

The IsDB is matching the challenge of Djibouti with the experience of Morocco so that the two countries will cooperate to improve maternal and child healthcare.



It is at the center of the IsDB's mandate to promote cooperation among its member countries.

In 1981, the Makkah Declaration of the Third Islamic Conference Summit called the OIC member countries to strengthen collaboration, to utilize and foster their talents, skills and technological capacities. The Bank responded and launched its Technical Cooperation Program in 1983. This has then been scaled up via what we call Reverse Linkage.

The structured skills swap under Reverse Linkage helps the recipient country diagnose and analyze a problem while the provider country shares its proven knowledge and expertise to find a solution.

The idea that all partners have something to gain from cooperation lies at the heart of Reverse Linkage.

The learning process is reciprocal, knowledge transfer is in both directions, and benefits are mutual.

**REVERSE LINKAGE**  
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

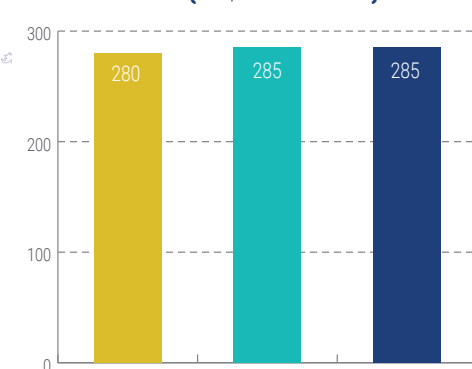


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Islamic Development Bank



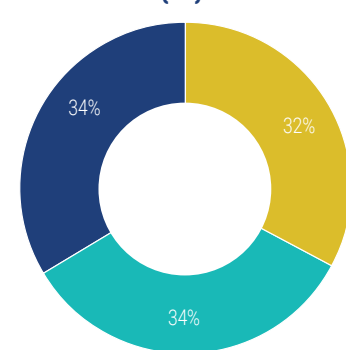
**DJIBOUTI (RECIPIENT)**  
 **MOROCCO (PROVIDER)**

CONTRIBUTION (US\$ THOUSANDS)



GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI  
 GOVERNMENT OF MOROCCO THE ISDB

PERCENTAGE (%)



THE PROJECT COMMENCED MID-  
**2017**  
AND RUNS UNTIL END OF  
**2019**

## CONTACT US

Islamic Development Bank  
8111 King Khalid St.  
Al Nuzlah Al Yamania Dist.  
Unit No. 1  
Jeddah 22332-2444  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**E** [reldiv@isdb.org](mailto:reldiv@isdb.org)  
**T** +966 12 6361400



**DJIBOUTI (RECIPIENT)**  
 **MOROCCO (PROVIDER)**

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE SURVEILLANCE FOR HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH IN DJIBOUTI

## THE CHALLENGE

In Djibouti, maternal and neonatal health is considered a public health issue. In its "National Action Plan to Fight Maternal Mortality", the country set key targets to reduce the maternal mortality rate to 90/100,000 and the neonatal mortality rate to 25/1,000 by 2020. Towards that aim, the Mother and Child Health Center of the Ministry of Health in Djibouti is cooperating with various partners to enhance access to maternal healthcare facilities and inform the population on the importance of maternal and child healthcare.

One of the main challenges facing the country is weak electronic monitoring and surveillance of high-risk pregnancies and childbirth. This is due to many reasons, including a shortage of the required equipment within the maternal and healthcare centers in the country; and non-systematic protocols and operating procedures to properly manage high-risk pregnancies. In addition, health staff involved in public reproductive health needs an uplift in capacity to better manage such situations.

## THE SUPPLY

The Reproductive Health Center of the Hospital Ibn Sina is a national health center in Morocco with more than 25 years' experience in obstetrics and neonatal management. Annually, this center deals with approximately 20,000 pregnancy cases. It has been monitoring high-risk pregnancies and childbirth electronically in Morocco for a number of years. The center developed training toolkits for electronic monitoring customized to the Moroccan context in line with the World Health Organization standards. All its relevant medical staff are equipped with the appropriate expertise for electronic monitoring of high-risk pregnancy and childbirth.

The Center is recognized at the national and regional level as a resource center in maternal health. It provides training, including support for maternal health centers in sub-Saharan Africa through knowledge exchange. It implemented more than 300 training sessions and workshops related to women and infant health. More than 1,500 health specialists from 22 countries, including representatives from Djibouti, have benefited from training.

## THE MATCHMAKING

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is in continuous dialogue with the Government of Djibouti and has supported the country's health sector. IsDB aims to be a facilitator of win-win South-South Cooperation engagement, whereby member countries exchange their knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for their own development.

The IsDB has also collaborated with The Reproductive Health Center for a long time. The Bank funded various training workshops in partnership with the Center that was identified as a provider of expertise in the Member Country Partnership Strategy for Morocco. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation and the IsDB was signed to facilitate the transfer of Morocco's expertise. The IsDB was therefore able to match the needs of Djibouti with the expertise of Morocco and put the skills share into action.

To close the loop, the IsDB coordinated and funded a peer-to-peer consultation process to design customized solutions for the capacity gaps in maternal health in Djibouti. To ensure joint ownership, the Governments of both Djibouti and Morocco contributed to the project's financing together with the IsDB.

## THE PROJECT

### GOAL

The project aims to improve the quality of healthcare surveillance for high-risk pregnancy and childbirth.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Developing a specific set of Training of Trainers (TOT) modules adapted to the local context and providing TOT for Djiboutian maternal health specialists.
- Developing the capacity of Djiboutian nurses, midwives and medical doctors in monitoring high-risk pregnancy and childbirth through series of training workshops.
- Formulating and implementing protocols and standard operating procedures for monitoring high-risk pregnancy and childbirth in the Maternal and Healthcare Centers in Djibouti.
- Equipping selected Maternal and Healthcare Centers in the country with Cardiotocography machines and upgrading the technician's skills in the maintenance of these equipment.
- Informing decisions makers and the public in general on the importance of electronic monitoring of high-risk pregnancy.

### DURATION

2.5 years, from mid-2017 to the end of 2019.

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Experts from the Reproductive Health Center of the Hospital IbnSina, Morocco and the Mother and Child Center of the Ministry of Health in Djibouti will supervise the project.

A joint coordination committee composed of representatives from these institutions and the IsDB will meet periodically to review progress.

## THE WINS FOR ALL

The development of the electronic monitoring of high-risk pregnancy and childbirth in the referral maternities of Djibouti is in line with the Ministry of Health's strategy. It will constitute a tool to achieve early diagnosis for complications and better manage them, contributing to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality. The project will also help in building the capacities of nurses, midwives and medical doctors in various areas which will be beneficial for the overall maternal and child healthcare situation in the country.

By contributing to the project, the Government of Morocco is realizing its South-South Cooperation strategy – capitalizing on its expertise and know-how to help other countries. The Reproductive Health Center of the Hospital Ibn Sina, Morocco will also strengthen its already existing collaboration with the Mother and Child Center of Djibouti and improve its reputation as a resource center in maternal health.

From the IsDB's perspective, the project is an efficient and effective way of improving South-South Cooperation among its member countries, helping the Bank to realize its vision and 10-year Strategic Framework.



KEY TARGETS OF DJIBOUTI: REDUCE THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE TO **90/100,000** REDUCE THE NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE TO **25/1,000** BY 2020