their capabilities in understanding financial statements and managing purchases can improve their businesses. A good core network and a training team, comprised of local experts including accounting experts, are key to delivering sustainable project results.

### Way forward

The refurbished Incubation Hub will provide an improved training environment. The project plans to scale the number of farmers to be trained to match the capacity of the facilities. The farm master plan aims to inform the establishment of the 15 additional farms.

### Results highlights

- 110 pre-incubation farmers were trained.
- An assessment and cost quotations for machinery and associated implements were completed.
- Procurement of equipment to sort and pack apples advanced.
- Horticulture Coordinator and Horticulture Incubation Hub and Training Centre Manager were appointed.



## KEY FEATURES



### Rural communities

TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$1,000,000**

BUDGET



**24**

MONTHS



PARTNERS: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; UNESCO



## Restoration and Monitoring of Degraded Land in the Groundnut Basin of the Saloum Delta

### Overview

The project is contributing to reducing the impact of climate change on land degradation and improving community resilience and land reclamation practices in the Saloum Delta. It is introducing the use of drones to survey the level of land degradation using digital 3D modelling and generated photogrammetry images; strengthening the system for monitoring adaptation measures; promoting the use of solar energy for land desalination; and supporting the reduction of people's vulnerability by introducing innovative technologies and strengthening community involvement in restoration and productivity techniques.

Studies by two local institutions were conducted. Thiès Polytechnic School guided decision-making on the best technical options for the establishment of sustainable salinization-control and water-supply infrastructures. A study by the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research on good practices for improving crop yields on saline soils is guiding the acquisition of seeds, compost, fertilizers and the establishment of nurseries and the research centre so as to propose best practices for improved crop yields, including optimum fertilization methods and the best variety of rice for the salty soil of the commune.

### Lessons learned

Disclosing and sensitizing the Ministry project team to UN-entity procedural and compliance processes for project implementation and disbursements are key to enable activities to advance within established timelines. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization organized training for project partners on its tools and procedures to improve the collaboration processes. Adequate time needs to be allotted for procurement. Also, the impact of the rainy season on shifting project timelines needs to be taken into consideration.

### Way forward

The project aims to complete its land restoration activities in 2024.

### Results highlights

- 10 women rice farmers selected to carry out the experimental phase of the project and trained on techniques for restoring degraded land, setting up nurseries and transplanting rice.
- On-site experiments identified rice varieties and the best fertilizer combination for improved production, with a 130% increase in observed yield.
- Presentation of the project at the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) side event at COP 28.



## Women-led Large-scale Farming of Cereals, Legumes and Oilseed in Karamoja Green Belts

### Overview

The project supports Uganda to sustainably address the chronic food insecurity in the Karamoja region by empowering women and youth through agro-industry. In particular, it promotes women-led large-scale commercial farming of staple cereals, oilseed, legumes and poultry, and piggery and other viable livestock enterprises in order to boost nutrition, production and incomes in the region.

Launched in 2023, the project established partnerships with various sectors, including the government grass-roots organizations. By strengthening its working relations with the National Agricultural Advisory Services, the project facilitated the allocation of one ton of sunflower seeds. The project is also working with the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, three new local partners in Karamoja, and the National Agricultural Research Organization, all of which support the operations of the project.

To strengthen the participating women's management skills, a variety of training programmes have been held on such subjects as the formation of cooperatives, constitution-making, formal registration and financial literacy.

### Lessons learned

In Karamoja, the timing of planting is crucial owing to increasingly unpredictable and shorter rainy seasons. The use of early weather warning and indigenous knowledge helped farmers to select which crops to cultivate as well as to plan for timely land preparation and planting. To address pest infestation, systems were set in place to ensure strict observation occurrences and the selection of appropriate pesticides. By working with institutional landowners, such as churches, the project was able to reduce tensions around women's land ownership in a highly patriarchal society.

The willingness of women to engage in large-scale farming and the support of large landowners to make land temporarily available for women to cultivate offer an opportunity that could be harnessed.

### KEY FEATURES



**9 women-led farms**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$1,000,000**  
+ \$300,000 from UNDP  
BUDGET



**24**  
MONTHS



**PARTNERS:** Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; UNDP



### Results highlights

- 151 members of 4 pioneering women farmer groups have been engaged.
- 2 large-scale farms covering 370 acres established.
- A successful first harvest produced 54 bags of green gram, 210 bags (1.5 tons) of sunflower, and 20 bags each of sorghum and maize.
- Women's groups agreed to share 30% of harvest for family use, sell 70%, save 80% of funds from the Village Savings Associations and use 20% for personal income.

### Way forward

Thanks to the catalytic work of this project, UNDP aims to expand activities to support the establishment of over 1,000 acres of farms across four districts to empower women economically and enhance food security. This initiative includes providing tractors with necessary implements (ploughs, harrows and planters) and establishing a processing and marketing hub to enhance value addition in the agricultural value chain in the region.



## Leveraging Agro-industry Potential in Rural Areas through Enhanced Soya-Bean Production and Processing

### KEY FEATURES



**1,850 farmers**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$1,714,680**  
BUDGET



**56**  
MONTHS



**PARTNERS:** Ministry of Agriculture; Smallholder Productivity Promotion Programme; Muchinga Agricultural Development Company; IFAD



### Overview

The project contributed to poverty reduction and food security in rural Zambia. It helped rural farmers to increase their productivity, capacity and income through diversification of the existing cropping system with soya-bean cultivation and improvement of the value-chain system. The project was designed to establish self-sustaining, improved soya-bean production practices and an improved soya-bean value-chain system by supporting farmers to produce soya beans and establishing a soya-bean processing plant.

### Lessons learned

Weaknesses in the local economy, including inflationary pressures and a devaluating currency, as well as weaknesses in project management need to be managed closely to avoid timeline and budgetary shortfalls. Engaging lead farmers helped to successfully motivate others to cultivate soya beans. Also, engaging the support of traditional authorities in farmer selection helped to increase farmer engagement.

### Way forward

The project partner, Muchinga Agricultural Development Company, will finalize the construction and installation of the soya-bean processing plant with private capital. Once fully operational, the processing plant will provide a ready market for soya-bean producers, including those not in the programme.

### Results highlights

- 1,850 farmers shifted to profitable, market-oriented agricultural processes. Also, 86.4 per cent increased their incomes from the sale of excess produce during the 2020/2021 farming season and successfully serviced their loans.
- 34 lead farmers and 9 camp extension officers rolled out training to improve practices in soya-bean production and productivity.
- 71 hectares of the 100 hectares of land cleared and cultivated earlier were used for crop production. Maize and sunflowers were introduced for crop rotation, which is a recommended practice in agriculture.
- The construction and equipping of a soya-bean processing plant is well-advanced. Once completed, the plant will serve as instrumental infrastructure to ensure local value addition to crops produced by farmers in the region.

# IBSA Fund Projects Preparing for Implementation in 2024

PROJECTS PREPARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2024



Francilia, cassava producer from Yamba, Bouenza department, using the cassava grinding machine provided by WFP.  
Photo credit: WFP Congo

# IBSA Fund Projects Preparing for Implementation in 2024

## THE GAMBIA

### Enhanced Vegetable Production and Processing Project for Rural Women and Youth

#### KEY FEATURES



**500 smallholder farmers**

TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$954,915**

BUDGET



**24**

MONTHS



PARTNERS: Governments of target countries; International Solar Alliance; UNDP India; UNDP in 10 target countries



#### Overview

This project is intended to address the constraints affecting women and youth in the horticulture subsector, with the aim of increasing productivity, profitability and sustainability using a value-chain approach. It will support the improvement of the water irrigation technology used by women through measures including construction of boreholes and installation of drip irrigation in at least 10 gardens. Women and youth will receive agricultural inputs such as farm tools, seeds and fencing materials to enhance production.

Marketing and training opportunities will be made available for 500 women and youth to increase production, processing and packaging, leading to the establishment of at least six functional agricultural cooperatives. These interventions are expected to contribute towards the attainment of food self-sufficiency, increasing the earning capacity of women and youth through a 100 per cent increase in agricultural production and a 10 per cent decrease in post-harvest losses.

Following a technical mission to the Gambia in 2023, representatives of the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa and FAO established key thematic areas for South-South collaboration, with a focus on strengthening water and irrigation systems for agricultural production and enhancing production capacity.



# Climate-change-resilient Community Farms and Women's Empowerment in the Baguineda Irrigated Perimeter

## KEY FEATURES



**7,128 women producers**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$1,000,000**  
BUDGET



**24**  
MONTHS



**PARTNERS:** Office of the Irrigated Perimeter of Baguineda; National Agriculture Directorate; Renewable Energy Agency; UNDP



## Overview

The project objective is to improve agricultural productivity and the resilience of the most vulnerable producers against the adverse effects of climate change, in particular, the empowerment of women producers.

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of women producers and youth in the Baguineda irrigated perimeter against the adverse effects of climate change through the renovation of two agribusiness centres, the provision of improved seeds and capacity-building to 7,128 women producers, the provision of equipment to four youth Economic Interest Groups and the installation of solar pumping systems in five market-garden areas.



## Resilient Multifunctional Water Supply Systems for Machubo Administrative Post, Marracuene District

### KEY FEATURES

-  **5,000 community members**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES
-  **\$993,600**  
BUDGET
-  **12**  
MONTHS
-  PARTNERS: Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MOPHRH), through the National Directorate for Water Supply and Sanitation (DNAAS) and the government of Marracuene District; UNDP



### Overview

The project objective is to contribute to the improvement of the well-being of the community in Machubo Administrative Post by providing access to safe water, promoting agricultural productivity, improving sanitation and hygiene practices, and increasing awareness of the importance of local business opportunities and ownership.

The main intervention is the construction of a resilient, multifunctional solar water-supply system with the capacity to provide water to approximately 5,000 people through home and standpipe system distribution; a community-irrigation scheme; and the rehabilitation of school toilets, including water supply and waste reuse.



## Education Revitalization Project

### KEY FEATURES



**2,200 school children**  
TARGET BENEFICIARIES



**\$648,578**  
BUDGET



**12**  
MONTHS



PARTNERS: Ministry of Education; Bureau of Public Works; IOM



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

### Overview

The project seeks to improve school infrastructure in Palau through the rehabilitation of the High School Teacher's Training Centre. The 88 feet by 32 feet centre has a capacity to host up to 80 teachers at any given time. Through various training sessions held during the course of the year, the Centre is expected to benefit all 230 teachers who are currently active in Palau. Indirectly, it will also benefit 2,200 students. The Centre will be used year-round and mainly for teacher training.

Parent teacher meetings, extracurricular school activities and other school-related activities can also be conducted at the Centre when no teacher training is taking place. In addition, the Centre can also be used as an emergency evacuation shelter and accommodate up to 142 people.

The proposed activities entail a range of building rehabilitation works such as rehabilitation of the roof structure and new roof covering, tiling of floors, timber works, installation of stainless-steel fixtures, multiple repairs and painting, and installation of air conditioning.



# IBSA Fund

## Annual Report 2023

India, Brazil and South Africa  
Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation

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