

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



**Final
Stakeholders'
Workshop
Venue: Hilton
Hotel – Addis
06 June 2023**

Federal Republic of Ethiopia Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation

Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

By Dr Kouessi Maximin KODJO – Lead Evaluation officer - IOE

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation

Agenda



Introduction



Methodology



Key findings

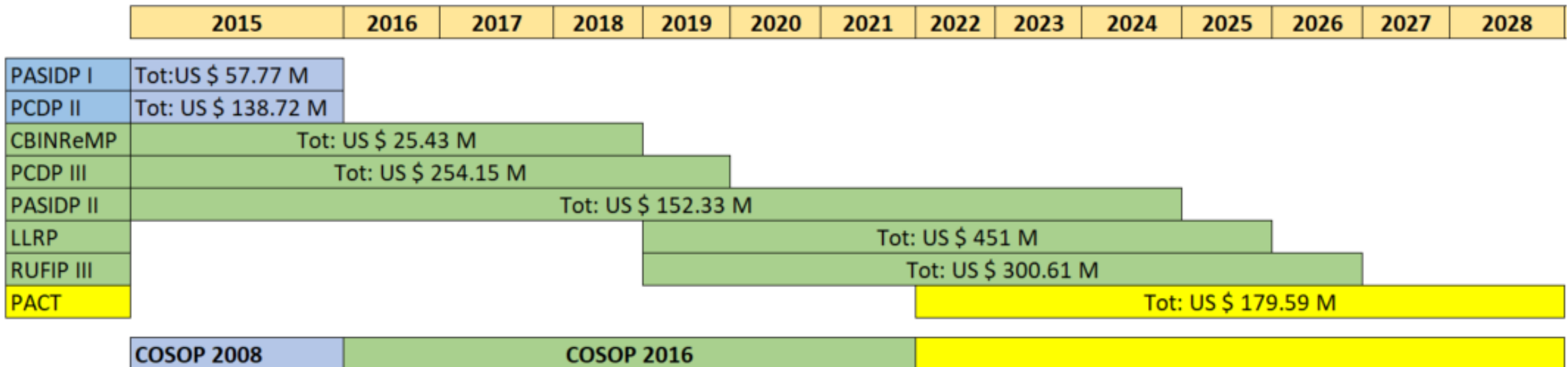


Conclusions

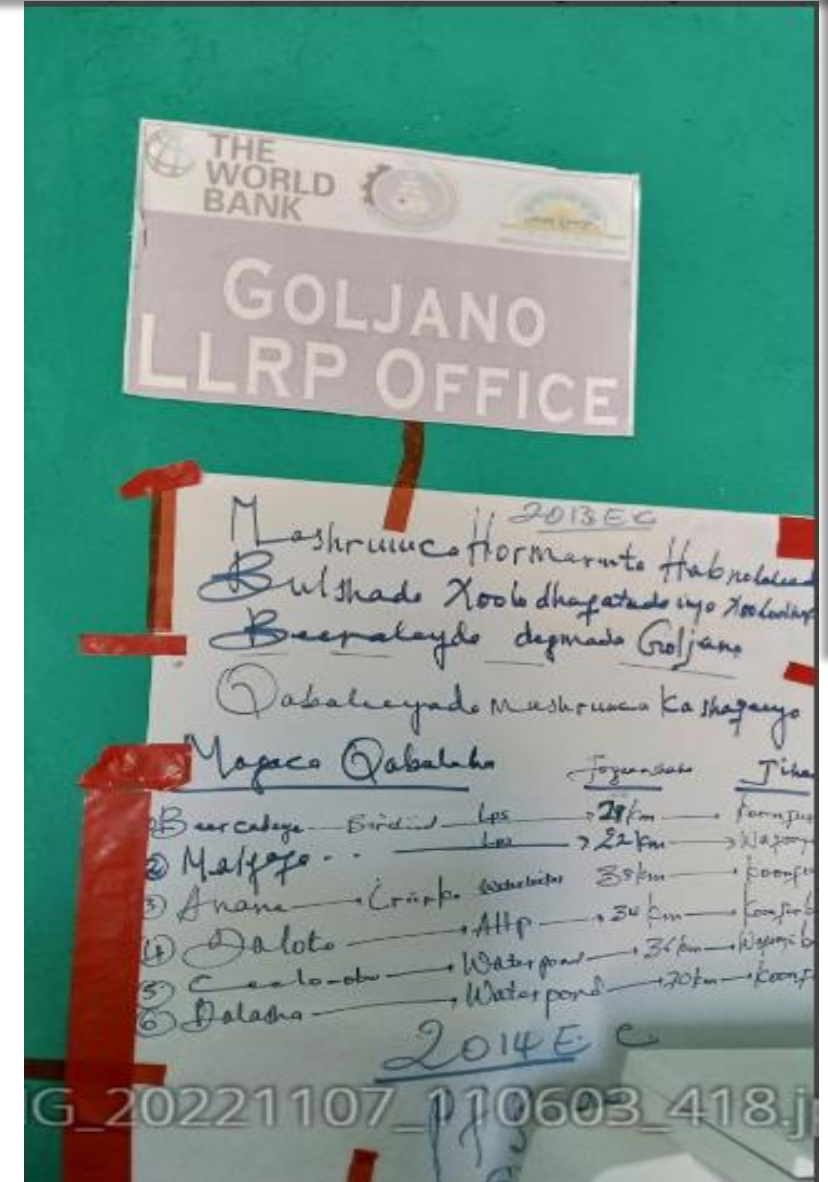


Recommendations

- The third country-level evaluation in Ethiopia; 2015 – 2022 evaluated period.
- Coverage: COSOP: 2016-2022 and.
- Portfolio: 9 projects, 5 completed and 3 on-going, approved in Dec. 2012.
- Evaluated portfolio: amount of US\$1.8 billion, with IFAD financing = 654.1 million.
- Co-financing with: World Bank, European Investment Bank, African Development Bank



- Evaluation criteria: in IFAD Evaluation manual 2022.
- Reconstructed theory of change;
- Mixed-methods approach including:
 - Secondary and GIS data analysis, desk review;
 - Virtual and in-person interviews of various stakeholders;
 - Direct observations during field visits (in Amhara, SNNPR and Somali region).
- Purposeful sampling for site visits.
- Limitations: inconsistency between baseline and end surveys implemented by projects, security challenges.



In terms of relevance and coherence of operations.

- Confirmed IFAD's comparative advantage for small irrigation and inclusive rural finance.
- Good synergy with the WB for the implementation of community driven development approach.
- Several studies were carried out to document project's results.
- Various means used to disseminate projects' information.
- A community of practice implemented with an online platform.
- Strong and effective strategic partnership with the government.
- Effective operational partnerships with national and international organizations.
- Policy change due to results of IFAD supported projects.



In terms of effectiveness and impacts.

- Increased access to financial services for rural people.
- Increased access to social and economic services, e.g.:
1547 water points, 2486 schools, 1089km roads, 928 health posts
- Improved ecosystem resilience: ~40000 ha small scale irrigation, about 200,000ha watershed and rangeland managed;
- Various innovations promoted, e.g.: improved soil and water conservation practices, energy saving technologies, bio-fortified crops;
- Evidence of contribution to: increased agricultural production, and improved households' income and assets; improved social capital.
- Strengthened community mechanisms to manage natural resources



Gender and sustainability (institutional and environmental) results.

- Evidence of contribution to women economic empowerment.
- Quantitative targets of women participation achieved: 30-50%
- Positive sustainability points: project anchorage within governmental institutions; effective linkages at field levels.
- Scaling up results achieved: from actions to policy;
- Environmental sustainability enabled with the promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices;
- Climate change adaptation enhanced through: irrigation schemes, conservation agriculture, livelihood diversification.



Coherence and effectiveness challenges.

- Insufficient focus on downstream segments (e.g. storage, processing and marketing).
- The projects have evolved in isolation, thus not facilitating the sharing of experiences inter-projects.
- There was no systematic approach of knowledge utilization to inform decision making.
- Islamic compliant financial services are still not yet generalized.
- MFIs lack technical capacities for effective M&E activities.
- Lack of mechanisms for systematic sharing of experiences and for learning in the rural sector.

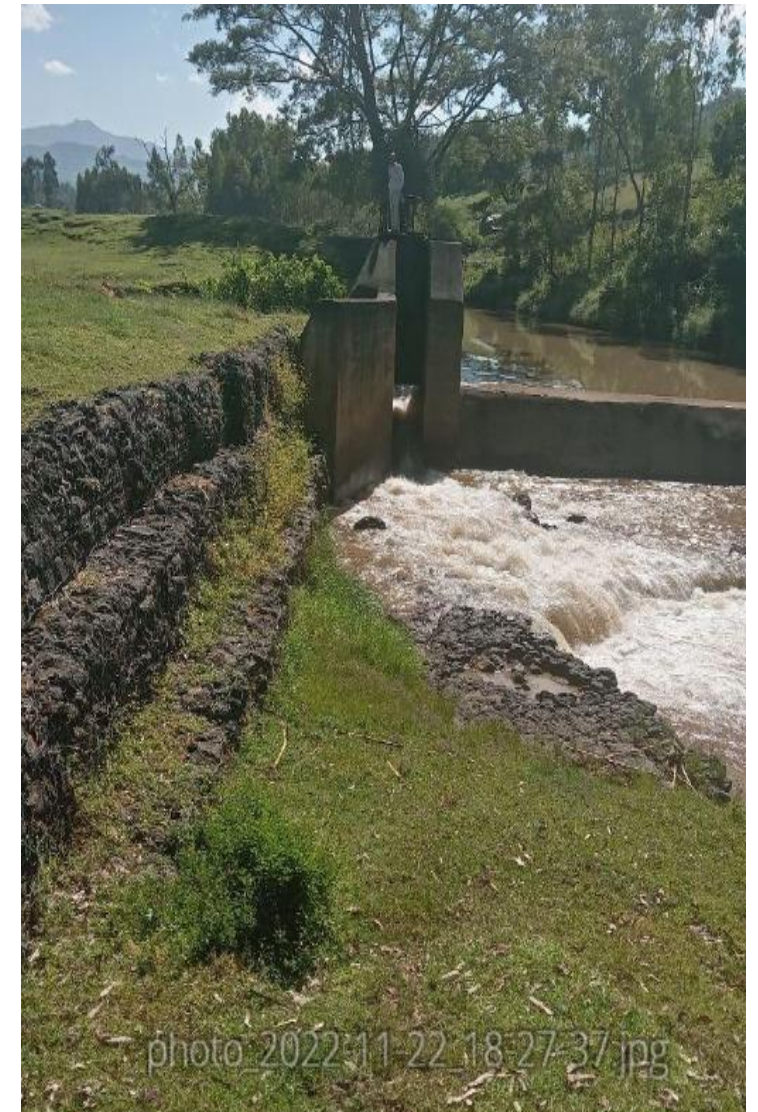


Challenges on sustainability and gender aspects.

- Challenge to sustain access to credit lines for smaller MFIs.
- Limited capacity for autonomous functioning of groups, as low management, technical and resource mobilization capacities.
- Limited scale of watershed managed to protect irrigation schemes and inefficient water usage techniques by farmers.
- Mixed results in relation to rural women leadership within communities and in taking into account their voices.
- Very few or absence of women among staff members.
- Lack of a comprehensive approach for effective youth involvement and empowerment.



- IFAD's country strategy and program included strategic objectives and orientations to tackling fragility causes in rural areas of Ethiopia.
- Effective commitment and ownership by the government enabling results on: rural finance, community-driven social services, ecosystem and economic resilience.
- Insufficient actions at downstream of agricultural value chain.
- Critical emphasis on ecosystem resilience, grassroots organizations and gender issues.
- Still, challenges to overcome for sustaining achievements on these last themes.



Recommendation 1

- Explicitly include in the next strategic objectives aspects of pro-poor value chain development, especially when agricultural surplus (both crop and animal production) become significant.

Recommendation 2

- Enhance the resilience building supports, especially in remote fragile rural areas, by focusing on the development of absorptive and adaptive capacities, as well as transformative capacities ultimately.

Recommendation 3

- Consolidate and sustain results achieved in relation to financial inclusion, by enabling stronger engagement of key national players to identify innovative solutions, for instance digital finance, customer protection and micro insurance services.

Recommendation 4

- Upscale or replicate the implementation of the gender transformative approach to other projects, either of the country programme or under the MoA, to address the root causes of gender-inequality at a significant scale.

Recommendation 5

- Facilitate the sharing of lessons to enhancing the consolidation of results achieved within the programme and the national agriculture sector.



Thank you for your attention

