

IFAD's targeting principles

1. The 2006 targeting policy put forward nine guiding principles that are updated in this subsection.¹ The updated principles, which are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and its guiding principle of LNOB, as well as with IFAD's more recent policy documents, including its IFAD11 commitments, are as follows:
2. **Target the poorest, the poor and vulnerable rural people.** IFAD targets the poorest both at the macro and micro levels. At the micro level, it will make use of robust poverty analyses based on country-specific monetary and multidimensional poverty indicators (SDG target 1.2), along with participatory livelihood analyses, to assess these groups' access to different types of resources.
3. **Support those with fewer skills and assets.** IFAD will proactively support those with fewer skills and assets so that they can benefit from emerging economic opportunities in the near future. In some cases, these groups may be beyond the reach of the instruments that IFAD has at its disposal and may be more appropriately targeted for emergency or humanitarian support by other agencies with a comparative advantage in that area.
4. **Include people who face multiple forms of deprivation and are more likely to be left behind.** IFAD's target groups include those who face multiple, mutually reinforcing sources of deprivation and inequality associated with the five factors involved in the effort to leave no one behind: socio-economic status, geography, discrimination, vulnerability to shocks and governance (see figure 1 in annex I). Examples of groups that are often marginalized are **women, youth, indigenous populations, pastoralists and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, internally displaced people, refugees and people living in fragile contexts due to climate change, environmental degradation or conflict.** These groups tend to have less access to assets and opportunities or are more likely to lose access to their assets and their sources of livelihood due to causes whose scope goes beyond monetary poverty. Robust poverty and livelihood assessments are needed to inform targeting processes, which should include specific analyses centring on these groups.
5. **Mainstream gender, youth, nutrition, environmental sustainability and climate issues in the operationalization of the targeting process at the country programme and project levels.** The targeting process is the entry point for the mainstreaming of IFAD's cross-cutting themes.
6. **Recognize the dynamic nature of poverty and the importance of tackling vulnerability.** The targeting process and approaches should take the dynamic nature of poverty into account, particularly in fragile contexts associated with climate-related hazards, environmental degradation and/or conflict. Mechanisms allowing for shock-responsive targeting measures should be in place, including early warning systems and triggering mechanisms for scaling-up interventions.
7. **Align targeting with government poverty reduction policies and strategies.** In keeping with its new country-based model, IFAD interventions must be aligned with and contribute to government policies on relevant areas of intervention. A rigorous review of policies related to rural poverty eradication, the agricultural sector and rural development, food security and nutrition, social protection and disaster risk management should be undertaken, along with a thorough review of policies focusing on such target groups as women, youth, indigenous populations, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities. These reviews should inform consultations on the country programme and project design. In addition, IFAD

¹ For a detailed comparison between the current principles and the preceding ones, see table A1 in annex I.

projects will use government targeting tools and will then analyse and improve them based on the IFAD targeting approach at the local level.

8. **Reach the poorest through either direct or indirect targeting.** There will be cases in which people who are better off may need to be included in IFAD interventions because of economic and market interdependencies, the need to engage them as leaders and innovators and/or the need to avoid conflict. In such cases, the rationale and a justification should be provided. Furthermore, projects will need to clearly demonstrate, based on their theory of change, how the poorest will benefit from interventions targeting those who are relatively better off. Indicators for monitoring the benefits reaching the poorest will have been included in the logframe.
9. **Test innovative targeting approaches.** Efforts should be made to pilot, assess, document and share learning on successful approaches to targeting the groups most likely to be left behind.
10. **Strengthen existing partnerships and establish new ones.** Efforts should be made to identify and work with like-minded partners at all levels, such as the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), BRAC and the World Food Programme (WFP), to develop a shared understanding of both the dynamics of rural poverty in different contexts and successful targeting approaches. The focus should be on building innovative and complementary partnerships to reach target groups that IFAD cannot reach with the instruments at its disposal.
11. **A consultative and participatory approach to targeting.** IFAD's targeting approach is not only about targeting tools; it also includes a series of measures and procedures to incentivize the participation of the poorest and other target groups. This process should involve participatory consultations with all stakeholders, including potential beneficiaries, and it should be conducted in a way that will make them feel trustful and safe enough to openly express their views and concerns. Feedback mechanisms should be in place during implementation in order to promote transparency, inclusiveness and consensus-building.
12. **Empowerment and capacity development** are key IFAD principles of engagement and the cornerstones for its approach to targeting. IFAD will help to enhance the ability of its target groups to access the productive resources, goods and services that they require in order to increase their earnings and quality of life while at the same time participating meaningfully in decision-making processes that will have an influence on their livelihoods.