



The 2015 CSPE for Bangladesh

Country Visit of the IFAD Executive Board to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

25-30 November 2017

The Current IFAD In-country Strategy and Programme

- Third largest IFAD programme in terms of resources allocated
- 31 projects since 1979 (6 ongoing as of 2017)
- Total project costs: over US\$1.9 billion; IFAD loans correspond to US\$ 717.2 million; and over US\$ 4 million in grants

The Current IFAD In-country Strategy and Programme (cont.)

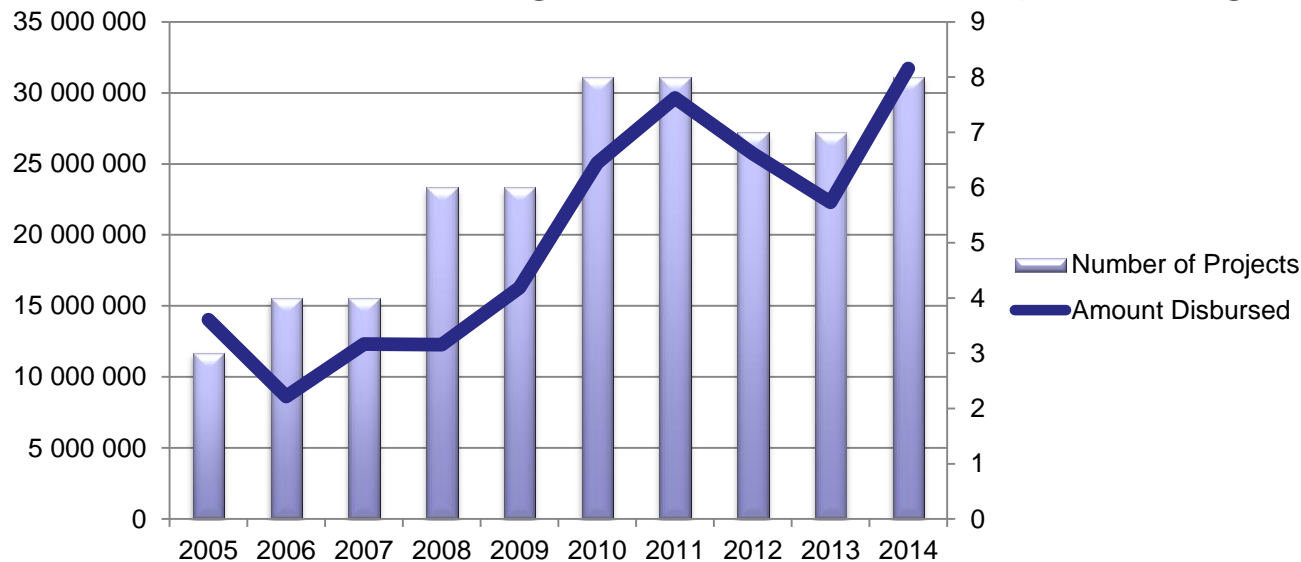
- Country strategy guided by three COSOPs (1999, 2006, 2012). Current strategy focus: adaptation of rural livelihoods to climate change, improving market access, and scaling up successful approaches
- IFAD programme focus: pro-poor rural infrastructure, microcredit, agricultural development, access to natural resources, value chains, access to markets, and gender

CSPE Key Facts

- **CSPE** undertaken between June 2014 and June 2015
- It is the **third assessment** of IFAD's country strategy and programme carried out by IOE in Bangladesh
- Assesses three mutually reinforcing **pillars of partnership**:
 - Project portfolio
 - Non-lending activities (policy engagement, KM and partnerships)
 - COSOP performance
- Covers a **10-year period**, from 2004 to 2014

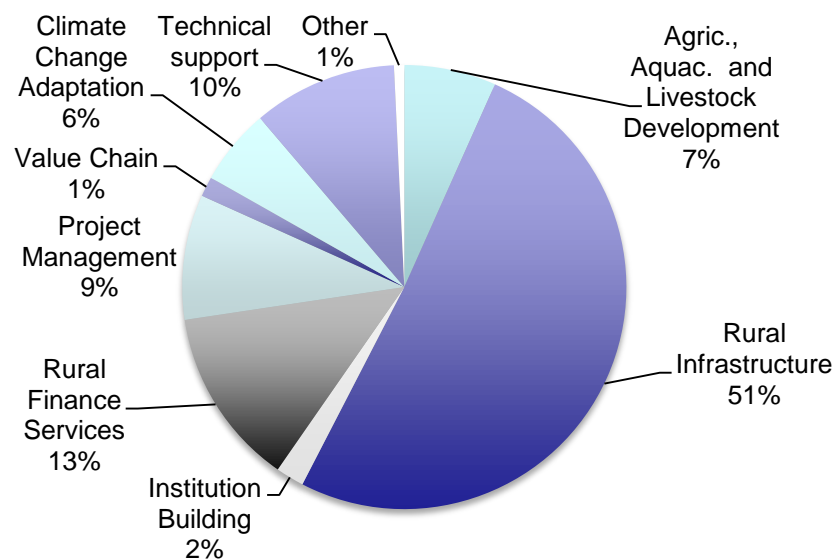
CSPE Key Facts (cont.)

- Total portfolio costs for the period reviewed by the CSPE amounted to US\$ 756 million, with US\$ 354 million provided by IFAD
- Average annual disbursement amounted to US 19.7 million and the active portfolio ranged from 4 to 8 projects in given year



IFAD-supported programme in Bangladesh 2005-2014 investment per component

- Largest share of the portfolio over the past 10 years concentrated in rural infrastructure
- Other important components: rural financial services; technical support; project management; agriculture; aquaculture and livestock



CSPE Key Findings

- **Portfolio performance** is satisfactory
 - ✓ Strong relevance to national priorities and to rural poverty reduction
 - ✓ Coverage of remote and environmentally fragile rural areas inhabited by the poorest in the country
- **Important achievements in several areas:**
 - ✓ Rural infrastructure development;
 - ✓ Community natural resources management; and
 - ✓ Enhanced access to markets

Key Findings (cont.)

- **Agriculture**

- ✓ Highly relevant to national priorities; contribution towards increasing agriculture productivity and production (crops, livestock, fisheries)
- ✓ Limited investment in the agriculture sector
- ✓ No direct work with the Ministry of Agriculture; limited policy engagement

- **Microfinance**

- ✓ Substantial contribution towards the expansion of the microfinance sector across the country, reaching 600,000 poor farmers
- ✓ Evolution of support in line of emergence of new types of credit
- ✓ Despite maturity of microfinance, sector pockets of locations and target groups still do not have access to credit

Key Findings (cont.)

- **Environment and climate change**

- ✓ Important and highly relevant efforts on sustainable natural resource management, sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation (mainly through infrastructure)
- ✓ Weak awareness of environmental implications of new activities (i.e., livestock, off-farm enterprises) and of intensification

- **Gender equality and women's empowerment**

- ✓ Significant contribution by the programme, in particular in economic empowerment, increased mobility, enhanced awareness of women's rights, and increased participation in decision-making processes
- ✓ Gender considerations mainstreamed into all IFAD operations

Key Findings (cont.)

- **Mixed prospects of sustainability**

- ✓ Strong ownership by the Government and stakeholders. Yet, limited budget for Operation and Maintenance of infrastructure. The sustainability of some community organizations still not guaranteed. Institutional support for Micro/Small/Medium Enterprises not strong

- **Innovations**

- ✓ Introduced in several areas (agriculture technologies, microfinance, community-based resource management, infrastructure) and many examples of scaling up

Key Findings (cont.)

- Overall, the **non-lending activities** were assessed as moderately satisfactory
- **Knowledge management** remains one weak link in the IFAD programme, despite recent efforts. Knowledge not systematically captured and shared
- Strong **partnership** with all actors involved at the operational level. Weak partnership at the strategic policy level
- **Policy dialogue**. Relevant policy issues identified in the COSOP. Focus of IFAD-Government relationship remains operations-based, with limited repercussions at the policy level
- **Grants**. Substantial support to the programme, directly linked to the portfolio, leading to positive results. Some missed opportunities in the utilization of findings

Conclusions

- Overall IFAD-GoB partnership satisfactory. Long-standing collaboration which is strong and fruitful
- Significant contribution to rural poverty reduction and substantial value to the country
- Areas of priority and future investment:
 - ☐ Agriculture
 - ☐ Rural Credit
 - ☐ Environmental management and climate change
- Requirements for long-term sustainability and scaling up not sufficiently in place
 - ☐ Insufficient broad-based institutional partnerships
 - ☐ Knowledge generation and sharing not fully exploited. Low IFAD visibility

CSPE Recommendations

- **Stronger focus on agriculture.** Strengthening investments in extension and research, supply chain development, intensification, diversification, livestock and inland fisheries
- **Access to credit to remain a priority.** Ensure access to the poor; support capacity development and more specific products and services (debt management, technology, business and marketing capacity development)
- **Environmental protection a priority in light of emerging challenges.** Careful assessment of potentials and risks through environmental assessment processes. Pursuit of environmental objectives and risk mitigation

CSPE Recommendations (cont.)

- Broadening **policy and institutional support** for the IFAD programme. Engage more proactively with Ministries at the central level. Engage as a partner in nation-wide policy processes
- Further investment in **Knowledge Management**. Develop KM strategy including plan for specific knowledge products

Thank you