SFD
الصندوق السعودي للتنمية
Saudi Fund for Development

VISION رؤية 2030
المملكة العربية السعودية
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA



50 YEARS OF GLOBAL IMPACT

The Saudi Fund for Development's Efforts in Middle East and North Africa Countries 2024

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Introduction

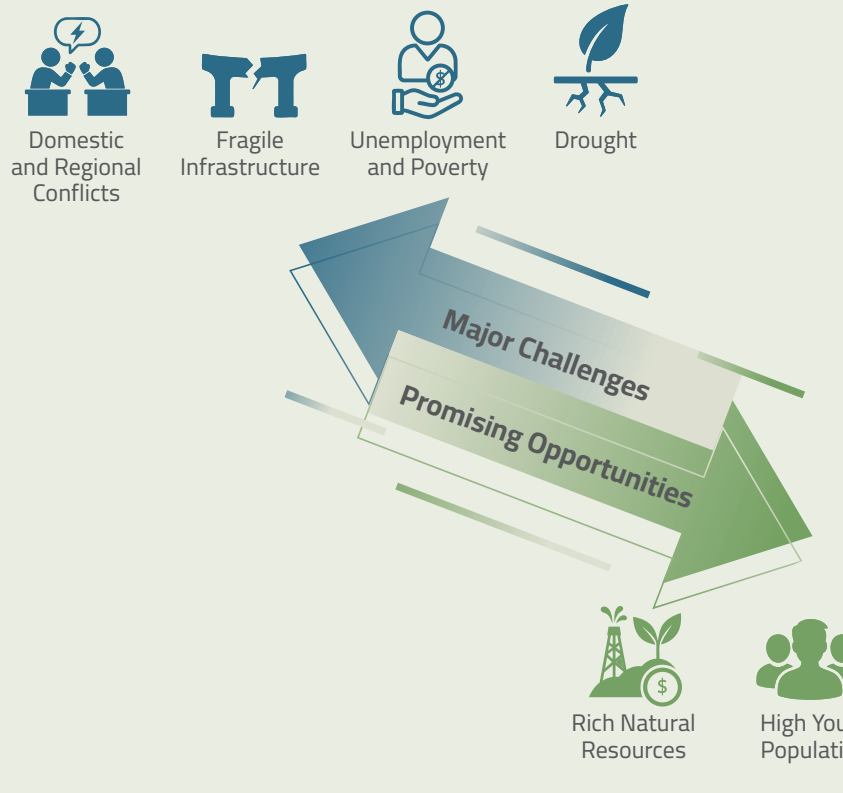
Since its inception, SFD has focused on supporting developing countries to address, overcome, and mitigate various development challenges, and enhance their economic and social stability by financing development projects designed to meet essential needs. Accordingly, SFD was keen to allocate a considerable share of its contributions to finance several social and economic projects and programs in the MENA region. This aims at promoting economic activity in the MENA region countries, strengthening cooperation among them, and encouraging economic and social prosperity. SFD has financed development projects across North Africa, including Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. Although these countries share the same region, they face diverse development challenges, such as improving infrastructure, supporting the agricultural economy, and enhancing education and healthcare services.

SFD has also contributed by providing development loans aimed at improving standards of living, creating job opportunities, and enhancing economic sustainability. In the Middle East, SFD has focused on supporting countries such as Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, and Türkiye. Although the region has a strategic global location, it continues to face significant development challenges, such as rehabilitating infrastructure in conflict-affected countries, enhancing the energy and water sectors, and strengthening social and economic stability.


50 YEARS OF
GLOBAL IMPACT
جامعة الملك سلمان الدولية
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Major Challenges and Promising Opportunities in MENA Countries

Despite their strategic and economic importance, MENA countries confront serious economic, social, and developmental challenges, including domestic and regional conflicts, high unemployment rates, especially among young people, fragile infrastructure, and the impacts of climate change, which intensify agricultural and water-related crises and threaten food security. Notwithstanding these challenges, region possesses strong economic fundamentals and rich natural resources that support its capacity to achieve sustainable growth. These include fertile farmland, oil and gas resources, minerals wealth, as well as a strategic geographic location that positions the region as a hub for global trade, in addition to a large youth population that can drive development if provided with appropriate opportunities In this context, SFD has contributed to financing development projects across diverse economic and social sectors in region, seeking to address and mitigate the impacts of such challenges. The following are the major challenges and opportunities in MENA region, which constitute core elements in shaping their economic future.


Domestic and Regional Conflicts
Fragile Infrastructure
Unemployment and Poverty
Drought
Major Challenges
Promising Opportunities
Rich Natural Resources
High Youth Population
Diversified Economy
Strategic Geographic Location

SFD's Efforts to Support MENA Countries

Believing in the importance of providing support to the MENA region countries, and reaffirming its leading role and commitment to promoting sustainable economic and social development, SFD has provided **228** development loans across various vital sectors, from its inception to the end of **2024**. These loans have benefited **13** countries across MENA region, with total funding reaching USD **8,359.70** million. This support aligns with SFD's vision to promote economic integration, drive sustainable growth, and develop national infrastructure and support essential sectors, such as transport, communications, social infrastructure, agriculture, energy, and industry and mining. This assistance reflects SFD's commitment to sustainable development in MENA region, enhancing the capacities of beneficiary countries to address economic and social challenges, and to improve the standards of living of their populations.

SFD's Activities in MENA Countries (1975 – 2024)

No. of Loans

228

No. of Countries

13

Total Amount (USD Million)

8,359.70

% Of Contribution

38%

out of SFD's total cumulative contributions



Development Loans Provided to MENA Countries

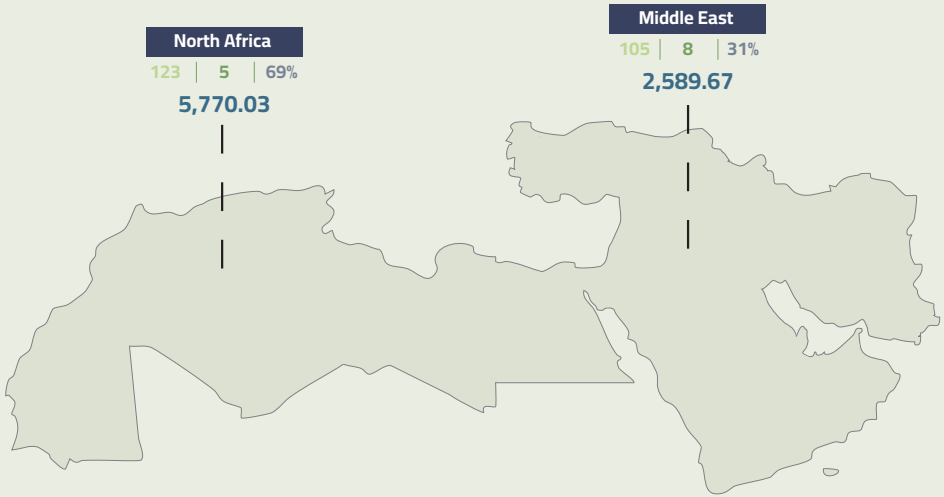
Jordan	Bahrain	Iraq	Yemen	Türkiye	Oman	Syria
507.62	166.34	40.33	570.69	345.22	73.11	614.36
21	6	2	24	12	5	14

Lebanon	Algeria	Morocco	Tunisia	Egypt	Mauritania
272.00	338.93	1,195.47	1,214.53	2,355.81	665.29
21	18	22	31	32	20

No. of Loans

Total Amount of Loans (USD Million)

Development Loans Provided to MENA Countries by Region



Region | No. of Loans | No. of Countries | % of Total | Total Amount of Loans (USD Million)

SFD's Activities in MENA Countries by Sector (1975 – 2024)



Social Infrastructure

No. of Loans	No. of Countries
87	13

Total Amount (USD Million)

2,778.69

% of Total

33%



Transport and Communications

No. of Loans	No. of Countries
53	12

Total Amount (USD Million)

1,831.85

% of Total

22%



Energy

No. of Loans	No. of Countries
37	11

Total Amount (USD Million)

1,739.65

% of Total

21%

SFD's Activities in MENA Countries by Sector (1975 – 2024)



Agriculture

No. of Loans	No. of Countries
35	9

Total Amount (USD Million)

1,151.72

% of Total

14%



Industry and Mining

No. of Loans	No. of Countries
5	3

Total Amount (USD Million)

145.63

% of Total

2%



Other Sectors

No. of Loans	No. of Countries
11	7

Total Amount (USD Million)

712.16

% of Total

8%







P.O.Box 50483 | Riyadh 11523
Tel: +966112794000 | Fax: +966114647450
WWW.SFD.GOV.SA