

Agenda 2030

Why it matters for IFAD



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), now known also as Global Goals, give an inspiring vision of what the world could look like in 2030. This is a vision of a world without poverty and hunger, a world of inclusive growth, environmental sustainability and social justice. IFAD's own vision of inclusive and sustainable rural transformation fits closely with the ambitions of Agenda 2030. Indeed, the Agenda recognizes the importance of IFAD's mandate and the validity of its approach.

Going forward, IFAD will be expected by its donors and partners to give a clear, demonstrable contribution to realizing the Global Goals. Moreover, the implementation of the goals will bring new opportunities for IFAD to expand the impact of its activities. IFAD's new Strategic Framework (2016-2025) affirms Agenda 2030 as the basis for its work for the next decade. The purpose of this note is to unpack Agenda 2030 and to show how IFAD will be a part of making its vision a reality.¹

WHAT IS AGENDA 2030?

Adopted by United Nations (UN) Member States on 25 September 2015,² Agenda 2030 is the **new global agenda for sustainable development**. It features 17 Global Goals and 169 **targets, indicators, and means of implementation**. It is supported by a **new global framework for development finance**, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).³ It is also closely linked to the new **Framework Agreement on Climate Change** expected to result from COP21 in December.

Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Agenda 2030 is **universal**: it applies to countries at all levels of development. It is also far more ambitious than the MDGs, in that it aims to **eradicate poverty and hunger, to leave no one behind**, and to put all economies and societies on a sustainable path. It is also **comprehensive**, spanning social, environmental, and economic issues as well as governance and means of implementation. Finally, it is an **integrated** agenda, with progress on any goal requiring coordinated action on others.

IFAD, together with the other Rome-based agencies and other partners, actively supported the design of the agenda and contributed to its contents. SDG2 includes a dedicated target on smallholder agriculture. IFAD's role in mobilizing investment for smallholder development is also explicitly recognized in the AAAA.

Agenda 2030 **provides a framework for the development activities of the UN, international financial institutions (IFIs), multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other partners** for the next fifteen years.⁴ It is a **key reference point not only for UN Member States, who have unanimously endorsed it, but also businesses, civil society and other stakeholders – including poor rural people and their organizations.** All these actors are expected to play a role in realizing the agenda, and to hold each other accountable for living up to the promise and ambition of the new goals.

- 1 The note was prepared by the IFAD Post-2015 Task Force, created in 2013 to coordinate IFAD's engagement in the process to define a new global agenda for sustainable development.
- 2 http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E
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- 4 The agenda results from an intense global consultation process involving governments and a range of other stakeholders.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The 17 Goals read as follows:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

For each goal there are targets, which will be tracked through indicators set globally under the UN Statistical Commission. These include targets related to ‘means of implementation’ – such as financing and investment, partnerships, technology, and policy. Progress will also be tracked through **country-specific indicators**. Monitoring and reporting will be done through a **multi-tiered mechanism, building on participatory country-level platforms** and processes, with regional aggregation and global reporting and policy dialogue under the **UN High Level Political Forum**, supported by **thematic reviews** by specialized agencies in their fields of expertise. The purpose of the overall accountability mechanism will be to ensure that decision-makers and stakeholders at all levels can be held accountable by people for making progress on the goals.

WHERE IFAD WILL MOST CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL GOALS

As noted, IFAD’s Strategic Framework 2016-2025 already recognizes the Global Goals, the new financing framework for development, and the expected new global agreement on climate change as the **basis for the goals and targets that IFAD will set for itself** in the next decade. Agenda 2030 confirms the importance of IFAD’s mandate and its approach. Moreover, the agenda **will bring new opportunities** for IFAD to expand the impact of its work, if the inclusion of poor rural people and the rural sector into new policy initiatives and investments prompted by the agenda can be achieved.

Given its mandate, **IFAD should seize the opportunity to play a central role** in the pursuit of the **eradication of poverty in all its forms (Goal 1) and in reducing inequalities (Goal 10)**, by supporting decision-makers and partners in designing and implementing policies, strategies and investments that address poverty and rural-urban inequalities. Under Goal 1, IFAD

should contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty; halving of rates of poverty defined by national poverty lines; ensuring equal access for women and men living in poverty to economic resources, services, finance, and technology; development of enabling policies; and resource mobilization.

IFAD can also play a **key role in achieving Goal 2** targets, including ending hunger and securing access to food, ending all forms of malnutrition, working towards sustainable food systems, increasing smallholder productivity and incomes, and enhancing rural and agricultural investments, as reflected in the three objectives of the new IFAD Strategic Framework.

Through its investment in poor rural people, IFAD can also further the human development agenda of the Global Goals. In particular, it can contribute greatly to Goal 5, **on gender equality and women's empowerment**, with a focus on targets related to rural women's participation and leadership, rights to economic resources and ownership and control over land, and access to financial services. It should also work to bring a **rural dimension to Goal 5 initiatives** related to ending gender-based discrimination around economic, social, and political opportunities and services, noting that rural women are often not reached by mainstream gender equality initiatives.

MAPPING IFAD'S WORK AGAINST THE GLOBAL GOALS⁵

Given its mandate to eradicate rural poverty and food insecurity, and by investing to raise smallholder productivity and incomes IFAD plays a central role in achieving:



By supporting the empowerment of rural women, IFAD also brings a major contribution to:



By fostering inclusive, diversified, and productive rural economies, IFAD contributes to:



By investing in sustainable agriculture and smallholder adaptation capacity to climate change, IFAD supports:



By strengthening local institutions and natural resource governance, IFAD supports:



⁵ The size of icons reflects the relative degree to which IFAD's work directly contributes to a given goal. The larger icons correspond to the SDGs flagged as areas where IFAD will particularly contribute in its Strategic Framework 2016-2025.

By strengthening sustainability and resilience in smallholder agriculture and the rural sector (under the third strategic objective of the new Strategic Framework), IFAD will contribute to goals 6, 12, 14 and 15. In addition, IFAD plays a **unique role in the UN and among the IFIs in strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers to address climate change**. This will be critical for Goal 13. In turn, Goal 13 initiatives will bring opportunities to integrate smallholder agriculture and the rural sector into new climate change-related policies, capacity-building programmes, and financial mechanisms, potentially increasing the impact of IFAD's work in this area.

By building the economic capabilities of smallholder farmers, poor rural people, and rural small and medium enterprises, IFAD can contribute to the Global Goals related to economic growth – notably Goal 8. IFAD's work can be particularly effective in the areas of financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, productivity growth, diversification and value addition. Initiatives around decent jobs, infrastructure (Goal 9) and energy (Goal 7) will provide opportunities for IFAD to influence related investments in the interest of poor rural people.

Finally, IFAD's work can aspire to help to realize the goal for peace, justice and institutions (Goal 16), **particularly through its efforts to strengthen local institutions, including rural people's own organizations, and to improve rural and natural resource governance**. In addition, IFAD can strive to ensure that initiatives to improve the quality of institutions give adequate space and voice to rural women, youth, indigenous peoples and smallholders.

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE AS A RESULT OF THE NEW AGENDA

In the coming weeks and months, we can expect the UN system to reorganize itself to be 'fit for purpose' to support Agenda 2030 implementation, by addressing, among other things, how to:

- better integrate UN normative principles and tools into development activities
- work across thematic silos and offer coordinated support to countries
- increase capacity to contribute to global public goods
- strengthen capacity to work in partnership with businesses and civil society
- better measure and communicate results and impact based on Agenda 2030 indicators.

Secondly, we can expect IFIs to be called on to work with governments to mobilize, leverage and channel new sources of finance towards the agenda. This will have to happen, however, in a context in which domestic resource mobilization is increasingly the main public source of development finance, with a changing role for traditional overseas development assistance, and with new opportunities to leverage private financing for investment. For IFAD, this may mean:

- reporting to traditional donors on its role in implementing the agenda and integrating this into its future replenishment efforts
- intensifying its own efforts to mobilize new sources of finance
- working with partners, notably IFIs, to develop new approaches to leveraging private investments for the rural sector and for rural people.

At the country level, we anticipate a variety of approaches by governments to operationalizing the agenda, with varying implications for IFAD country programmes. In general, we may expect:

- intersectoral and interministerial mechanisms addressing the integrated nature of the goals
- new policy initiatives and programmes designed to realize one or more goals, with country-specific indicator frameworks with implications for IFAD-supported operations
- new or strengthened mechanisms for donor, UN, and MDB coordination
- new or strengthened platforms to address specific issues or goals.



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