US$454.1 million invested by IFAD in the region’s ongoing portfolio

32 COUNTRIES
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina 3
Bahamas (The)
Barbados
Belize 1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 2
Brazil 2
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba 2
Dominica
Dominican Republic 1
Ecuador 1
El Salvador 1
Grenada 1
Guatemala
Guyana 1
Haiti 3
Honduras 2
Jamaica
Mexico 1
Nicaragua 1
Panama
Paraguay 2
Peru 1
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Numbers indicate ongoing projects and programmes
• Countries with ongoing ASAP grants

US$38.0 million in IFAD financing approved in 2022

25 ongoing programmes and projects in partnership with 16 countries in the region at the end of 2022

2 new programmes and projects approved in 2022 in Brazil and Ecuador
The Semi-arid Sustainable Development Project in the State of Piauí has helped rural communities overcome their environmental vulnerability by enhancing their productive capacities in key value chains, such as honey, cashew, goat and handicrafts. An increase in productive capacities was coupled with skill development for small farmers to support them in accessing markets and financial services, and strengthening their rural organizations.

- The level of extreme poverty was halved
- Participating families’ incomes increased by 45 per cent
- The project benefited 36,111 rural families, over 40 per cent of which were headed by women

A delegation of IFAD’s Executive Board travelled to meet participants of the Viva o Semiárido Project in the Brazilian state of Ceará.

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The region of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the rest of the world, is facing a series of crises – economic global tensions between superpowers, the COVID-19 pandemic, and now the impacts of the war in Ukraine.

Although these cumulative crises affect the whole world, some of them have particularly serious consequences for the region. For example, although this region hosts only 9 per cent of the global population, it is estimated that around 30 per cent of the deaths caused by COVID-19 occurred here.

**SHIFTING TO NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR PRODUCING FOOD**

The consequences of the current global context have been diminishing economic growth, and rising poverty and food insecurity across the region. Focusing on rural areas, small farmers were hit hard by the disruption in supply and the rise in prices of fertilizer, sourced mostly from the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Approximately 78 per cent of fertilizer used in the region is imported, and its scarcity has had a negative impact on productivity — and on food prices.

A positive side effect of the rocketing prices of chemical fertilizers is that they encouraged some farming communities to prioritize organic, nature-based soil-feeding alternatives. Alternative solutions for animal feeding have also been adopted, and IFAD-funded projects have helped develop feeds based on products grown in farmers’ backyards, such as maize, cassava and palm.

**PRIORITIZING DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN A CHANGING WORLD**

Rural people in Latin America and the Caribbean are also still suffering from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. While a solution for the urban part of the world was to move towards digital alternatives, in rural areas the lack of (or poor) connectivity made the leap more difficult. That is why many IFAD-supported interventions went digital in a variety of ways. In 12 countries in the region, almost 50 digital solutions were adopted to enable farmers to take part in public food-purchasing programmes, carry out financial procedures or have access to climate information.

In 2022, some results of IFAD’s digitalization drive became evident. In Guatemala and Honduras, the AGRIdigitalización project has allowed 132 rural saving banks to digitalize their operations, meaning that rural producers in Guatemala and Honduras can now manage their businesses from home.

“We have all the information about our savings and our loans there, and it’s much easier for us to keep track of them.”  
Juana Morales, a 27-year-old participant in the AGRIdigitalización project
Another project in Guatemala, also related to rural finance, is INSURED (Insurance for Rural Resilience and Economic Development). The first of its kind in the region, the project funds insurance activities for family farmers to help them cope with the impacts of climate change.

Neighbouring El Salvador is also struggling with the impacts of climate change, in particular extreme weather phenomena such as tropical storms and prolonged droughts. There, the IFAD-supported Rural Adelante project has helped the El Limón cooperative establish a prosperous vegetable-growing business using hydroponics for the first time to grow plants on rocks or coconut fibre in greenhouses.

“In 5 or 10 years... I hope my children will like agriculture. They already do – since they were very little they have learned they can make a career out of it.”

Iris Maribel Alberto, participant in the Rural Adelante project

The current outlook in Latin America and the Caribbean points to the worsening of the climate crisis. IFAD has stepped up its efforts to provide small-scale farmers with tools to adapt to worsening climate scenarios, and this is paying off.