



International Resources Group

# Economic Growth



Economic growth requires a macro-policy environment that provides and supports private investment, while assuring equity and protection against abuse. The private sector needs the capacity to respond to growth opportunities, including access to financing on reasonable terms and the opportunity to connect with both suppliers and buyers. Equally essential is an efficient public sector that is able and willing to use the private sector to provide goods and public services. For more than 25 years, **International Resources Group** has seamlessly integrated economic, technical, organizational and social factors to promote and advance economic growth. IRG's landmark work has led to restructuring of the largest public enterprise in Egypt and new domestic and international markets for Senegalese small and medium enterprises.



## Representative Projects

### Creating Opportunities to Accelerate Economic Growth and Competitiveness

Through our "Seed-To-Supermarket" approach, IRG promotes economic growth and increased competitiveness and trade in Senegal. Our focus is on attracting private investment for efficient delivery of public goods or services, public policy reforms to improve Senegal's business environment and supporting democratic and economic reforms already undertaken by the Government of Senegal. **Senegal Accelerated Growth and Increased Competitiveness (SAGIC)**

### Promoting Income Generation through Virtual Communities of Practice

To strengthen USAID-funded microenterprise programs and activities worldwide, IRG led the development of and continues to maintain USAID's dynamic knowledge-sharing tool, microLINKS. microLINKS is a Web-based program where development and financial services practitioners can share research, gather in a virtual meeting space, and explore new ways to advance the global success of these small-scale loans, often used to finance income generation activities in poverty-stricken areas. **Accelerated Microenterprise Advancement Project (AMAP)**

### Identifying Alternatives for Income Generation through Natural Products Use

To influence and facilitate poverty reduction and encourage economic growth, USAID commissioned a multi-country study around the use of natural products worldwide. Natural products, including non-timber forest products and natural crops, are seen as an important source of incomes and revenue streams. These assessments examined



## Capabilities

- ◆ Policy Analysis, Development, and Implementation for Economic Growth
- ◆ Enterprise Efficiency and Benchmarking
- ◆ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
- ◆ Corporatization/Privatization of Public Enterprises
- ◆ Investment Promotion
- ◆ Financing
- ◆ Trade
- ◆ Infrastructure Support - from Roads to Power Plants
- ◆ Knowledge Management
- ◆ Value Chain Analysis

the potential of natural products for poverty alleviation and interventions to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits. IRG also facilitates corresponding workshops to discuss the linkages between livelihood impacts, value chain-based enterprise promotion, governance and biodiversity conservation. **Worldwide: FRAME Project**

### **Ensuring Financial Sustainability through Water Security**

Working with Coca-Cola and the Guatemalan environmental NGO- Defensores de la Naturaleza, private hydropower generators, hotel operators and other local industries, IRG is assisting with the implementation of environmental services financing mechanism- Sierra de la Minas Water Fund. IRG is also assisting municipalities and protected area management committees to identify income generating activities.

**Guatemala: Sierra de la Minas Water Fund Restoration**

### **Guiding Financial Reform in Post-Conflict Areas**

IRG advisors in Iraq support economic reform, liberalized currency conversion, commercial law reform, customs/tax policy/collection reform and implementation, monetary policy, central banking and capital market reform, rehabilitation of banking operations, international trade policy development, and sound management of micro-credit programs. **Iraq: Implementation of Emergency Relief and Short-term Rehabilitation Response**

### **Reunification through Stabilizing an Economy**

IRG is engaged in efforts to support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot Community (TCC). Objectives include improving the economic competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to meet EU standards and to improve local capacity to manage cultural heritage and natural resource assets that will generate economic benefits. Along with supporting sustainable economic growth for Cyprus, the activities also contribute to the overall goal of reunification of the island. **Cyprus: Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth-Support for Economic Growth and Management (CyPEG-SEMP)**

### **Reforming Economic Policy**

With IRG assistance, 14 policies incorporated into the Indonesian President's Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies, have been implemented, ranging from

eliminating trade regulations on plywood exports to abolishing the joint marketing board for plywood.

**Indonesia: Natural Resource Management II**

### **Developing the Private Sector Market**

With IRG's assistance, the Government of Nepal has developed and approved a reformed hydropower policy that will promote more investment, open the private sector to exporting hydroelectric power and broaden a sustainable domestic market for hydropower. **Nepal: Private Sector Hydropower Development**

### **Increasing Enterprise, Market Systems and Trade**

IRG is working in Senegal to develop and market non-traditional agricultural products and non-timber forest products. To date, IRG guidance has helped increase revenues and volumes of products for over 3,200 enterprises in a range of market chains. Training for 1,400 producer groups is underway that will enable them to form competitive enterprises with possibilities for national and even export market potential. Some 275 joint ventures with newly trained entrepreneurs and primary market buyers are in the planning stages. **Senegal: Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Program**

### **Strengthening Public-private Collaborations**

Strengthening skills of private sector operators, IRG is helping to convert long-term concessions of over 100,000 ha of publicly-held plantations, identify and develop training services for private sector operators, design and implement an investment promotion strategy, as well as expand and diversify the plantation economy. **Madagascar: Support Sustainable Environment and Forest Ecosystems**

### **Building Competitiveness through CAFTA**

IRG is supporting the Government of Honduras to focus its resources and activities to make local producers more competitive under the terms of the recently enacted Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). IRG is developing alliances and partnerships with US firms, such as Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, to increase exports and trade from Honduras. Additionally, IRG is assisting the Honduran government to meet its environmental compliance commitments under CAFTA. **Honduras: Integrated Watershed Management**