



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

For more information on the fight
to eradicate rural poverty, visit:

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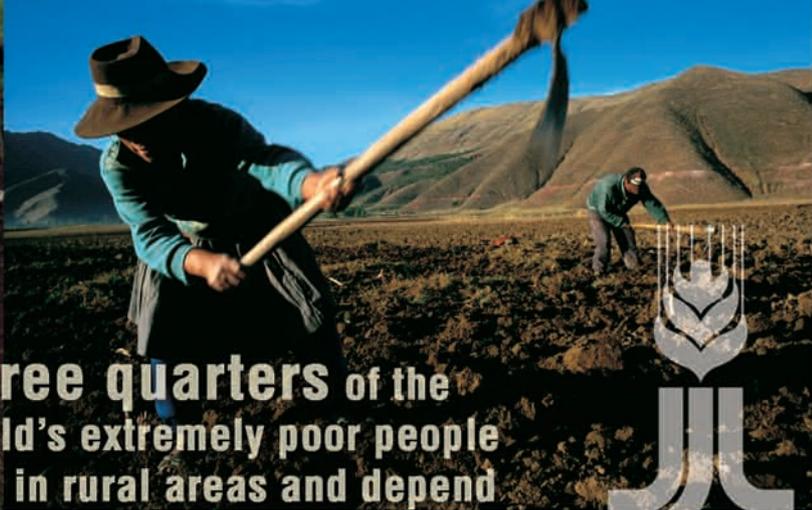
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Three quarters of the world's extremely poor people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture to survive



Building a poverty-free world

IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. Through low-interest loans and grants, it develops and finances programmes and projects that enable poor rural people to overcome poverty themselves.

There are currently 198 IFAD-supported poverty eradication programmes and projects underway, worth a total of US\$6.9 billion. IFAD has invested about US\$3.2 billion in these activities.

Cofinancing has been provided by various partners, including governments, donors and poor rural people. Since starting operations in 1978, IFAD has invested over US\$10 billion in 766 programmes and projects in 115 countries and territories around the world. It tackles poverty not just as a lender, but as an advocate for poor rural people.

These programmes and projects have enabled about 316 million small farmers, herders, fisherfolk, landless workers, artisans and indigenous peoples to take steps to achieve a better life for themselves and for their families.

Fighting poverty on the ground in rural areas around the world

Unleashing the human spirit

By working closely with poor rural people to understand their aspirations and the barriers they face, IFAD-supported programmes and projects help reduce poverty in some of the world's most remote and fragile places, and among its poorest and most marginalized people. IFAD works with poor rural people, governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and many other partners to fight the underlying causes of poverty. Its projects increase poor rural people's access to assets that others throughout the world use to improve their lives but often take for granted. IFAD ensures that poor rural people have better access to, and the skills and organization they need to take advantage of:

- Natural resources, especially secure access to 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

With this kind of assistance, poor rural people can build microenterprises, increase their agricultural productivity, provide better education and care for their children, and build stronger, more resilient communities that are less vulnerable to famine, disease, natural disasters and conflict.

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Empowering poor rural people

At the heart of IFAD's work is a belief that poor rural people must shape and direct their own destinies if poverty is to be eradicated. Too often, poor rural women and men have little or no say in the decisions and policies that affect their lives and perpetuate their poverty. Having a voice is as important to human development as being able to read or to enjoy good health.

One of IFAD's priorities is to assist poor rural people to develop and strengthen their own organizations so they can advance their own interests and dismantle the obstacles that prevent so many, particularly women, from creating a better life for themselves. By empowering women, IFAD not only enables them to transform their lives and those of their families, but to strengthen their communities.



Creating real change in the lives of real people eager to improve their own conditions, if only given a chance

IFAD contributes to achieving the world's Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015