

US\$845.6 MILLION
INVESTED BY IFAD IN THE
REGION'S ONGOING PORTFOLIO

NEAR EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND EUROPE

US\$24.6 MILLION
IN IFAD FINANCING
APPROVED IN 2022

28 ONGOING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH 16 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND
GAZA AND THE WEST BANK AT THE END OF 2022

1 NEW COUNTRY STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME
IN UZBEKISTAN

23 COUNTRIES

and Gaza and the
West Bank 1

Albania

Algeria

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Bosnia and Herzegovina 1

Djibouti 2

Egypt ■ 3

Georgia 1

Iraq ■ 1

Jordan 2

Kyrgyzstan 1

Lebanon

Republic of Moldova ■ 2

Montenegro ■ 1

Morocco 2

Somalia

Sudan 2

Syrian Arab Republic 1

Tajikistan 1

Tunisia 3

Türkiye 2

Uzbekistan 2

Yemen

Numbers indicate ongoing
projects and programmes

■ Countries with ongoing
ASAP grants



HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT **TAJIKISTAN**

In Tajikistan, the second phase of the Livestock and Pasture Development Project focused on enhancing the food and nutrition security of livestock farmers by boosting livestock productivity and improving the productive capacity of pastures. The project succeeded in expanding the pasture user unions, improving animal productivity and animal health services, and providing income-generating activities for community members, particularly women.

**INCOME FROM LIVESTOCK
MORE THAN DOUBLED**

**ALMOST 100,000 HECTARES OF
LAND IS BENEFITING FROM
CLIMATE-RESILIENT PRACTICES**

**197 PASTURE USER UNIONS
HAVE BEEN FORMED AND
STRENGTHENED**

“Our pastures have been restored
and our animals are healthier and more
productive now.”

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In 2022, the countries of the Near East, North Africa and Eastern Europe and Central Asia were among those that suffered the most severe impacts of the war in Ukraine. Ukraine and the Russian Federation are among the top exporters of grains, fertilizers and machinery to the countries of the Near East and North Africa.

Countries in the region are experiencing high food price inflation, exacerbated by their high reliance on food imports. Several countries – such as Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen – are particularly vulnerable because of existing crises that pre-date the war in Ukraine. The resulting income shocks and price effects are predicted to push many people into extreme poverty and food insecurity, while also reducing policy options and fiscal space for governments. To compound matters, parts of the region are becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate shocks and stresses, with severe drought and water scarcity being major threats.

BUILDING SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND RESILIENCE WHERE NEEDS ARE GREATEST

IFAD is well positioned to respond to this challenging context. Our focus is on building rural people's resilience to shocks, as well as reducing reliance on food imports more broadly by supporting local small-scale producers. One of our priorities is assembling climate finance. By the end of 2022, we had invested a total of US\$88.7 million in climate finance to support 17 ongoing investments across the regions. Our Crisis Response Initiative is prioritizing two of the most fragile countries: Somalia and Yemen. Funds will be dedicated to protecting livelihoods jeopardized by the war in Ukraine.

Yemen is also a priority country under IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, which was designed in 2020 to protect rural people from the impacts of the pandemic. As part of the Protecting the Livelihoods and Agriculture Resilience (POLAR) project, ongoing activities have shown increases in income and production among many of the poorest rural households targeted by the project. Most beneficiaries reported having become more food-secure, while others highlighted that they were able to access health and education for their children that they would not have been able to afford without project support.

Similarly, in Somalia, the Resilient Livelihood Action to COVID-19 project enabled participants to resume their farming in time for the season and contributed to building their resilience to shocks by reducing post-harvest losses to less than 10 per cent for essential commodities such as millet, sorghum, maize, sesame and vegetables.

BOOSTING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Clearly, coping with climate change is a major aspect of resilience for rural people. With respect to climate resilience, the Community-based Agricultural Support Programme in Tajikistan focused on irrigation systems to provide farmers with reliable water supplies amid changing rainfall patterns. The project involved laying pipelines carrying water from snow-fed rivers in order to supply rural communities with reliable fresh water. As a consequence, previously water-starved fields are coming back to life and families are resettling in the village.

“The project gave us water and brought hope and happiness back to our community. Now, we can think about a future here.”
Ahmet Bekmatov, participant in the Community-based Agricultural Support Programme

Improving irrigation systems, promoting sustainable energy use and nature-based solutions are all effective ways to enable rural people to adapt to climate change across the regions. In Egypt, the [Sustainable Agriculture Investments and Livelihoods Project](#) enables local farmers to transform traditional irrigation systems into drip or sprinkler irrigation networks. Most small loans given under the project were used by recipients for this purpose, which has helped them adapt to water scarcity. Other loans for livestock, processing and the non-agricultural sector are helping communities build their resilience to [climate change impacts by diversifying their income sources](#).

Lack of water has also been an issue in Sudan, with drought contributing to conflict between herders and farmers. In response, the [Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme](#) has set up conflict mitigation and peace-building centres to help people resolve disputes. The project has also mapped herding paths to help herders and farmers understand and negotiate effectively with each other.



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“With the support of IFAD and the programme, we managed to stop the disputes over natural resources.” [Dalia Mohamed Ismail](#), participant in the Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme

In Türkiye, the [Murat River Watershed Rehabilitation Project](#) has been successful in reversing land degradation and erosion in upland communities. About 5,680 households were provided with house insulation. This has increased energy use efficiency and resulted in a reduction of wood consumption of more than one third. The project contributed significantly to carbon sequestration – the estimated carbon sequestration and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is equivalent to 13,663,099 tCO₂ in a period of 20 years.

Enhancing biodiversity as a strategy to help rural people cope with climate change is a strategy used in many IFAD activities in the region. For example, in Morocco, the [Rural Development Programme in the Mountain Zones](#) has improved small-scale farmers' resilience to climate change by promoting diversified tree crops such as almonds, carob and walnuts, and by introducing plants that are more resistant and better adapted to mountainous areas. Weather stations have also been set up to provide regular climate information and alerts to farmers.