

Economic Growth and Trade



A vocational training program in Afghanistan.



An agricultural trade fair in Serbia.



Shopkeeper in Lebanon.



Entrepreneurs in Mozambique.

International Relief and Development's economic development programs have strengthened the capacity and economic resiliency of individuals and communities to protect lives, respond to recurring disasters, and strengthen human capital investment. Since 1999, IRD's economic development sector has addressed some of the most difficult issues facing small- and medium-scale retail, industrial, and agricultural entrepreneurs in vulnerable communities throughout the world. We have taken on the challenge of working in some of the most complex and difficult places around the world, becoming a specialist in working in conflict

and post-conflict environments. Our programs are aimed at improving the quality of life for vulnerable groups, including displaced persons, refugees, and others. Together with local communities, we operate programs to expand healthcare, increase economic opportunities, rebuild infrastructure damaged by conflict or neglect, and accelerate agricultural development, as well as responding to emergency needs. All sectors of our work support citizen engagement around issues of access to economic, health, infrastructure, and social resources and services.



Afghanistan

Afghan Vouchers for Increased Productive Agriculture (AVIPA)

- **Targets the most vulnerable farmers, including widows and sharecroppers.**
- **Develops a sustainable network of local agricultural suppliers.**
- **Will enable 147,000 Afghan families to increase their access to food and income.**

Donor USAID
 Date September 2008 – September 2009
 Amount \$60 million

During the one-year program, IRD provided farmers affected by drought with vouchers to access agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer. As an alternative to direct food distribution, the voucher system underlined the importance of farmer-to-supplier/supplier-to-farmer relationships. The system not only supported agriculture input access for crop production, but more intimately engaged the supply market and farmer demand.

Afghan Vouchers for Increased Productive Agriculture (AVIPA) Plus

- **Supports profitable farm family participation in agricultural value chains.**
- **Implements cash for work projects that enhance rural family farm production and productivity.**
- **Implements a grants component that contributes to rural family farm productivity.**

Donor USAID
 Date September 2009 – August 2010
 Amount \$300 million

During the one-year follow-on to the AVIPA program, IRD builds on the success of the previous program, but shifting geographic focus from the north to Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the south. AVIPA Plus implementation will be based on Afghan government leadership and local community ownership. AVIPA Plus' impact will enhance the Government of Afghanistan's credibility in rural Afghanistan and link the Government of Afghanistan more strongly with Afghan citizens.

Construction Trades Training Center

- **Targeted former or potential insurgents.**
- **Trained 100 construction workers, 50 foremen, and 10 field engineers per month.**
- **Contributed to Afghanistan's reconstruction.**

Donor USAID
 Date February 2006 – February 2008
 Amount \$2.8 million

The program provided construction trades training to Afghan workers to enhance employment opportunities. More than 3,400 students graduated, with more than 85 percent going on to find employment in construction trades. At the end of the program, IRD helped the CTTC establish itself as an independent and self-funding NGO.

Georgia

Livelihood Development for IDPs and Returnees in Shida Kartli

- **Provided financial and material support for IDP families.**
- **Built local agricultural and leadership capacity.**

Donors UNHCR
 Dates September 2009 – December 2009
 Amount \$193,728

The program was designed to facilitate UNHCR's role in complementing local government's goal to provide durable solutions to the war-affected communities. In particular the project's objectives included improving self-reliance and livelihoods for internally displaced persons through activities such as gardening and agriculture, and building local capacities. Nearly 4,600 families benefitted.



Agricultural Production and Rural Enterprise Support

- Improves private sector agriculture.
- Provides technical assistance for farmers.
- Builds local expertise for providing training.

Donor USDA/Food for Progress
 Date 2006 - present
 Amount \$2.8 million

The project seeks to accelerate private sector development in Georgia by supplying small-scale farmers with seed potatoes, providing training on production practices, and developing a substitute import market, as well as establishing two rural enterprise centers to provide training, equipment, and individual consultation to farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Through the project, IRD will reach more than 15,000 households directly.

Indonesia

Livelihood Recovery and Income Generation Intervention for Aceh (Phase I & II)

- Developed management skills of local organizations.
- Provided income generation opportunities.

Donor UNDP
 Date July 2005 – October 2006
 Amount \$2.8 million

This program mobilized community groups to identify and implement projects benefiting tsunami affected populations. More than 2,000 livelihood grants were issued. In addition, IRD has provided 100 training and capacity building programs for local civil society organizations, benefiting more than 12,000 persons.

Three Projects: Emergency Livelihood Recovery and Income Generation Interventions in Aceh; Two Emergency Water and Sanitation Programs for IDP Settlements

- Created short-term labor opportunities through cash-for-work activities in affected communities and IDP camps.
- Facilitated the reopening of small businesses through capital input for qualified entrepreneurs.
- Provided emergency water and sanitation facilities.

Donors USAID/OFDA; Save the Children;
 USAID/OFDA
 Dates March – August 2005; February – July
 2005; January – October 2005
 Amounts \$1.5 million; \$1 million; \$1.5 million

IRD Relief implemented three emergency projects in response to the tsunami disaster in Indonesia. First, IRD provided emergency livelihood recovery and income generation opportunities for internally displaced and crisis affected populations in Aceh. The second and third relief programs supplied emergency provision of water and sanitation in order to meet the immediate needs of those persons most affected by the tsunami.

Iraq

Humanitarian Assistance for Iraq (HAI)

- Improves access to potable water and sanitation services.
- Increases access to primary health care services.
- Provides emergency relief commodities.

Donor USAID
 Date December 2004 – September 2010
 Amount \$42.9 million

HAI provides humanitarian assistance and relief services to internally displaced persons and returnees affected by the war in 10 governorates around the country. To date, HAI has implemented 370 projects and activities benefiting more than 2 million people, including the construction of wells, rehabilitation of health care centers, assistance in making necessary arrangements for voluntary returnees, and



training of regional administration and other partner NGOs on issues relating to international protection standards, reintegration, and human rights.

Community Stabilization Program (CSP)

- **Increases sustainable employment through training, job placement assistance, and business development.**
- **Assists Iraqi communities with conflict mitigation.**
- **Reaches out to Iraqi youth considered at risk for recruitment into insurgency.**

Donor USAID
 Date May 2006 – October 2009
 Amount \$644 million

CSP works directly with community groups, local government officials, and provincial reconstruction teams to foster more productive and peaceful communities. IRD has placed more than 23,000 Iraqis in long-term jobs, graduated over 16,500 trainees from CSP-sponsored vocational training courses, and placed nearly 5,200 in apprenticeship programs to further their skills. To date, CSP has engaged nearly 69,000 Iraqi youth in over 100 different CSP-sponsored sports and arts programs.

Iraq Community Assistance Program (ICAP)

- **Encourages community residents to join community action groups, giving them a voice to communicate with local government.**
- **Provides grants and training for micro, small, and medium businesses.**
- **Assists accidental civilian victims.**

Donor USAID
 Date July 2003 – November 2010
 Amount \$107 million

ICAP fosters democratic principles at the grassroots level, encompassing civil society, economic development, and community infrastructure strategies in order to create a more capable and sustainable Iraqi civil society. Currently, IRD has 232 active Community Action Groups working throughout Baghdad. To date, IRD has completed more than 2,600 projects benefiting more than 7 million people. ICAP has also provided assistance to more than 3,000 accidental civilian victims of Coalition Forces

with prosthetics, small business grants, and school and clinic repairs.

Jordan

Community-Based Support Program (CBSP)

- **Provides culturally appropriate vocational training to Iraqi men and women living in Jordan as refugees**
- **Works with local organizations in Jordan to ensure that programs are gender-sensitive by taking into account the different needs of fathers, mothers and children.**

Donor U.S. State Department/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
 Date September 2008 – August 2010
 Amount \$4.9 million

IRD addresses the wide-ranging mental health and livelihood needs of Iraqi men and women living in Jordan through the provision of social inclusion, income generation, and vocational training opportunities. Working with the Ein Al-Basha Vocational Training Center, under Entity Green, IRD is providing vocational training to over 600 Iraqi men in computer hardware and software, electrical installation, plumbing, automotive maintenance, cooking and recycling, and to over 100 women in catering, business home production, and marketing. In addition, the CBSP program is supporting 15 community-based day care organizations subsidizing the costs of child day care for vulnerable Iraqi families and linking mothers with the centers to provide day care services.



Lebanon

Entrepreneurship for Refugees (EFR) Program

- Provides apprenticeship with a Lebanese small business.
- Shares up to date information on changing conditions in Iraq.

Donor U.S. State Department/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
 Date September 2009 – September 2010
 Amount \$1.6 million

IRD is working with a network of businesses to assume bond costs for year-long residence visas for Iraqi men participating in the entrepreneurship program. The entrepreneur can then employ the Iraqi at apprentice rates, up to three months of which are subsidized by IRD. At the same time, IRD, in partnership with the Khiam Rehabilitation Center, is training volunteers, to provide clear, thorough, and objective information to Iraqis wanting to return home, preparing them for reintegration opportunities upon return and to better manage their expectations. Returnees are also able to continue psycho-social support upon return to Iraq.

Emergency Relief and Employment Program—Lebanon

- Provided small grants to businesses for structural repairs or restocking of goods.
- Supplied farmers with equipment to replace that which had been lost or damaged.
- Conducted vocational trainings in skills such as child care, health and beauty services, and information technology.

Donor DFID
 Date September 2006 – December 2006
 Amount \$620,000

This project focused on 10 small villages in the Tyre District of southern Lebanon adversely affected by the July 2006 war. Farmers and entrepreneurs received equipment and training. The program also included cash-for-work public works projects, focusing on longer-term economic benefits for the village as well as immediate benefits for unskilled labor. More than 8,000 people benefitted.

National Campaign for Initiating, Sorting, and Recycling Municipal Solid Waste in Lebanon (NISR)

- Created new businesses around recycling.
- Worked with schools nationwide.

Donor UNICEF
 Date June 2007 – March 2008
 Amount \$394,670

Lebanon generates more than 1.5 million tons of trash every year. For a small country, finding new space for landfills is difficult, so recycling is imperative. NISR—which means vulture in Arabic—trains school teachers and students in 1,153 elementary and intermediate level public schools in recycling do's and don'ts. IRD also installed school collection points, which are steel frames holding different colored bins for paper, organic, and non-organic waste.

Montenegro

Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA)

- Worked with local communities to determine reconstruction priorities.
- Provided technical assistance, training, monitoring, and oversight to ensure the sustainability of projects.
- Encouraged development of local NGOs.

Donor USAID
 Dates April 2002 – April 2007
 Amount \$23 million

Infrastructure projects under the CRDA program were identified as priorities by the local communities and completed with support from both the communities and local governments. Projects included building and renovation of low-voltage electrical networks, irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, livestock and green markets, water and wastewater facilities, and tourism facilities. Over the course of the program, IRD implemented more than 550 projects benefiting more than 650,000 people and generating \$10 million in income.



Mozambique

Positive Organizational Development Program

- **Provided sub-grants for income-generating activities.**
- **Developed ability of local organizations to provide care for people living with HIV/AIDS.**

Donor National AIDS Council of Mozambique
 Date June 2005 – July 2006
 Amount \$151,000

In partnership with the National Network of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS, IRD worked with three local associations of people living with HIV/AIDS in Inhambane province. The project provided institutional capacity building training, including leadership, financial management, project planning, and monitoring and evaluation; and operational capacity building through various training programs in home based care, pre- and post-test counseling, and ART adherence counseling. IRD has since received funding from CIDA, AED, and USAID/World Vision for these activities.

Women First Program

- **Uses community-based health care approach.**
- **Trains women in small business skills.**
- **A model of a successful public private partnership.**

Donor USAID/World Vision
 Dates August 2008 – July 2011
 Amount \$1.2 million

The Women First program was initiated through established women's groups from the Women's Society of the United Methodist Church, in Inhambane Province in 2005 with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency. In partnership with household supply company Unilever and others, IRD uses an intensive small business training program, facilitates an in-kind micro-credit scheme, and establishes a sustainable product supply chain. In addition to the small business component, the Women First project is training peer educators to raise health and HIV/AIDS prevention issues with women in their groups, as well as bringing these

messages home to their families and communities. In 2006, IRD expanded the program to Zambezia Province with funding from World Vision. The project has since added more distributors and varied the types of products it sells. Women First was selected by UNDP for its Growing Sustainable Business program.

Nepal

Reintegration and Resettlement for Conflict-Affected Populations in Mid- and Far-West Nepal

- **Facilitates permanent settlement and stabilization.**
- **Partners with Nepali NGOs.**
- **Compliments existing activities by other OFDA partners in the target districts.**

Donor USAID/OFDA
 Date May 2008 – March 2009
 Amount \$470,000

This program facilitated permanent settlement and stabilization by providing critically needed basic services and livelihood opportunities for IDPs, returnees, and the conflict-affected communities in three districts. IRD expanded livelihood opportunities for 11,400 people through vocational skills trainings, business development education, and small start-up grants. IRD also rehabilitated or constructed the water systems in 12 villages to provide increased access to potable water for 3,600 people.

Niger

Food For Work Training

- **Implemented food-for-work and agriculturally-based income generation activities.**
- **Helped local NGOs respond to community needs.**
- **Increased vegetable and livestock production.**

Donor USDA
 Date 2007 – 2009
 Amount \$2 million

Community leaders selected women and men for participation based on the greatest needs; work groups were rotated as appropriate to ensure that



the largest number of families benefited from the food provided. The program reached more than 20,000 people in the Azawak and Tadress regions of Northern Niger. The program extension through 2009 focuses on sustainable small livestock and vegetable production.

Serbia

Serbia Agribusiness Project (SAP)

- **Builds capacity among the producer organizations and service providers that support Serbia's agribusiness sector.**
- **Works directly with businesses, developing their marketing skills and knowledge.**
- **Works with government agencies to educate producers on international market offerings.**

Donor USAID
Date October 2007 – September 2012
Amount \$2.2 million

This project will improve agricultural productivity, expand value-added agricultural processing, and open new export markets, specifically for berry fruits; dairy; herbs, spices, and mushrooms; livestock; tree fruits; and vegetables. The ultimate aim is to develop a Serbian "brand" for export markets, enhancing the competitiveness of Serbian producers and affirming their place in the international markets.

Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA)

- **Worked with local communities to determine reconstruction priorities.**
- **Provided technical assistance, training, monitoring, and oversight to ensure the sustainability of projects.**
- **Encouraged development of local NGOs.**

Donor USAID
Date July 2001 – July 2007
Amount \$40 million

The infrastructure projects completed under the CRDA program in Serbia were similar to those completed in Montenegro. IRD also repaired and improved solid waste systems, hospitals, health centers, ambulatory units, schools and kindergartens,

community centers, and playgrounds. More than 150 such projects were completed.

South Sudan

Sustainable Community Food and Livelihood Initiatives

- **Creates economic alternatives for returnees.**
- **Offers training in food preservation techniques.**
- **Makes clean water more widely available.**

Donor Sudan Recovery Fund/UNDP
Date January 2009 – May 2010
Amount \$3 million

IRD is working with county agriculture departments to help local farmers establish cooperative, demonstration gardens that will showcase a variety of crops and growing techniques. IRD is establishing livestock cooperatives, which will receive training on animal health, veterinary services, livestock feed options, livestock water supply, and marketing of livestock products. IRD is also repairing and constructing boreholes with hand-pumps and constructing multi-toilet public latrine sites with hand-washing stations for schools, health centers, and markets.

Return and Reintegration of Refugees through Livelihood Promotion in Upper Nile State

- **Provides infrastructure for IDPs and refugees returning to Southern Sudan.**
- **Builds capacity of communities to absorb, accommodate, and cope with the influx of new residents.**
- **Enhances community conflict resolution and peace-building skills.**

Donor UNHCR
Date May 2009 – December 2009
Amount \$571,369

This multi-donor, multi-sector program will rebuild health clinics and schools, train health personnel, provide livelihood materials such as agricultural and fishing tools and seeds, and enhance community conflict resolution and peace-building capacity, as well as increase the skills of local NGOs.



Rapid Impact Emergency Projects

- **Generates income through community improvement projects.**
- **Relies on non-monetary contributions from local NGOs.**

Donor UNDP
Date March 2008 – October 2008
Amount \$2 million

These twin projects focus on generation of income, capacity building for local NGOs, and improvements in basic urban infrastructure in two state capitals in Southern Sudan: Malakal, Upper Nile State; and Kuajok, Warrap State. Improvements include installing a new drainage system in downtown Malakal and rebuilding clinics and schools in Kuajok. Local NGOs managed the process, with IRD supervision, ensuring their ability to do these projects on their own in the future.

[For more information, visit \[www.ird.org\]\(http://www.ird.org\)](http://www.ird.org)

Zimbabwe

Restoring Livelihoods – Strengthening Value Chains (REVALUE)

- **Helps groundnut and pea farmers increase their income.**
- **Works with local leaders and government AGRITEX extension workers.**
- **Supports value chain development.**

Donor USAID
Date October 2009 – March 2011
Amount \$2 million

REVALUE supports 8,550 local farmers to increase production and commercialization of groundnuts and peas in Manicaland Province. The project is a partnership between IRD and Africa University, Cornell University, I-Train and Evaluate Center (i-TEC), and 10 Zimbabwean private-sector partners. Using a voucher system, IRD works with REDAN ProFoods, a national agro-dealer company, to revive the once vast network of agro-dealers and increase the access of vulnerable but viable farmers to agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, and tools.