Sweden and IFAD have a longstanding partnership and remain committed to achieving a world without poverty and hunger (SDG2) by increasing sustainable and inclusive investments in rural areas, where 80 per cent of the world’s poorest people live. Sweden is a founding member of the Fund and it is one of the 36 Members of IFAD’s Executive Board, through which it provides strong leadership on setting an ambitious climate agenda and guiding IFAD’s organizational reforms and innovative financial processes. By leveraging the core resources IFAD receives from Sweden, for every dollar contributed IFAD delivers a pro-poor investment equivalent to US$8.4.

IFAD focuses exclusively on poverty reduction in rural areas and invests 90 per cent of Member State contributions in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, including 50 per cent in Africa and 30 per cent in fragile contexts. The Fund’s investments help rural women and men produce more food and start businesses, cope with climate change, sustainably manage natural resources and biodiversity, and participate actively in the decisions that affect their lives. IFAD’s work tackles the root causes of poverty and contributes directly to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

ABOUT IFAD
An international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency, IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty and hunger in developing countries. The Fund is one of the largest sources of financing for agriculture and rural development in the world’s poorest countries.

Total IFAD loans and grants US$20.8 billion
Total domestic contributions US$16.1 billion
Total cofinancing US$13.3 billion
Total programme of work US$52.9 billion (1978-2019)

CONTRIBUTIONS
IFAD11: US$71.7 million (SEK 600 million) including US$59.7 million (SEK 500 million) of core contribution and US$11.9 million (SEK 100 million) of complementary contributions

TOTAL: US$471.3 million (5% of total pledges)

VOTES
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL: 3.5%
PERCENTAGE OF LIST A: 7.0%

PARTICIPATION IN IFAD’S GOVERNING BODIES
Executive Board, Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources and the ASAP Working Group
TACKLING POVERTY AND HUNGER TOGETHER

Sweden’s leadership role in IFAD’s governing bodies, its critical financial support and expertise have helped to advance IFAD’s agendas on gender equality, climate change adaptation, indigenous peoples’ empowerment, and engagement with the private sector. Sweden is also a key advocate of biodiversity and nature-based solutions, playing an important leadership role in advancing this agenda, which is crucial for IFAD. Through the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), Sweden deployed a Senior Professional Officer (SPO) on climate issues (in 2019), an SPO on private sector engagement (in 2020), and two Junior Professional Officers (JPO) on indigenous peoples’ issues and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

HELPING SMALLHOLDERS ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND MANAGE CLIMATE RISKS

Sweden recognizes IFAD’s ability to channel climate finance to smallholder farmers to mitigate their exposure to the effects of climate change by strengthening their capacity and resilience. Sweden has contributed substantially to building the resilience of more than 30 million rural people with: US$10.6 million in climate contributions to support phases 1 and 2 of IFAD’s Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP); US$59.7 million in core funding to IFAD11 – with 25 per cent invested in climate action; US$13 million in climate financing under IFAD11 (2019-2021); and US$6 million in supplementary funds to support poor rural households to manage climate risks.

GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN

Recognizing women’s central role in poverty reduction and rural transformation, and thanks to US$18 million of support from Sida, the Rome-based agencies and UN Women launched the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE) in 2014. This initiative builds on each agency’s comparative advantages and strengths to achieve lasting and transformative improvements for women in rural areas in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. With US$23 million mobilized and used in five years, the programme has reached over 49,000 women and 315,000 members of their families through a comprehensive package of sequenced interventions to support women’s empowerment.

IFAD promotes agricultural growth that is environmentally sustainable and integrated into ecosystems, while helping farmers become more resilient to the impact of climate change.