

Evaluation synthesis report on IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples

Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD

Main findings

IFAD's Policy Peoples is considered to be in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and by representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations



Investment projects have often taken a geographical targeting approach as a first step, and in most cases the population in project areas includes both indigenous and non-indigenous populations

IFAD is perceived as a "partner" and "pioneer" in working with indigenous peoples. The visibility of and appreciation for IFAD among the international community and indigenous peoples' community are impressively high



IFAD-financed projects and the Fund's contribution to international processes and advocacy in support to indigenous peoples have had important results

Successes related mostly to empowerment, institutions and policies. Initiatives such as the Indigenous People Assistance Facility (IPAF), the Indigenous Peoples Forum and global and regional activities have contributed to building trust and partnership with indigenous peoples' organizations and other stakeholders.

IFAD is in a unique position to support indigenous peoples' social and economic empowerment

The size and nature of IFAD-financed projects and its attention to targeting, participatory approaches, community development, empowerment and inclusion have enabled IFAD to naturally follow a proactive approach to supporting indigenous peoples.

Main strengths



Main areas for improvement



Key issues related to investment projects include the need for tailored approaches and better monitoring with disaggregated data and specific indicators

Indigenous peoples can be effectively engaged only if there is a better recognition and understanding of their distinct cultures, social, economic and governance systems and values, and a sound analysis of their needs and capacity.

One of the challenges is the limited understanding of indigenous peoples' issues among some IFAD staff

In countries where indigenous peoples are not recognized as such, it is still feasible for projects to apply the policy principles as part of the tailored strategy to work with them. But responsible staff need to fully appreciate the importance of paying attention to the specificities of indigenous peoples.

Among the principles of engagement in the policy, there has been lack of clarity about how to operationalize the requirement of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

Indigenous peoples

**370
million
indigenous
peoples
worldwide**

**5%
of the world's
population
15%
of the world's
poor**

No universal definition of indigenous peoples, but overall consensus that indigenous peoples share the following characteristics:

- priority in time, with respect to the occupation and use of a specific territory;
- voluntary perpetuation of cultural distinctiveness;
- self-identification as a distinct collectivity; and
- experience of subjugation, marginalization, dispossession, exclusion or discrimination.

Overview of IFAD support to indigenous peoples

During the period 2004-2013...

20-40% of projects approved annually

include indigenous peoples among expected beneficiaries

14% of total investment (i.e. \$932 million out of \$6.5 billion)

estimated to be in support of indigenous peoples

Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF)

supported 102 projects designed and implemented by indigenous peoples in 42 countries

Active participation in global-level processes concerning indigenous peoples' issues

bringing IFAD's experience from the ground to the international arena

Establishment of an Indigenous Peoples Forum in 2011

aiming to improve IFAD's accountability and effectiveness

IFAD's policy

IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples (2009)

Nine fundamental principles of engagement guiding IFAD's support



Cultural heritage and identity as assets



Free, prior and informed consent



Community-driven development



Land, territories and resources



Indigenous peoples' knowledge



Environmental issues and climate change



Access to markets



Empowerment



Gender equality

Recommendations

ONE Revisit the main objectives and strategies of IPAF

If IFAD intends to continue supporting IPAF in the medium term, opportunities for increasing and stabilizing funding for IPAF need to be explored, including the possibility of mobilizing supplementary financing through IFAD or catalyzing direct contributions to IPAF's regional partner organizations by other financiers.

TWO Pay greater attention to key project design elements and provide adequate implementation support ensuring effective participation of indigenous peoples throughout

Through for instance: (i) institutional analysis; (ii) targeting strategies and approaches; (iii) gender issues to tailor the design; and (iv) solid basis for monitoring disaggregated data in design.

THREE Provide guidance on how FPIC can be best operationalized

It is fundamental to emphasize that FPIC is in essence about effective beneficiary participation throughout the project cycle (project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) and enhancing project results and impact.

FOUR Enhance staff understanding of indigenous peoples' issues

It is fundamental that in-coming country programme managers without much exposure and understanding of the topic become acquainted with indigenous peoples' issues and their social and cultural values upon taking the portfolio.

FIVE Strengthen knowledge management

There is scope for undertaking a study to capture and analyse best practices and lessons in a comprehensive manner to be widely shared as an IFAD flagship publication. Capturing the perspective and voices of indigenous peoples in this process would be crucial.



Investing in rural people

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE)
Via Paolo di Dono 44, 00142, Rome, Italy
Telephone +39 0654591 - Facsimile +39 065043463 - E-mail: evaluation@ifad.org
Web site www.ifad.org/evaluation