IFC and Israel
Partners in Private Sector Development

OVERVIEW

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Working with over 2,000 businesses worldwide, IFC’s long-term investments in developing countries exceeded $19 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2019. IFC partners with Israeli companies interested in investing in emerging markets. Of IFC’s total long-term committed portfolio of $68 million with Israeli partners, 66% is in the manufacturing, agribusiness and services sector, followed by 29% in telecom, media and technology and 4% in financial institutions. Fifty-six percent of the investment portfolio is in the Europe and Central Asia region, followed by 29% in Sub-Saharan Africa and 15% at the global level.

IFC’s Long-Term Investment Portfolio with Israeli Sponsors
As of FY19 (ending June 2019), IFC’s long-term investment portfolio with Israeli sponsors amounted to $68 million. Israeli private sector companies have benefited from co-investments with IFC, while making notable contributions to development.

- **Global Trade Finance Program (GTFP):** As of June 2019, IFC issued 26 guarantees amounting to over $55 million for banks in Israel since the program began in 2005. The most active confirming bank has been Bank Leumi.
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY

IFC has a longstanding relationship with the Bank of Israel, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy and Industry. As of June 2019, Israel provided cumulative funding of close to $3 million to IFC Advisory Services, supporting the medical technology and agri-innovation sectors.

Israel’s Ministry of Economy and Industry contributed close to $2 million to IFC’s TechEmerge Program in India and Brazil between FY16 and FY18. TechEmerge was launched by IFC in January 2016 in Tel Aviv to connect innovative proven technology companies from around the world with corporates in emerging markets to conduct local pilot projects and build commercial partnerships.

Since FY19, IFC has been collaborating with Start-Up Nation Central, an Israeli non-profit in the innovation space, to look into business opportunities for Israeli start-ups in emerging markets. A number of Israeli startups were recognized during the 2019 Financial Times/IFC Transformational Business Awards, a premier program awarding private sector companies that make a difference in addressing development challenges.

Examples of Successful Cooperation

West Indian Ocean Cable Company, Sub-Saharan Africa

In May 2017, IFC committed $20 million to the West Indian Ocean Cable Company ("WIOCC"), which is the largest investor in the East African Submarine Cable System, a 10,000 km landmark undersea fiber-optic cable project that connects over 21 African countries to the rest of the world. Gilat Satellite is an Israel-based developer and seller of satellite ground stations and related equipment, and a shareholder in WIOCC. IFC’s investment will partly fund WIOCC’s connectivity expansion plans, which are expected to reduce broadband costs through the provision of competitively priced high bandwidth connectivity and increase competition in the broadband sector. By increasing connectivity, the project will enhance digital dividends such as increased productivity, access to markets, and financial inclusion. This project follows an initial IFC investment of $33 million in 2007.

Sangster International Airport (SIA), Jamaica

In June 2002, IFC, in partnership with Ashtrom (a minority shareholder in the project), and one of Israel’s leading private construction and engineering companies, supported the second phase of the $150 million redevelopment and expansion of Sangster International Airport in Jamaica. IFC’s investment consisted of a $20 million A-loan for IFC’s own account and a $20 million B-loan. As the principal gateway for tourists visiting Jamaica’s major resorts, SIA is of particular importance to Jamaica’s tourism infrastructure. The project included the construction of a new landside terminal facility and the renovation of the existing landside terminal, which boosted SIA’s annual handling capacity to seven million passengers per year.