THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES–IFAD PARTNERSHIP

The United Arab Emirates played a major role in the establishment of IFAD in 1977 and has been one of its key supporters since then. Its support to IFAD has been fundamental in combating poverty and strengthening development in developing countries. IFAD has served as an instrument for the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf countries to channel resources to developing countries’ agriculture, as well as a global forum on food security in which Gulf countries have played a key role.

Through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world has set ambitious objectives to end poverty and hunger and to overcome inequality in a sustainable manner by 2030. Today, more than ever, the support of the United Arab Emirates in the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (IFAD12) is critical to ensuring increasing investments in rural areas and an even stronger role for IFAD in helping the world’s poorest citizens escape the poverty trap.
TACKLING POVERTY AND HUNGER TOGETHER

IFAD’s experience in partnering with the private sector, its close relations with the governments of developing countries and its experience in working with small-scale farmers put it in an excellent position to help ensure the success of foreign investments in agriculture.

The high rate of unemployment among young people is one of the greatest challenges facing Arab countries. Today’s youth population (i.e. between the ages of 15 and 24 years) is estimated at 1.2 billion – the largest the world has ever seen. It is projected that the youth population in sub-Saharan Africa alone, estimated at 150 million in 2010, will more than double to 350 million by 2035. IFAD’s strategy is to focus on youth and rural employment. For example, in Morocco, several IFAD-supported projects have been training young rural entrepreneurs (women and men) in production and processing skills such as animal production, bee-keeping and tree cropping. As a result of this innovative effort, migration of rural youth to urban areas and to other countries has declined, and many young people are now returning from urban to rural areas to benefit from IFAD-supported activities. The contribution of the United Arab Emirates to IFAD12 can support the Fund’s role in harnessing the potential of rural youth in supporting the rural transformation that will be essential in the coming years.

“Give me agriculture and I will give you civilization.”
Sheikh Zayed (founder of the United Arab Emirates)