

IFAD Strategic Framework 2007-2010

In December 2006, IFAD's Executive Board approved the Strategic Framework 2007-2010, which defines how the organization contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The Strategic Framework charts IFAD's new directions and new ways of working in response to the needs of poor rural people in a rapidly changing world, to the evolving international architecture for development and to the need to increase both the size and effectiveness of investment in reducing rural poverty and hunger.

Key elements of the strategy

IFAD's goal is to empower poor rural women and men in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security.

IFAD will achieve this by ensuring that poor rural people have better access to, and the skills and organization they need to take advantage of:

- natural resources, especially land and water, and improved natural resource management and conservation practices
- improved agricultural technologies and effective production services
- a broad range of financial services
- transparent and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and produce
- opportunities for rural off-farm employment and enterprise development
- local and national policy and programming processes

Results

The following results will contribute to achievement of the strategic objectives:

- participants in IFAD-supported agriculture and rural development programmes and projects have increased productivity and incomes, and better food security
- countries have stronger capabilities to reduce rural poverty through:
 - enabling policy frameworks, including poverty reduction strategies and sector policies that respond to the needs of poor rural people
 - efficient government institutions that focus on poverty reduction
 - strong organizations of poor rural people
 - increased private-sector investment in rural economies
 - enhanced capability of governments, NGOs, the private sector and organizations of poor rural people to develop and implement rural poverty reduction programmes

Principles of engagement

The following principles underpin IFAD's Strategic Framework.

Focused and selective

We focus on our strengths in agriculture and rural development, while working with partners to meet other needs of poor rural communities.

Targeted

We target the poorest and most vulnerable rural people with the capacity to benefit from IFAD-supported programmes and projects. We give special consideration to gender differences, and focus on women in particular. We recognize the special needs of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, especially in Asia and Latin America.

Empowering

We empower poor rural women and men to take advantage of economic opportunities and achieve higher incomes and better food security for themselves by building their individual capacities and helping them develop and strengthen their own organizations and communities.

Innovative

We encourage innovation, test new approaches and work with governments and other partners to replicate and scale up successes.

In partnership

We work systematically through partnerships to make development efforts more effective. We work with developing country governments, poor rural people and their organizations, NGOs and the private sector. We also work with other partners in the international development community, combining the best available skills and knowledge to develop new and innovative solutions to rural poverty.

Sustainable

We design and manage programmes and projects for quality, impact and sustainability, following the lead of partner governments to ensure coherence with national policies and strategies. We ensure ownership and leadership by governments and rural poor people themselves.