

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Northern Nigeria (G5+1)

Subregional evaluation of countries with fragile situations in IFAD-WCA

Independent Office of Evaluation

Evaluation coverage: 2010-2021

Sources: World Bank; UNDP; UNHCR; World Economic Forum.



Analytical framework

main fragility drivers in the G5+1 region

1. Socioeconomic issues

Rapid demographic growth

Annual population growth: 3-5% (2009-2019)

Population ages 0-14: 43-50% (2019)

Youth unemployment

Share of youth not in education, employment or training: 27-68% (2017-2019)

Macroeconomic imbalances

Accumulation of public debt, capital flight, rising inflation, exchange rate volatility

Rural poverty

44-55% (2011-2018)

2. Social disruption

Gender inequalities Global Gender Gap Index: 0.591-0.651 (2021)

Marginalization and exclusion

Political, economic and social

4. Institutional weaknesses

Lack of good governance and longer-term perspective

Weak policy-making capacity

Poor financial management

Unreliable judicial systems

3. Environmental and climate change challenges

Extreme weather events Leading to 10-25% decrease in crop productivity

Water scarcity Due to increased water use (from population growth and unsustainable irrigation practices), rainfall change and increasing temperatures

Environmental degradation and resource depletion Leading to a decline in agricultural productivity and food insecurity

Competition over natural resources Water, arable land, pastoral resources and forests

5. Insecurity and conflict issues

Physical threats to persons and communities

Misappropriation and destruction of assets

Cross-border insecurity and spillover effects

Increase of internal displacement IDPs: from 217,000 (2013) to 2.1 million (2021)



Strengths

1. The reviewed IFAD country strategies, programmes and projects all increasingly prioritized building resilience in their design, which ultimately is the solution to fragility, critical in the G5+1 contexts.
2. IFAD's engagement within the subregion has been relevant in addressing national agricultural and rural development priorities identified by governments.

IFAD's support contributed to change in relation to three fragility drivers: economic opportunities, natural resource management and adaptation to climate change, and to enhance beneficiaries' resilience by building their absorptive, adaptive and ongoing transformative capacities.
3. Working with producers' and farmers' organizations has been an area of comparative advantage for IFAD within the subregion, enabling them to provide service to their members, something very important in fragile situations.
- 4.

Areas for improvement

1. IFAD business model is better suited for delivering in non-fragile situations than in the G5+1 contexts, which feature increasing fragility issues and medium-intensity conflicts.
2. Conflicts and institutional weaknesses are still considered as risks to be managed, rather than problems to be addressed through interventions.
3. The evaluation findings confirm the limitation of country strategic opportunities programmes as a tool for addressing fragility issues with a regional dimension.
4. Women and youth have been supported through inclusive value chain development (VCD) activities, however achievements were moderate in terms of tackling context-specific factors underpinning their greater vulnerability.
5. Learning was reflected across the programmes for designing and managing operations within the lending portfolio, but there was a gap in linking lending and non-lending operations for improving IFAD engagement in the G5+1 contexts.

Recommendations

one

Develop a comprehensive **resilience framework** for the subregion or region to guide assessments, designs and implementation of operations (at field, national and regional levels).

two

Use the opportunity of **IFAD Decentralization 2.0** to improve the capabilities of country teams, interactions, and agility for effective delivery in the G5+1 fragile contexts.

three

Revisit approaches for **VCD support within the subregion**, to further improve inclusiveness and to build on community-driven approaches in highly fragile areas.

four

Further **promote the resilience of rural communities** through supports to producers', farmers' and community-based organizations, to effectively deliver services and strengthen their capacity to engage in policy dialogue.

five

Organize **greater support to country teams** for a greater effectiveness of non-lending operations in those contexts.