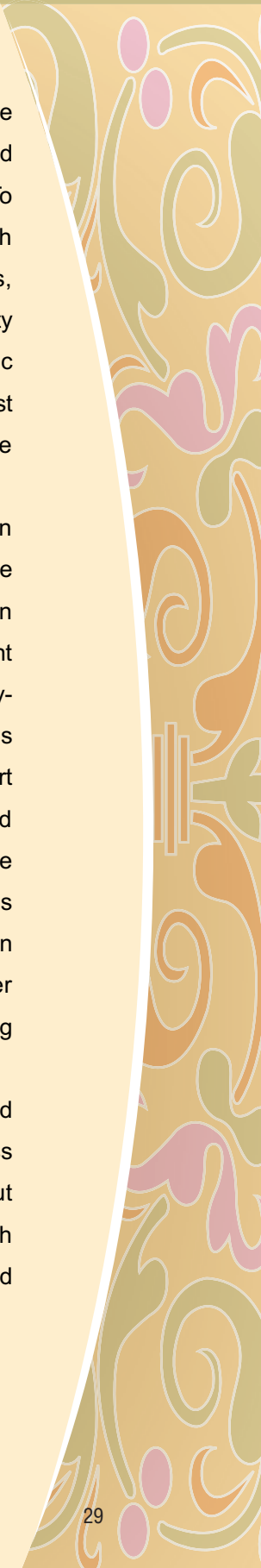


## Regional Operations





Since its establishment in 1996, the TaiwanICDF's primary mission has been to provide international cooperation and development assistance. Like many international aid organizations, the TaiwanICDF seeks to reduce poverty and promote economic growth. To meet these goals, the Fund tailors its assistance projects to the specific needs of each cooperating nation, providing technical cooperation, banking and finance operations, international human resource development, and humanitarian assistance, through a variety of agricultural, medical, education and vocational training, MSME development, and basic infrastructure programs. The TaiwanICDF also works closely with the governments of host nations, international development organizations, and NGOs, seeking to improve the economic imbalances and uneven allocation of social resources throughout the world.

In 2004, the TaiwanICDF carried out projects within 43 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, and Europe. In terms of technical cooperation, the Fund operated 35 technical missions and three medical missions overseas. Seventeen technical assistance projects were executed with professional instruction and equipment improvements to strengthen executive and managerial capabilities in partner nations. Thirty-six banking and finance projects are under the implementation stage, providing the funds needed to raise the levels of economic and social development in host countries. To support international human resource development, the organization staged 15 specialized workshops and seminars during the year. The Fund also provided master's and doctorate scholarships to students from allied nations to study in Taiwan, thus sharing Taiwan's educational experiences with these scholars. The TaiwanICDF executed nine humanitarian assistance projects during the year to help friendly countries carry out post-disaster reconstruction, as well as to improve medical and health conditions and increase learning opportunities for children.

Huge geographical, cultural, social, and economic differences are often associated with the numerous regions of the world. In addition, individual nations often possess unique resources and face varying challenges. Therefore, the TaiwanICDF maps out specific projects for its partner nations based on the development needs of each country. The following is a description of the TaiwanICDF's four core strategies carried out in host nations:

## Agricultural Enhancement

Taiwan's African and Pacific Island partners generally require ample staple foods. To help partner countries increase agricultural output and become self-reliant, the TaiwanICDF provides technical assistance on a regular basis. In Latin America, the Caribbean, and some nations in Asia that are agriculturally self-sufficient, the TaiwanICDF is engaged in product diversification and improvement. The Fund also provides assistance in developing food processing industries and agribusinesses.

In addition to delegating experts to provide instruction in production, processing, and management techniques, the TaiwanICDF offers credit to strengthen agricultural infrastructure and help needy farmers to obtain production capital, thus raising the output of farming villages and boosting the competitiveness of agricultural products. This assistance helps farmers become prosperous and strengthens rural communities, thus reducing outward migration from the farming villages.

The TaiwanICDF trains seed instructors to help local farmers become fully capable in their production and management abilities. Each year, the TaiwanICDF holds agricultural seminars and workshops, and provides host country recipients with graduate and post-graduate scholarships in Taiwan. This double strategy trains agriculturalists from cooperating nations and provides them with unique insights into Taiwan's own developmental experience.



① Local women being provided with vegetable-growing instructions by a technical mission expert in Kiribati  
② The Panama Food Processing Project ③ The Central America SME Policy Seminar



④ Shrimp harvests for the Agriculture and Fisheries Project in Saudi Arabia ⑤ Bell-fruit farmers in the Costa Rica Agriculture Development Project ⑥ Piglets nursing on a sow in the Hog Breeding Project in Honduras

### MSME Promotion

One of the TaiwanICDF's most important objectives in Latin America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe is to foster MSME development, with the hope of strengthening the workforce and sparking economic growth.

The TaiwanICDF provides re-lending services to MSMEs and also implements micro-credit and smallholder financing projects in the region. These funds are disbursed in cooperation with international development organizations, micro-financing institutions, local NGOs, and top-notch financial institutions. The projects aim to help those in the agricultural, industrial, and tourism sectors to obtain credit, and to enable businesses to access the capital needed for entrepreneurial growth, thus upgrading their production capacities and creating local job opportunities.

Developing MSMEs is a huge priority for developing countries. To assist host nations in achieving this objective, the TaiwanICDF plans to create regional micro-financing funds that serve to integrate the resources for the Fund's micro-financing projects. Projects are tailored based on each country's micro-financing circumstances. Appropriate local microfinance institutions are selected to be cooperative partners in carrying out the projects and disbursing the funds.

In addition to providing funds to spark capital investment in the private sector, the TaiwanICDF also provides consultation services, industry diagnosis, industrial strategy planning, and other forms of technical assistance. The TaiwanICDF's stationed industry

and trade service delegations and short-term experts cooperated with local vocational training institutes to hold training courses in MSME production technology, management, and marketing, assisting each country in developing focal industries and raising industrial competitiveness.

### **Medical and Public Health Improvement**

Medical programs are carried out primarily in Africa and Asia. With many nations in these areas caught in a vicious cycle of poverty and disease, assistance in medical and public health improvement is one of the most direct and effective ways to help these emerging countries progress in their economic and social development.

TaiwanICDF short-term medical assistance is implemented in response to emergencies brought about by war or natural disasters. Meanwhile, long-term programs are directed at treating and preventing diseases of the underprivileged, as well as at public health improvement. Emergency medical assistance is largely carried out in cooperation with local NGOs or specialized medical institutions, combining the expertise of the TaiwanICDF with the grassroots experience and mobility of NGOs and the professionalism of medical institutions to strengthen medical networks within the host country.

Long-term assistance focuses on strengthening medical care mechanisms in the host country and improving public health standards. The assistance is provided mainly by clinical diagnoses at hospitals. Mobile clinics are also conducted and donations of needed machinery and instruments are made. To provide clinical diagnoses, medical missions, medical volunteers, and participants of the Taiwan Youth Overseas Services are sent to medical units in host countries to provide medical services and to train local personnel. This assistance helps to transfer technology and allows host nations to establish modern medical systems. Mobile clinics are staffed predominantly by medical mission members or staged in conjunction with local and foreign NGOs. These efforts often help people in remote areas.

Improving the quality of medical care is closely linked to better sanitary and living environments. As a result, the TaiwanICDF provides education, training, and basic equipment in the effort to improve public health standards in partnering countries.

### **Human Resource Development**

Almost all sectors in developing countries require more highly-trained individuals. To

bolster human resource development in partner nations, the TaiwanICDF executes a variety of education and training projects on an ongoing basis.

The Fund provides financing to assist in the development of vocational education systems and to improve facilities at selected schools in African and Latin American nations. These projects aim at meeting the workforce needs of these countries that have highlighted key industries for development. Projects endeavor to strengthen curricula and train specialized instructors so schools can provide the technical and vocational talent needed by local industries.

Taiwan's ICT and digital development experience is well known throughout the world. Starting in 2004, the TaiwanICDF implemented IT projects in Africa and Latin America, creating Taiwan telecenters and training local seed instructors. These centers also provide computer and Internet access to community residents. The hardware and software provided strengthens information education, helps to reduce the "digital divide," and creates technology-related opportunities.

The TaiwanICDF, in conjunction with domestic universities, provides scholarships to encourage people from allied nations to come to Taiwan for graduate and post-graduate studies. The Fund also cooperates with local and foreign professional institutes and training bodies in holding seminars and workshops, covering economics and trade, medicine, agriculture, and industrial development. Taiwan's successful expertise in these areas is shared with others, thus promoting international human resource development.



❶ Local patients waiting for treatment provided by the medical mission in Chad ❷ Scholarship programs for students from allied countries facilitate human resource development in fields such as agriculture ❸ Foreign students from the NCCU IMBA Program