

# People's Republic of Bangladesh

## 2015 Country Programme Evaluation

### Bangladesh at a glance



Population: 164 million (2012)  
Rural population: 105.3 million (2013)  
Rate of annual GDP growth: 6% (2013)  
GDP per capita: US\$957.8 (2013)  
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP): 17 (2013)  
Agricultural sector growth: 4% per annum (2006-2013)

Population living below national poverty line declined

48.6%  
2000



31.5%  
2010

The presentation of the material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries.

### Selected Government policies, programmes and strategies for rural poverty reduction



Bangladesh Vision 2021



Sixth Five Year Plan 2011-2015



National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008-2015)



National Agriculture Policy 2013



Social Safety Net Programme



Economic Empowerment of the Poorest in Bangladesh Programme

# International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

An international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency

Invests in rural people

Empowers rural people to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience

Since 1978, has provided over US\$17.6 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects globally

IFAD-funded projects throughout the world have reached about 459 million people

Based in Rome - the UN's food and agriculture hub

## IFAD in Bangladesh

31

Loan-financed projects approved

6

Ongoing projects

US\$717.2 million

IFAD financing

10.7 million

Households directly benefitted

## Country Strategic Opportunities Programmes (COSOPs)

1999

Promote self-managing grass-roots community organization that will create and sustain viable, cost effective institutions and also empower the rural poor

2006

Using IFAD's limited resources to support the scaling up of successful innovative approaches to poverty

2012

Support the Government's strategy for rural development, especially the Sixth Plan's goal of diversifying agriculture towards higher value-added production to promote commercialization and raise farm incomes

## Country Programme Evaluations at IFAD Conducted by the Independent Office of Evaluation

### Objectives

Assess performance and impact of IFAD-financed operations in a given country

Generate findings, conclusions and recommendations that will inform the next country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) in the country

### Methodology

Conducted in accordance with directives of IFAD's Evaluation Policy

Undertaken by a team of development experts, following internationally-agreed evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and rural poverty impact

Follow core methodology and processes for CPEs outlined in IOE's Evaluation Manual

# 2015 Bangladesh Country Programme Evaluation



- Timeframe: 2004-2014
- Operations ongoing in the time frame
- Non-lending activities
- 1999, 2006 and 2012 country strategies (COSOPs)

## Projects covered by the evaluation

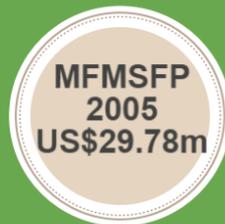
### Five closed or completed



Microfinance and Technical Support Project



Sunamganj Community-Based Resource Management Project



Microfinance for Marginal and Small Farmers Project



Market Infrastructure Development Project in Charland Regions



Finance for Enterprise Development and Employment Creation Project

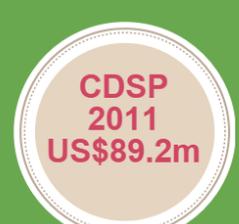


National Agricultural Technology Project

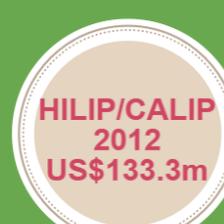
### Six ongoing (includes one recently approved)



Participatory Small-scale Water Resources Sector Project



Char Development and Settlement Project IV



Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project- Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection



Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project



Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises



National Agricultural Technology Project II

## Non-lending activities



Knowledge management



Policy dialogue



Partnership-building



Grant portfolio

## Performance of country strategies (COSOPs)

1999, 2006 and 2012 COSOPs

Assessed against relevance and effectiveness

# Main evaluation findings

## Strengths



Positive impact on rural poverty alleviation: increase in rural households income and improvements in productivity



There are pockets of unmet need in rural credit: requires diversification and policy support for emerging entrepreneurs



Building/strengthening of social capital and empowerment of beneficiaries: gender equality and women's empowerment



Knowledge management is still one weak link of the Bangladesh country programme



Strong focus on innovation: agriculture technologies, microfinance, community-based resource management, value chain pilots and infrastructure



There is insufficient broad-based institutional partnerships and limited convergence and/or interface with the Government

## Key recommendations



**Strengthen focus on agriculture**



**Maintain access to credit as a priority**



**Maintain environmental protection as a priority**



**Broaden policy and institutional support for the country programme**

## Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE)

IOE conducts evaluations of IFAD-financed policies, strategies and operations to promote accountability and learning. The main purpose is to contribute to improving IFAD's and its partners' performance in reducing rural poverty in recipient countries. IOE's independent evaluations assess the impact of IFAD-funded activities and give an analysis of successes and shortcomings – to tell it the way it is – as well as identify factors affecting performance. Based on the key insights and recommendations drawn from evaluation findings, IOE also communicates and shares IFAD's knowledge and experience in agriculture and rural development with a wider audience.



Investing in rural people

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