

STEP 1. POVERTY ANALYSIS AND TARGET GROUP DEFINITION (COSOP)

The COSOP should be based on an analysis of the national poverty situation and should indicate **which groups are being targeted and where**. The analysis of rural poverty and target groups, together with a specific analysis of the relevant **mainstreaming issues**, will inform the determination – in consultation with the government and stakeholders – of **which types** of projects and interventions should be included in the country programme and **why**.

Poverty analysis at the COSOP stage follows two steps:

- A. **Analysing national and rural poverty situation and rural livelihoods**
- B. **Defining the target group**

A. **Analysing national and rural poverty situations and rural livelihoods**

These analyses should include a detailed description of **who** the rural poor are, **where** they live, **why** they are poor and **which** groups are **most likely to be left behind**. They should provide information, disaggregated by target group, on:

(i) **socio-economic status and livelihood profiles;**

- food and nutrition insecurity;
- environmental degradation and climate vulnerability;
- vulnerability coping mechanisms; and
- agricultural and income-generating activity potential.
- The multiple causes of poverty and deprivation, including exclusion, should also be unpacked.

These analyses should be summarized in the Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) background study in appendix IV of the COSOP and should be informed and validated by the following:

- (i) **Existing poverty reports and studies.** Rural poverty profiles based on national household surveys and census data, including poverty maps; multidimensional poverty indicators and analysis; rural livelihood assessments and profiles; vulnerability assessments and mapping; and other relevant studies;

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- (ii) **Review of national policy framework**, including poverty reduction strategies, development plans, social protection policies, food security and nutrition, gender and other relevant policies.
- (iii) **Primary research for the COSOP** in the absence of the relevant documents listed in (i) or to fill in relevant information gaps, subject to resource availability; and
- (iv) **Consultation and validation with the government and key national stakeholders** working on poverty eradication policies and programmes that represent the interests of those most likely to be left behind, the United Nations Country Team and other development partners. These consultations should be properly documented.

B. Defining the target groups

Based on the previous analysis, its disaggregation and the categorization system used in the country, priority target groups will be identified and categorised as it follows:

a. The poorest and the poor. The categorization can be done through a combination of:

- National monetary poverty lines, multidimensional poverty or any other official definition;
- Socio-economic status and livelihood characteristics (wealth/asset index, index of living conditions, etc)

Specific vulnerable social groups cutting across the typologies of rural poor are identified and singled out through a combination of poverty and socio-demographic characteristics, with a special focus on:

- Inequalities along gender, age, ethnicity and disability and making sure the youth are further disaggregated along gender and age.
- Specific segments living in fragile contexts, such as refugees, internally displaced people, etc.

BOX 1: COSOP for Dominican Republican

Poverty Analysis: The 2017 COSOP used data from the Dominican Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Research (IDIAF) and the ICV (Index of living condition) classification to identify 481,000 poor families. In addition, estimations undertaken by the COSOP team based on the National Labour Force Survey showed that poverty was mostly related to lack of income diversification and dependence on agriculture.

Thus, IFAD's investments shall focus on 220,000 vulnerable poor rural families with low income diversification and dependence on agricultural production in two categories:

- 1. Agricultural producers' families engaged in agricultural production for marketing or self-consumption.** While they generally have more diversified livelihoods, agriculture is the only income source for 40 per cent of these families. Families exclusively dependent on agricultural production are as poor as agricultural labourers' families and they are the most vulnerable to economic crises.
- 2. Salaried families without access to agricultural land.** These families' livelihoods are less diversified and depend on employment in sectors such as agriculture, tourism and construction, which have an abundant supply of unskilled labour. Agricultural labour is also the main occupation for Haitian immigrants, who are predominantly young men concentrating in the rural west of the country.

Within those groups women and youth are singled out as special groups:

- 3. Women:** Rural women have less access to education, receive lower salaries and have less access to land, productive assets and credit than men. Women-headed families face higher levels of monetary poverty and rural migration primarily involves women: family structures disintegrate, and young women assume caregiving roles at an early age.
- 4. Youth:** The rural population is predominantly young. Labour force participation rate for youth (15-24 years) is 60 per cent. This figure is likely to be lower in rural areas, where youth involvement in illegal activities and juvenile pregnancies are widespread. Low youth employment also results from a mismatch between training programmes and labour market needs.