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**OFID GOVERNING BOARD APPROVES NEW LOANS
 AND GRANTS FOR AFRICA**

The Governing Board of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), meeting in its 135th Session, has approved over US\$56 million in loans and US\$6 million in grants to address Africa's needs. The funds will be allocated to the energy, transportation, agriculture, health and financial sectors.

The public sector loans comprise:

Country	Project	Amount (US\$mil.)
Burundi	<i>Agricultural Value Chain Development Program:</i> To help reduce poverty and improve food security, in seven provinces populated by some 3.6 million people.	11.92
Cameroon	<i>Bikoula - Djoum Road:</i> To construct a 38 km road in order to open up rural areas, especially in the South Region, and help improve the access to basic social services and marketplaces.	10.00
The Gambia	<i>Energy Development and Access Expansion:</i> To expand the electricity grid to cover disadvantaged areas in the Kanifing Municipality and rural settlements. At least 10,000 new household connections and 1,700 business connections will be installed.	6.00
Kenya	<i>Rural Electrification:</i> To help the socio-economic development through the electrification of 591 "load centers," such as agricultural marketing and processing centers; health facilities and educational institutions. Installing new connections for about 35,460 households is also planned.	15.00
Mozambique	<i>Artisanal Fisheries Promotion:</i> To improve incomes and livelihoods of households involved in artisanal fishing. An estimated 45,000 people will directly benefit from the project.	13.53
Total		56.45

In addition, five grants for the Africa region totalling US\$5.95 million were approved. A US\$2 million grant will further of a WHO project to fight against HIV in Lesotho, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Another grant of US\$1.5 million will help finance a food security and livelihood enhancement program of IFAD, which will carry out activities in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia. A US\$1.2 million grant will be divided among eight research centers. To be channelled through the Institut Pasteur, a US\$1 million grant will support a project to upgrade a laboratory network for diagnosing tuberculosis in eight African Countries. Finally, a US\$250,000 grant will help fund the provision of an initiative of the Shell Foundation, to provide light for low-income households, reaching 130,000 people, in Kenya and Tanzania.