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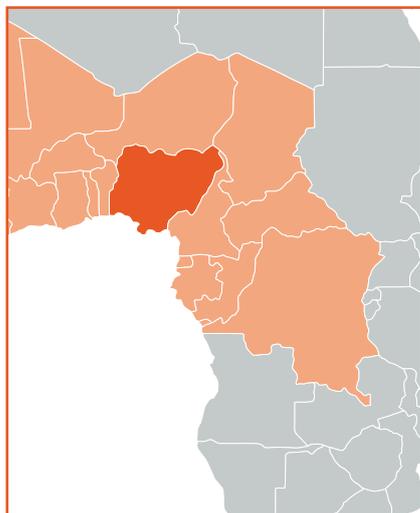
Investing in rural people in **Nigeria**

IFAD's support to the Nigerian Government's poverty reduction programme in rural areas targets large numbers of smallholder farmers and is essentially people-centred. IFAD supports programmes and projects that work with communities, and with smallholder farmers as the key players.

The objectives are to empower poor rural people, especially women, by increasing their access to resources, infrastructure and services; and to promote the management of land, water and common property by local communities, helping to overcome environmental degradation. At the government level, IFAD helps build capacity and strengthen institutions that provide services to poor rural people. It assists with necessary policy changes, developing local organizations to enhance their effective participation, and it promotes initiatives to foster rapid poverty reduction and economic growth led by the private sector.

IFAD's operations in Nigeria

Programmes: 10
Total cost: US\$795.3 million
IFAD financing:
US\$317.6 million
Directly benefiting:
3,784,680 households



Since 1985, IFAD has invested US\$317.6 million in 10 programmes in Nigeria, with a total cost of US\$795.3 million. In 2014, Nigeria had the largest portfolio in West and Central Africa (12.4 per cent) and the second largest in all of Africa (2.3 per cent), directly benefiting 3,784,680 households. IFAD has a broad agenda covering microfinance delivery and regulatory reform, agricultural technology, value chains, climate change adaptation, natural resource management, job creation and infrastructural development (covering health, education, water and roads).

Over the past seven years, the IFAD-supported portfolio in Nigeria was overwhelmingly dedicated to local capacity-building and rural infrastructure (58 per cent of approved funds). Local capacity-building included strengthening institutions, farmers' organizations and community development associations. Other important components included agro-input supply, technical support and research, rural financial services (6 per cent) and project management (11 per cent). More recently, the portfolio has incorporated climate change sensitive measures and a value chains approach.

Portfolio performance outcomes

Agrienterprise development: The agrienterprises, supported by the Community-Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (CBARDP) and the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRMP), have shown a marked increase in income. 9,279 enterprises were established, through the ongoing CBNRMP, in the period from programme inception to the end of 2014. These agrienterprises provided the possibility to demonstrate rural business opportunities for women and youth.

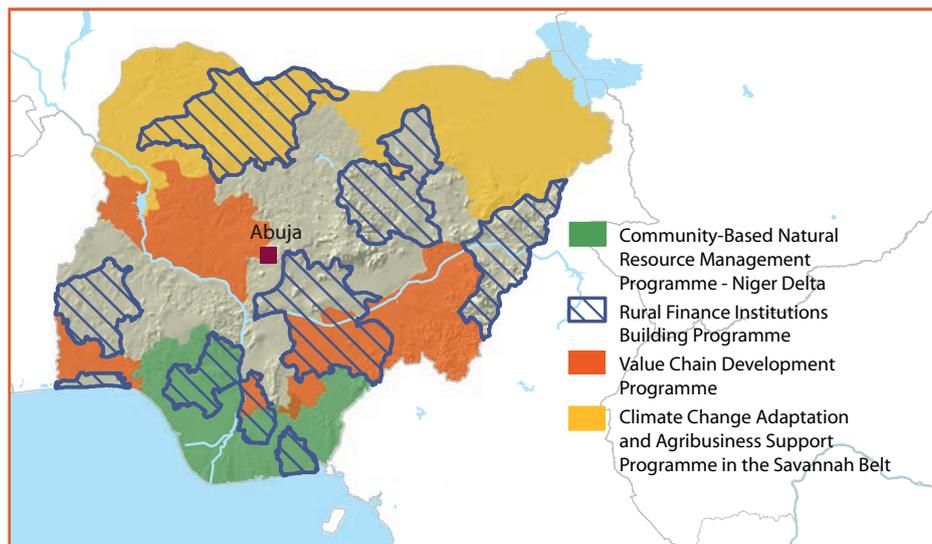
Community-driven development: At least 15,710 farmers' groups are being supported through planning, development and maintenance of village rural infrastructure by CBNRMP. Efforts now are being made to build Commodity Apex Development Associations to guide their production groups so that they have better access to markets.

Gender inclusion: The issue of gender inclusion is prevalent, especially in the northern region. With CBARDP, women's participation increased from the less than 5 per cent baseline to 35 per cent through the establishment of rural institutions.

Financial inclusion: Better access to financial services is being pursued vigorously by the Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN) by building the capacity of microfinance institutions (financial NGOs, microfinance banks and financial cooperatives) to expand their rural portfolio. As of the end of December 2015, RUFIN mentored 10,550 groups, of which 7,550 were village savings and credit groups (VSCGs) and mainly women, founded on internal savings and lending principles formed by RUFIN.

Productivity: Empirically, programme-assisted farmers have recorded up to 4 tons/ha for rice; 20 tons/ha for cassava; 2.5 tons/ha for sorghum (OPV) and over 10 tons/ha for fish against Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) targets of 2.8 tons/ha for rice; 18.8 tons/ha for cassava; 7 tons/ha for fish and 1.5 tons/ha (OPV) and 3.0 tons/ha (hybrid) for sorghum.

Ongoing operations



Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme – Niger Delta (CBNRM-ND)

The CBNRM-ND programme seeks to improve livelihoods and living conditions of at least 400,000 rural families in nine Niger Delta states: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. The programme was refocused to embark on agrienterprises to directly impact on productivity, build up the agriculture value chain, create jobs, generate income and reduce poverty in a tangible manner.

Total cost: US\$82.2 million
Total IFAD financing: US\$15.0 million
Duration: 2005-2015
Directly benefiting: 416,600 households

Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN)

This programme strives to strengthen microfinance banks, financial NGOs and financial cooperatives, and to enhance outreach to poor rural households in 12 states: Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Edo, Imo, Katsina, Lagos, Nasarawa, Oyo and Zamfara. It lays the foundation for a sustainable microfinance environment, particularly in rural areas.

Total cost: US\$40.0 million
Total IFAD financing: US\$27.6 million
IFAD grant: US\$400,000
Cofinancing: federal government (US\$6.2 million); Central Bank of Nigeria (US\$1.0 million); National Poverty Eradication Programme (US\$0.1 million); Bank of Agriculture (US\$0.8 million); microfinance banks (US\$1.6 million); participating institutions (US\$0.5 million); clients (US\$1.0 million)
Duration: 2010-2017
Directly benefiting: 345,000 households



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Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP)

Total cost:
US\$104.7 million
Total IFAD financing:
US\$74.9 million
IFAD grant: US\$472,000
Duration: 2013-2019
Directly benefiting:
17,480 households

VCDP aims to adopt a market-led, demand-driven approach to addressing constraints along the cassava and rice value chains. This necessitates an inclusive strategy of capacity-strengthening of actors along the value chain including processors and producers. VCDP is working in six states, Anambra, Benue, Ebonyi, Niger, Ogun and Taraba, to enhance the incomes and food security of rural households engaged in production, processing and marketing of rice and cassava.

Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme in the Savannah Belt (CASP)

Total cost: US\$93.6 million
Total IFAD loan:
US\$70.0 million
IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP):
US\$14.9 million
IFAD grant: US\$0.5 million
Duration: 2015-2021
Directly benefiting:
1,592,000 households

This programme builds on lessons learned from the previous CBARDP to promote agricultural productivity enhancement, agrienterprises, and community development associations as a principal driver of the rural economy. CASP integrates climate change resilience measures and will be implemented in the seven states of Borno, Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara, which constitute the Savannah Belt of Nigeria and are most vulnerable to climate change.



Building a poverty-free world

IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. Since 1978, we have provided US\$17 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached about 453 million people. IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency based in Rome – the UN's food and agriculture hub.

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For further information on rural poverty in Nigeria, visit the Rural Poverty Portal: <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org>



Investing in rural people

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