

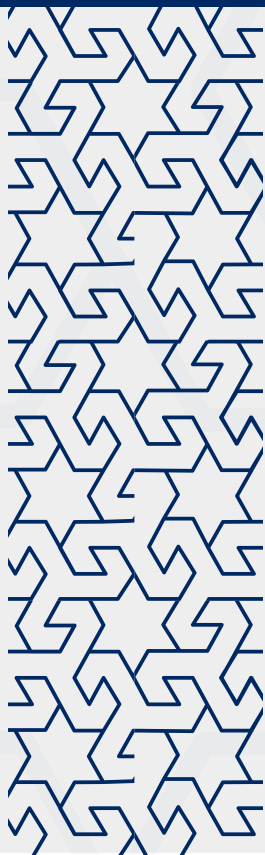
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AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IsDB): TURKEY AND BANGLADESH

■ Taslima Julia

RESEARCH REPORTS 26



An Overview of the Activities of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB): Turkey and Bangladesh

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ÖZET

İslam Kalkınma Bankası (IsDB), çok taraflı bir bankadır. Banka, üye ülkelere sosyoekonomik kalkınma noktasında yardımcı olmayı amaçlamaktadır. Bankanın temel amacı, üye ülkelerde İslami finans ve bankacılığı uygulamaktır. Bunun yanı sıra banka, tüm dünyayı içine alan bütünlükçü bir iyilik ve hayır ekosistemi için İslami ekonomik sistemi kurmamayı amaçlamaktadır. IsDB, üye (57) ve üye olmayan (78) ülkelerdeki tüm Müslümanların yaşamlarını ve geçim kaynaklarını iyileştirmek için çalışmaktadır. Devletler, 2015'ten beri Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri'ne (SKH) ulaşma noktasında endişeli olsa da IsDB ve grubu hedeflere ulaşma noktasında üye ülkeleri desteklemeye kararlıdır. Bununla birlikte, COVID-19 pandemisi, küresel bir sağlık krizi yaratmakta birlikte sokağa çıkma yasağı, ekonomik yavaşlama ve SKH'lere ulaşmada gecikmelere sebep oldu. Bu nedenle, bu rapor, IsDB'nin pandemi döneminde üye ülkelerinin SKH'leri gerçekleştirmesine nasıl yardımcı olduğunu araştırmayı amaçlamaktadır. İkinci olarak, literatür Bangladeş'in IsDB finansmanından en fazla yararlanan ülke olduğunu belirtmektedir. Rapor, bunun nedenlerini belirlemeye çalışacaktır. Bununla birlikte Türkiye ve IsDB ilişkisini ortaya çıkarmak, yazının nihai amacıdır. Masa başı araştırma yaklaşımı ve vaka çalışması yönteminin ardından, çalışma üç amaca yönelik yanıtları ortaya koymaktadır. Yazar, koordineli bir çabayla ve belirlenen stratejilere sıkı sıkıya bağlı kalarak, IsDB ve grubunun birçok zorluğa rağmen misyonunu gerçekleştirebileceğine inanıyor.

Anahtar Kelimeler: IsDB, pandemi, SKH'ler, Türkiye, Bangladeş.

ABSTRACT

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is a multilateral bank. The bank aims to assist member countries in socioeconomic development. The fundamental intention of the bank is to practice Islamic banking and finance and to establish the Islamic economic system for universal good. IsDB is working to improve the lives and the livelihood of all Muslims of member (57) and non-member (78) countries. Since 2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) achievement has been a concern of governments, IsDB and its group are also committed to supporting the Member Countries (MCs) to attain the goals. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has created a global health crisis, and the consequences of the pandemic are lockdown, economic slowdown, and lagging from SDGs attainment. Therefore, this paper aims to investigate how the IsDB is helping MCs to accomplish SDGs during this period. Secondly, the literature states that Bangladesh is the highest receiver of IsDB funding. The paper will try to identify the reasons for this. Uncovering Turkey and the IsDB relationship is the final objective of the writing. Following the desk research approach and case study method, the study reveals the answers to the three objectives. The author believes that with a coordinated effort and being strict with the set strategies, IsDB and its group could achieve its mission despite having many challenges.

Keywords: IsDB activities, IsDB challenges, pandemic and IsDB, IsDB and SDGs, IsDB and Turkey, IsDB and Bangladesh.

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Introduction

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) established in 1974 with a vision to nurture a universal brotherhood among Muslim nations and Muslims. Simultaneously, the bank aims to exercise Islamic finance and banking following Shariah law. 57 Muslim nations are members of the bank. The nations range from the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific, South Asia, Europe, and South America. The bank is highly focused on enriching human capital, alleviating poverty, and enhancing health, education, and governance among member countries (MCs). Conventional operations of the bank are funded mainly through shareholders' equity from IsDB's ordinary capital resources (OCRs) and complemented by resources circulated in the market (IsDB, 2021c).

IsDB, through its financing, brings significant changes to approximately one-fifth of the world's population. To maintain diversity in investment, the bank usually invests in sectors such as science, technology, and innovation (STI), infrastructure, education, health, humanitarian relief, women and girls, and youth development (IsDB Website, 2022a). Since September 2015, achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) has become one of the priority areas of world leaders. Therefore, IsDB is patronizing, supporting, and intervening in its member countries to attain the SDGs (IsDB Website, 2022d). IsDB is committed to achieving SDGs as social, economic, and environmental development aspirations. The bank is also committed to following the Paris climate agreement to address climate change. It works with other multilateral development banks to achieve low emissions and climate-resilient development and accomplish SDGs.

Over 46 years, IsDB has invested in 1120 projects in 78 non-member countries across five continents. It indicates that IsDB is working not only for its member countries but also for Muslim communities situated in the non-member developing and less developed countries (IsDB, 2021b). The bank extends its supporting hand to Muslim communities worldwide during conflict and natural disasters. Usually, it invests in projects that fall under agriculture, education, energy, finance, health, industry and mining, information and communication, real estate, transport, water, sanitation and urban services, and other sectors. Approximately 62.5 percent of IsDB financing has been approved in countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan, Turkey, Morocco, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Senegal. Bangladesh is at the top of the list acquiring 14.6 percent of the financing.

Few supporting institutions were set up to accelerate the activities of IsDB as well as to bring excellence to its operation. Islamic Research and Training Institution (IRTI), Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investments and Export Credits (ICIEC), Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sectors (ICD), World Waqf Foundation (WWF), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) are an example of those institutions that are working together, however, independently to assist the bank under the title of Islamic development bank group (IsDBG).

Recently, all the governments have faced unparalleled global health and economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic is enormous; besides health problems, the global economy significantly slows down due to interruptions in production, the global supply chain, and trade (World Bank, 2020). To handle the unprecedented event and address the pandemic's negative effects, the IsDB Group has announced a 2.3 billion US dollar stimulus package that will be extended to its MCs under its Strategic Preparedness and Response Package (SPRP). The SPRP adopts a comprehensive 3-R methodology concentrating on three tracks: Respond, Restore and Restart. It envisions delivering extra assistance

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to support health systems and the economy on medium-to-long-term support to rehabilitate livelihoods, build resilience and enhance economic growth. Finally, the IsDB group proposes policies and strategies to revive investment and provides ways to promote investment in member countries while recognizing priority investment sectors and incorporating information technology (IsDB, 2021a).

IsDB is committed to assisting its MCs to recover the economic losses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to achieve SDGs as an agenda for 2030. However, it is evident from the literature that the nature and form of assistance is not similar; it varies from country to country depending on the country's profile in terms of vulnerability. Undeniably, the global health crisis, economic slowdown, and lagging from the SDGs pathway are the outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, this paper will try to recognize how IsDB is assisting its MCs to attain SDGs despite the economic slowdown due to the pandemic. The author is curious to know why Bangladesh is the highest project funding receiver from IsDB. Therefore, this is the second question of the paper. Finally, being a visiting researcher at the Research Center for Islamic Economics (IKAM), the author is interested to know the relationship between IsDB and Turkey. Hence, this paper will investigate the answer to the question, what role does IsDB play in Turkey? The paper has three objectives following the three questions: to investigate IsDB's procedure to achieve SDGs targets during this pandemic period; to identify why Bangladesh receives the majority of IsDB funding; to explore the role of IsDB in Turkey.

Literature Review

What is IsDB

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) was established in 1974 to practice Islamic finance and banking and to nurture universal brotherhood among the Muslim Member Countries (MCs). The bank conducts all its financial transactions in compliance with Islamic law (Shariah). Almost one-fifth of the world's population has already enjoyed the financing facilities of IsDB. Asia and Latin America; Europe and Central Asia; the Middle East and North African and Sub-Saharan Africa are the four core regions where the effort of the IsDB can be observed. The IsDB Group is devoted to easing poverty, fostering human development; science and technology; Islamic economics; banking and finance; and boosting cooperation amongst member countries in alliance with its development partners.

IsDB has evolved into a group of five entities, consisting of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI), Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector (ICD), Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC). The group is known as the IsDB group (IsDBG).

IsDB is a multilateral development bank, also known as MDB. The MDB has 57 member countries. The primary condition for membership is that the prospective member country should be a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Each of the MCs has some percentage of shareholdings at IsDB; however, Saudi Arabia alone holds the most significant portion of the bank's shares, which is 23.5 percent as of the 31st of December 2020. The headquarter is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. There are a few regional hubs in Suriname, Senegal, Morocco, Nigeria, Egypt, Uganda, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, as well as a Centre of Excellence in Malaysia (IsDB, 2021c). Table 1 represents the 57 member countries, which are classified into three categories based on their income level.

Table 1. List of IsDB Member Countries

IsDB Member Countries		
Low-income Countries (16 countries)	Middle-income countries (34 countries)	High-income countries (7 countries)
Afghanistan	Albania	Bahrain
Benin	Algeria	Brunei Darussalam
Burkina Faso	Azerbaijan	Kuwait
Chad	Bangladesh	Oman
Comoros	Cameroon	Qatar
Gambia (Republic of the)	Côte d'Ivoire	Saudi Arabia
Guinea	Djibouti	United Arab Emirates
Guinea	Egypt	
Mali	Gabon	
Mozambique	Guyana	
Niger	Indonesia	
Senegal	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	
Sierra Leone	Iraq	
Somalia	Jordan	
Togo	Kazakhstan	
Uganda	Kyrgyzstan	
	Lebanon	
	Libya	
	Malaysia	
	Maldives	
	Mauritania	
	Morocco	
	Nigeria	
	Pakistan	
	Palestine	
	Sudan	
	Suriname	
	The Syrian Arab Republic	
	Tajikistan	
	Tunisia	
	Turkey	
	Turkmenistan	
	Uzbekistan	
	Yemen	

Source: IsDB, 2018

The Activities of IsDB Group

IsDB is committed to attaining its mission statement - "We are committed to alleviating poverty, promoting human development, science & technology, Islamic banking & finance, and enhancing cooperation amongst Member Countries in collaboration with our development partners." Since the beginning, IsDB has been running its operations and financing activities based on Is-

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Islamic law (Shariah). IsDB is investing in projects related to science, technology, and innovation (STI), infrastructure development, education, health, humanitarian relief, women and girls' empowerment, youth empowerment, and economic empowerment in its member countries.

To alleviate poverty from the MCs, IsDB focuses on economic empowerment. Islamic microfinancing is an excellent opportunity for poor people below the poverty line. Unbanked rural people can enjoy financial services through Islamic microfinancing, uneducated, hand-to-mouth. The IsDB has a significant portfolio of microfinance projects and components effected in its member countries and has established substantial proficiency in the practice of Islamic microfinance and Economic Empowerment initiatives. Depending on its inherent values, Islamic Microfinance could be used as a tool for Economic Empowerment, as it mitigates harmful effects such as over-indebtedness and Gharar (ambiguity). Islamic Microfinance follows the principles of Shariah; therefore, it charges no interest on deposits or financing. It operates through interest-free, mark-up-based, and profit-and-loss-sharing contracts basis. IsDB's economic empowerment division has created a monitoring and evaluation toolkit (M&E toolkit), considering it is an essential assessing instrument to attain a project objective as well as its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. The toolkit will help to assess better the impact of the bank's interventions in member countries and will better inform future projects. Therefore, IsDB reviews all kinds of project performances, including Islamic microfinance projects using the M&E toolkit (IsDB, 2020a).

Empowering the youth is critical for the development of a country. Thus, since its establishment, IsDB has been working to address youth development. Young people's education, skills development, employment, and engagement are the areas where the bank has given special emphasis. To unlock the youth's potential as partners and leaders in sustainable development, IsDB has strengthened its youth development strategy. The new stage is crystalized in the bank's 10-year strategic framework (10-YS) and the president's five-year program (PSP). The youth development strategy seeks to provide a consistent, organized, and complete framework for the bank's future youth development activities to boost its interventions' impact and safeguard that they are best placed to accomplish the preferred outcomes (IsDB, 2007; Summit, 2007).

IsDB has created a Women's Empowerment Policy to empower women and girls, considering they significantly contribute to societies' and communities' development. The policy defines the pledge of the bank to promote women's encouragement to ease poverty and foster inclusive growth and sustainable development. It also marks the commitment of the bank to unlock the 'untapped potential of women in its member countries and Muslim communities by establishing fundamental principles to guide its programs and interventions to reduce the barriers to their economic and social development. It is widely recognized that women's empowerment and improved development outcomes are positively related. There are four pillars of the policy such as access, mainstreaming, agency, and learning. Firstly, under the access pillar, IsDB will try to remove barriers to women's access to basic services and infrastructure to leverage their empowerment, skills, and productive resources. Secondly, through mainstreaming, IsDB will introduce approaches and actions to integrate women's empowerment measures throughout the IsDB country programming and project cycle. Thirdly, agency ship will enhance women's effective engagement in the socioeconomic development process, therefore, enabling them to have control over resources and participate fully in the development process of their communities

and countries. Finally, IsDB will focus on developing and facilitating knowledge, capacity development, and learning opportunities among member countries while speeding up good practices and driving innovation (IsDB, 2019b).

Nearly all member countries of IsDB are focusing on urbanization, and the growth is remarkable. The first step of the urbanization process is sound policy development and the commitment to keep pace with needed urban investments. In that regard, IsDB is well-placed to be an empathetic partner to its MCs; it provides all the support, technical know-how, and financing to promote sustainable and inclusive urban development. IsDB has its urban sector policy (USP) set up in September 2019. The policy is very comprehensive and a guiding framework for the implementation of the USP over the coming five years (2021-25). The policy is constructed to align the actions and practices of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly SDG11, SDG6, and SDG13 (IsDB, 2021f).

IsDB and SDGs

Since 2015, the IsDB and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been working together through a memorandum of understanding. To enhance the progress of sustainable development goals (SDGs), the agreement assists both institutions in co-establish much-needed development solutions for their member countries. IsDB is expanding its support to member countries depending on the unique need of each member country. IsDB is committed to sustainability; therefore, the bank is patronizing MCs to issue Sukuk to finance sustainable investments. Sukuk issuances under the sustainable finance framework allow the Bank to enlarge its funding sources. This action is enhancing IsDB's sustainability profile and helping the Bank continue to deliver ecologically sustainable growth in a socially accountable and understandable manner (IsDB, 2022a). To achieve SDGs, the IsDB group has formed a devoted Community of Practice (CoP) to raise consciousness and establish fundamental expertise, generate knowledge, and provide a familiar atmosphere to discuss modern solutions for MCs. IsDB realizes that there is a huge financing gap to accomplish these goals and considers that there is a wonderful possibility for Islamic Finance to help bridge this financing gap (IsDB, 2019a).

In September 2015, a sustainable development summit was held in New York. During the summit, world leaders embraced an ambitious, bold, and universal sustainable development program. This agenda is known as the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The broader aim of the deal was to end poverty and stimulate affluence by 2030 while focusing on the environment. The 2030 agenda was agreed on by the 193 Member States of the United Nations, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. The five Ps understand SDGs well. These are People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. These five P's are believed to be elements of SDGs; therefore, the IsDB team measures the MC's sustainability performance based on the 5P's. Before, there were the pillars of SD: People, Planet and Prosperity. However, recently SDGs have been measured on 5P's. The 2030 Agenda is indivisible. Therefore, countries must avoid cherry-picking goals and carefully evaluate the trade-offs across goals or targets.

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Figure 1. Elements to Understand SDGs

Source: UNEP, 2015

Although there are 17 goals and 169 targets in SDGs, the IsDB Group is well arranged to assist MCs in attaining SDGs 1 - 11, 13, and 16 through direct and sharing funding mechanisms. Besides, it will assist and enrich South-South and Triangular Cooperation among its MCs by classifying and delivering development solutions in the South and extending connections among MCs through partnership bondage. IsDB has taken all necessary initiatives to support the implementation of the SDGs and to align the interventions of the Bank with the SDGs. Cooperatively, the IsDB Group entities such as - the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), International Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC), Islamic Corporation for Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), and Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), all are committed to supporting MCs to realizing their 2030 SDGs Agenda.



Figure 2. IsDB focuses on SDGs

Sources: IsDB Sustainable Finance Framework (IsDB, 2019a).

IsDB and its Challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the business and movement patterns of the world's citizens; now, intentionally or unintentionally, everything has become digitalized. The challenges it has brought our supply chain disturbances, failure of healthcare systems, insufficiency of resources,

and a breakdown in GDP growth and economic activity. It has affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in all economies, specifically low-income countries. Currently, the world is facing two significant challenges- the first is to recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the second is to address the climate crisis. Climate agenda, which means achieving SDGs, handling Covid-19, and recovering the economies from its effect, are two essential development agendas. Attaining UN SDGs by 2030 and fulfilling the Paris Agreement on climate change requires huge funding; however, governments are struggling with budgets due to the pandemic. In this situation, the IsDB group could play a pivotal role by rethinking the topic and focusing on creating innovative solutions, which is a great challenge for the group. One of the advantages of the pandemic period is that it has strengthened partnerships among the global development community (IsDB, 2022a). Beyond the pandemic, the IsDB member countries (MCs) face several challenges, including swift urbanization, increasing motorization rates, rising greenhouse gas emissions, climate change exposures, challenging capacity constraints, and restricted pipelines for infrastructure projects. Infrastructure supply in IsDB MCs is relatively low compared to the population and increasing transport demand. Consequently, more transportation for public transport, mainly urban rail systems, is a significant need.

Method

The majority of the data of this research paper has been collected from secondary sources, following the desk research method, and the collected data is analyzed following the document analysis technique. Document analysis is a methodical process of revising or appraising documents - both published and electronic (computer-based and Internet-transmitted) material. Like other systematic tactics in qualitative research, document analysis intends that data be examined and inferred to arouse meaning, gain compassion, and advance pragmatic understanding. Documents used for systematic evaluation may be in a variety of forms. Usually, they include letters and memoranda, maps and charts, newspapers (clippings/articles), press releases, program proposals, advertisements, agendas, attendance registers, minutes of meetings, manuals, background papers, books and brochures, diaries and journals, event programs (i.e., printed outlines). Even application forms, summaries, radio and television program scripts, organizational or institutional reports, survey data, and various public records all fall under the documents category.

Many forms of the documents mentioned above have been used in this paper; however, emphasis has been given to the IsDB group websites; IsDB published many reports that have been downloaded. Booklets, e-brochures, country reports, etc. that explain the activities of the MDB, its mission, and its pathway to reach its vision to support MCs to attain SDGs during the post-COVID-19 era have been examined. IRTI is a publication wing of IsDB; therefore, IRTI publications have been searched and downloaded related to the paper's two objectives. All the collected data have been scrutinized to meet the objectives and set questions of the paper.

This paper also followed a qualitative case study approach. The case study research method is a statistical examination method to discover an existing incidence within its real-life context. Several data sources are used, according to researcher Robert K. Yin (Yin, 2014). Although few disagreements relate to data collection techniques of the case study methods, the method is extensively used in many

social science studies, particularly when in-depth descriptions of social behavior are required (Zainal, 2007). This study will follow the case study research approach to find the relationships between IsDB, Bangladesh and IsDB and Turkey. IsDB has its regional hubs in both countries. Therefore, it is important to know how the countries are doing and utilizing the IsDB funding. There are various case study categories, such as exploratory, descriptive, explanatory, interpretive, and evaluative; this paper will follow the evaluative technique of single case design. For data collection, the researcher uses a document analysis technique, and a narrative analysis technique is used to analyze the data.

Analysis and Findings

This part of the paper is going to represent the findings. The paper has three objectives; accordingly, there are three different findings. The findings are presented in three different sections. Section 4.1 illustrates the IsDB and its group activities to assist its member countries in attaining SDGs during and after the Covid-19 pandemic era. Section 4.2 explains the IsDB movements and their impact on Bangladeshi socioeconomic development. Turkey is an important regional hub of IsDB, and its funding is assisting the country remarkably; the detailed discussion is done in the 4.3 section of the paper.

IsDB Planning to achieve SDGs

IsDB is very serious about assisting its member countries in achieving SDGs. To do so, IsDB has taken a few initiatives, such as mainstreaming strategic initiatives, developing relevant policy, and constructing a sustainable finance framework. The Covid-19 pandemic has slowdown economic activities as well as SDGs achievement. However, the IsDB group has different plans to handle the crisis and help the government focus on SDG attainment within 2030. This section attempts to discuss the IsDB group's initiatives in brief.

Mainstreaming Strategic Initiatives

IsDB is sincere about assisting more inclusive and sustainable development; IsDB will integrate the contribution of women and youth in the development interventions, focus on addressing fragility and building resilience, finance climate-friendly projects, and further expand technical cooperation and reverse linkage programs. The Bank is further improving scholarship programs and encouraging its operations' science, technology, and innovation.

In 2015, after the acceptance of the 2030 agenda by the United Nations, the Board of Governors of IsDB endorsed a Ten-Year Strategy (10YS) for the Bank. The strategic objectives of 10YS are based on the embryonic global development landscape in general and the development ambitions of IsDB's 57 MCs. The strategy has three objectives – inclusiveness, connectivity, and the global development of Islamic Finance (represented in Figure 3). moreover, the 10YS is aligned with 13 out of 17 SDGs. Later in 2017, to accelerate the implementation of the 10YS, the President's Five-year Program (PSP) was launched.

The PSP requires a change in the strategic positioning of the Bank. Considering the need to offer a menu of development financing solutions through mobilizing resources from national and international markets and by engaging the private sector, the PSP has been developing. It also intends to address the root causes hindering sustainable growth in MCs. Furthermore, it aims to create an efficient Bank that would competitively deliver its product. Implementation of the PSP strategy will enhance organization-

al efficiency through decentralization activities. Simultaneously, it will achieve operational efficiency through the established Global Practices Departments relevant to thematic areas like Climate Action, Resilience, Youth and Women Empowerment, Science, Technology, and Innovation. The concrete focus on these thematic areas will serve as a facilitator for MCs to advance toward achieving the SDGs.

Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusiveness • Connectivity • IFS Growth
Strategic Pillars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Social infrastructure • Inclusive social development • Cooperation between MCs • Private sector development • Islamic Finance Sector Development • Capacity development
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Mobilization • Manage for Results • Selectivity • Financial Sustainability • Group Synergy and Governance • Bold Capabilities in Strategic Pillars • Budget and resources

Figure 3. IsDB 10-Year Strategic Plan to Achieve SDGs

Source: IsDB, 2019a.

The President of IsDB has announced a five-year program known as The President’s Programme to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs). The President program aimed to craft a new business model to make markets work for developers to realize the 1/5/10 opportunity. The 1/5/10 means that US\$ 1 trillion has been targeted to invest in 5 different industries to create 10 million jobs (IsDB, 2021e). For successful implementation of the model, a theory of change is set up that is – “If, as a starting point, MCs can mobilize only 1% of global markets’ resources to expand domestic industrialization in competitive industries, they can close their SDGs’ financing gap, estimated at US\$ 1 trillion, and create 10 million jobs annually”. The theory could attain three objectives: shaping new frontier for development, creating impact smartly, and building an agile organization. Within the limit of the first objective, IsDB wants to unlock the 1/5/10 opportunities by applying 80/20 principles to MCs, focusing on the specific industries where MCs have comparative advantages.

IsDB is focusing on domestic industrialization, and a prediction is that US\$ 1 trillion will be assembled by MCs from global market resources in areas of comparative advantage to explore domestic industrialization. Approximately 2.5 industries, based on their comparative advantage, could expand domestic industrialization, and paraps 3.10 million jobs are possible to create annually due to the expanded domestic industrialization. Secondly, IsDB has categorized six areas of improvement and

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a comprehensive program to fulfill the global market requirement of MCs. The areas where much focus is required are developing access to market information to promote transparency and investment. Boosting intra-OIC value-added as one global trade. Performing business, the industry 4.0 way to meet rising global productivity expectations. Constructing an enabling infrastructure for green value chains to save the planet and sustain resources, moving finance for development by associating risk with real economic growth. Creating resilient market systems that leave no one behind. Finally, to coordinate the comprehensive programs, IsDB can reinvent itself into an agile organization to take its MCs to new frontiers for sustainable growth along six tracks: enhancing IsDB visibility, accumulating resources from the market, building new organizational capabilities, decentralizing functionally and geographically, ensuring sustainable financial growth, and managing for development results.

Relevant Policy Development

The bank has created various sector-wise policies to direct the IsDB's operations in MCs. As mentioned earlier, the sectors are energy, transport, education, and agriculture. The sector-wise policies are in line with the IsDB 10-Year Strategy, the PSP, the development arena requirements, and the SDGs' targets. The policies are 1. Climate change policy, 2. Energy sector policy, 3. Transport sector policy, 4. Education sector policy, 5. Agricultural and Rural Development sector policy. Since its establishment, the Islamic Development Bank Group has embarked on several initiatives concentrating on youth development. On average, IsDBG assigns around 8 percent of its monetary assistance to youth development projects and programs on an annual basis. The Bank has recently developed a Youth Development Strategy (2019-2025) with three interlinked strategic pillars, Education, Economic Empowerment, and Engagement.

Sustainable Finance Framework

As part of this continuous pledge to sustainability, IsDB has decided to create a Sustainable Finance Framework. The framework followed the principle of four different types of bonds as Bond Principles, Social Bond Principles (ICMA, 2021b), Sustainability Bond Guidelines (ICMA, 2021c), and Green or Sustainability Sukuk (ICMA, 2021a). The framework allowed to issue of two types of Sukuk- firstly, Green Sukuk – for which the funds raised are exclusively allocated to Green Projects Categories. Secondly, Sustainability Sukuk – the funds raised are allocated to Green Projects Categories and Social Projects Categories. For any Sustainability Sukuk issuance, IsDB will allocate the Sukuk proceeds to a mix of both Green and Social projects. Projects categories at which the green or sustainable Sukuk proceeds will be allocated are renewable energy (SDG 7.2), clean transportation (SDG 11) and, energy efficiency (SDG 7.3), pollution prevention. And control (SDG 6.3) and, environmentally sustainable management of natural living resources and land use (SDG 2.4), sustainable water and wastewater management (13.1). The social projects categories at which Sukuk proceeds will be allocated are employment generation or SME financing (SDG 1.1, 8.3, 8.6, 9.3), affordable housing (SDG 1.1), affordable basic infrastructure (SDG 6.1, 7.1, 11.2), excess to essential services (SDG 3.C, 4.1), economic advancement and empowerment (SDG 5.1, 5.5, 5.C, 10.2, 10.7).

While financing green projects or social projects, IsDB follows the principle of Shariah and avoids financing projects those are related to alcohol, gambling, adult entertainment, and weapons. Additionally, under the sustainable finance framework, the following kinds of projects are excluded as potential use of proceeds. Table 2 lists the prohibited projects under the SFF.

Table 2. List of Prohibited Projects by Sustainable Finance Framework

Serial no	Projects where IsDB is not financing
1	Projects related to alcohol, gambling, adult entertainment, and weapons
2	Upstream fossil fuel extraction and production (including gas, coal, and oil)
3	New standalone fossil fuel electricity production
4	The energy efficiency of coal infrastructure
5	Energy efficiency projects that lead to an increase in CO ₂ emissions (through capacity expansion and increased output because of the project/investment)
6	Processing, storing, and marketing of gas, coal, and oil
7	Refining of oil
8	Nuclear power generation and related assets
9	Distribution or transport of fossil fuels
10	Construction, maintenance, or expansion of roads
11	Heavy-duty vehicles, infrastructure for fossil fuels (e.g., fuel stations), or bunker-fueled shipping infrastructure
12	Landfill construction or expansion
13	Any activities involving deforestation
14	Palm Oil related activities

Sources: Data collected from (IsDB 2019a).

There is a specific assessment process of IsDB to select sustainable projects. Green projects should comply with international conventions and agreements, including the host country, IsDB policies to manage potential environmental and social risk, particularly climate change policy, and IsDB environmental and social safeguards (ESS) policy (IsDB, 2020b). A sustainable finance task force has been created to complete the evaluation and selection process of green and social projects financed by IsDB. The task force is responsible for reviewing, monitoring, evaluating, and selecting projects for IsDB financing under SFF.

IsDB has established a green or sustainability register (commonly known as GSS Sukuk Register) to manage proceeds of green or sustainability Sukuk. Each IsDB green Sukuk proceeds are deposited in the general funding account and embarked for allocation using the GSS Sukuk register. Remarkable here, all IsDB investments are done in a Shariah-compliant manner and following ESG principles. Reporting is also a very important task of the task force. IsDB sustainable finance task force is responsible for reporting in two ways– allocation reporting and impact reporting. On the 29th of Ramadan (the 11th of May 2021), IsDB and the UN embarked on an important journey to unlock the potential of Islamic social financing (ISF) for serving humanity. H.E. the IsDB President, Dr. Bandar Hajjar, and H.E. the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, announced this partnership between the two institutions during a Virtual High-Level Kick-Off Event organized for this purpose. The auspicious beginning during such a blessed time was meant to capitalize on its spirit of charity and philanthropy, which is also embedded in the main tools of Islamic social finance (ISF).

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The ISF tools mainly include zakat, sadaqah, and wqaf, as well as Islamic microfinance. Attended by the Permanent Representatives of many countries to the UN, the launching event announced collaboration on the following two main fronts: organizing the International Dialogue on the Role of ISF in Achieving the SDGs and partnering on practical initiatives, especially utilizing zakat. Eventually, beyond its immediate impact to build awareness and launch a global discussion on the subject, this Dialogue would have the following two outcomes: knowledge product(s), as well as a practical roadmap with concrete recommendations to leverage zakat and sadaqah in the short run but also wqaf in the long run. ISF to fill the SDGs financing gap. In fact, this partnership has already begun with the aim of producing tangible solutions for real issues, such as the production and circulation of the COVID-19 vaccine among the MCs (Chatti & Alsawady, 2021).

IsDB Group Pandemic Situation Handling

The IsDB group consists of five entities, as mentioned earlier. Each entity has its own target and agenda to handle the pandemic and moves forward to assist MCs in attaining SDGs; the name and acronyms of the IsDB entities are listed below.

1. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
2. Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI)
3. Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector (ICD)
4. Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
5. International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).

IsDB activities to handle the Pandemic

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, was the first physical conference of a multilateral financial institution ever since the pandemic began. The president announced the national priorities of the member countries to be the basis of IsDB's development agenda. UN Sustainable Development Report 2021 highlighted the dramatic impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs. Poverty infected about 124 million people, up to 255 million jobs were lost, and the starvation rate soared higher.

To assist the member countries, the IsDB has invested US\$ 4.5 billion to support their limit, minimize, and recover from the effects of COVID-19 by using a 3-R method (Respond, Restore, Restart). Al Jasser further stated that IsDB would pay significant attention to infrastructure, human development, quality education, addressing environmental issues, improving health services, and eradicating extreme poverty for sustainable development (Yusha'U, 2021).

The meeting advocated for acquiring quality education, good health, and provision of water and sanitation. It criticized the rising poverty and the declining efforts toward ending hunger. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the process of achieving the SDGs. Amplified financial aid in resisting the immediate effects of COVID-19 has reduced the resources for underdeveloped countries to fight poverty. The movement to eradicate poverty has been weakened because of the pandemic. Investments slumped 30-70% worldwide in fundamental areas such as zero hunger SDG2, good health and well-being SDG3, quality education SDG4, clean water and sanitation SDG6, and the like. The pandemic has also resulted in IsDB MCs regressing in their activities concerning poverty eradication (Diken, 2021).

The Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP) was adopted by the IsDB Board of Executive Directors (BED) in April 2020 to assist the MCs in preventing, containing, reducing, and recovering from the damage of COVID-19. Along with the three tracks of Respond, Restore, and Restart (the 3 Rs), the SPRP contained two key components: i) Health Emergency Response and ii) Sustaining and Reviving the Economic and Social Sectors. The SPRP has been developed to embody the key pillars of the president's 5-Year Plan (P5P), namely Linkages, Funding, Delivery, and Reinforcement, through its values of collaborations in resource mobilization and delivery, innovation in finance structures, fast-track processes, and action. The involvement of technology, which forms the basis of all our initiatives, has also boosted financial support.

In April 2021, the bank accepted the addition of the component IsDBG Vaccine Access Facility (IVAC) to the SPRP. IVAC intends to allow the MCs to get access to COVID-19 vaccines. This extension of the SPRP focuses on guiding the MCs in their work for economic recovery alongside other initiatives that will further help them manage and withstand the pandemic. The SPRP extension also increased IsDBG's financial commitment from US\$2.3 billion to \$4.4 billion within one year. The alliances developed by the bank reinforced the program's activities.

The SPRP used a 3-R method centered on Respond, Restore, and Restart for every component, comprehensively covering the MCs' urgent and short and long-term needs. The Respond track delivers immediate action through South-South reverse linkage operations that are focused on (a) strengthening health systems to provide care to the infected; (b) building capacity in the production of testing kits and vaccines; and (c) building Pandemic Preparedness capacity, in line with the G20 Global Initiative.

The Restore track implements medium-term actions by financing trade and SMEs to sustain activity in core strategic value chains and ensure the continuity of basic supplies, primarily to the health sector. One example is vaccines. Its long-term action delivery gives rise to a strong economy and brings about more private investments by supporting economic recovery and countercyclical spending, with a targeted US\$10 billion that aims to unlock US\$1 trillion worth of investments.

The four key steps for the effective execution of the SPRP were:

1. Conducting Country Dialogues and Programming
2. Adoption of Fast-Track and Fit-for-Purpose institutional processes to support the MCs better
3. Adoptions of new ideas to improve the interventions under SPRP. For example, a Global Coordination Platform (GCP), a blockchain-based online “[, was founded by the bank to accelerate the progress of the interventions.
4. The Bank established a Global Coordination Platform (GCP) based on innovative Blockchain technology to fast-track and strengthen the interventions. The platform is a blockchain-based online marketplace that aims to coordinate aid delivery and mobilize financial and technical resources to support MCs' efforts in each of the three tracks.
5. Resource Mobilization and Partnerships. The Bank forged pivotal partnerships to mobilize resources to support the operations under the SPR.
6. The results of the SPRP operations can benefit about sixty beneficiaries. The key results are the followings:
7. COVID-19 awareness and prevention campaigns are reaching out to more than 50 million people.

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8. 10 million food insecure households provided with food rations enough for one month
9. 65,000 jobs were created to revive the priority value chains and economic sectors
10. 30,000 health workers provided capacity-building support to manage the COVID-19 response
11. 20,000 micro-enterprises provided with access to micro-finance services
12. Financial assistance is provided to 10,000 small or medium enterprises.

The bank stays vigilant in assisting the MCs to recover from the disease. In addition, it continues to efficiently meet its vaccine requirements through the Vaccine Access Program (Syed, 2021).

ITFC activities to handle the Pandemic

Intending to tackle this global challenge, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) stood by the member countries through its integrated trade solutions tested to meet the requirements of their government, companies, and SMEs. \$516.5 million have already been contributed under the 'Respond' initiative (Noordali, 2021). In addition to the trade finance activities, ITFC initiated exclusive programs for the OIC member countries, funded their medical and food supplies, and supported their private sectors or SMEs. Aggravated by rising poverty and inequality, achieving the SDGs has now become more crucial than ever. ITFC has utilized its Flagship Trade Development Programs and interventions to tackle the consequences of the pandemic on its member countries. In response to the consequences of COVID-19, many countries have upgraded their healthcare systems and provided for the poor. They have also implemented various policies, including fiscal stimulus packages, business cash-flow assistance, and tax cuts. Countries prioritizing these measures are shifting their focus from regular investment in infrastructures and major projects.

Nevertheless, the opportunities to invest in sectors concerning the economy are still plenty. Countries must identify the strengths of each sector, restructure them and attract foreign direct investment by improving the business regulatory environment and infrastructure. The private sector and SMEs will be able to continue further investments and operations with access to additional credit flow technology.

Countries are actively working to draw in FDI by improving the business environment that will create opportunities, upgrading transportation and energy infrastructure, encouraging intra-OIC trade and investment, and implementing regional and global value chains. To promote domestic investment, policy-makers need to be attentive toward private investments. Financial contribution in the field of technology is also required to make business operations easier and reap long-term benefits concerning the economy.

Against this backdrop, investment promotion agencies (IPAs) across countries face a challenge in the short to medium term, as they are at the forefront of investment, business attraction, and supply chain management. These challenges, however, are opening new opportunities for IPAs to attract investment to their locations. Certain incentive schemes are required to boost the provision of health services and expand production lines to increase medical supplies. Businesses are working hard in the short term to stabilize their operations, protect their workforce, and retain customers. Businesses from all sectors of the economy are also preparing for the economic recovery period.

ICD activities to handle the Pandemic

Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD) is on a critical mission to support and develop the private sector as a powerful engine for inclusive growth and sustainability within the framework of SDG achievement. There has never been a more relevant time for this endeavor, given

that the pandemic has proven the vitality of attaining Sustainable Development Goals. ICD quickly adjusted to the changes created by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting from the institutional improvement efforts that have been brought into action since 2019. They have also refined their objectives to ensure that they are actively catalyzing the private sector development in the member countries. The new strategic goals of ICD that can potentially cover the next ten years were based on five key factors:

1. re-focusing core offerings to the financial institution based on clear client segmentation
2. launching innovative and enabling products and building digital platforms
3. shifting efforts away from non-core areas and instead working on areas where there is the competitive advantage
4. serving member countries better based on their development needs
5. deepening collaboration within the IsDB Group ecosystem, financial institutions, and partners.
6. These key factors, in alignment with the investment guidelines, recenters the focus in the private sector and create a pathway to increase sustainability efforts through their “theory of change,” accentuating the Invest, Engage and Impact SDGs. This shows that ICD will:
7. Target SDGs, both directly and indirectly, through investments in the real economy
8. enable and continue to improve on creating conducive business environments, facilitating interaction and engagement between key stakeholders
9. achieve indirect impact on selected SDGs based on investment and engagement

The five-pillar upgraded strategy enabled ICD to respond smartly to the pandemic and support the private sector by focusing on its strength throughout the difficult crisis. USD 250 million was promptly reserved to support new clients with the potential of demonstrating a direct impact of the pandemic on their businesses. Several Fintech initiatives were also brought to light to transform the effectiveness of their business method and redefine the delivery of development finance services. This includes the Bridge, a platform designed and dedicated to meeting the ends of our member countries. The features include information sharing among ICD’s partner financial institutions, market and business intelligence analysis, and open access to fintech resources and cloud services. ICD aims to protect jobs and lay strong foundations for renewed economic growth in the member countries by facilitating recovery and strengthening the resilience of MSMEs while encouraging them to take SDG-related action (Sejiny, 2021).

ICIEC activities to handle the Pandemic

The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit’s (ICIEC) directive is to promote trade and investment in OIC member countries. ICIEC aims to meet the goals by ensuring supply chain integrity, protecting investments while minimizing volatility, and protecting citizens’ health and livelihoods. It fills the gap in the market left by commercial banks and private insurers and offers Political and Credit Risk Insurance to the 57 member countries. ICIEC’s countercyclical role in assisting Member Countries becomes even more critical in times of economic crisis, for instance, the COVID-19 pandemic (Kaissi, 2021).

To maintain a sustainable financial portfolio, ICIEC has expressed its solidarity with MCs and is looking for a balanced approach to support them as an immediate response to the Covid-19 pandemic. ICIEC has taken risks to its leading multifaceted status, its role in industry relationships, and

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its current partnerships and network to support recovery in Member Countries. The entity has been enthusiastically contributing to the IsDB Group's COVID-19-related Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP) throughout its stages, known as the 3Rs: Respond, Restore, and Restart. As part of IsDB Group's initial response, an SPRP 1.0 was established to mitigate the pandemic's adverse health and socioeconomic impacts. The SPRP 1.0 initially included a US\$15 million pledge from ICIEC for insurance coverage to sustain imports of medicines and strategic commodities, to ensure investment protection, and to minimize volatility.

IRTI activities to handle the Pandemic

The full form of IRTI is Islamic Research & Training Institute, hence, it is a research wing of IsDB. Since its establishment, the IRTI has been involved in researching Islamic finance and on contemporary topics related to the developmental issues of the member countries. During the pandemic crisis, IRTI was not silent, and it was busy preparing various publications and events to find a solution to the problem; one such initiative is a discussion draft on the topic "The COVID-19 Crisis and Islamic Finance". The draft was published in September 2020, and it consists of two sections. The first section focuses on the Covid-19 pandemic from the Islamic viewpoint. It investigates how the principles of Islamic finance facilitate the economy to endure exogenous and endogenous sources of risk and fluctuations. This sections also examine the operation of the Islamic finance industry during the crisis within the accessible data. The second section delivers a detailed explanation of the reaction of the IsDB group to the crisis triggered by the pandemic. The '3R' initiative is a complete plan to support OIC member countries through advanced channels created by the IsDB group. This initiative demonstrates the capability of the IsDB group to lead Islamic Finance through planned and coordinated activities across the 57 MCs (IsDB, 2020d). Another remarkable publication of IRTI during this covid-19 period is "Reaching the SDGs: Progress of IsDB member countries." This report contributes to IsDB's attempt by offering data-driven evidence to guide the bank's involvement in MCs through a holistic presentation of countries' progress towards the SDGs (IRTI, 2021).

IsDB and Bangladesh Case Study

Bangladesh is one of the founding members of IsDB bank, and it joined the bank on 12 August 1974. In September 2018, IsDB inaugurated a strategic hub in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The hub is responsible for running the banks' operations in Bangladesh and Maldives. The country's share in subscribed capital is ID 510 million, which is 1.01 percent of IsDB's total subscribed capital. It is a member of the IsDB group entities (ICD, ICIEC, IRTI, ITFC, and ISFD). Recently, the country has been the largest beneficiary of IsDB group financing. IsDB has already funded \$23.0 billion over 473 projects, out of which 388 are completed, and 85 projects are ongoing (IsDB, 2022b).

The economy of Bangladesh is largely dependent on agriculture. Throughout 2010-18, the agriculture sector created 44 percent of the employment and contributed around 12 percent to the GDP per year. This sector has been a major driver of poverty reduction in Bangladesh, and approximately 64 percent of females are employed in this sector. The country's 90 percent area is land area, 70 percent of which is used for agricultural purposes. However, over the past five decades, agricultural land has been lessened due to population growth. Although the cultivable land is reducing, the improved seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation systems have increased production by 125 percent over the past two decades (IsDB, 2020c). Therefore, the country's overall food security has significantly improved. De-

spite the recent progress, the United Nations have classified the country as a low-income food deficit country and a less developed country.

The position of Bangladesh is highly vulnerable in terms of geographic location and climate change-related risk. Suppose appropriate measures are not taken to reduce the world temperature to 2.5 degrees Celsius by 2050. In that case, it may cost Bangladesh 6.7 percent of its GDP and deteriorate the living standard of three-quarters of the population. Hence, to save the country from the adverse effect of climate change-related risk IsDB has funded the highest to the country compared to other member countries. Forty percent of the bank's funding went to the agriculture sector, 30 percent to integrated rural development, and 19 percent to crops; the remaining is funding for irrigation and drainage, fishery, livestock, etc. (IsDB, 2020c).

IsDB and the Submarine Cable

IsDB facilitates Bangladesh to develop submarine fiber-optic cable, providing the country with fast, reliable, and secure internet access and improving mobile phone connections. Before IsDB funding and assistance to set up the submarine fiber optic, Bangladesh was a country in Southeast Asia lagging behind the rest. Though neighboring countries already benefited from high-speed fiber-optic cable connections, their citizens depend on out-of-date satellite systems. This drawback was slowing down Bangladesh's development. However, the scenario drastically changed after establishing the satellite system; the whole country has become digitalized, the education system has improved, and the number of internet users has increased enormously.

The IsDB has funded the lion's portion of the project, that is, US\$60 million, and the remaining US\$8.02 million has been contributed by the Bangladesh government. This cost covered the 1,065km cable that was installed by the international submarine cable consortium Southeast Asia (SEA), Middle East (ME), and Western Europe (WE), along with technical partners Alcatel- Lucent of France and Fujitsu of Japan. The cable previously connected 13 other countries, from France via Saudi Arabia to Singapore, and now joins Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar, situated at the bank of the Bay of Bengal.

The new cable has had substantial impacts on Bangladeshi people and businesses. In 2004 there were just 23,000 internet users; by the end of 2015, the number of users increased to 54 million. In 2004 the number of mobile phone users was 3 million, which jumped to 133 million by the end of 2015. Therefore, the new cable has significantly influenced the lives of Bangladesh people and businesses. For better overseas communication, online transactions, business, and trade, and simply for transferring knowledge, people are using improved connectivity (IsDB, 2015).

The new cable has changed Bangladeshi student's life enormously. The high-speed internet connection on campus enables students to access lecture notes, video lectures, emails, and social networks. The improved internet connection makes life easier for staff and allows for more enhanced teaching. Hotels in Bangladesh use 360-degree "Wi-Fi" systems, enabling visitors to enjoy improved connectivity and helping them attend business meetings online. This improves families stay connected with relatives worldwide, supports young people with schoolwork, plays games, and enables them to access social media.

The cable has fulfilled the dream of the country to be digitalized by 2021. The rural parts of the country developed because of improved mobile and internet connections. Rural connectivity has already proven beneficial to the local Bangladeshis, one example being telemedicine. Doctors in remote villages hold online conferences with counterparts in Dhaka who help them with diagnoses. This service is set

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to become even more widespread. Business success and communication connectivity are interrelated. Recently, the 4G internet has started its journey. The 4G connections provide flexibility, great speed, affordable price, reliable internet connection, less time consuming, faster web site contents, and faster browsing, which are directly related to growing the business of Bangladesh (Islam, 2019). The submarine fiber-optic cable has formed the basis of Bangladesh's internet and mobile provision for years to come; however, the cable has a life span of twenty-five years. The country has already signed a contract with the SEA-ME-WE Consortium to build a second submarine cable link. This will future-proof the technology to ensure that it can cope with increasing internet traffic (IsDB, 2015).

Bangladesh is expected to become an upper-middle-income country by 2031, depending on the tremendous economic growth shown by the country in the past decade. Simultaneously, the country deals with a magnitude of trials related to the inclusivity and sustainability of this growth. The COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified these trials. Bangladesh's government is serious about sustainable development goals (SDGs); therefore, to boost economic growth and to achieve the SDGs targets, the country needs to support the human development and economic empowerment of the youth population. A study was conducted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with Youth Co:Lab initiative, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Startup Bangladesh Limited to recognize the current state of the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship in Bangladesh and provide data-driven recommendations to develop the ecosystem over the coming years. According to the study, there are 3.8 million young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. It is vital to understand the challenges and opportunities within the entrepreneurship ecosystem to grow and develop youth-led enterprises, strengthen the potential of youth entrepreneurship, and support them. Therefore, this study generated a wide-ranging evaluation of challenges and opportunities within the six central domains of the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The six essential areas for youth entrepreneurship development are policy and regulatory framework, human capital and entrepreneurship culture, access to finance and incentives, business development support and infrastructure, and access to market and techno-based innovation. The group research has provided a few recommendations that will enrich and enhance youth entrepreneurship development and boost economic growth. The first recommendation was to redesign the national curriculum and education system by including entrepreneurial skill development opportunities. Secondly, young people should provide with capacity-building opportunities and business development support. Thirdly, ease the youth-led enterprises' establishment, operational, and expansion process. Fourthly, financing opportunities should make available for MSMEs, start-ups, and social entrepreneurs. Fifthly, the business that is responsive to the youth-specific needs to support that robust policy and regulatory framework needs to develop. Finally, strengthen the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem and make the business accessible, specifically in rural areas (UNDP et al., 2021).

Youth Entrepreneurship Current Status

IsDB Youth Development Strategy 2020-2025 (YDS) offers the strategic framework for how IsDB's mediations incorporate the requirements of youth. The YDS has two primary objectives. Firstly, YDS aims to support young women and men to be productive and economically empowered to contribute to the development of their societies. Secondly, the young will be engaged and responsible for embodying and embracing leadership. The YDS has three mutually supporting strategic pillars: Education, Economic Empowerment, and Engagement. IsDB, in line with its YDS strategy,

conducted a study in collaboration with UNDP, Youth Co: Lab initiative, and Start-up Bangladesh Limited. The study recognizes the current state of the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. It aims to achieve the following key objectives: firstly, to produce a baseline assessment of the state of the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. Secondly, to understand the challenges and opportunities for development. Finally, to provide data-driven recommendations to develop the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem over the coming years the ecosystem (UNDP et al., 2021).

Bangladesh is facing the highest unemployment rate, which is 5.30 percent over the thirty years; therefore, it is a great challenge for the youth of Bangladesh (Macrotrends, 2022). However, youth entrepreneurship is a probable resolution to deal with this challenge and attain positive impacts at scale. Entrepreneurship opportunities will open many doors for young people; firstly, it will provide them with financial independence. Secondly, it will enable them to create opportunities for many others by creating job opportunities. Therefore, it is the government's responsibility to create a supportive and enabling operating environment for youth entrepreneurship to unleash their potential.

Business and commerce are the primary source of income, representing 14.5 percent of the surveyed households, among Bangladeshis, according to the Bangladesh Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016. Among them, 9.45 million individuals or households are estimated to be relying on the entrepreneurial activity as their primary source of income. Accordingly, a projected 3.8 million young entrepreneurs are embracing all types of enterprises (SMEs, start-ups, social enterprises, etc.) in Bangladesh (BBS, 2016). This data is predicted from the primary data collected during the survey, and it is not nationally representative.

In Bangladesh, women's workforce participation is excessively low compared to men's participation (World Economic Forum, 2021). Presently, in the global gender gap index, out of 156 countries, Bangladesh stands at 65th, and in terms of economic participation and opportunity dimension, the position is at 147. The economic participation and opportunities indicate the limited participation of women in the labor force, wage inequality in the same position, and limited representation in managerial positions. Usually, women face three different types of discrimination such as cultural and social barriers, access to Finance, and work-life balance (IFC, 2011). Women face disproportionately additional social and cultural barriers to engaging in employment and becoming entrepreneurs compared to their male colleagues. These barriers stem from household and familial expectations, pre-determined career paths, and social stigma against employment and entrepreneurship. Women tend to have lower demand and fewer prospects for financing as they are discouraged from applying for loans due to a higher rejection rate. To the financier, women-led enterprises are riskier to invest in; therefore, they are reluctant to provide financing to women entrepreneurs. Women are often supposed to balance work and family life more than their male counterparts. This leads to varied outcomes among male and female-led enterprises, with male entrepreneurs being able to commit more time and effort to develop their enterprises. According to the SANEM, in 2019, women spent approximately four hours on unpaid care work every day, which is worth (\$ 119 M) in total and 39.52 percent of the GDP of Bangladesh (IFC, 2011; MJF, 2019; Rashid, 2017; World Economic Forum, 2021).

Bangladesh is a composition of sixty-four districts and seven divisions. Therefore, the number of MSMEs and cottage establishments vary in the urban and rural divisions. Dhaka is the country's capital; thus, 32% of the national MSME establishment of the country is situated in Dhaka. Within

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this 32%, urban settlement is 36%, and rural settlement is 64%. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) economic consensus 2013, there were over 7.8 million registered enterprises in the MSME and Cottage categories, and 71 percent of those enterprises were in rural areas. Likewise, in 2019 the total number of MSMEs and Cottage Enterprises reached approximately 8.1 million (Abdin, 2019). However, by 2020 the number reached 9.45 million.

IsDB and Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Education Waqf (IsDB-BISEW)

IsDB-Bhaban, situated in the Agargaon area of the capital Dhaka, rises 81 meters and is one of the most prestigious buildings in the city. The Bhaban is a waqf property of the Islamic Development Bank and Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Education Waqf (IsDB-BISEW) and occupies around 2-acre land. The complex was established in 1987 based on an agreement between IsDB and the Government of Bangladesh. IsDB-BISEW started operating in 1997, and in 2003, finally, it came to serve its educational obligation. The reason behind the delay was due to not having any pre-existing organization to handle the waqf fund of IsDB; the IsDB is basically the founder, not merely the financier, of the project.

The original aim of the “Deed of waqf” of IsDB-BISEW was to aid the education of Muslim Bangladeshi students, Islamic educational institutions, and the orphanage of the state. The IsDB-BISEW assumed that Bangladeshi youth were competent enough to convert into a valuable workforce; therefore, it worked on bridging the gap between education and employment in the country; hence, the key parameter of success for the project was the job placement of its graduates. Many prestigious institutions, like several UN offices regional hub of IsDB, are the complex’s tenants, allowing the bhaban to earn stable financial income. For the year 2018-2019, the gross income of the complex was approximately \$4.56 million. This stable income has allowed IsDB-BISEW to have a sinking fund of \$10.68 million and own a piece of property estimated to be worth \$50 million. In total, with a new 2-acre plot of land allotted by the government for a new Waqf project, IsDB-BISEW presently has a net worth of \$160 million.

IsDB-BISEW allocates about \$1.23 million each year for educational and human resource development purposes and to support the following five programs such as 1) the IT Scholarship Program, 2) the Vocational Training Program, 3) the Madrasah Program, 4) Scholarships for 4-Year Diplomas in Engineering Program, and 5) the Orphanage program. The IT scholarship program is targeting to transform the large populace of unemployed non-IT university graduates into a productive workforce. The Vocational Training Program aims to help high school dropouts and boost their abilities to create jobs in the fields of electricity, mechanics, and welding and fabrication. The Madrasah Program is intended to improve Madrasahs’ facilities and to establish the Dakhil (Vocational) Program under the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB). Scholarships for the 4-Year Diplomas in Engineering Program were meant to create opportunities for Vocational Program graduates of the Madrasah Program to complete 4-year Engineering Diplomas in government polytechnic institutes by providing necessary expenses. Finally, the Orphanage program consists of a single project- the Khaiyarbhangra Orphanage in Madaripur, which focuses on several running courses for orphans. These five programs have served over 42.5 thousand beneficiaries, creating over 6.5 thousand job placements. The projects have utilized \$19.6 million for project expenditures out of the total proceeds produced by the waqf of \$46.3 million.

The Bangladesh Ministry of Religious Affairs' Waqf Administration believes this project is a major success, as revealed by the project's multiple prizes and honors and the way it is treated as a high-profile role model. On an individual level, IsDB-BISEW alumni have managed the best professional lives, and a large portion of them become successful within a short while. On a larger scope, the IsDB-BISEW has positively affected both the waqf philanthropic sector and the local economy. IsDB-BISEW has also enhanced the local economy with its international-standard assets, its initiative in the IT field, and its locally extraordinary execution of educational programs. IsDB-BISEW has long assisted as an example for high-accomplishing Waqf projects because of numerous aspects: Its compact management via the CEO and Mutawalli/Nazir committee (containing legislatures nominated by the Government and IsDB); its excellent, intricate educational programs, planned for actual execution; and its successful waqf asset selection and use. Although the waqf faced many challenges, most notably the scalability and macroeconomic impact on Bangladeshi youth, the waqf has still been able to serve as a major driver of educational programs in Bangladesh.

Awqaf properties investment fund (APIF)

Awqaf properties investment fund (APIF) is a secure investment platform with social impact. Indeed, this investment offers a very low dividend; however, share value appreciation offsets the loss. IsDB manages the fund, which was established based on the concept of Mudarabah. The IsDB acts as a Manager and Custodian of the fund and plays the role of Mudarib (fund manager). As such, it benefits from the high-quality support functions offered by IsDB, such as procurement, legal, risk management, KYC, and financial control. As a fund manager, IsDB applies sensible measures to expanding funding out of API's resources. Usually, Awqaf ministries, directorates and institutions, Islamic banks and financial institutions, philanthropic/donor institutions, and individual investors provide subscription capital to API. This funding is helping women and young people in Bangladesh with training to develop skills and a small grant to help them set up their businesses. The training provides knowledge of the business, the negative impact of discrimination, and human rights (APIF Website, 2022).

The Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) is an institution in Bangladesh that executed an employment-centric initiative. The fund provider here is IsDB. The local majority of people in Bangladesh are illiterate, specifically women; therefore, IsDB is helping those vulnerable groups of people by facilitating economic and social empowerment and human rights awareness through the "Women Empowerment Programme through Livelihood Skills Training and Human Rights Awareness." With the program, IsDB is helping many villagers in Bangladesh. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic period, this program played a great role by helping women and young people to produce masks. Even though mask-making was not the original plan of the program after the Covid-19 pandemic, outbreak-making has been added to the curriculum of the implementing partner, which was beyond the project's original plan (IsDB, 2021d).

Eco-friendly Shelter for Rohingya Camps

Bangladeshi scientist has invented eco-friendly, long-lasting, and sustainable home in Rohingya camps to solve the shelter issue in Rohingya camp. The camp is situated in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and it is the world's largest refugee settlement. Bangladesh is hosting more than 1.1 million Rohingya who fled neighboring Myanmar during a military crackdown in 2017. ICDDR, B, formerly known as the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, with the help of IsDB funding,

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did a research project to solve the shelter issue. The construction of sustainable housing is done based on Jutin, a combination of jute fiber and resin, invented by another Bangladeshi scientist Dr. Mubarak Ahmad Khan, in 2008. Initially, six houses were built as a pilot project, and data was collected to update the houses' information. The houses are expected to be heat resistant, and the resident will feel significantly cooler temperatures than outside temperatures while living in these houses. CDDR, B research on introducing jutin to the camp areas of Cox's Bazar was financed with a \$100,000 grant under IsDB's "Transform Innovation" initiative. Usually, in the camp area, the houses are made of plastic that needs to replace every six months; however, Jutin-made houses are much more durable and could last up to sixty years. The Jutin houses are environmentally friendly, free from chemical exposure, have enough ventilation and daylight facilities, and can be dismantled easily during an emergency. Fire incident is an issue in a highly congested camp area; hence, the jutin-made house will reduce this kind of fire incident (Sumon, 2022).

SDGs achievement of Bangladesh

The performance of the Bangladesh Hub, which consists of Bangladesh and Maldives, is 63.5%, a little bit higher than the overall IsDB MCs' achievement of 61.0%, and it positions 5 out of 12 hubs. On the 5Ps dimensions of SDGs, that is, people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership, the achievement of this hub could be considered satisfactory in two dimensions (People and Planet) and fair in three dimensions (Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership). On the goals, this hub still must improve on a number of goals, particularly on SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure); the achievement of this goal is 24.8 percent, SDG 17 (partnership for the goals), achievement rate 38.6 percent and SDG 5 (gender inequality) which is recorder as 50 percent achieved.

IsDB and Turkey Case Study

Turkey joined IsDB on 12 August 1974. The country is a founding member of the bank. Its share of subscribed capital is ID 3,264 million (6.45%), according to the data available on 31 December 2017. Turkey is a provincial power strategically positioned between Europe and Asia, bordering the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Black Seas with neighboring countries such as Azerbaijan, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece, and Bulgaria. Turkey can play a vital role in regional economic development due to its strategic and geographically important positioning. Turkey is one of the important regional hubs of IsDB, and the hub consists of another six countries. To date, IsDB has funded around 541 projects in Turkey alone, out of which 506 are completed and 35 are running. Around \$12.2 Bn has been invested or funded, and Turkey's subscription capital is 3.3bn (IsDB Website, 2022c). IsDB Regional Hub is in Turkey that stimulates the cooperation of the IsDB group with all the stakeholders in Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey. IsDB has funded over 33.8 bn in this region, and already 1422 projects had successfully completed, and 114 projects are ongoing. IsDB has two regional hub offices in Turkey, one is situated in the capital Ankara, and another one is in the commercial capital Istanbul (IsDB Website, 2022b).

IsDB Global Value Chain (GVC) Initiative

The IsDB has designed a new business model with a global value chain (GVC) based Member Country Partnership Strategy (MCPS). The model intends to recognize MCs' bottlenecks, oppor-

tunities and challenges to integrate and upgrade within certain GVCs. The GVC selection analysis grounded on IsDB's GVC procedure and discussions with stakeholders have revealed that the textile, agriculture, and automotive industries are industries whereby Turkey has natural, dynamic, spill, and surplus potential to increase its international competitiveness. These industries could be engaged in more value-added activities; therefore, more employment opportunities would be created.

Turkey has attained significant success in the last thirty years with its assimilation into the GVCs based on its textile industry. However, this sector requires technological developments, demographic shifts, transformations in the global economy, global trends, and international competition for further growth and development. The upgrading of the Turkish textile industry, at the domestic level, will create employment opportunities, increase value addition, and at the international level, this initiative will catch up with the latest technological developments, attract high-quality foreign investment and achieve environment-friendly, sustainable economic development (Kane & Yagci, 2020). The automotive industry in Turkey is one of the industries for which Turkey is in the global value chain (GVC). The industry is one of the priority sectors selected in the 11th Development Plan, being a mature, diverse, and regionally and globally fragmented one. The automotive industry in Turkey is facing three challenges currently, those are advancement into new technologies, increasing productivity to support higher value add, and shifting or diversifying products and markets (Hamid & Sow, 2020).

Turkey is pursuing to incorporate more deeply into global agriculture Global Value Chains (GVC). The country's agriculture sector creates up to 6% of GDP and is a major contributor to employment, with 19% of the Turkish labor force employed in the sector. It is one of the priority areas in the 11th Development Plan. The industry serves multiple goals, such as food safety and security, driving rural development and sector competitiveness. Improving agricultural performance offers a particularly important tool for addressing Turkey's socio-economic disparity among its 81 provinces. Despite significant agricultural output levels, the country is ranking 10th globally. Nonetheless, the sector accounts for 10% of total exports, and Turkey ranks as a significant agricultural exporter of hazelnuts, apricots, figs, and fresh vegetables like tomatoes and cucumber. The main export destinations for fresh fruit and vegetables include Iraq and Syria, as well as countries of the European Union (Demirhan & Warfa, 2020).

The Pandemic and IsDB support in Turkey

To handle the Covid-19 pandemic situation, IsDB and Turk Eximbank have signed a Murabaha Facility Agreement under the assurance of Turkey's Ministry of Treasury and Finance in the amount of USD 100 million. The amount has been used for the financing needs of disseminating Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Middle Capitalization Companies (MidCaps). The funding has been done based on the Murabaha facility; the facility has a tenor of ten years, establishing IsDB's commitment to supporting the sustainable development of Turkey. The new agreement is built upon the success story of the USD 270 million lines of financing that IsDB had previously offered to Turkish firms via Turk Eximbank. In the previous involvement, 57 firms, 18 of which are SMEs, gained from the financing, and 39 firms documented an increase in their workforce. IsDB has taken a new initiative with an expectation to follow the recorded success story with the new Murabaha facility. The initiative will increase the export capacity of the recipient companies and will create a minimum

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of 1,000 jobs. Overall, the facility will play a significant role in lessening the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the industrial sector by delivering long-term subsidies to companies to finance their capital spending (IsDB Website, 2020).

IsDB Turkey scholarship

The IsDB- Turkey joint scholarship program is constructed to help talented students from IsDB member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries to involve in a full-time in Turkey. The students could join for Undergraduate, Masters' and Ph.D. in Turkey. The program is designed to build the right competencies among the students so that they can focus on sustainability sciences to empower communities and assist in achieving their national and global development plans together with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The scholarships will be awarded to successful candidates for study at top-ranked universities in Turkey,

SDGs achievement of Turkey Hub's

The performance attainment of the MCs in the Turkey Hub (comprising six countries Turkey, Albania, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan) is 62.2%, which is slightly above the overall performance of IsDB MCs (61.0%), and it is ranked 8 out of 12 hubs. On two dimensions, that is, the Planet and Partnership, this Hub MCs' achievement could be considered satisfactory. The achievement could be considered fair on the remaining three dimensions, that is, People, Prosperity, and Peace. On the specific SDGs, the Turkey Hub faces the most significant challenge on SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), followed by SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG2 (Zero Hunger). The two Goals having the highest achievements in the Turkey Hub are SDG 13 (Climate Action) (93.4%) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) (88.0%).

Discussion

Since its establishment, the IsDB group has been working hard to meet its mission and vision statement of it. The bank is helping its member countries and other Muslim citizens of non-Muslim member states. The fundamental aim of the institution is to create a universal brotherhood and nourish the Islamic banking and economic system. The world is looking for the best alternative to the conventional economic system. The Islamic banking and economic system are the best alternatives due to its universal well-being appeal and resilience. IsDB and its entities are continuously trying to establish an Islamic economic system by meeting the need of modern times. This paper aims to recognize the services of IsDB to its MCs. SDGs are a universal well-being agenda of world leaders, and the Islamic economic system has no contradiction with it, therefore, IsDB has taken it as complementary services and helped MCs to achieve it.

IsDB Activities in General

Generally, IsDB has taken a few programs that mainstream strategic initiatives, develop relevant policies, and construct a sustainable finance framework. IsDB endorsed a Ten-Year Strategy (10YS) for the bank. The strategic objectives of 10YS are based on the embryonic global development landscape in general, and the development ambitions of IsDB's 57 MCs. The President of IsDB has announced a five-year program known as The President's Programme to achieve sustainable development goals

(SDGs). The President program aimed to craft a new business model that aims to make markets work for developers to realize the 1/5/10 opportunity (Yusha'U, 2021).

The Covid-19 pandemic has slowdown economic activities and SDG achievement; therefore, the IsDB has invested US\$ 4.5 billion to support the MCs limit, minimize, and recover from the effects of COVID-19. IsDB also adopted the Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (SPRP) in April 2020 to assist the MCs in preventing, containing, reducing, and recovering from the damage of COVID-19. Along with the three tracks of Respond, Restore, and Restart (the 3 Rs) (Diken, 2021). The '3R' initiative is a complete plan to support OIC member countries through advanced channels created by the IsDB group. This plan describes the capability of the IsDB group to lead Islamic Finance in a planned and coordinated activity across the 57 MCs (IsDB, 2020d).

International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), to tackle the global challenge, stood by the member countries through its integrated trade solutions tested to meet the requirements of their government, companies, and SMEs. \$516.5 million have already been contributed under the 'Respond' initiative (Noordali, 2021).

The corporation for the Development of Private Sector (ICD) is on a critical mission to support and develop the private sector as a powerful engine for inclusive growth and sustainability within the framework of SDG achievement (Sejiny, 2021).

The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit's (ICIEC) directive is to promote trade and investment in OIC member countries. ICIEC intends to meet the goals by ensuring supply chain integrity, protecting investments while minimizing volatility, and protecting citizens' health and livelihoods (Kaissi, 2021).

Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI) is busy preparing various reports to provide empirical evidence to MCs. IRTI published reports contribute to IsDB's attempt by offering data-driven evidence to guide the bank's involvement in MCs through a holistic presentation of countries' progress toward the SDGs (IRTI, 2021).

SDGs Achievement of Bangladesh and Turkey

There are fifty-seven MCs of IsDB, and focusing on each country's SDGs' progress will be beyond the capacity of the paper; therefore, this paper has chosen two regional hubs, Bangladesh and Turkey, for the discussion. Based on the IRTI publication published in September 2021, Turkey's overall SDGs achievement performance is much higher than in Bangladesh. The overall performance is measured based on the SPs, and the Ps are people, planate, prosperity, partnership, and peace. Turkey has recorded 70.30 percent SDGs achievement whereas Bangladesh has recorded 63.30 percent achievement of SDGs until October 2021 (IRTI, 2021). The data is represented in Figure 4.

Table 3 illustrates the 17 SDGs achievements of Bangladesh and Turkey in percentage. Turkey's position in achieving SDGs is higher in 10 SDGs out of 17 SDGs compared to Bangladesh. In the remaining cases, Bangladesh's attainment is higher. In terms of poverty eradication and ensuring quality education, that is, SDG 1 and SDG 4, Turkey has done tremendously well. According to the given data, Bangladesh has taken many initiatives with the

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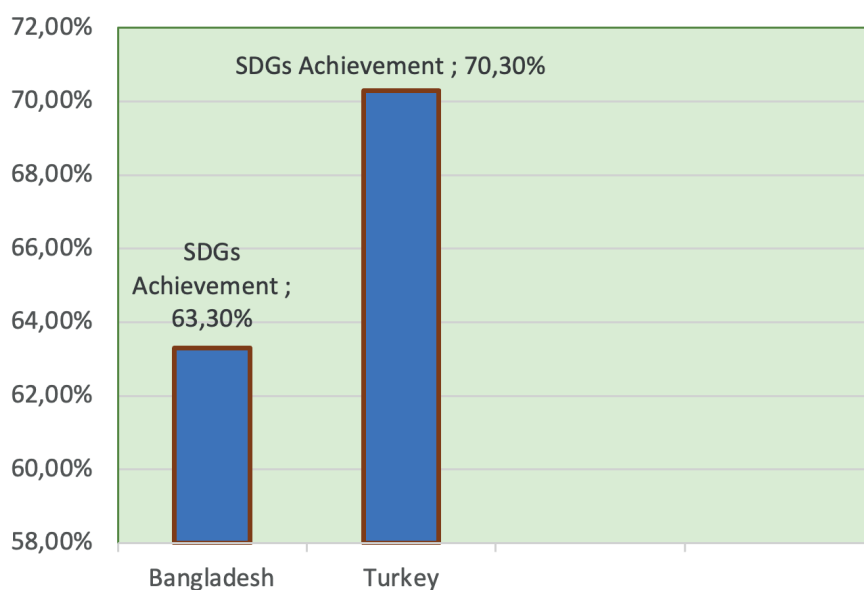


Figure 4. Overall SDGs performance of Bangladesh and Turkey

Sources: Data is collected from (IRTI, 2021).

Table 3. 17 SDGs Achievement of Turkey and Bangladesh

Serial No	Sustainable Development Goal no	Turkey's Achievement %	Bangladesh's Achievement %
1	SDG 1- No Poverty	99.7	66.9
2	SDG 2- Zero hunger	59.7	55.3
3	SDG 3- Good health and well-being	81.2	59.5
4	SDG 4- Quality education	98.8	84.2
5	SDG 5- Gender equality	46.2	49.6
6	SDG 6- Clean water and sanitation	75.5	67.3
7	SDG 7- Affordable and clean energy	88.7	61.2
8	SDG 8- Decent work and economic growth	69.7	78.3
9	SDG 9- Industry, Innovation, and infrastructure	59.3	24.7
10	SDG 10- Reduced inequality	39.3	68.5
11	SDG 11- Sustainable cities and communities	70.4	54.7
12	SDG 12- Responsible consumptions and productions	81.5	95.4
13	SDG 13- Climate action	88.9	98.6
14	SDG 14- Life below water	45.9	64.6
15	SDG 15- Life on land	52.8	57.8
16	SDG 16- Peace, justice, and strong institution	65.7	54.9
17	SDG 17- Partnership for the Goals	71.9	37.9

Sources: Data is collected from (IRTI, 2021).

The help of the IsDB group to mitigate climate change impact on the country, therefore, SDG 13 achievement of the country shows above 98 percent. In terms of responsible consumption and production, in the case of SDG 12 accomplishment, Bangladesh has shown excellent progress too. However, the county needs to focus more on goal no 13 (24.7%) fulfillment, that is, industry, innovation, and infrastructure and partnership for the goals; goal no 17 (37.9%), as in both cases, the accomplishment seems very poor. Turkey should focus much on reducing inequality (SDG 12) and gender equality (SDG 5), as the SDG fulfillment rate is poor in both cases.

Impact of IsDB Funding on the Bangladeshi Economy

From the beginning to now, IsDB funding has greatly impacted Bangladeshi social-economic development. The energy sector, agriculture sector, education sector, health sector, telecom sector, transport sector, water and sanitation sector, women and youth empowerment sector, and even to handle the Covid-19 pandemic situation IsDB has helped the country enormously (IsDB, 2022b). Bangladesh is tremendously benefited from the IsDB funding. IsDB has created 2.2 million jobs in Bangladesh. The country is agro-based, and due to population pressure, cultivable land is reducing day by day; IsDB has funded improved seeds and fertilizers using improved irrigation systems. Therefore, these investments have increased production by 125 percent over the past two decades (IsDB, 2020c), and the country’s food security has significantly improved. The bank’s contribution to Bangladesh’s socio-economic ground has also been listed in Table 4.

Table 4. IsDB funding Impact on Socio-Economic Development of Bangladesh

Serial no	Sector	Socio-Economic Contribution
1	Energy	Energy generation capacity was increased by about 3,400 MW of power, and 258,000 homes are enjoying electricity
2	Education	Approximately 100,000 students benefited from IDB-Bhaban-related activities.
3	Health	About 720,000 patients receive treatment each year
4	Telecom	Approximately 1500km of Fiber Optic Network was built, and the cable supports about 160 million new subscriptions for land/mobile/internet connections.
5	Transport	1,523 km of local roads were built or upgraded, and the annual capacity at airports was increased by 5.2 million
6	Water and Sanitation	About 13,500 households benefited by getting access to potable water.
7	Women and Youth Empowerment	The women and youth empowerment program has changed about 10,000 women and youth life.
8	Covid-19 responses	More than 6.34 million people will enjoy daily access to handwashing facilities as 25,600 standard handwashing stations have been installed in slums & critical public places across the country.
9	Housing	A research project has successfully prepared jutin-made housing to solve the shelter problem of the Rohingya people.

Source: (IsDB, 2022b).

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Today's digital Bangladesh is a gift of IsDB sponsoring. The bank has invested in a submarine cable set up in Bangladesh. The new cable has significantly influenced the lives of Bangladesh people and businesses. Currently, people are using improved connectivity for better overseas communication, online transactions, business, and trade and simply for the transfer of knowledge (IsDB, 2015). This cable has changed the life of many people. Businesspersons, women entrepreneurs, and students benefit from cable and internet connections.

A remarkable contribution of IsDB is the setup of the IDB Bhaban in Bangladesh which is a waqf property of the Islamic Development Bank and Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Education Waqf (IsDB-BISEW) and occupies around 2-acre land. The original aim of the "Deed of waqf" of IsDB-BISEW was to aid the education of Muslim Bangladeshi students, Islamic educational institutions, and the state's orphanage. The IsDB-BISEW assumed that Bangladeshi youth were competent enough to convert into a valuable workforce; therefore, it worked on bridging the gap between education and employment in the country (IsDB, 2015, 2022b). It is a successful project of IsDB; many young people are getting computerized education and becoming successful in their life due to this project.

Regarding geographic location and climate change, Bangladesh is positioned in an extreme risk zone (CRP Website, 2021; The Daily Star, 2011). The capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka, and commercial hub Naraynjang, both districts fall at the top list of polluted cities of the world (The Daily Star, 2022). Suppose appropriate measures are not taken to reduce the world temperature to 2.5 degrees Celsius by 2050. In that case, it may cost Bangladesh 6.7 percent of its GDP and deteriorate the living standard of three-quarters of the population. Consequently, to save the country from the adverse effect of climate change-related risk IsDB has funded the highest to the country compared to other member countries.

Impact of IsDB Funding on the Turkish Economy

Turkey is in an excellent position to accomplish the majority of SDGs' IsDB Group and its funding have contributed significantly to the achievement. In Turkey, thousands of talented students receive IsDB-Turkey scholarships to pursue higher studies -undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctorate-level degrees. To overcome the negative impact of Covid-19 on the Turkish economy, IsDB has allocated new funding to Turkey, amounted USD 100 million. The new agreement is signed based on the success story of the previous agreement that was able to create huge employment and contribute to SME development. It is also expected that the project will also increase the minimum 1000 jobs in Turkey. Turkey is a proud member of the global value chain (GVC), depending on its comparative advantage in the textile, agriculture, and automotive sectors.

Turkey, being a founding member of the IsDB Group, received nearly US \$12 billion of financing from the IsDB group for the development of various sectors, including transport, renewable energy, health, education, agriculture, and the construction of seismic-resistant public buildings.

EUR 150 million Urban Mobility Investment was made by the IsDB group to Turkey to improve the Light Rail Transit Systems of Gaziantep, Kayseri, and Konya.

IsDB Group assists the Turkish government enormously in developing the country's Transport Sector. The transport sector in Turkey has scaled up to a substantial amount. Amongst IsDB's most notable successful interventions in Turkey's transport sector development are: "The Development of Ankara-Konya High-Speed Railway Project," which cost EUR 174.35 million, and the "under implementation 10 High-Speed

Train Sets Project”, the project cost EUR 312 million. With the strong and effective coordination between the IsDB Group Regional Hub and the Government of Turkey, the first of the ten train sets reached Turkey in early December 2019, exactly one year ahead of schedule (IsDB Website, 2022b).

Conclusion

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the multilateral bank, was established with a great mission. The mission was to nourish universal brotherhood among Muslim countries by practicing banking and financial transaction to abide by the divine instruction that is Shariah Law. The bank firmly believes that its extensive activities and coordinated effort can lessen poverty, stimulate human development, science & technology, nurture Islamic Banking & Finance, and enhance cooperation among member countries (MCs). To fulfill the bank’s mission, a few other entities are gradually established to assist its operation; currently, five entities are working with the same goals called the IsDB group. IsDB not only supports the Muslims of MCs, but non-member countries Muslims are also receiving many grants, funding, and assistance from IsDB to improve their conditions. Indeed, it is a bank for Muslims.

IsDB is supporting MCs to realize SDGs as an agenda of 2030. However, it is evident from the literature that the nature and form of assistance are not similar; it varies from country to country depending on the country’s profile in terms of vulnerability. Therefore, few nations are receiving more funding than others. Indisputably, the Covid-19 pandemic has created a global health crisis and slow economic growth; consequently, SDG’s accomplishment has lagged. Keeping this reality in mind, this paper has tried to find out how IsDB is supporting its MCs to attain SDGs despite the economic slowdown due to the pandemic. Next to that, the author is curious to know why Bangladesh is the highest project funding receiver from IsDB. Furthermore, finally, being a visiting researcher at the research center for Islamic economics (IKAM), Uskudar, Istanbul, Turkey, and a current resident of Turkey, the author is interested to know the IsDB and Turkey’s relationship. Hence, this paper has investigated the answer to the question, what role does IsDB play in Turkey? The paper has three objectives following the three questions.

To get the answer to three objectives and questions, this paper has followed the document analysis approach and case study method of collecting data. The collected data has been arranged according to the objectives of the paper in the analysis and finding of a section of the paper. The author has utilized her own analytical ability to rearrange the data according to the need of the paper in the discussion section of the paper. The first objective is to investigate IsDB’s procedure to achieve SDGs targets during this pandemic period. The investigation result reveals that the IsDB and IsDB group are working together to set and follow the 3-R methodology (Respond, Restore, and Restart) under the strategic preparedness and response program (SPRP). For the successful implementation of the set methods, the group is accumulating funding to help the MCs. Each of the entities of the IsDB group, that is, IsDB, ICD, ICIEC, and ITFC, are trying their level best to allocate grants and funding to MCs so that the MCs can handle the Covid-19 situation and restore the economy during the post-Covid era and attain SDGs to meet the target of the 2030 agenda. The IRTI, which is the fifth entity, is organizing various seminars, conferences, and publications to gather intellectual minds and excellent ideas together that will assist MCs in responding to restoring and restarting the SDGs movement.

The second objective is to identify the reasons why Bangladesh receives the majority of IsDB funding. Three reasons have been identified why Bangladesh received the highest funding from IsDB. The

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reasons are: firstly, the country is geographically situated in an extreme risk zone; secondly, the country is vulnerable due to climate change risk; finally, in terms of pollution, the country is positioned within the toppers. Therefore, IsDB allocated the highest funding to the country to improve its condition and to reduce its suffering. The country showed excellent progress in the accomplishment of SDG 13, SDD 12, and SDG 4, that is, climate action, responsible consumption and production, and quality education (98.6, 95.4, and 84.2 percent), respectively. This is only because of IsDB funding. Even today, digital Bangladesh is a gift of IsDB supervision and intervention. The bank has a huge impact on the socioeconomic development of the country.

The third objective is to uncover the relationship of Turkey with IsDB. Turkey is one of the biggest regional hubs of IsDB, which consist of six countries Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey. Turkey alone is the recipient of US \$12 billion of financing from the IsDB group for developing various sectors. Amongst IsDB's most remarkable, lucrative involvements in Turkey's transport sector development are: "The Development of Ankara-Konya High-Speed Railway Project," which cost EUR 174.35 million, and the "under implementation 10 High-Speed Train Sets Project", the project cost EUR 312 million. The Turkey-IsDB joint scholarship program is another excellent talent hunt initiative; scholarship is provided based on an innovative solution that can assist the country in achieving the 2030 agenda of world leaders. Based on the three industries' advancement situation Turkey is positioned in the global value chain (GVC); the industries are textile, agriculture, and automotive. Recently, to restore the economy and recover the pandemic-related losses, the IsDB and Turk Eximbank have signed a Murabaha agreement to finance USD 100 million in Turkey. This agreement has been signed based on the previous success stories, and with the hope, the project will create a minimum of 1000 new jobs for Turkish people.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has triggered unprecedented global health and economic crisis, posing dire challenges to government authorities. Besides its worrying effects on human life, the pandemic has caused the global economy to slow down significantly due to disruption in production, the global supply chain, and trade (World Bank, 2020). However, financing and innovative measures can resolve the challenges. According to Professor Jeffrey Sachs, director of the center for sustainable development, Columbia University, "SDGs is a finance agenda." Only financing can accelerate the process of achieving SDGs. Therefore, the pandemic's effect on slowing down the SDGs achievement progress could be lessened if money is put behind the agenda. IsDB and its group are a hope for the member countries, and the group is very honest about its purpose and devoted to helping the MCs, despite many challenges.

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