

ABU DHABI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT (ADFD)

P.O. Box 814, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)  
Tel: (971)-2 725800; Fax: (971)-2 728890

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development was established in 1971 as an autonomous national development institution of the Government of Abu Dhabi. Its objective is to assist LDCs in the development of their economies by extending project loans, guarantees, technical assistance grants and equity participation. The Fund is uniquely financed by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, one of the seven emirates that constitute the United Arab Emirates. As such, it is a personal foreign policy arm of the State.

The Abu Dhabi Fund also administers other development assistance extended directly by the Government of Abu Dhabi.

The Fund is managed by a Board of Directors, an Executive Committee and a Director General, all of whom are government officials. H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince, is Chairman of the Board, which provides broad policy guidance. The Executive Committee plays an active role in decisions on loan recipients.

Initially, the Fund's assistance was restricted to Arab countries. However, in 1974, coinciding with a substantial increase in resources, the mandate was enlarged to cover all developing countries. The activities now include 47 countries notably in Africa and Asia. Presently, 80.5% of total loan commitments are for Arab countries, with Asia and Africa receiving 9.5% and 7% respectively. The balance of the committed loans, i.e. 3%, has gone to countries such as Malta and Turkey.

Although the Fund has no particular sectoral preference, its activities have so far emphasized infrastructure, agriculture, and industry. Nearly half of total commitments support extractive and manufacturing industries. Electricity and water supply account for nearly 25%. Transport, communications, fisheries and rural development also benefit from the Fund's interventions.

As at the end of June 1997, the Abu Dhabi Fund granted over 113 loans totaling approximately dirhams 6.5 billion or CAN\$ 2.6 billion. As well, the volume of grants reached CAN\$186 million at the end of May 1997 and benefited 11 Arab and African countries. Equity participation amounted to CAN\$182 million, while loans and grants administered on behalf of the Government totalled CAN\$2.2 billion.