



SPOTLIGHT

MEASURING IMPACT AND FOSTERING LEARNING

IFAD is the only international financial institution that measures the impact of its investments at the corporate level. We systematically conduct rigorous impact assessments on a sample of at least 15 per cent of projects that close during each three-year replenishment period.

In 2022, IFAD released the *IFAD Impact Assessment Report 2019-2021*, which shows the impact of our work between 2019 and 2021.

Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, adverse weather events and political events, we were able to conduct impact assessments on 25 per cent of our portfolio, 10 percentage points more than the 15 per cent commitment. The 24 projects assessed account for an investment of US\$3.1 billion and act as a representative sample of the total investment of US\$7.1 billion during IFAD11 (amounts include cofinancing).

Estimates show that IFAD has met targets for the number of people who benefited from improvements in their incomes, productive capacities, market access, and resilience. As a result of IFAD-supported projects:

- **MORE THAN 77 MILLION PEOPLE INCREASED THEIR INCOMES (TARGET: 44 MILLION)**
- **MORE THAN 62 MILLION PEOPLE EXPANDED THEIR PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES (TARGET: 47 MILLION)**
- **MORE THAN 64 MILLION PEOPLE IMPROVED THEIR MARKET ACCESS (TARGET: 46 MILLION)**
- **AROUND 38 MILLION PEOPLE STRENGTHENED THEIR RESILIENCE (TARGET: 24 MILLION)**

TAJIKISTAN

Ahad Khushvakhtov, a member of Shahrinav village organization, and Muqadas Eshbekova, the organization's accountant. Village-level participation is essential to the success of initiatives to improve access to productive infrastructure and services.

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The report notes that IFAD's target for nutrition was not met during the period. This was largely because the projects assessed had been designed before 2019, when IFAD started to systematically mainstream nutrition in all its projects. The report underscores the importance of integrating activities that stimulate behavioural change into projects to achieve better results in nutrition.

The impact assessment report also generated knowledge on key topics such as the importance of investing in the middle segments of food systems (for example in food processing, transformation and marketing), the need to adapt differentiated strategies for chronic and acute shocks, and the value of targeted strategies for women's empowerment.

Learning is a central aspect of the new Evaluation Strategy of IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE).

The 2022-2027 multi-year strategy is aimed at contributing to IFAD's corporate culture as a transparent, learning-oriented and accountable organization. It is supported by the *2022 IFAD Evaluation Manual*, which draws on contemporary evaluation literature. The manual is also informed by progress made since the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, such as the imperatives of transformative change and addressing sustainability and climate resilience. It relies on IFAD's wealth of experience in evaluating rural development and poverty reduction programmes, as well as corporate policies and processes.

In 2022, IOE also revamped its annual report with the *2022 Annual Report on the Independent Evaluation of IFAD*, which has a new structure based around promoting self-reflection and learning, as well as ensuring accountability for results.

IFAD's Quality Assurance Group (QAG) has also been active in contributing and sharing knowledge-related work. QAG is well placed to perform this role, in particular with respect to consolidating and sharing lessons and good practices from design reviews across projects, countries and regions. In 2022, this included publishing on topics such as private sector operations, designing projects to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and embedding South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in project design.

SSTC HAS BEEN A FRUITFUL AREA FOR LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING. DURING 2022, SIX NEW COUNTRY STRATEGIES WITH A COMPREHENSIVE SSTC NARRATIVE WERE APPROVED, MORE THAN 100 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES WERE FACILITATED AND OVER US\$1 MILLION WAS MOBILIZED IN SOUTH-SOUTH INVESTMENTS.

IFAD also supported regional and global SSTC events including the co-celebration, with the other Rome-based agencies, of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, during which the agencies presented their *joint SSTC programme* for home-grown school feeding. The Fund also participated in the Global South-South Development Expo, holding a side event to share learning on the role of SSTC in crisis response.

Another advance in our learning agenda during 2022 was the launch of IFAD's Omnidata portal. The portal allows IFAD staff to work with structured data from IFAD systems, as well as unstructured data, including audio, videos and images. Omnidata provides IFAD with strategic data and visualization tools, complemented by GIS and machine learning tools, enabling IFAD staff to develop their own data and carry out advanced analytics. Moreover, through the portal, IFAD staff can access training modules tailored to IFAD's needs on data visualization and transformation, GIS and machine learning, and share their knowledge and ideas with the Omnidata community.

INDONESIA

Adimas Muhammad Wibisana was one of the grant winners under IFAD's Young Entrepreneurship and Employment Support Services programme. "After I took part in this competitive grant contest, my network expanded a lot, and [that] was more valuable than money," he says.

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