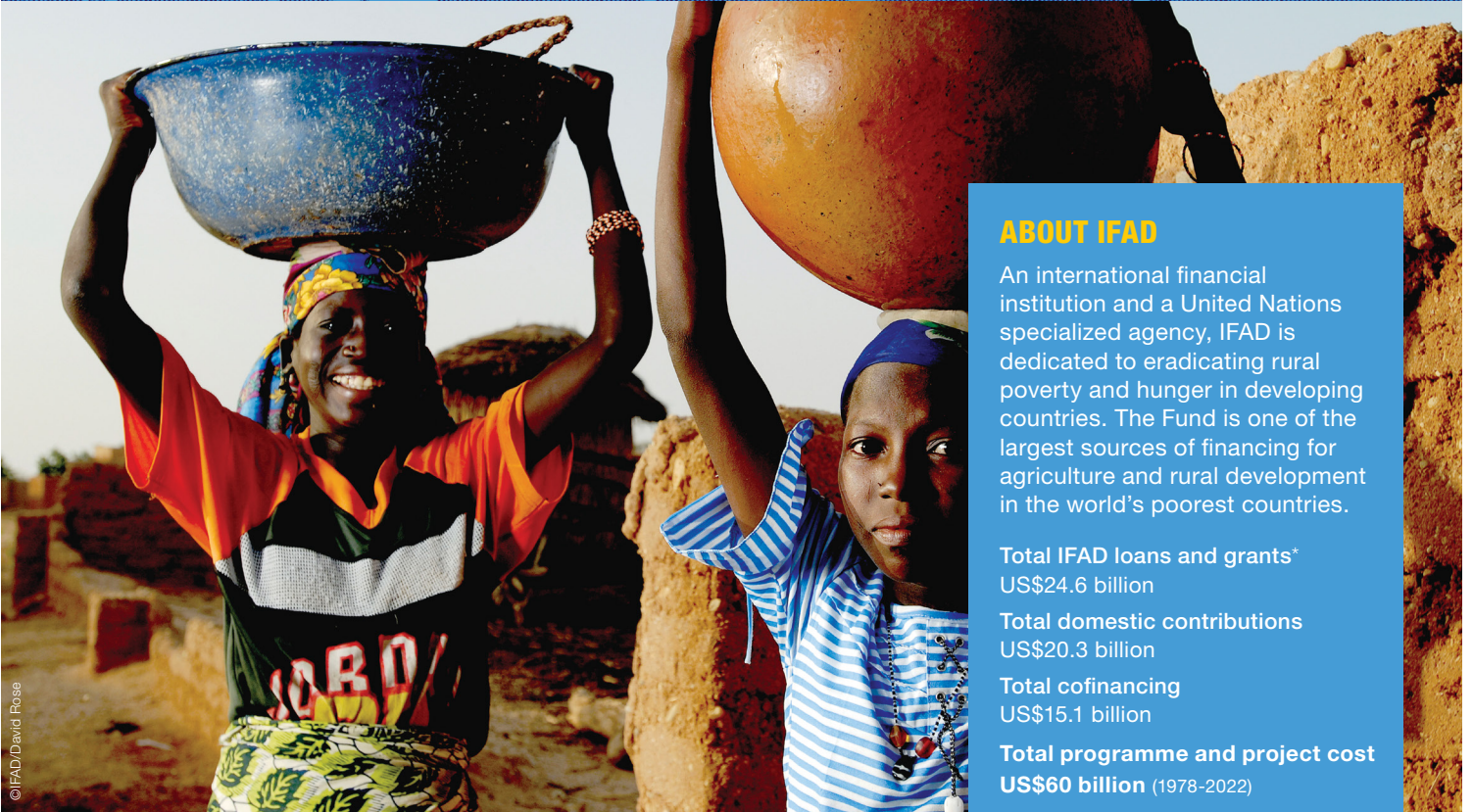




THE BELGIUM-IFAD PARTNERSHIP



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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\$24.6 billion

Total domestic contributions
US\$20.3 billion

Total cofinancing
US\$15.1 billion

Total programme and project cost
US\$60 billion (1978-2022)

*Includes Debt Sustainability Framework grants but excludes other grants and some special initiatives

The Kingdom of Belgium is a founding member of IFAD and has been a key partner to the Fund since its inception, shaping its strategic directions and sharpening its focus in support of the most vulnerable rural areas, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 50 per cent of IFAD's resources are invested.

IFAD's partnership with Belgium is handled by Directorate D2 of the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD), which is responsible for the strategic definition, deployment and monitoring of Belgian thematic development tools for achieving development results. ENABEL is the Belgian development agency that implements Belgian governmental cooperation in its 14 partner countries and provides expertise to other donors.

Belgium and IFAD both align their development priorities in least developed countries (LDCs) and fragile contexts, in particular specific countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with a strong commitment to humanitarian issues, food systems and the environment.

BELGIUM'S TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOTING POWER

CONTRIBUTIONS

TOTAL: **US\$238.21 million**

SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS

TOTAL: **US\$16.4 million**

VOTES

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL: **1.11%**

PERCENTAGE OF LIST A: **2.22%**

PARTICIPATION IN IFAD'S GOVERNING BODIES

Alternate Member of the Executive Board,
Consultation on the Thirteenth
Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

SUPPORTING GREEN TRANSITION AND ACHIEVING SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL RESILIENCE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION WHILE CREATING CONDUCIVE POLICIES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

EUR 2.5 MILLION
in supplementary funds
towards offsetting the
Somalia arrears under the
HIPC Initiative

EUR 2 MILLION
in supplementary funds
to support financing
of the Rural Livelihood
Development Project in
Yemen

EUR 5 MILLION
contributed as cofinancing
for Small-scale
Agroecology Producers
and Sustainable Food
Systems Transformation
(GP-SAEP)



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November 2023

TACKLING POVERTY AND HUNGER TOGETHER

INCREASING RESILIENCE FOR IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Belgium's strategy for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 prioritizes sustainable food systems to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition.

The country's significant contributions as a top donor to IFAD's past replenishments have had a role in creating employment opportunities for over 20,000 rural youth and empowering rural women through innovative approaches, such as household methodologies that generate transformation within the families.

In October 2014, the Government of Belgium provided a contribution of EUR 1 million to the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP). Belgium's collaboration with IFAD in support of climate adaptation continued with a contribution of EUR 6 million, positively impacting the lives of some 26.3 million small-scale farmers and increasing their resilience between 2016 and 2018.

EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES TO RESPOND TO SHOCKS

In 1983, the Government of Belgium and IFAD established a pioneering joint programme – the Belgian Survival Fund – with the common objective of helping poor people in rural areas to overcome poverty, in response to the more than one million drought- and famine related deaths in East Africa. Renamed the Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS), the programme followed an integrated multisector approach that focused not only on agriculture, food production and drinking water supply, but also on improving healthcare, primary education and other basic social services. The joint programme empowered communities to develop and strengthen institutions and policies to rebuild their lives through improved technologies, market access and acquisition of new skills that help raise their incomes. For over 25 years, from its inception until 2012, IFAD and the BFFS designed and funded 57 projects in 16 African countries that improved the livelihoods of small-scale farmers for a total amount of more than US\$200 million.

Working with the most vulnerable people, the programme collaborated with governments and partner organizations to ensure that target populations have a stronger voice and are able to influence laws and regulations of relevance to rural poverty.

INVESTMENTS IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS TO SUPPORT SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS

Belgium demonstrated commendable commitment in the efforts to alleviate Somalia's debt burden under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and to further the country's transition towards a better economic and socioeconomic trajectory.

Belgium was the first Member State to contribute to offsetting the Somalia arrears under the HIPC Initiative by authorizing the disbursement of EUR 2.5 million from the remaining balance of BFFS funds to clear the Somalia debt.

The successful resolution of the debt issue paved the way for IFAD to substantially enhance its support to Somalia and resume direct investments in the country through increased funding so that Somalia's small-scale farmers can confront the challenges of climate change and land degradation more effectively.

The remaining EUR 2 million in BFFS funding was allocated to support financing of the Rural Livelihood Development Project in Yemen.