



## Mandate

The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) is responsible for conducting independent evaluations of IFAD-financed policies, strategies and operations to promote accountability and learning. The main purpose is to contribute to improving IFAD's and its partner's performance in reducing rural poverty in recipient countries.

In identifying key insights and recommendations drawn from evaluation findings, IOE is also concerned, in accordance with IFAD's disclosure policy, with communicating and sharing IFAD's knowledge and experience of rural and agricultural development with a wider audience.

## Country programme evaluations

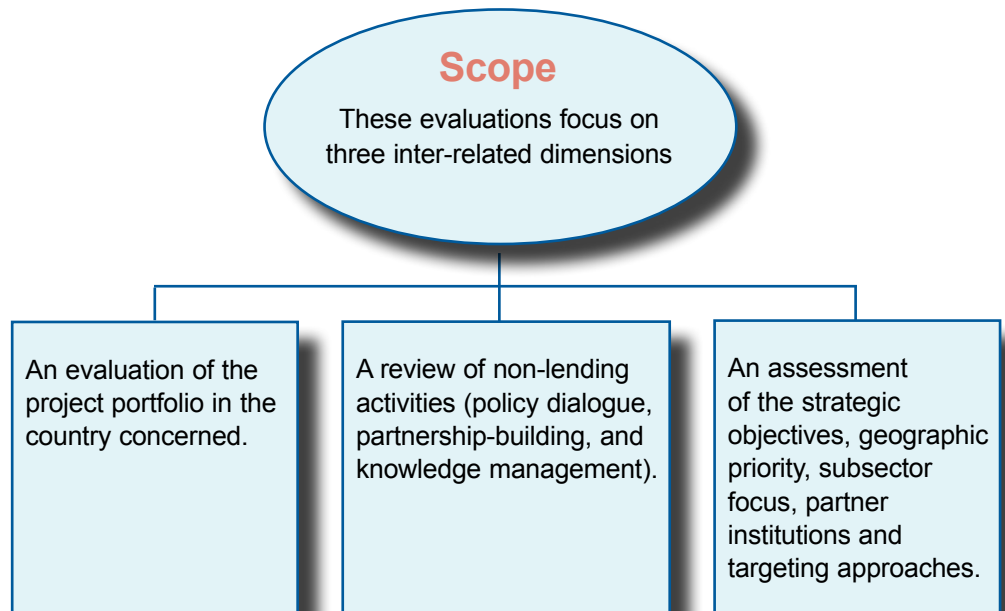
### Objectives

The main objectives of the country programme evaluations (CPEs) conducted by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD are to:

- Assess the performance and impact of IFAD-financed operations in a given country; and
- Generate findings, conclusions and recommendations that will inform the next country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) in the same country.

### Methodology

CPEs are conducted in accordance with the directives of IFAD's Evaluation Policy<sup>1</sup> and follow the core methodology and processes for CPEs outlined in IOE's Evaluation Manual<sup>2</sup>. They are undertaken by a team of development experts, following internationally-agreed evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and rural poverty impact.



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## Process

(i) **Design and desk review phase**, which requires developing the CPE approach paper. The paper specifies the evaluation objectives, methodology, process, timelines, and key questions. It is followed by a preparatory mission to the country to discuss the draft paper with key partners. During this stage, a desk review is conducted examining available documentation. Project review notes and a consolidated desk review report are prepared and shared with IFAD's regional division and the government. During this stage both IFAD and the government conduct a self-assessment at the portfolio, non-lending, and COSOP levels.



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(ii) **Country work phase**. This stage entails convening a multidisciplinary team of consultants to visit the country, holding meetings in the capital city with the government and other partners and traveling to different regions of the country to review activities of IFAD-funded projects on the ground and collect evidence from beneficiaries, public authorities,

project management staff, non-governmental organizations, and other partners on IFAD performance in the country. A brief summary note is presented at the end of the mission to the government and other key partners.

(iii) **Report writing, comments and communication phase**. During this phase, IOE prepares the draft final CPE report, shared with IFAD's regional division, the government, and other partners for review and comments. The draft benefits from a peer review process within IOE, including IOE staff as well as an external senior independent advisor. IOE then distributes the CPE report to partners to disseminate the results of the CPE. IOE and the government organize a national round-table workshop that focuses

on learning and allows multiple stakeholders to discuss the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. The report is publicly disclosed.

Each CPE evaluation is concluded with an agreement at completion point (ACP). The ACP is a short document which captures the recommendations contained in the CPE report that IFAD and the government agree to adopt and implement within a specific timeline.

The results of the CPE are presented to the Evaluation Committee, a subsidiary body of the Executive Board at the time of discussion of a new COSOP.

## Expected results

**Provide findings and recommendations that will be useful to promote accountability and learning to make IFAD even more effective in terms of fostering rural transformation; and to generate an overall appreciation of the partnership between IFAD and the concerned government in reducing rural poverty.**



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<sup>1</sup> [www.ifad.org/pub/policy/oe.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/pub/policy/oe.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [www.ifad.org/evaluation/process\\_methodology/doc/manual.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/evaluation/process_methodology/doc/manual.pdf)