**Terms of Reference**

**Stepping up IFAD’s gender transformative agenda - Women’s land rights initiative**

***Background***

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is financing the grant project titled “Stepping up IFAD’s gender transformative agenda - Women’s land rights initiative”. The project aims to develop and integrate gender-transformative approaches to promote women’s land rights into IFAD-supported projects, policies and strategies in selected countries. The purpose of these Terms of Reference (TORs) is to establish the scope, details and conditions for the implementation and evaluation of the project.

Women in many of the poorest regions of the world are denied equal rights to access, use, inherit, control, and own land, though they make up an estimated 43 percent of the agricultural labour force. The challenges are two-fold. First, laws and policies often dilute or deny women’s rights to land. Second, even when laws enshrine such rights, sex-discriminatory practices coupled with legal loopholes, gaps in implementation and lax enforcement at times sex-discriminatory practices undercut these formal guarantees. As a result, often women’s only claim to the land they rely on for food, income, and shelter is through their relationship to a male relative – a husband, father, or brother. They are susceptible to displacement and exploitation because they lack control over the land they depend on. That hampers women’s ability to lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty and impacts on the way they farm in fundamental ways. When women have secure rights to land, women’s status improves and they are better able to take care of themselves, their families, and their land.

National and local governments and institutions might not have the capacity or technical know-how to enforce equal tenure for men and women – especially in the face of entrenched social and cultural norms that discriminate against women. Actions developed to tackle gender inequality often underestimate the need to address the root causes of discriminatory behaviours and biased perceptions about women’s rights and roles. A gender transformative approach is needed, which seeks not only to improve women’s access to resources, but also to guarantee their equal rights. Such an approach requires both time and multisector and multilevel engagement to deal with not only the legal (i.e. gender-neutral laws), administrative and socioeconomic constraints limiting women’s access to land, but also to challenge pervasive perceptions and practices surrounding the recognition and promotion of women’s land rights.

As mentioned in IFAD’s Strategic Framework 2016-25 and in line with its Policy on improving access to land and tenure security and that on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, IFAD is committed to promoting both gender equality and securing poor rural people’s tenure and equitable rights to, and governance of land. Moreover, IFAD11 places considerable emphasis on targeting women, emphasizing gender transformation in order to address the gender productivity gap and accelerating achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Strengthening women’s access to and ownership of land, which also enables them to access a wider range of financial and other services, is recognised as a key gender transformative approach which tackles the underlying or structural causes of gender inequality and move towards transforming power relations.

***Beneficiaries***

The target group is composed of 10 000 women and girls living in rural areas in the target countries and involved in IFAD-supported projects in the selected countries. About 40 per cent of them will be younger than 35 years old. Policy makers and development practitioners will benefit indirectly from the outcomes of identifying and testing tools that will be widely disseminated.

***Goal and objectives***

The goal of this grant is to contribute to the development and integration of gender-transformative approaches to promoting women’s land rights into development programmes, policies and strategies in selected countries.

This goal will be achieved through the following two objectives:

* Develop and test transformative approaches and tools for strengthening women’s land rights;
* Improve knowledge and awareness on how to integrate a transformative approach to promoting WLR in rural development interventions.

The following results are expected:

* 10 000 rural women’s ownership or user rights over natural resources registered in national cadastres and/or geographic information management systems ;
* Gender-transformative approaches to promoting WLR tested, documented and disseminated;
* Legal and administrative systems for land governance improved.

***Key activities by component***

The grant will pilot the integration of transformative approaches to promoting WLR in selected IFAD-supported projects, which will tackle gender power imbalances and aim to change attitudes and beliefs about women’s enjoyment of land rights. As such, it will seek not only to improve women’s short-term access to resources, including land, but also to guarantee their equal rights, increasing their voice in decision-making at all levels. It implies dealing with the root causes of gender discrimination, addressing the legal, administrative and economic dimensions, and also the perceptions and practices around the recognition and promotion of women’s land rights.

A first step in addressing these imbalances will be to carry out a gender analysis[[1]](#footnote-1), i.e. to analyse the root causes of the inequalities that limit WLR at the household and community level. The second step is to identify interventions that contribute to tackling these barriers through transformative action, taking account the guiding principles of international codes of conduct such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and the SDG framework.

This includes promoting activities in support of[[2]](#footnote-2):

* Recognition of women’s land rights
* Protection of women’s land rights
* Enjoyment of these rights over time

The Theory of Change below illustrates how the initiative will tackle gender power imbalances with the aim of changing attitudes and beliefs about women’s enjoyment of land rights, by piloting transformative approaches to promoting WLR:



While on the one hand the integration of transformative approaches to promoting WLR will be piloted in selected IFAD-supported projects, on the other hand, strong emphasis will be placed on knowledge generation and capacity building, which will allow for scaling up. Two components are foreseen:

* Tools development and implementation: Building on a gender analysis, innovative tools, guidelines and approaches to integrate transformative approaches to promoting WLR in rural development projects will be developed, tested, implemented and monitored. Gaps in tool development and implementation will be identified and priorities agreed on.
* Knowledge and awareness building: The documentation of good approaches and practices in strengthening women’s land tenure will be facilitated and their dissemination to a larger group of stakeholders will be ensured. Furthermore, learning exchanges will be facilitated between and amongst various IFAD supported programmes/projects and partners. Finally, building on the lessons learned from component one, IFAD will engage in evidence-based and inclusive policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder policy discussions to promote, within national policy and regulatory frameworks, a focus on the land rights of poor rural women.

***Countries and regions***

The grant project will focus on IFAD-supported projects in the following countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, São Tomé & Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda. The implementing institution must have presence or experience in these countries.

***Linkages with IFAD investment programmes and other initiatives***

The proposal will contribute to the development and integration of gender-transformative approaches to promoting WLR into IFAD-supported projects, policies and strategies in selected countries. Being directly linked with IFAD investment projects, the proposal will strengthen individual and organizational capacities of the national partners involved in the implementation of the selected IFAD investments for mainstreaming gender transformative approaches. It will also inform national policy processes.

The following projects will be involved:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Country** | **Project** | **Start** | **End** | **Notes** |
| APR | Bangladesh | Char Development and Settlement Project IV (CDSP IV) | 09/05/2011 | 31/03/2022 |  |
| APR | Myanmar | Western States Agribusiness Project (WSAP) | 17/12/2018 | 31/12/2024 |  |
| ESA | Ethiopia | Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) | not available yet | 31/12/2025 |  |
| ESA | Uganda | National Oil Palm Project (NOPP)  | 01/03/2019 | 31/03/2029 |  |
| LAC | Brazil | Proyecto de Desarrollo Rural Sostenible en la Región Semiárida de Bahía (Proyecto a favor del Semiárido) | 20/08/2014 | 30/09/2020New project being designed |  |
| LAC | Colombia | Programa de Fomento de la Capacidad Empresarial Rural: Confianza y Oportunidades (TOP) | 13/12/2012 | 31/12/2020 |  |
| LAC | Guatemala | Sustainable Rural Development Programme for the Northern Region | 27/01/2012 | 30/09/2019 | Only KM |
| LAC | Honduras | Proyecto de Competitividad y Desarrollo Sostenible del Corredor Fronterizo Sur Occidente (PRO-LENCA) | 03/03/2014 | 31/03/2022 |  |
| LAC | Paraguay | Proyecto de Mejoramiento de la Agricultura Familiar Campesina e Indígena en Departamentos de la Región Oriental del Paraguay (PROMAFI) | 29/11/2018 | 31/12/2023 |  |
| LAC | Peru | Proyecto de Desarrollo Territorial Sostenible (PDTS) | 21/10/2016 | 31/12/2022 | Only KM |
| NEN | Kyrgyzstan | Access to Markets Project | 05/06/2018 | 30/06/2023 |  |
| NEN | Sudan | Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme | 31/03/2015 | 31/03/2022 |  |
| WCA | Burkina Faso | Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project | 15/03/2018 | 31/03/2024 |  |
| WCA | Central African Republic | Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah | 11/02/2019 | 31/03/2025 |  |
| WCA | Niger | Family Farming Development Programme in the Diffa Region | 21/03/2019 | 31/03/2025 |  |
| WCA | São Tomé & Principe | Smallholder Commercial Agriculture Project | not available yet | 31/12/2026 |  |
| WCA | Sierra Leone | Agricultural Value Chain Development Project  | 16/07/2019 | 30/09/2025 |  |
| WCA | The Gambia | Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Programme | not available yet | 30/06/2026 |  |

In at least ten of the abovementioned IFAD-supported projects, with a minimum two per region, gender-transformative approaches to promoting WLR will be tested. The other projects will be part of the wider community of practitioners for knowledge exchange.

Linkages will also be made with other initiatives in which IFAD is involved, such as those with the Global Land Tool Network on land tenure impact assessments, the World Bank’s Africa Gender Innovation Lab on impact evaluation on securing women’s land rights, IFPRI on gendered impact assessments, the International Land Coalition’s programme on WLR and their National Engagement Strategies, and the Global Campaign on WLR supported by Landesa, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat/GLTN Secretariat, the World Bank and the Huairou Commission.

***Monitoring & Evaluation, Knowledge Management and Learning***

The recipient will be responsible for M&E and reporting to IFAD, including annual reporting of activities, outcomes and financial performance, including on indicators shown in the logical framework in this grant design document. For monitoring, an Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) will be updated/developed at the beginning of each year. An activity-based monitoring system will be adopted to ensure that all first-level results (outputs) are reported and evaluated. Semi-annual progress and annual reports will be produced by the recipient; simple one page planned versus actual activities will be required monthly. A KM plan will outline what action project staff and implementation partners will take to ensure they are able to generate, access and use knowledge and information. A systematic approach to capture how the knowledge products and tools as well as capacity development activities inform national and global processes will be undertaken at the end of the project through an outcome harvesting study. Collaboration with the IFAD In-country Offices in the selected countries will be essential. Strong linkages will also be established with IFAD Research and Impact Assessment Division (RIA) and with the Communications Division (COM).

In accordance with IFAD’s grant procedures, the grant sponsors in the Environment, Climate Gender and Social Inclusion Division (ECG) and the Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division (PMI) will be responsible for supervision as part of their work plan, including ensuring the adequate efforts are undertaken to achieve intended results, providing support to resolve challenges as they arise, reviewing financial and technical reports. The division will release budget for supervision, although the main type of supervision needed for this global project is not presence in the field (country supervision missions), but relates to ongoing review of outputs and monitoring. Annual grant status reports will capture progress at the country and global levels. In addition to the grant sponsors, the Regional Divisions and Country Directors will provide oversight to country selection and in-country activities, ensuring coherence and value added with ongoing efforts of IFAD. The ECG KM officer will ensure that findings from this grant will feed into the overall IFAD KM Strategy. IFAD’s finance officers will also provide oversight on financial matters associated with the project.

***Scaling-up and sustainability***

**Scaling up:** The results from this proposal will be scaled up using different operational instruments: (i) projects: systematically building approaches and tools into new projects; (ii) policy: strong emphasis on policy engagement to help achieve the policy and institutional conditions needed for successful national-level scaling up or to attract investment from other partners; and, (iii) knowledge: strong focus on developing and disseminating the public knowledge that has been created.

**Sustainability:** A set of guidelines and an action plan will be developed for systematically mainstreaming the transformative tools and approaches developed into IFAD’s new projects. Project M&E systems will allow to evaluate and adapt if necessary in the future.

***Budget***

While the overall budget is of USD 3 000 000, we expect about two thirds of it to go to the first component. Overheads should be contained to a maximum of 8% of direct costs.

1. This will be context-specific, build on the livelihoods analysis carried out at project design and look at: (i) legal aspects; (ii) cultural norms; (iii) socio-economic conditions; (iv) political participation; (v) perceptions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The project will capitalize on various lessons learnt on the challenges and good practices developing approaches and tools in these three key areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)