

Country context

Population: 50.9 million (2020)

GDP per capita: US\$ 5,312 (2020)

Population living in rural areas: 18% (2021)

Population living in multidimensional poverty: 18,1% (2020)

Agricultural sector as proportion of GDP: 7.4% (2021)

Human Development Index: 0.767 (2019)

Sources: World Bank; UNDP.



IFAD operations

Evaluation coverage

Total portfolio cost
US\$ **186.8** million

IFAD financing
US\$ **74.3** million

Projects evaluated **2**

Total portfolio cost
US\$ **125.1** million

IFAD financing
US\$ **50.3** million

Country strategies

Main areas covered by projects

Country Strategic Opportunities Programmes (COSOPs)

2003

2017



Rural finance



Access to markets

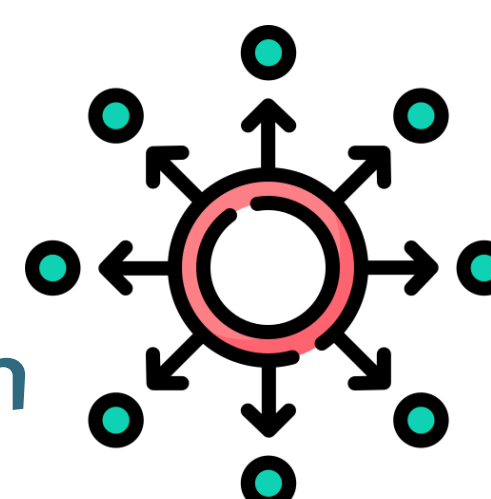


Rural microenterprise development

Institutional development



Value chain diversification



Strengths

1 IFAD's country strategies and programmes were not only well aligned and relevant in a complex country context, but also led to the introduction of innovative approaches and mechanisms, to boost rural development with a view to reducing poverty and inequalities in the agricultural sector.

2 Lessons learnt from territorial experiences and practices were useful to enabling change from the bottom up, especially in relation to rural finance, work with young people and recognition of the value of cultural assets and local knowledge.

3 Even with fewer resources than other agencies, IFAD demonstrated comparative advantages in helping to energize the most disadvantaged sectors and territories of Colombian agriculture.

4 Positive impacts on the food security of families were possible thanks to enhanced production and diversification of activities, which improved self-consumption and income generation.

5 The projects promoted a high level of participation by women, which resulted in their greater economic, political and social empowerment.

Areas for improvement

1 There were limitations in the start-up phase and first years of project implementation, mainly due to the need to adjust projects to the country regulatory framework, lack of sufficient prioritization and precision regarding leadership, roles and functions.

2 Regarding partnerships, IFAD's strategy and programme have been most successful with central government bodies and with public entities, but synergies with local governments stakeholders were insufficient, especially considering the emphasis placed under the Comprehensive Rural Reform on development programmes with a territorial approach; additionally no concrete progress was reported with multilateral partners.

3 There were limitations in the continuity and quality of access to technical and financial services, which have been aggravated in recent years by external international factors, such as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

4 Results on aspects of environment and natural resource management and adaptation to climate change were limited, as there has not been a broader related strategy at the level of territories and areas of intervention, nor has there been sufficient systematization to enable the use of lessons learned and alternatives to develop adaptation and resilience strategies in fragile agroecosystems.

Recommendations

1 Channel a larger portfolio of resources to expand and dynamize IFAD's country strategy and programme.

2 Define a new agenda for cooperation with the Government.

3 Increase IFAD's involvement in the design and implementation of the new country programme and strategy in coordination with the Government and multiple partners.

4 Scale up project experiences, providing a system of capacity-building.

5 Design a communication strategy aimed at sharing and using results as public goods.