

Eritrea

Fisheries Resources Management Programme Partial Supervision Report

Mission Dates: 19 August - 09 September 2020

Document Date: 08/10/2020

Project No. 2000001144

Report No. 5511-ER

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Abbreviations and Acronyms

<u>AWPB</u>	<u>Annual Work Plan and Budget</u>
<u>COMSAT</u>	<u>College of Marine Sciences and Technology</u>
<u>CSU</u>	<u>Cooperative Support Unit</u>
<u>FDP</u>	<u>Fisheries Development Project</u>
<u>FReMP</u>	<u>Fisheries Resources Management Programme</u>
<u>FAO</u>	<u>Food and Agriculture Organization</u>
<u>FY</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
<u>GEF</u>	<u>Global Environment Facility</u>
<u>GFP</u>	<u>Gender Focal Person</u>
<u>GoSE</u>	<u>Government of the State of Eritrea</u>
<u>HFTC</u>	<u>Hirgigo Fisheries Training Centre</u>
<u>MoA</u>	<u>Ministry of Agriculture</u>
<u>MoLWE</u>	<u>Ministry of Land, Water and Environment</u>
<u>MMR</u>	<u>Ministry of Marine Resources</u>
<u>MRDD</u>	<u>Marine Resources Development Department</u>
<u>MRRSD</u>	<u>Marine Resources Regulatory Service Department</u>
<u>MRRHRDD</u>	<u>Marine Resources Research and Human Resources Development Department</u>
<u>MTR</u>	<u>Mid-Term Review</u>
<u>NFC</u>	<u>National Fisheries Corporation</u>
<u>NPCO</u>	<u>National Programme Coordination Office</u>
<u>NUEW</u>	<u>National Union of Eritrean Women</u>
<u>NUEYS</u>	<u>National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students</u>
<u>PIM</u>	<u>Programme Implementation Manual</u>
<u>PDR</u>	<u>Programme Design Report</u>
<u>SBCC</u>	<u>Social Behaviour Change Communication</u>
<u>TA</u>	<u>Technical Assistance</u>
<u>ZNRS</u>	<u>Zoba Northern Red Sea</u>
<u>ZPCs</u>	<u>Zoba Programme Coordinators</u>
<u>ZPCOs</u>	<u>Zoba Programme Coordination Offices</u>
<u>ZSRS</u>	<u>Zoba Southern Red Sea</u>

A. Project Overview

Region:	East and Southern Africa Division	Project at Risk Status:	Potential problem
Country:	Eritrea	Environmental and Social Category:	B
Project Name:	Fisheries Resources Management Programme	Climate Risk Classification:	2
Project ID:	2000001144	Executing Institution:	Ministry of Marine Resources
Project Type:	Fisheries	Implementing Institutions:	Ministry of Marine Resources
CPM:	Bernadette Mukonyora		
Project Director:			
Project Area:	National in scope (all six Zobas/Regions of the Country)		

Approval Date:	26/11/2016	Last audit receipt:	01/10/2020
Signing Date:	06/12/2016	Date of Last SIS Mission:	09/09/2020
Entry into Force Date:	06/12/2016	Number of SIS Missions:	6
Available for Disbursement Date:	21/04/2017	Number of extensions:	0
First Disbursement Date:	01/05/2017	Effectiveness lag:	1 month
MTR Date:	not available yet		
Original Completion Date:	31/12/2023		
Current Completion Date:	31/12/2023		
Financial Closure:	not available yet		

Project total financing

IFAD Financing breakdown	Debt Sustainability Framework	\$15,000,000
Domestic Financing breakdown	Beneficiaries	\$1,351,000
	National Government	\$1,417,000
Co-financing breakdown,	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	\$500,000
	Global Environmental Facility	\$7,890,000
	Germany	\$11,550,000
Project total financing:		\$37,708,000

Current Mission

Mission Dates:	19 August - 09 September 2020
Days in the field:	Remote supervision
Mission composition:	Bernadette Mukonyora: Country Director and Mission Leader*, Richard Abila, Project Technical Lead & Fisheries Expert, Joyce Njoro, Lead Global Technical Specialist, Nutrition, Richard Batamanye, Financial Management Specialist, Judith Dsouza, Social Inclusion – Gender & Youth, Nelson Oluoch, Procurement Specialist, Addisu Gebremedhin, Environment and Safeguards, Lerie Kapesa, Results Specialist, Meala Tesfamicheal/Milena Bereket, In-country liaison & Robert Lee, Fisheries Technical Expert. The mission was also joined by Mark Prein from GIZ on behalf of the German Government.
Field sites visited:	Remote supervision

B. Overall Assessment

Key SIS Indicator #1	Ø	Rating	Key SIS Indicator #2	Ø	Rating
Likelihood of Achieving the Development Objective		3.65	Assessment of the Overall Implementation Performance		3.83

Effectiveness and Developmental Focus		4	Project Management		4
Effectiveness		3	Quality of Project Management		4
Targeting and Outreach		3	Knowledge Management		4
Gender equality & women's participation		3	Value for Money		4
Agricultural Productivity		4	Coherence between AWPB and Implementation		3
Nutrition		4	Performance of M&E System		4
Adaptation to Climate Change		4	Social, Environment, and Climate Standards requirements		3

Sustainability and Scaling-up		4	Financial Management and Execution		4
Institutions and Policy Engagement		4	Acceptable Disbursement Rate		4
Partnership-building		4	Quality of Financial Management		3
Human and Social Capital and Empowerment		4	Quality and Timeliness of Audit		4
Quality of Project Target Group Engagement and Feedback		4	Counterparts Funds		5
Responsiveness of Service Providers		4	Compliance with Loan Covenants		5
Environment and Natural Resource Management		4	Procurement		3
Exit Strategy					
Potential for Scaling-up		4			

Relevance					6
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C. Mission Objectives and Key Conclusions

Background and Main Objective of the Mission

The Fisheries Resources Management Project (FReMP) became effective in December 2016 and completion is expected in December 2023. The goal of the project is to contribute to household food and nutrition security and the alleviation of rural poverty. The project is national in scope covering the four (4) inland Zobas and two (2) coastal Zobas i.e. Northern Red Sea and Southern Red Sea. The total programme cost is USD 37.7 million with an IFAD grant of USD 15 million, funds from the German Government USD 11,550,000, GEF at 7,890,000, and domestic co-financing of USD 1,417,000 from the GoSE and USD 1,351,000 from the beneficiaries.

The mission was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a significant impact on the implementation of the FReMP programme. The Government of Eritrea began to implement different preventative and containment measures in early March, which culminated into the closure of Eritrean airspace and a total shutdown from the 2nd of April 2020. Key members of the programme management team were quarantined for a period of almost 2 months upon their return from project management training in Dubai. In addition, the fisheries sector was not deemed to be an essential service by the High Level National Task Force Committee for COVID-19, and hence activities had to be halted.

The IFAD and GoSE joint partial supervision mission took place from 19 August to 09 September 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and international travel restrictions, the mission was undertaken remotely using virtual modalities, guided by IFAD's Guidance Note for Remote Supervision. The main objectives of the partial supervision were to assess the implementation progress of the project with a specific focus on i) status of the implementation of the AWPB and agreed actions, ii) financial management and fiduciary aspects, iii) procurement, iv) performance of M&E systems and v) preparations for the MTR of the project. The mission also provided implementation support on the integration of IFAD's mainstreaming themes into the project and the envisaged restructuring of the project. The mission also focused on the COVID-19 response of FREMP where USD 160,000 has been reallocated towards social protection of vulnerable households and re-establishing the fishing livelihoods of artisanal fishermen.

The mission held virtual meetings with the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR), which was represented by Mr Adonai Heruy, Director of Programmes Coordination and Commissions Office (PCCO), representing the Minister of Marine Resources, including the Director General for the Development Department, Ambassador Teweldemedhin Woldemickael.

IFAD was not able to interact with beneficiaries due to the COVID-19 containment measures, and connectivity challenges in Eritrea. The mission reviewed progress reports and other key technical documents containing pictorial evidence, which were shared with IFAD in advance. IFAD liaison consultants also undertook a validation of the state of procurement files and other important project documentation.

The mission also held implementation support discussions with GoSE on the implementation of the components, implementation arrangements, mainstreaming themes and plans for the MTR and restructuring of the programme. A pre-wrap up meeting took place on Tuesday 08 September 2020, with the NPCO team, the CSU, the Director General for the Development Department and Zoba Programme Coordinator for Maekel representing all ZPCOs, to discuss the main findings of the mission and agree on actions and timelines. The wrap up meeting took place on Wednesday 09 September, and was chaired by Mr Adonai Heruy on behalf of the Minister of MMR.

The mission would like to express sincere gratitude to GoSE, particularly the Ministry of Marine Resources, NPCO, CSU, MRDD, ZPCs for Dehub and Maekel, for the support and cooperation accorded to the mission. Despite the current COVID-19 restrictions, the mission progressed quite satisfactorily and all planned discussions were held with the highest level of commitment and cooperation from the staff and Senior Management of MMR.

Key Mission Agreements and Conclusions

IFAD commends the Government, in particular the Ministry of Marine Resources, for the collaborative and cooperative manner in which the mission was conducted, and the overall flexibility in accommodating IFAD's various requests for follow up meetings and discussions. IFAD observed a strong level of ownership and commitment by the team, and appreciated the various technical and operational discussions. IFAD also appreciated the overall openness to discuss the challenges that have been faced by the project, and proactive leadership to try and address some of the issues. Overall, the mission presented an important opportunity to initiate the discussions on the envisaged plans to restructure the FREMP programme, as an important strategy to expedite implementation and facilitate the empowerment of the beneficiaries of the programme.

The mission took note of the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the programme, due to the lockdown and movement restrictions, and the overall global shutdown, which has impacted on the supply of procured goods and services. The mission took note of the fact that the fisheries sector has not been designated as 'essential service', which impacted on the overall implementation of the project. IFAD is also aware that several members of the NPCO, including the National Coordinator, Financial Controller, M&E Specialist and Procurement Officer, had been quarantined for a period of almost two months, after their mission to Dubai for training on project management. The mission was informed that the Government was proceeding with desk-related work mostly related to finalising procurement processes, pending

the lifting of the lockdown. IFAD was also encouraged that MMR would be reflecting on a strategy to implement the programme under COVID-19 conditions.

The mission noted an execution rate of 10% for the 2020 AWPB and a disbursement rate at 4.15%, which is significantly lower than expected. Notwithstanding, IFAD appreciated the significant efforts made to ensure business continuity particularly on procurement, most of which had been carried forward from 2019. The role of the TAs provided by IFAD was acknowledged, as well as the recent engagement of technical experts in MMR to assist in the preparation of technical specifications and terms of reference. The mission was encouraged by the pro-activeness of the NPCO to initiate the review of the AWPB and PP to ensure that the plans are realistic and achievable. Plans to strengthen connectivity at MMR were very much appreciated.

Whilst noting the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the programme, IFAD would also like to highlight that the low execution rate of the project is a cause for concern, and can also be attributed to the systemic limitations, particularly the technical execution of the project and the overall complexity of the design.

Procurement Delays: IFAD has noted the overall impact of COVID-19 on procurement processes in the programme, mainly due to the global lockdown, which deterred the completion of procurement processes that were already in progress, some of which had to be cancelled while others were delayed due to requests for extensions by the bidders. IFAD acknowledges the Government's pro-activeness in adopting IFAD's COVID-19 guidelines for fast-tracked procurement, which have contributed to re-initiating procurement activities in an expedited manner. IFAD would however like to note that the procurement delays are a continuous trend in FReMP, and have an overall impact on delaying the delivery of inputs and services to the beneficiaries, and meeting the development objective of the programme. IFAD notes that the Government has engaged some national experts to assist in the preparation of technical specifications, and this is very much commended. IFAD would however like to request the Government to formalise the technical engagement of the experts within FReMP to expedite the implementation of the programme.

Restructuring and Mid-Term Review (MTR): IFAD welcomes the ongoing discussions on the plans to restructure the programme, which will culminate into the MTR of the project towards Q4. IFAD therefore urges the Government to prepare a restructuring plan, which will be presented, to IFAD for No Objection, as an agreed framework guiding the restructuring of the programme. IFAD would like to reiterate that the MTR needs to take place within 2020, and the restructuring plan will be a critical input to the preparations of the MTR of the programme. In light of the restructuring, IFAD would like to highlight the following:

Implementation arrangements – technical leads: Whilst noting the efforts made by MMR to strengthen the NPCO team and ensure that the administrative functions are well resourced, IFAD would like to strongly urge the Government to consider a formalised role of technical leads who will drive the technical components and give adequate attention to the mainstreaming themes i.e. nutrition, gender, youth, climate and environment. At this important juncture in the implementation of the programme, and with the low level of execution, additional technical resources are critical to expediting the overall implementation of the project and ensuring that the IFAD SECAP considerations are taken on board. MMR is also encouraged to set up a database of technical experts that can assist the NPCO on the technical aspects.

Sustainability of the Cooperative Support Unit (CSU) Whilst noting the efforts made to strengthen the CSU, the mission noted that the CSU was still not autonomous as envisaged at project design. The mission also observed that the **revolving fund portfolio data** was not readily available to the mission, and would be submitted at a later date. IFAD was also concerned with the overall challenges in the implementation of the revolving fund, with preliminary data suggesting a 20% repayment rate against the asset financing mechanisms. The Government is urged to consider the following: i) developing a business plan for the CSU with clear milestones towards its graduation into an autonomous entity within the lifetime of FReMP, and ii) assessment of the viability/profitability of enterprises supported by CSU in view of the input and output markets price, and consider expanding services to other stakeholders including individuals and groups with different requirements and conditions.

Viability of the cooperative model Due to weak private sector participation in the fisheries sector and lack of collaboration with the existing Saving and Micro-Credit Programme (SMCP) institution, the programme is built around co-operatives as the main vehicle for organizing fishers and fish traders into functional business units, capacity building and channelling inputs and services to the beneficiaries in the fish value chain. The Mission observed that significant effort has been put towards establishing the co-operatives and provide the basic training; however they are still in the early stages of formation. While cooperatives use a system of by-laws association structure, there is however no legal framework for co-operatives in the country, which presents some risks on the sustainability of the institution as the benefits, rights, responsibilities, sanctions and legal obligations are unclear. There is an opportunity for the project to initiate a dialogue towards developing a dedicated Cooperatives Policy and Legal framework. The CSU and co-operatives need further training and hands-on mentoring to build their managerial and business capacities. Furthermore, explore opportunities for short-term exchange training and linkages with other IFAD projects for the CSU (e.g. a recent exchange visit to IFAD's project in India) and international fisheries organizations. The programme may also open the space for non-co-operative entities to be able to access programme's goods and services.

Sustainability of Infrastructure Investments: The programme has significant investment in infrastructure for the fish

value chain, including ice plants, solar fish drying facilities, hatchery establishment, water desalination facilities, landing site markets and multi-purpose facilities, among others. These facilities are at different stages of construction or procurement, and it is clear that they may only be fully utilised in the final year of the project. While the project design had envisioned that these facilities would be operated on sustainable business principles, such business plans have not been developed. The programme should prepare business/sustainability plans for each of the key proposed infrastructure.

Uptake of Inland fisheries activities: The programme intervenes in inland water reservoirs, aiming to produce fish for nutrition and income from an otherwise underutilized resource. This includes developing youth and women co-operatives for fishing and fish processing/marketing, while some effort has gone to protecting the dam watershed through afforestation and terracing. The project will establish linkages with an IFAD grant implemented by WorldFish to provide technical support for inland fisheries activities under the programme, including the establishment of a fish hatchery to produce fingerlings for restocking the dams. However, there are issues related to the delayed provision of inputs, which need to be given urgent attention.

Compliance with IFAD SECAP requirements: The establishment of the mainstreaming themes office in the NPCO and ZPCO is encouraging. IFAD however noted that the unit was under-staffed as it only included a Gender Officer in the NPCO and no staffs have been assigned in the ZPCOs. MMR is encouraged to fully staff the mainstreaming themes unit with specialised experts in gender and youth targeting, nutrition, and climate and environmental management. MMR is also encouraged to establish more formal engagements with the relevant MMR technical Departments and also with NUEW and NUEYS as envisaged in the original programme design, and to finalise the ESMP and Climate Risk Analysis.

Oversight mechanisms: The mission was informed that the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) was actualised through bilateral engagements between the Minister and his counterparts. The main challenge however is that the minutes of these engagements are not prepared, nor are they shared with IFAD as per the financing agreement. It was also noted that the Programme Technical Committee (PTC) was not functional, and this was due to the unique implementing arrangements where the Director Generals of the MMR Departments are involved in the implementation of FREMP. IFAD appreciated the indications that MMR was considering an alternative PTC, which would ensure appropriate oversight of the technical elements of the programme.

COVID-19 Contingency Plan: IFAD would like to encourage the Government to develop a plan for implementation of the project under COVID-19 conditions. This will ensure business continuity. IFAD also strongly urges the Minister to engage further on ensuring that the fisheries sector is classified as 'essential sector'.

D. Overview and Project Progress

The Programme is making progress in the technical components, although the pace is slow due to institutional issues, including delays in procurement of goods and services and limited capacities in the NPCO. The implementation momentum gained from the end of the last mission has been further disrupted by COVID-19, with little activities taking place since end of March 2020. Most of the activities reported during the year mainly took place before COVID-19 pandemic was declared in the country.

Under Component 1 – Sustainable Fisheries Development, most attention has gone to establishment of additional ice making machinery, which is still under procurement. The programme's plans to recruit an expert /TA to assist in cold chain systems has been recruited and contract was signed. Construction of solar fish drying facilities for small pelagic fish continued at the main island village of Jemhile in Dahlak, in ZNRS, with over 80% of the construction completed. Besides, negotiation has started with Zoba Southern Red Sea regarding the construction of the second such facility. The programme is in the process of procuring solar desalination machine, to serve as a source of fresh water to the mentioned solar drying facilities. However, the project has faced challenges in preparing specifications for the desired desalination machine and may request IFAD for support in this regard. Additionally, four fish grinding machines have been delivered, which will be used in equipping the drying facilities. On construction of multi-purpose centers, the structural designs and BOQ were prepared last year and the appropriate sites for locating the facility identified and agreed on with the Zobas. The construction was expected to commence in early 2020 but due to COVID-19 the works were delayed. IFAD notes that FREMP will consider using prefabrication material for construction, due to the unavailability of construction material i.e. cement.

On **coastal ecosystem management,** the programme managed to plant 88.5 hectares of land with mangrove in coastal and island of ZNRS, in addition to 450 halophytes planted in Menkae'lile (Gelhalo Sub-zoba). Before the plantation of the Mangroves, the ZPCO and extension officers trained beneficiaries on planting methods. In this plantation programme, 117 households of the coastal and island community participated with their own plantation equipment. The project continued piloting alternative solution for mangrove conservation by carbonizing and briquetting in Massawa area. Activity of piloting beekeeping (honey) in the coastal areas and islands is still waiting the procurement of the basic equipment for beekeeping.

Under **inland fisheries,** the programme intervenes in inland water reservoirs, aiming to produce fish for nutrition and income from an otherwise underutilized resource. The project has started working in 8 dams spread in 4 inland Zobas,

where small youth and women co-operatives for fishing and fish processing/marketing respectively have been established to utilize fish caught in the dams. Some effort has also gone towards protecting the dam watershed through afforestation and terracing. The activity is picking up, with 18.5 tonnes of fish reported caught between March and July 2020. In the past six months, MMR and ZPCO have conducted identification of two additional reservoirs for the development of reservoir fisheries in Zoba Dehub. The Zoba coordination office paid visits to 9 potential dams and undertook an assessment to determine their suitability to be used for fisheries development, of the nine, two dams Gergera and Drko scored highly and were therefore selected for fisheries development. Meetings were held with WorldFish, who are implementing an IFAD grant on aquaculture, which is expected to provide technical support to FReMP on Inland fisheries.

On **watershed management**, further interventions in the past six months led to a total of 99.1 ha of land put under plantation and terraced with the participation of ZPCO staff, branch of MoA extension staff, local administration officials and the communities inhabited around the identified dams. Of this, 27 ha are in zoba Maekel, 21 in zoba Anseba and 50.1 in zoba Gash Barka. The total number of participants on the watershed management was 1,141 households, of which 469 were women. Two youth fishing groups and two women processing and marketing groups were formed in the two selected dams for utilization of reservoir fisheries. Before formation of these groups, seminars and trainings programs have been conducted. Most of the required equipment and supplies are in different stages of procurement, however 5 refrigerators were distributed to inland processing cooperatives in the selected dams. Some co-operatives have been equipped with basic processing materials by the ZPCOs/CSU. Nutrition awareness campaign was carried out involving about 150 Households, majority of the participants being members of the already formed cooperatives. The content of the campaign mainly emphasized on fish nutrition and dietary importance for health.

Generally, it can be said that FReMP has achieved good results in terms of watershed management activities, both plantation, management and conservation of natural resources, all of which will have a vital role in the sustainability of project benefits. Watershed management activities will enhance resilience of the ecosystem to the impact of climate change and also sequestration of large amounts of greenhouse gases. Furthermore as per the plan, all of the project's 15 reservoirs have already been selected and this was done based on various criteria such as water holding capacity, fish density and diversity, population number etc. However, there are some, but critical, activities that have not yet been achieved and failure to act up on these may adversely affect programme implementation. The most important activities yet to be achieved are preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRA), Dam Management plan and implementation, among others. ToRs have been prepared for recruiting TA to develop reservoir and catchment management plans for each of the eight selected dams and staff training. Furthermore, facilitating the procurement of beehives, mari-culture technology, materials for energy saving cook stoves are some key assignments of the NPCO, which also requires the intervention of the Ministry.

Under Component 2 - Fisheries Enterprises Support Services, activities of mobilization, formation and training for cooperatives were affected by COVID-19; nevertheless some efforts were made towards the establishment of co-operatives for large fishers, including mobilization and awareness creation in which 120 households participated. A number of training events on entrepreneurship were planned for the new co-operatives, but these had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

Whilst noting the efforts made to strengthen the CSU, the mission noted that the CSU was still not autonomous as envisaged at project design. The mission also observed that the revolving fund portfolio data was not readily available to the mission, and would be submitted at a later date. IFAD was also concerned with the overall challenges in the implementation of the revolving fund, with preliminary data suggesting a 20% repayment rate against the asset financing mechanisms. The Government is urged to consider the following: i) developing a business plan for the CSU with clear milestones towards its graduation into an autonomous entity within the lifetime of FReMP, and ii) assessment of the viability/profitability of enterprises supported by CSU in view of the input and output markets price, and consider expanding services to other stakeholders including individuals and groups with different requirements and conditions.

Due to weak private sector participation in the fisheries sector and lack of micro-finance institutions, the programme is built around co-operatives as the main vehicle for organizing fishers and fish traders into functional business units, capacity building and channelling inputs and services to the beneficiaries in the fish value chain. The Mission observed that significant effort has been put towards establishing the co-operatives and provide the basic training; however they are still in the early stages of formation. There is however no legal framework for co-operatives in the country, which presents some risks on the sustainability of the institution as the benefits, rights, responsibilities, sanctions and legal obligations are unclear. There is an opportunity for the project to initiate a dialogue towards developing a dedicated Cooperatives Policy and Legal framework. The CSU and co-operatives need further training and hands-on mentoring to build their managerial and business capacities. Furthermore, explore opportunities for short-term exchange training and linkages with other IFAD projects for the CSU (e.g. a recent exchange visit to IFAD's project in India) and international fisheries organizations. In view of the restructuring, the programme may also open the space for non-co-operative entities to be able to access project's goods and services.

Under Component 3 - Implementation Support Services, as part of capacity building for MMR staff, two international trainings were attended. One was on the fish cold chain and refrigeration training, which was attended by two staffs from Engineering and Technical Support Unit (ETSU) for one month in UAE, Dubai. The second training on project management and Mid-Term Review execution was attended by NPCO in Dubai. In order to avoid interruption of programme coordination, half of the staff members of the NPCO participated in the first phase, while the remaining

members of NPCO were to participate in the second training lot, but has delayed due to travel restrictions from COVID-19.

The programme planned to recruit a number of TAs to conduct programme derived studies and assessments like producing internal proprojectgramme report which would inform the Mid-Term Review, undertaking FReMP Mid-Term Review and Impact Assessment and implementation monitoring and support visits to the FReMP implementing agencies at the head office of MMR and six Zobas. Unfortunately, those activities related to assessments and monitoring visits have been halted due to the pandemic. These activities are urgent in view of the pending MTR, and should be undertaken as soon as the situation allows. Under Knowledge Management, the programme had provision for production of knowledge and communication materials, south-south opportunities for knowledge sharing and exchange visits. In the last six months, the programme has managed to produce six documentary films on post harvest and Marine Resources management. These documents need to be appropriately processed, packaged and disseminated to the target audience (beneficiaries, staff, general public through local media).

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Finalise the formal engagement of FAO or WorldFish as TA for FReMP Finalise the formal engagement of FAO or WorldFish as TA for FReMP	NPCO	09/2020
Prepare business plans Prepare business plans for all infrastructure investments and ensure that all CSU investments are under-pinned by business plans under TA hired - Continuous	NPCO/CSU	10/2020
Finalise the FReMP Restructuring Paper Finalise the FReMP Restructuring Paper and submit to IFAD for No Objection .The plan should indicate all the key assessments that will be done and key milestones until the MTR	NPCO	10/2020
Develop a plan of engagement Develop a plan of engagement with the various technical national partners including NUEW, NUEYS, College of Education, Science and Technology (formerly COMSAT) with scope for formalization of their engagement in the project	MMR/NPCO	12/2020
Undertake Capacity Needs Assessment Undertake Capacity Needs Assessment and prepare a Capacity Development Plan for MMR (including NPCO) which will be considered under the restructuring – this will include capacities for the different areas including procurement, mainstreaming themes, technical expertise etc., and submit to IFAD for No Objection	MMR/NPCO	12/2020

E. Project implementation

a. Development Effectiveness

Effectiveness and Developmental Focus

Effectiveness

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

Following the partial supervision of November 2019, the mission observed some improvement in initiating some procurement activities as well as achievements in components 1 and 3 while component 2 is lagging behind. The mission also commends the programme for achieving most of the agreed actions from the last partial supervision mission. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, delays in implementation have negatively impacted the effective execution of key activities

particularly in relations to component 2 on beneficiaries' mobilizations, trainings and monitoring of activities. The programme is facing challenges in implementation of AWPB and PP as components are below MTR target of the log-frame at three and half years of implementation.

Log-Frame Analysis & Main Issues of Effectiveness

The mission commends the programme for updating the log-frame on regular basis and adding two new key indicators on nutrition. On the outreach indicators, FReMP has reached its MTR target for women receiving services promoted/supported by the project (12'314 against target of 12'000). Under the project goal, commendable efforts are being made in land under improved management practices and mangrove at 274.1 ha and 334.5 ha respectively. Most achievements in this area were registered during 2019 FY. However, FReMP has recorded in the log-frame that during the first half of 2020, 99.1 ha and 138.5 ha have been registered respectively. Thus, despite the great achievements made – the MTR target is unlikely to be met (7000ha and 750ha respectively). The activities in supporting rural producers organizations in inland fisheries (output 1.1) was over target in 2019 while the number of inland fisheries cooperatives surpassed target with 16 cumulative against 12 projected at MTR (output 1.2). Again, the project's achievements in terms of outreach bring into question the assumption of an average family size of 5, the Programme has reached as much as 31% of its targeted number of households.

In overall, the data recorded into the log-frame remain below target or are not yet captured as the 99.1 ha are at pre-MTR stage focusing merely on outputs/inputs. Nevertheless, the annual progress report of 2019 and bi-annual progress report of 2020 show that the programme continues to under-achieved against AWPB targets. The mission considers the impact of the national lockdown in the smooth implementation of the programme but however, recommends the NPCO to review the AWPB and make adjustments to ensure higher implementation and more effectiveness of its intervention by lowering the number of planned activities for higher impact and focus.

The mission agreed on reviewing some of the indicators particularly on nutrition to ensure alignment with the programme goal. The mission also notes that many activities are depending on procurement of goods as a trickle-down effect to the final implementation of specific activities such as construction of fish drying facilities to then mobilize communities and equip them. In doing so, the mission commends the NPCO for prioritizing procurement processes during the ongoing lockdown period.

Development Focus		
Targeting and Outreach	Rating: 3	Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

The rating for targeting and outreach hasn't changed since the last supervision mission and the low rating is due to the start of the pandemic, its systematic negative consequences on the implementation of the programme and chronic institutional reasons. Some incremental progress has been made with regard to supplying equipment; business support services and training that have enabled the target groups to enhance their productivity and market linkages. There has been minimal change in the number of outreach since the last supervision, considering that this is the MTR year, which makes it difficult to analyse the expected outcomes per component. The M&E needs to report on targeting effectiveness apart from reaching the planned targets. The role of the NUEW and NUEYS need further clarification.

Main issues

The beneficiaries live in the intended geographical area and fulfil most of the targeting criteria. Targeting has been done collaboratively with the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) at the village level. The NUEW has a formidable presence at the zoba and sub zoba level and is rich in socio economic data of the households especially women headed households. However the role of these external institutions is not very clear nor is it formalized. This partnership has to be formalized with clear roles and deliverables.

The total number of households reached is 5559 as compared to the 8000 that the project was supposed to reach by the MTR, which was scheduled this year but postponed due to the pandemic. There is no overlap of beneficiaries in the different activities. Nutrition interventions are mainly targeted towards school students and children in the hospitals rather than households.

Fishery Production and Market linkage (Cooperatives)			Ecosystem Management			Improved Nutrition		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total

469	159	628	1946	1731	3677	682	572	1254
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Currently the M&E system does not track the socio-economic characteristics of participants in different project activities (whether they distinctly “very poor”, “medium poor” or “non-poor”) but it is generally felt that the targeting has been focused on the poor and needy and those who express interest in the project activities. The project is monitoring data of women, WHHs, youth (male and female) and men. The women foot fishers have been recognized as very poor households with low asset base and low incomes. However the numbers of beneficiaries (8) identified need to increase as it is estimated that the women foot fishers could comprise up to half of the foot fishers. Whereas, the sub target groups, as described in the PDR are yet to be monitored. Currently the programme M&E system does not use participatory monitoring but includes collection of sex and age-disaggregated data.

Target Group	Male	Female
Youth (age 15 – 40 years)	990	1,048
Women Headed households (WHHs)	-	859
Demobilised soldiers	N/A	N/A
Internally Displaced People (IDPs)	N/A	N/A
Small scale fisheries	213	148
Rural smallholders	1,213	150
Foot Fishers	42	8
Elders	639	249
Total beneficiaries	3,097	2,462

Presently, there is an M&E Office at the NPCO and M&E Officers at the ZPCO levels who are from the Ministry itself and have FReMP as additional responsibilities. The M&E does not report on targeting effectiveness apart from reaching the planned targets. Targeting effectiveness relates directly to the project’s outcomes and impact and the degree to which it achieves the objectives and goals. The M&E team will need to include this into the targeting section of the MIS.

The programme is focused on IFAD’s target groups (poor and food-insecure people) and women and men participate equally in different activities but there is a dominance of men in most of the activities due to cultural reasons especially in the coastal regions. The goods and services identified during design and supposed to be delivered by the project match the priorities and livelihood strategies of the target groups, and of women compared with men. Women are mainly in the traditional low revenue streams of engagement like net mending (data is required to ascertain the profitability of the various enterprises). There is presently no differentiated strategy developed to address barriers that prevent women from participating in project activities. There are no poverty, livelihoods and gender assessments conducted till date to inform the NPCO.

Gender equality & women's participation

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

The rating has not been changed since the last supervision mission. A new GFP has been recruited and has updated the Gender Strategy that was developed in 2018. Data shows that women’s participation in project activities is about 44.3% overall while 24.6% of women are in decision-making position. The strategy will need to include youth and other vulnerable groups, and in its current form needs to elaborate on the “how to” of building the social capital of women and

other vulnerable groups including an action plan. A set of solutions have been proposed which need to be further detailed out and made contextual as there are different barriers to women's participation in the coastal and hinterland regions. The M&E and KM strategies will need to include the link with gender mainstreaming.

Main issues

The project faces issues on increased participation of women in programme activities and the GFP has come up with some strategies, which need more detailing out and a monitoring framework for the same. M&E and KM is a crucial part of gender and social inclusion in the project cycle and will need to be factored into the strategy. Studies will need to include more gender analysis of data to inform management decisions.

In terms of building women's leadership in organizations, there is much potential. The table below shows the percentage of women who are part of the executive body of the mixed sex cooperatives. Not just having a quota, but systematic leadership training and capacity building will need to be accompanied to ensure that women not only are in the executive committees but also actively participating in decision making.

Executive Committee	Male	Female
In Numbers	52	17
In Percentage (%)	75.4	24.6

It is estimated that women make up 50% of beach seining^[1] and are largely placed in the support services in the fisheries sector. Women also contribute to the harvesting of fisheries resources, such as catching small pelagic fish, collecting sea snails, net making and mending, fish processing and marketing but they lack small boats or canoes and have no credit facilities to buy them. WHHs lack household assets, which act as security in times of need, and result in their greater vulnerability and poverty. All these issues will need to be factored into the Gender, Youth and Vulnerable Groups Strategy and action plan. There is no data presently to back up any economic gains made by women and other vulnerable groups who are presently occupied in the different enterprise groups.

It was seen that many of the recipe training, in the nutrition interventions, were attended by men rather than by women who generally are the cooks. There is no monitoring or measurement of knowledge transfer by the men to their respective women in the households. Such indicators can be part of the outcome surveys undertaken by the project. However it will be important to ensure appropriate strategies are undertaken to ensure women attend the activities that are designed for them.

The GFPs for the ZPCOs are not necessarily gender experts, but have some basic understanding of gender and are familiar with community development work. Due to the inability of having technical experts to function as GFPs, it will be imperative that the programme builds, systematically, the capacity of the staff engaged in social inclusion and gender issues. Gender trainings should include gender sensitisation and not just learning tools. Refresher yearly courses can be thought of to systematically build gender awareness among the project staff at all levels.

Women ranked shortages of water, fuel wood and food at the top of the list of problems they face. As part of the small pelagic value chain's investment, FReMP is supposed to look at the construction of fish processing plants that will include water infrastructures, which will also be used for domestic purposes. Planting more fuel wood trees in the coastal and hinterland areas with clear directions on usufruct rights for women and vulnerable households can be thought of. The target group for plantation can be the most vulnerable who live in the area and not just the cooperative members. The NPCO can also look at improved cook stoves to address energy and indoor air pollution. These low cost interventions will fit IFAD's Gender Policy on labour saving devices to ensure women have the time and space to be active participants in the projects. These will be part of the Gender Strategy and will include a budget.

[1] Eritrea: Gender Profile, AfDB, 2009 - No updated Gender Profile since then.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
<p>Enhancement of the Gender, youth and vulnerable groups strategy and action plan</p> <p>Revise the Gender Strategy with IFAD support into a Targeting and Social Inclusion strategy including women, youth, and other vulnerable groups and submit to IFAD for No Objection</p>	NPCO/GFP	12/2020
<p>FREMP to support development of MRRD Gender Mainstreaming Strategy</p> <p>The Ministry endeavours to develop a mainstreaming strategy with IFAD support.</p>	MMR/NPCO	02/2021

Agricultural Productivity

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

This indicator was last rated in May 2019 supervision report. The programme is investing in technologies, tools and skills development to increase the productivity of inland fisheries and marine small pelagic fisheries, both, which currently are under-utilized resources. Some interventions have already started in these areas, mostly towards establishment of co-operatives and training the beneficiaries as well as some value chain equipment and inputs for fish preservation. The programme has had problems in the past to capture and monitor fish production, however, M&E has provided more data particularly for inland fisheries. Estimated inland fisheries production during the period March to July 2020 is 18.5 tonnes, which is a significant increase from the catches reported in May 2019.

Main issues

There is inadequate data for monitoring fisheries production and productivity from inland and marine resources, particularly the marine small pelagic production are not reported. There should be a consistent method for capturing and reporting on fisheries production in both inland and marine fisheries. It will be key for the project's success that all activities are driven by rigorous ex-ante assessment of productivity outcomes, including financial outcomes, to ensure scalability and sustainability of its achievements. The programme should put more effort to build the M&E capacity at zoba level and put the systems in place to capture this information by providing training and tools at zoba level for consistent monitoring of fish production from inland and marine fisheries.

Nutrition

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

Progress on implementation of nutrition related actions were affected by the COVID-19 measures. The mission reviewed the overall approach of mainstreaming nutrition and notes that good progress has been achieved especially in activities related to nutrition awareness and social behaviour change campaigns intended to promote fish consumption. To ensure quality of implementation and a strategic approach to mainstreaming nutrition, FReMP could benefit from a comprehensive nutrition action plan articulating the nutrition sensitive approach and its integration with other themes, including capacity to implement and coordinate. A well-designed technical nutrition survey should be conducted to include assessment of nutrition KAP and minimum dietary diversity for women and inform an SBCC strategy.

Main issues

Nutrition mainstreaming strategy: FReMP mainstreaming nutrition approach was designed to integrate all mainstreaming themes. The programme intends to use several nutrition sensitive impact pathways to achieve dietary diversity. Implementation of interventions requires partnerships with other stakeholders at national and Zoba level with technical coordination by the MMR nutrition division. The main partners on nutrition mainstreaming are the Ministry of agriculture, health, NUEW, NUEYS, UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF), WorldFish. While MMR is clear on its strategic strength in promoting fish availability, accessibility and consumption, the Ministry needs assistance and capacity on how to ensure a coordinated approach to attain the outcome of dietary diversity. To ensure a comprehensive approach to nutrition mainstreaming, the mission proposes the development of a nutrition action plan to help articulate different aspects and entry points of nutrition mainstreaming and integration with other themes, define intended results for project interventions and target beneficiaries, roles and responsibilities at implementation. To coordinate all these aspects a nutrition focal point at NPCO for nutrition will be a requirement.

Nutrition metrics: FReMP has a number of nutrition indicators at the goal, outcome and output level. The goal indicator is the reduction of prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children under five. The mission recommends removing this indicator since stunting prevalence has multiple determinants ranging from food insecurity, care practices and

environmental health, which is beyond FREMP's scope. This requires bringing together the actions of multiple partners and is outside the scope of FREMP. Instead, the project can adopt the nutrition outcome indicator on the percentage of women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW), already incorporated into the log-frame. The mission recommends modifying the outcome indicator on "increased fish consumption and dietary diversity" to avoid duplication since dietary diversity will be covered by the MDDW. As the project is maintaining a record of all nutrition activities, data on the nutrition output indicator (HHs with targeted support to improve their nutrition), should be updated, from 2017 to-date, in the log-frame.

Nutrition indicators & survey: FReMP, through MMR extension staff has undertaken an income and nutrition survey, which is a very good initiative. However the design of the survey is not technically sound and may not be conclusive for some of the indicators. The mission proposes to commission the next survey to a consultant or a firm so that it can provide valid and reliable data to inform both project implementation, baseline and policy decisions. The survey should include a KAP study and status of outcome indicator on minimum dietary diversity of women as no baseline data was collected for this indicator. It will also provide data on the number of HH including fish in their diets.

Nutrition education and Social Behaviour Change strategy: The programme has made great progress in nutrition education and social behaviour change communication, the approach has mainly focused towards increasing consumption of fish as per MMR's mandate and doesn't address other determinants of dietary diversity and quality of diets key to improve the nutrition of the vulnerable groups. Behaviour change is complex and will need multiple targeted messages and use of multiple channels that also utilise the programme delivery mechanisms. The mission recommends the programme to prepare a comprehensive SBCC strategy, to guide relevant interventions (awareness campaigns, recipe development, Household methodologies etc), and recommend the most effective delivery methods by targeted behaviour.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Capture and report on the nutritional outcomes	NPCO	01/2020
Undertake Household Food Survey on nutrition on FReMP Target Areas.	NPCO	08/2020
Develop TORs and identify a project nutrition focal point in the PCO Develop TORs and identify a project nutrition focal point in the PCO	NPCO/IFAD	10/2020
Prepare a nutrition strategy and action plan and submit to IFAD for No Objection Prepare a nutrition strategy and action plan and submit to IFAD for No Objection	NPCO	01/2021
Conduct planned nutrition survey Conduct the planned nutrition survey, through a consultancy, to assess minimum dietary diversity of women, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices that hinder fish consumption and quality of diets of households and the most vulnerable groups, covering both inland and coastal zobas. TORs to be reviewed by the IFAD.	NPCO/IFAD	01/2021
Technical assistance for Nutrition Technical assistance (3 months) to help the project to define its nutrition strategy and action plan. This strategy and action plan will cover nutrition-targeting, project nutrition sensitive interventions across the project components, implementing arrangements partners, roles and responsibilities and relevant indicators and targets. The consultant will also conduct a capacity assessment of the MMR nutrition division and recommend relevant capacity development actions. IFAD to provide inputs to the TORs.	NPCO/IFAD	02/2021
Recruit a consultant Develop a TOR and recruit a consultant to undertake a Nutrition Education and Social Behaviour Change Communication strategy, building on the KAP survey.	NPCO/IFAD	02/2021
Provide inputs into the logframe of annual progress for the nutrition output indicator Provide inputs into the logframe of annual progress for the nutrition output indicator	NPCO	12/2021

Adaptation to Climate Change

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The intensive watershed management activities including plantation of mangroves and other seedlings added with the conservation of natural resources in the project area will obviously enhance resilience of the ecosystem to the impact of climate change and will contribute to climate mitigation through the sequestration of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Furthermore, livelihood diversification of beneficiary households through job creation, enhancement of fish production and irrigation from the dams will obviously enhance adaptation of the community to the adverse impact of climate change. Furthermore, prototyping of energy saving cook stoves and carbonizing and briquetting innovations, solar fish drying facilities will contribute to the tackling of climate change effects.

Main issues

The ToRs to recruit consultants to prepare basic Climate Risk Assessment is finalized but a consultant has not yet been

The TORs to recruit consultants to prepare basic Climate Risk Assessment is finalized but a consultant has not yet been recruited due to the lockdown. However, the report should have been prepared and mainstreamed with the project design and implementations. Therefore, the recruitment shall be facilitated and the basic CRA report prepared. The consultant should adequately involve all respective organizations that have a stake such as the MoA and MoLWE. To this end, the NPCO should make the necessary documents/information such as climate scenarios and its impact on various sectors such as Fishery, Water, and Agriculture available to the consultant.

The procurement of input materials for the preparation of cook stoves should be facilitated and a plan for the promotion and scale up need to be prepared.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Climate risk analysis and vulnerability assessment in both inland and marine fisheries: A ToR will be developed by the programme and shared with IFAD by 31/12/2018 for review, after which the programme will recruit a national consultant to undertake the work and produce a report	NPCO, IFAD	03/2019
Learning exchange visit: Organize learning visit for the programme staff to visit successful climate smart aquaculture and marine fisheries interventions within IFAD's fisheries projects portfolio for learning and possible technology transfer	NPCO, IFAD	03/2019
Climate Risk Assessment Finalise the TOR for the climate risk analysis	NPCO	05/2019
Climate Risk Assessment Provide a consultant	IFAD	06/2019
Climate Risk Assessment Include recommendations in 2020 AWPB	NPCO	10/2019
Climate Risk Assessment Incorporate comments provided by IFAD to TOR to recruit TA to undertake the climate risk assessment.	NPCO	12/2019
Finalize piloting of energy efficient cooking stove and plan for promotion and scale up Finalize piloting of energy efficient cooking stove and plan for promotion and scale up	NPCO	12/2020
Finalize Climate Risk Analysis and integrate into the AWPB and monitoring system Finalize Climate Risk Analysis and integrate into the AWPB and monitoring system	NPCO	12/2020

b. Sustainability and Scaling up

Institutions and Policy Engagement

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The scaling up strategy under FReMP was seen in two perspectives. First, it is scaling-up some of the tested and proven approaches from its predecessor project, FDP. Among these is the CSU model, scaled up from the smaller asset-

financing unit piloted under the FDP. The CSU has taken time to structure, but is now picking up as a pivotal agency for managing the input supply system and building capacity of co-operatives under FReMP. Secondly, FReMP is piloting certain new technologies and practices, including mariculture and aquaculture in selected dams, to generate knowledge, lessons and after evaluation will be replicated on a larger scale to the remaining water reservoirs across the country. These interventions are ongoing and the programme's scaling-up approach and potential remain viable

Main issues

The CSU has been structured anew with personnel who were not involved in the asset financing model of the previous project, hence some of the experience and capacities developed in the previous project were lost during the transition to FReMP. CSU therefore needs capacity building to understand its important role under the programme. FReMP should begin documenting the lessons, knowledge and results from the pilot mariculture and inland aquaculture activities, which will inform the scaling up intentions.

Partnership-building	Rating: 4	Previous rating: 4
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Justification of rating

The programme has partners at different levels for resource mobilization, capacity development and project implementation. At the international level, the key partner is the German Government providing significant co-financing to FReMP budget. FAO also implemented a TCP geared at building capacity of MMR for the management of marine small pelagic fisheries. WorldFish is coming in to support FReMP with the expertise, technologies and training to develop the knowledge capacities, especially for sustainable utilization of inland fisheries. Locally, the key partners are the zoba administrations, NUEW and the NUEYS and COMSAT. The programme also works with other Government Ministries (e.g. MoLWE) to achieve some of its activities.

Main issues

While the project continues to pursue GEF co-financing, this has not been achieved so far. MMR has taken steps with the support of IFAD liaison in country to re-engage the GEF focal office at MoLWE and was agreed with the latter to revise the GEF PIF and was sent to IFAD for review, which will then be re-submitted to GEF focal office for consideration and endorsement of the allocation to FReMP. MMR should formalize the partnership with FAO through TA and identify areas where the programme can benefit from WorldFish support, especially in research activities, development of fisheries management plans, training and technology development. The local institutional partners have so far not been actively engaged and effort should be made to enhance their participation in programme activities.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
<p>Develop a plan of engagement</p> <p>Develop a plan of engagement with the various technical national partners including NUEW, NUEYS, College of Education, Science and Technology (formerly COMSAT) with scope for formalization of their engagement in the programme</p>	MMR/NPCO	12/2020

Human and Social Capital and Empowerment	Rating: 4	Previous rating: 4
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Justification of rating

The mission was not able to assess this and relied on the report of May 2019. The programme has made good progress in building the capacities and social capital of the rural women and men through encouraging active beneficiary participation in programme activities, formation of groups and cooperatives, training provision and enhancement of entrepreneurship. There is need to ensure that fishing groups and cooperatives develop sound business and management plans to guide their activities and market interventions, and that adequate follow up is made after training to assess progress.

Main issues

Beneficiary participation has been impressive in programme activities so far. There is strong support for the project at all levels of government and as such, the Zobas and Kebabis easily rally communities around provision of labour and time for project activities such as mangroves conservation, planting of halophytes, and building terraces. Women, men, youth and dismembered soldiers and internally displaced persons are the main target beneficiaries in the project. Beneficiaries are receiving training on various aspects including formation of groups and cooperatives, net making and mending, fishing, enterprise development, fish processing, fish handling and preservation, and personal hygiene among others.

Progressively, the cooperatives and groups are starting to show interest in developing businesses and engaging in

income generation activities. For instance groups conserving mangroves benefit from training on net making, ornament making, and processing of sea cucumber etc. to strengthen entrepreneurial capacities, guidelines on establishment of fish shops and distribution centres have been developed.

Within MMR and its implementing agencies, capacity building opportunities have been provided for staff in various topics including, inland aquaculture and mariculture, GIS, remote sensing, fish inspection and quality control, extension methodology, nutrition, community mobilisation and awareness creation, laboratory techniques, computer applications among others.

To strengthen the entrepreneurial capacities of fishing groups and cooperatives, there is need to develop business plans that incorporate an analysis of market opportunities and propose a clear marketing strategy or plan, and to train the groups on the actualisation of these plans, with defined linkages and agreements with buyers. Furthermore, trained groups require regular follow up to assess progress in execution of their activities.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Facilitate linkages with buyers and the development of business plans for dam fishing groups	NPCO, Zobas	10/2019
Undertake business plan training for dam fishing groups	NPCO, Zobas	12/2019
Deliver procured equipment to the dam fishing groups	NPCO, Zobas	02/2020

Quality of Project Target Group Engagement and Feedback

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

This indicator has not been assessed. The rating and write up remains the same from the previous mission. The mission interacted with the project beneficiaries and noted that they had been involved reasonably right from the point of activity planning feeding in to the development of the AWPB. It was also observed that they were present and active at the various levels of activity implementation using the Zoba administrative structures. Community groups and cooperatives were already at various levels of mobilisation and formation and several of them were being prepared for capacity building and equipping.

Main issues

While communities had taken up the responsibilities of participating in mangrove restoration and conservation through groups, and equally so in undertaking work around the dam catchment sites, the mission identified the need of enhancing their capacities in the following:

Organisation and management: There is scope to enhance community participation in business planning for each activity rolled out by the project to enable them get a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities particularly in managing the public good interventions. While it is important to appreciate that utilisation of resources like fish and water in dams is good for all, there is need to be organised in a way that the community can step in to restore, rehabilitate and or replenish fish stock in the absence of project /government led initiatives. This will enhance the programme's ownership and sustainability.

Record keeping: To be able to move from subsistence to market led level of doing business, it will be important that the groups are equipped with requisite record and financial management skills. This can be imparted onsite by the Zoba extension officers.

The team is encouraged to establish **feedback loops** to enable beneficiaries assess and guide the support they obtain from the programme, and to enable the team to further customize its support to the demands of its target groups.

Responsiveness of Service Providers

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

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Environment and Natural Resource Management

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The project has, so far, managed watershed management in 334 ha (mangrove) in coastal area and 247 ha in the inland. In 2020 FY, plantations of 88.5 ha in the coastal areas, conservation of 99.1ha around the reservoirs and excavation of 9100 holes have been managed. Identification and community mobilization for the remaining seven reservoirs have also been completed. Plantation of 450 halophytes, innovations on carbonization and briquetting and energy saving cook stoves, training of beneficiaries, collaboration among various actors such as extension workers, ZPCOs, local administration and communities are among the good achievements and yet requires extra effort to perform the remaining activities. ToR for the recruitment of TA is finalized but on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Main issues

Watershed Management: Plantation and management of mangroves and other seedlings have paramount contribution to achieving the overall goal of FReMP particularly in terms of sustainability of the project. To this end considerable work has been achieved. It's believed that the team, including all other actors, have developed a good experience in this area and that further investment in terms of finance, time and manpower to enhance the watershed management activities will further maximize the benefits. Given the movement restrictions and urgency of the dam management plans, the NPCO can explore a means to prepare the plans with own force with some backstopping from IFAD. Piloting of mariculture has not been done because of lack of suppliers as well as COVID-induced restrictions. The procurement of 80-90 beehives is in progress. Community mobilizations have not been backed with training and materials by the NPCO.

Payment for Ecosystem Service: This is a practice where the beneficiaries of dams (such as Fish, Irrigation, and water) pay to the upper stream communities engaged in the watershed management activities. Given FReMP may pay for the work done on watershed management activities in its lifetime, PES could be one mechanism to ensure sustainable management of the ecosystem and livelihood of the communities. Therefore, guidelines on the operationalization of PES need to be prepared by NPCO, through the proper participation of all actors.

Nursery Establishment: The project has managed to establish a nursery in Assab and identify site in Foro (NRS). Establishment of Nurseries at project sites will enhance access to seedlings, reduce transport cost and time and create jobs for the jobless. Therefore, Nurseries at sites where intensive watershed management activities are planned should be established/strengthened and equipped with the necessary materials. This will also enable to prepare different varieties of seedlings to diversify plantation.

Collaboration: Watershed management activities demand synergy among various stakeholders such as Ministry of Marine Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Land, water and Environment and their dawn structure at zoba/ subzoba level and national and local administrations in the selection and management of mangrove and seedlings, conservation of natural resources, site identification, and capacity development. Therefore, this synergy needs to be established/strengthened to ensure sustainable management of watersheds.

Climate and Environment Expert: Mainstreaming theme offices are established at NPCO and ZPCO level and taking the broadness of the mainstreaming themes, it's strongly advised that climate and environment expert be assigned to oversee the preparation and implementation of ESMP and CRA, watershed management activities, Dam management plan and for bilateral communications with IFAD.

Outcomes Measurement: Watershed management activities are reported in terms of hectare of land covered/managed. Here, there are some trials to use GIS application. However, there have been gaps in reporting the number of seedlings/mangrove survived including environmental benefits and socio-economic improvements of beneficiaries. Therefore, reporting mechanism should be strengthened to include outcomes of the interventions such as reduction in siltation, water quality improvement of dams, improvements in socio-economic status of the beneficiaries. The use of GIS and Remote Sensing applications to measure outcomes are also believed to provide an up to date and reliable information/data and thus the NPCO, including the MMR and ZPCO need to equip themselves with these applications.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Capacity of community based groups Ensure that community based groups such as mangrove conservation groups have adequate capacity, structures and mechanisms as well as incentives to enhance sustainable utilisation and conservation of resources and to promote equitable benefit sharing.	NPCO, Zobas, MMR	12/2018
post-harvest fish losses and waste Explore feasible mechanisms and invest in management and processing of post-harvest fish losses and waste e.g. production of animal feeds.	NPCO, MMR	01/2019
Develop and integrate aquaculture development guidelines within the MoA dams' user manual	MoA, MMR, Zobas	03/2019
prototype stove Develop and test the prototype stove in selected communities and develop a more cost-effective prototype that can be rolled out at scale.	NPCO	10/2019
The project should scale up the tested stove to the project communities.	NPCO	05/2020

Exit Strategy

Rating:

Potential for Scaling-up

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The scaling up strategy under FReMP was seen in two perspectives. First, it is scaling-up some of the tested and proven approaches from its predecessor project, FDP. Among these is the CSU model, scaled up from the smaller asset-financing unit piloted under the FDP. The CSU has taken time to structure, but is now picking up as a pivotal agency for managing the input supply system and building capacity of co-operatives under FReMP. Secondly, FReMP is piloting certain new technologies and practices, including mariculture and aquaculture in a few dams, to generate knowledge and lessons, and after evaluation, will be replicated on a larger scale to the remaining water reservoirs across the country. These interventions are ongoing, and the project's scaling-up approach and potential remain viable.

Main issues

The CSU has been structured anew with personnel who were not involved in the asset financing model of the previous project, hence some of the experience and capacities developed in the previous project were lost during the transition to FReMP. CSU therefore needs capacity building to understand its important role under the project. The project should begin documenting the lessons, knowledge and results from the pilot mariculture and inland aquaculture activities, which will inform the scaling up intentions.

c. Project Management

Quality of Project Management

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

IFAD welcomes the establishment of the PCCO, which is now providing guidance and oversight to FReMP. IFAD commends the NPCO for establishing the mainstreaming themes unit, which will need to be well resourced with experts to be effective. IFAD took note of the impact COVID-19 impact on the implementation of FReMP, and the business continuity strategy focused on desk review. NPCO is also commended for preparing the procurement manual for the project, which is currently under review. IFAD acknowledges ongoing discussions to engage World Fish/FAO as a technical partner, to accelerate the overall implementation of FReMP. The mission acknowledges the plans to restructure the project, which demonstrates proactive leadership, and will address implementation challenges. The restructuring proposal needs to be based on evidence, with a clear rationale and traceable benefits for the target group.

Main issues

As provided for in the Financing Agreement (FA), the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) is supposed to meet at least twice a year, and the Programme Technical Committee (PTC), is expected to meet quarterly. This is critical for unlocking implementation bottlenecks as well as providing oversight and guidance to the NPCO and approval of AWPB. While it was appreciated that a PSC had been formed and had already met, IFAD would like to urge the Government to share the minutes of PSC with IFAD. Furthermore, the mission observed that the project has no technical committee as the committee is yet to be formed. IFAD also noted that the Government was reflecting on the composition of the PTC, given the unique arrangements where the members of the PTC (DGs of Departments), are also responsible for the implementation of the project. IFAD looks forward to receiving the new composition of the PTC.

The mission acknowledges the plans to strengthen Internet facilities at MMR, as well as the finalisation of the procurement of the integrated software for financial management. IFAD would however like to urge the NPCO to expeditiously engage the expert so that the installation of the software can be undertaken remotely or through virtual means.

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 situation, IFAD like to urge the NPCO to develop innovative strategies to continue implementation of some aspects of the project that are not impacted by the lock-down. For example, TAs and studies can still be undertaken through twinning arrangements between international and national experts. IFAD has availed the office facilities in FAO to facilitate connectivity. The NPCO will also need to develop guidelines for the implementation of the project under COVID-19 conditions, which will ensure business continuity.

The mission also noted that capacity challenges still exist especially in the area of developing technical specifications and the overall technical execution of the project. While the mission was informed that 2 experts were support MMR, IFAD would like to strongly urge the Ministry to formalise the engagement of technical leads to drive the technical execution of project, including as component leads, and also to ensure full compliance with IFAD's mainstreaming themes and SECAP consideration.

NPCO is also urged to formally engage the implementing partners envisaged in the design i.e. NUEW, NUEYS, COMSAT and to present to IFAD a concrete plan on how these entities will be formally engaged in the project.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Revise the 2020 AWPB Revise the 2020 AWPB to realistic level, including the budget for the COVID-19 response plan in respect of goods and grants	M&E/Finance Controller/Project Coordinator	09/2020
Formalise the engagement of Technical Leads Formalise the engagement of Technical Leads (or TA) - by component and on the mainstreaming themes - to expedite procurement processes and overall implementation	MMR/NPCO	09/2020
Prepare a COVID-19 Contingency Plan Prepare a COVID-19 Contingency Plan to facilitate business continuity under COVID-19 conditions and share with IFAD for No Objection	NPCO	09/2020
Share with IFAD the new composition of the PTC Share with IFAD the new composition of the PTC	NPCO	09/2020
Transmit the minutes of the PSC to IFAD Transmit the minutes of the PSC to IFAD	NPCO	11/2020

Knowledge Management

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The programme has included KM related activities in all three components of the project targeting all levels of actors involved – NPCO, implementing agencies, beneficiaries- through various interventions incorporated into the 2019 and 2020 AWPBs. Despite the challenges under COVID-19 global pandemic, FReMP has initiated several knowledge-based activities workshops with beneficiaries during Q1 in addition to undertaking the first exchange visit to IFAD-invested project in India in December/January 2019-2020. The mission commends the NPCO for providing a progress report of KM against the existing KM and Communication Strategy of the project.

Main issues

The KM strategy continues to be used as guidance to the NPCO in planning knowledge activities and the mission commends the team for regularly elaborating it and incorporating a communication plan. The NPCO has also now a clear M&E and KM Office at National and Zoba level. A progress report on KM has been prepared and submitted as a prior-review request to this partial supervision mission. KM activities are clearly articulated and budgeted into the AWPB.

As per the 2020 bi-annual progress report, the mission observes the positive achievements in knowledge raising/know-how workshops organized to youth and women groups particularly on fisheries enterprises in addition to mangrove plantation and preservation as well as watershed management. The M&E and KM office consolidated a comprehensive report including images as supporting evidence.

The programme team organized knowledge reflection meetings of all implementing partners on a quarterly basis and reported the findings to the management of the programme and the Minister's office. Although the programme conducts regular reviews of implementation, drawing on M&E data and documenting the lessons learned are areas for improvement, as it will support the management to make the necessary adjustments to improve performance. As implementation/disbursement rate of FReMP remains low in its fourth year, it is recommended to put higher focus on drawing from M&E data to capture lessons learned, best practices as part of the restructuring process and drawing a roadmap to strive for higher impacts of FReMP.

In other words, most of the focus of KM has been on raising awareness of communities in addition to developing communications products both targeting beneficiaries (recipes books, visibility products) and the general public.

In fact, during the first half of 2020, the programme has also developed 6 documentary films in local language broadcasted on local TV channels in addition to broadcasting shows on radio for awareness rising on fish consumption, marine resources and environment preservation.

Going forward and as agreed during the previous mission in November 2019, the mission recommends the programme to develop a roadmap to identify implementation bottlenecks and analyse lessons learned through vigorous reflection meetings and assessment of activities per components to be undertaken to all channels involved in FReMP. The mission also recommends the NPCO to undertake a staff capacity needs assessment of the NPCO, ZPCOs, implementing agencies and the CSU. The programme shall also develop a nutrition communication plan after completion of the KAP survey. The mission would also request the M&E/KM office to provide content and reports of knowledge reflection meetings.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Put in place a quarterly reflection meeting with ZPCOs and NPCOs after data collection	M&E	06/2019
concrete proposals for SSTC initiatives Develop, in consultation with IFAD, concrete proposals for SSTC initiatives and exchange visits with other projects supported by IFAD to address key technical challenges, involving programme staff, implementing partners, community members, as well, if relevant, the political leadership	NPCO	07/2019
Elaborate a basic information management system	M&E, NPCO	10/2019
Fast track the configuration of the already procured ADSL	M&E, NPCO	01/2020
Document evidence based lessons learned prior the 2020 MTR	NPCO/KM Officer	03/2020
Provide IFAD with content and report of KM reflection meetings Provide IFAD with content and report of KM reflection meetings	M&E and KM	10/2020

Value for Money

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

Due to the distortive nature of the COVID-19, which has significantly impacted on implementation of the project, and the unavailability of outcome data, the mission did not assess value for money. This is deferred to the next mission. The

previous rating has thus been retained.

Many of FReMP's planned activities for the year were not implemented. Overall, the pace of activity implementation has been very slow and this is reflected in the Programme's cumulative disbursement rate that is currently at 27.19%. Accordingly, the expected outcomes have not been realized; only a few of the outputs were have been attained. Reported data does not indicate increases in incomes for beneficiaries or increase in productivity mainly due to implementation delays.

Main issues

Overall, FReMP has suffered from delayed implementation of most of its core activities. This negatively impacted its financial execution, hence the low level of attainment of Project outputs/outcomes. It is of particular importance to note that the Institutional Strengthening and Implementation Support (Project management) component has disbursed/spent 39% of its allocation, whereas the two investment components have only disbursed 8% and 7% respectively of their allocations. This points to a Project with a high level of management costs compared to its outputs/outcomes.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Compute cost ratios for all outputs with support by IFAD	M&E	10/2019
Review and assess training proposals with regard to their effectiveness and value for money	M&E	10/2019

Coherence between AWPB and Implementation

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

Overall budget performance at 30 June 2020 was 4.15% of the approved annual budget. The individual components performance is 3.26% for component 1, 0.34% for component 2 and 8.11% for component 3. This low performance has been informed by slow physical progress with most major investments during the year reported at 10% in terms of physical progress. Good physical progress of between 50% and 100% has been registered only under recurrent costs.

AWPB Inputs and Outputs Review and Implementation Progress

The 2020 AWPB was submitted on time and given IFAD No Objection. The budgeted activities are detailed by component, indicating the target physical/quantities against the cost of the activities. The financial aspects indicate a summary of categories in line with the financing agreement under the respective components showing the sources of financing.

The comparison of the 2020 AWPB physical progress with the financial progress reveals a consistency of very low performance in both physical and financial progress. Reported physical progress on major activities is nil just as is with financial progress. The 2020 AWPB allocated USD 3.22 million for component 1, USD 2.26 million for component 2 and USD 2.89 million for component 3. Actual expenditure on component 1 is 3.26% (105,103.24), 0.34% (7,771.70) and 8.11% (234,419.28) for component 3. Physical progress has been good only in a few, low value items with mostly items under recurrent expenditure registering between 50% and 100%. Overall budget performance as at 30th June 2020 was at 4.15% against the annual target. Except for operating costs, most payments are advances on activities not yet completed.

The very low performance has been attributed to the outbreak of COVID - 19 that came with travel restrictions affecting both community level and country level activity implementation including procurement, as well as other capacity gaps.

Performance of M&E System

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The M&E team at NPCO level is well aware of M&E guidelines and procedures and has a coherent method of collecting data and following the excel spreadsheet to track achievements before presenting their report to the management team on a monthly basis. All M&E officers meet quarterly to compile data for the quarterly report and to discuss findings as part of Knowledge Management. It is commendable that implementing agencies and ZPCOs collect data segregated by age, gender, education and region.

M&E System Review

The mission observed dedication and commitment in project management geared towards improvement of project implementation. In line with the previous mission's agreed actions, the project conducted a baseline survey was with the

help of Bureau of Standards and Evaluation in 2018 to capture without project scenario of beneficiaries. However, the study did not properly capture the control group in that it collected data for the control group in the same areas where beneficiary data was captured. Again, the reporting did not segregate the findings into those of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The results for these two groups were all reported as beneficiary results, which implies that beneficiary situations were not properly captured. Additionally, for some variables, such as fish production, the study used secondary data for the whole of Eritrea rather than collecting primary data from the beneficiaries. This also means the baseline production data may not sufficiently represent the without project scenario for the targeted fisher populations.

The project also made commendable progress towards collecting outcome data in that it undertook one outcome study, which aimed at assessing fish earnings and nutritional outcomes. Unfortunately, the study only collected information on expenditure and data on whether or not a household consumed fish and not nutritional outcomes. Other than this study, the project is yet to start collecting data beyond input/output level. Since conducting a survey requires significant travel, the failure of the project to collect such data in 2020 is understandable given the movement restrictions that were implemented since March 2020 due to COVID-19.

The NPCO and IFAD were supposed to engage a consultant to conduct an assessment of the project's achievements in preparation for the MTR, which was due in April 2020 and to inform the project's restructuring plans. This has not been possible due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. M&E personnel were scheduled to undergo a training conducted by PRIME. This too failed to materialize due to COVID-19 and is due to take place in October 2020.

Thus far, delays continue to occur when collecting the data and the programme still depends on paper-based data reporting. Data quality issues add further delays in capturing progress and performance data of the programme. It is recommended to systematically analyze the outcomes and outputs of the project according to the AWPB 2019 by capturing data on a quarterly basis according to the log-frame and to put in place a mechanism of systematic review of the effectiveness of the above-mentioned training.

Going forward, the M&E officers will consolidate the data, analyze it and provide evaluation of the findings. It is recommended to explore ways to have systematic (quarterly) access to data and share with IFAD and to procure software, which combines both financial and M&E modules.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
CSU Loan Portfolio Report CSU Loan Portfolio Report on performance of asset financing revolving fund. Number of loans, enterprises, repayment, gender in loans to be shared with IFAD IFAD to provide samples of loan portfolio report	M&E/CSU	10/2020
Report on the production of small and large pelagic fish. Report on the production of small and large pelagic fish. Catch and effort by species by landing site from entire fishery and by FReMP target groups to be shared with IFAD	NPCO/MMR	11/2020

Requirements of Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)

Rating:

SECAP Review

ESMP and CRA preparation

ESMP and CRA, being proactive tools that should have been prepared prior to the commencement of any project work, and are yet to be prepared and implemented. The main objective of an ESMP is to maximize benefits of the projects through the enhancement mechanisms and also mitigate, if not avoid, adverse negative impacts caused by the project. The aim of the CRA is to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation benefits into the project planning, design and implementation. Therefore, the preparation and implementation of ESMP and CRA are of high urgency. Given the discussion with World Fish, the programme could explore a mechanism to facilitate the recruitment of consultants, including twinning local consultants with international consultant to backstop the NPCO or the MMR remotely. MMR is also encourage to assign a senior environmentalist that can follow up on these assignments.

Dam selection and safety

Given agricultural production is practiced in the upper areas in most of the dams, application of agro-chemicals is inevitable and this in turn may cause pollution of the dams that can also lead to the morbidity and mortality of fish

communities. Therefore, Water quality analysis of all the dams should be done prior to further investments and a plan for frequent monitoring of the dams are needed. Furthermore, strengthening watershed management activities in the upper streams and most importantly, preparation and implementation of dam management plan will reduce dam siltation and pollution enhance dam safety and productivity of fishes. Increasing demand of Water for irrigation, crop, and fish production may induce huge abstraction of water from the dams and this may, in turn, affect project sustainability and lead to water use conflict among users. Therefore, a mechanism for water use efficiency needs to be in place. To this effect, although this can be part of the dam management plan, the NPCO, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should prepare a tool/guideline/manual etc on water use plan. Furthermore, some of the selected dams are 40-60 years old and a comprehensive analysis of historic background of the dams such as type and frequency of maintenance so far, siltation and pollution status, watershed management activities are needed in order to ensure that further investment in the dams are feasible and sustainable. This can be done in consultation with ZPCO, zoba level agricultures and water bureaus.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Develop an Environment and Social Management Plan and its Monitoring Plan Share ToRs with IFAD for review and comments by 31/12/2018	NPCO, MoLWE, Zoba	02/2019
Develop ToR and undertake an impact assessment of the GEF funding target areas in collaboration with MoLWE	NPCO/WoLWE	07/2019
development of the ESMP Finalise the development of the ESMP and its monitoring plan and ensure key indicators are included in the operational monitoring. The activity should be captured in the AWPB and Procurement Plan.	NPCO	10/2019
IFAD to provide comments on the draft ESMP report and NPCO to finalize the plan	IFAD	12/2019

d. Financial Management & Execution

Acceptable Disbursement Rate

Rating: 4.0

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

Automated rating over-ridden due to COVID restrictions

Main issues

The project is in its 4th year of implementation and its disbursement rate is 27.19%. There has been no extension. The German Supplementary grant has disbursed only the authorised allocation. As at 30 June 2020, the IFAD grant was SDR 2.92 million disbursed, including authorised allocation of SDR 1.83 million representing 27.19% of SDR 10.75 million allocated.

Whereas the turnover of withdrawal applications has been slow, there is no liquidity problem as activity implementation has also been slow. The IFAD grant WA was under preparation and is expected to be submitted soon. There last withdrawal application on the German Supplementary grant was the authorised allocation disbursed on 31st July, 2019 of EUR 1.62 million (USD 1.80 million) representing 17.98% of the EUR 9.0 million allocated. This makes disbursement on the account inactive and monitoring of eligibility of expenditure cumbersome. In the remaining quarter to end of year, it will be important to concentrate the disbursement effort on the German Supplementary grant.

Reallocation of funds. During the year, management requested IFAD for approval of USD 160,000 to support FReMP respond to COVID – 19 impact on its beneficiaries. This amount was approved with USD 40,000 allocated to cash transfers and USD 120,000 for purchase of ice for the distribution to beneficiaries. Arising out of this, two previously non existing categories under the IFAD grant; Good and Grants were created and funds allocated to them from unallocated category. To ensure proper use and eligibility of these funds, the current AWPB will be revised with the agreed activities under the two categories on the IFAD grant and a PIM revised (an annex completed) to guide implementation of agreed activities. The expenditure in respect of these activities will be subjected to audit as a specific additional requirement during the audit of the 2020 fiscal year.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Internet capacity to be strengthened at ZPCO	ZPCOs	06/2019
Internet capacity to be strengthened at NPCO to enable adoption of IFAD's Client Portal (ICP) and other improvements	NPCO	06/2019
Submit withdrawal applications in respect of German grant	Financial Controller	09/2020

Fiduciary aspects

Quality of Financial Management

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

The accounting system used by the project does not meet IFAD reporting requirements and does not facilitate production of real time financial information for decision making. The accounting software procured to improve the project's FM performance is not yet in use, due to COVID restrictions. The financial management staff at the PCO and ZPCOs is complete except for an accounts assistant agreed in the previous missions that has not been recruited. Interim financial reporting is being done but the latest report to 30th June, 2020 was not complete. Internal audit arrangements exist although the internal audit exercise for the year 2019 has not been completed.

Main issues

Accounting system. The limitations in capabilities of Laccie accounting software to facilitate multi-currency reporting, and auto consolidation of financial data and report generation compelled the project to procure a more versatile accounting software, TOMPRO that is capable of meeting IFAD reporting requirements and generate financial reports on real time. Owing to COVID 19 travel restrictions however, the related contract and delivery could not be done. During the mission, project management was implored to explore possibility of online installation and support from the service provider, with a view of fast tracking implementation of the required improvements. There are challenges related to internet connectivity, but this is worth exploring given that it is unknown when travel restrictions will be lifted, should the vendor have the capacity to do so.

Interim financial reports. The project submitted an Interim Financial Report (IFR) for the period to 30th June 2020, the first time to submit the same since project inception. Improvement in the quality of IFR will be required in the presentation including indicating a correct reporting period, presentation of a semi-annual cash forecast, including designated account reconciliations for the two grants and disclosing the cumulative financial information to make the report more informative and guide decision making.

AWPB. Budget performance for the current fiscal year was at 4% as at 30th June, 2020 having spent USD 0.35 million of the USD 8.54 million approved. Low performance in 2020 is partially attributed to outbreak of COVID – 19. As there is no known date when COVID 19 restrictions will ease, it is important to rethink the project delivery mechanisms for budget performance to improve.

Internal controls. Project management reported that internal audit for the year 2019 is underway. The 2019 audit is still relevant as its completion will guide future audits, provide assurance on internal control systems and facilitate improvement of internal controls. Controls will also be documented to cover cash transfers (grants) and ice distribution (goods) that were previously not included in the project design.

Revision of the PIM. Arising out of IFAD second level restructuring in response to GoE request for financing of COVID - 19 response plan, new activities and categories; cash transfers (grants) and distribution of ice (goods) to beneficiaries were introduced. Implementation modalities including selection criteria, distribution, and accounting/support documents required among others were not included in the PDR and are not covered by the PIM. A revision of the PIM is required to guide implementation of the same.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Internal Audit Request the MMR Internal Audit department to include FReMP in their annual rolling internal audit plans.	Fin Controller & Coordinator	10/2018
Accounting System Procure and install a fully tested accounting software which is successfully being used by other IFAD funded programmes 26/11/19. In progress; procurement process completed, contract under preparation	NPCO	05/2019
Additional accounts assistant to be hired Additional accounts assistant to be hired to support the finance unit and ensure appropriate segregation of duties 26/11/19 update: in progress	NPCO	06/2019
Improved supporting documentation Invoices to be stamped 'paid', systematic evidence of voucher approvals (signatures), evidence of adequate documentation of staff travel and beneficiary training expenditure 26/11/19 update: FC reported that recommendations are implemented, on site confirmation by next supervision	NPCO finance unit	08/2019
Facilitate implementation of ICP: strengthened internet at NPCO; ICP pre-assessment (official emails for approvers) The NPCO has moved to College of Marine and presently has no internet, however the situation is expected to be remedied in the coming weeks. Connectivity testing for ICP to be done	NPCO, IFAD	12/2019
Submit the revised PIM to IFAD for review and No Objection	Project Coordinator	09/2020
Revise the 2020 AWPB to realistic level, including the budget for the COVID – 19 response plan in respect of goods and grants	Programme Coordinator and Finance Manager	09/2020
Complete and share with IFAD and internal audit report for the year 2019	Financial Controller	10/2020
Accounting system: fast track procurement and installation of TOMPRO accounting software to facilitate improvement in project accounting	Financial Controller	12/2020
Interim Financial Report: Improve the quality of the IFR by completing all fields provided for in the template	Financial Controller	04/2021

Quality and Timeliness of Audit

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

Audit report received timely, meeting IFAD's basic requirements, however the quality of the audit work could be improved

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
<p>To ease consolidation at head office level there should be uniform chart of accounts.</p> <p>No uniform chart of accounts are used at head office and Zobas.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019
<p>As disaster recovery procedure, backups have to be kept outside the premises of the relevant project office.</p> <p>Daily transaction backups are kept in the office premises of the organization.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019
<p>Accuracy of categories of expenditure on returns from Zobas must be checked thoroughly at head office. Furthermore, the categories of expenditure in the withdrawal application form must be in line with those in the returns.</p> <p>Neither are expenditure categories from Zobas thoroughly checked nor are they compared with those in the withdrawal application form.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019
<p>Procurement reports have to be prepared at frequent intervals comparing of the approved procurement plan and any delay should be reported incorporating action to be taken to resolve it.</p> <p>Procurement reports are not prepared as required by the laid down procurement plan.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019

Counterparts Funds

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 5

Justification of rating

The Government of Eritrea has cumulatively contributed equivalents USD 598,515.80 since project inception representing 42% of the target USD 1,417,000 counterpart allocation at design.

Main issues

The 2020 AWPB provided for equivalents of USD 270,000 GoE contribution. As at 30 June, 2020, equivalents of USD 40,000 had been contributed representing 14% of the annual target. Cumulative contribution amount to USD 598,515.80 representing 42% of the design target. This includes in-kind contribution in the form staff time, tax waivers, among others previously not being quantified that is now being addressed. In-kind contribution shall be continuously quantified, reported and subjected to audit on an annual basis. Cumulative beneficiary contributions were estimated at equivalents of USD 117,000 of the appraisal target of USD 1,351,000 representing 8.6%.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
<p>Beneficiaries contribution</p> <p>The PCO to establish a proper and consistent system for capturing and reporting in kind beneficiary contribution. Ensure that the system is consistently applied at PCO and ZPCO level.</p>	NPCO and ZPCOs	12/2018
<p>The audit report to disclose the procedures used by NPCO for reporting of domestic contribution, including in-kind contribution. The notes to the FS shall also disclose the breakdown of Counterpart Fund (i.e. time-salaries).</p> <p>Counterpart Funds</p>	Auditor	06/2019
<p>Include in audit Terms of reference verification of in kind counterpart contribution</p>	Financial Controller/M&E	04/2021

Compliance with Loan Covenants**Rating: 5****Previous rating: 5****Justification of rating**

Except for the failure to convene meetings for the Project Steering Committee in contravention of schedule 1 (1) (b) of the Financing Agreement, the Project is generally being implemented in compliance with the financing agreement.

Main issues

Meetings of both the technical committee and steering committee have not been held regularly with contravene financing agreement covenants. Project management has explained that for the year 2020, owing to travel restrictions, it was not possible to hold both technical and steering committee meetings.

Procurement**Procurement****Rating: 3****Previous rating: 3****Justification of rating**

Programme Procurement is rated moderately unsatisfactory. Whilst noting the impact of COVID-19 on the overall implementation of the project, and the progress made with different procurement activities at different stages, the rate of execution of procurements stands at about 30%, and the mission is unable to justify an upward increase in the rating. The mission has however noted an improvement in the overall management of procurement processes, with some gaps at the evaluation stage and insufficient capacity to draft complete and adequate technical specifications. The mission however noted that delays in the procurement processes are also attributed to the overall context i.e. the absence of national procurement regulations and the internal Government review processes through the RED SEA Corporation. The mission also acknowledges the fact that the procurement team has made use of the TA provided by IFAD, and also adapted IFAD's COVID-19 guidelines to fast-track procurement.

Procurement Review

Structure of Procurement Unit: The NPCO Procurement Unit (PU) is based in Asmara with a full-time Procurement Controller (who doubles as National assistant coordinator) One procurement officer and One Procurement assistant. Each ZPCO has a PO handling activities < USD 1,000.00 via Shopping and Direct Contracting. The PU prepares a consolidated procurement plan (PP) by receiving PPs from all ZPCOs POs. The ZPCOs do not do much since most procurement is handled at the head office.

Procurement Plan: The PP for 2019 and 2020 has all been updated to the latest format for IFAD. There was consistency between the PP and the AWPB. Most of the procurements in the 2019 PP were moved to the 2020 PP since they had not been undertaken. As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic most of the activities were changed from NCB and ICB to International Shopping (IS) and Direct Contracting (DC), a NO was promptly sought and obtained for this change of procurement method. The restrictions that followed the outbreak also greatly contributed to the slow implementation of the project activities. For instance, the procurement controller was quarantined for 55 days after which there has been no movement at all throughout the country. The procurement of the FMS could not proceed after identification of the supplier because of this. The mission suggested that the project should find a way of moving this forward even if through working remotely with the FMS vendor.

Procurement Initiation and Specifications: Delays are attributed to inadequate capacity to draft appropriate technical specifications and the requirement that all procurements must pass through the RED SEA Corporation. These resulted in some bidding documents failing to attract an adequate number of bids and some procurements taking too long to complete. The project hired a TA who helped greatly in the coordinating and drafting of specifications. It was noted that the use of brand names in specifications was still persistent in the project. This is against IFAD procurement guidelines e.g while purchasing the sound recording equipment the specifications were given as PreSonus Studio Live 16 (Blue Model) with full accessories. This potentially excludes other brands in the market. IFAD guidelines indicate that where a brand name is to be used the word 'or equivalent' should be added to give other brands a chance to compete. It was also suggested that Framework agreements be explored to mitigate on issues of delays caused by such requirements.

Procurement methods: A sample review of procurement files revealed that, in general, procurement methods are duly followed other than works which are carried out on Force account. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic IFAD issued new procurement guidelines to be able to fastrack procurements during the pandemic leading to changes on the procurement methods originally envisaged.

Contract drafting, award and management: Contracting process is generally well managed. The contract register is up to date, however, we noted that the contract for construction of the Multi-purpose centre had not been renewed after expiry and a NO had not been sought from IFAD for its extension.

Record keeping: documents related to each procurement process are filed in one folder. However, a copy of the bid

evaluation report for procurement of Refrigerator, Air conditioner et al, in soft copy was found to be the wrong one. Further capacity building of the procurement team is needed. It was noted that there are areas that the team do not understand. For instance, when calculating the percentage financial scores in the consultancy for Cold Chain, one consultant quoted 450,000 ERN and the other quoted 600,000 ERN. The team calculated the financial score for the second consultant as 90% instead of 75%. Enquiry on how this was arrived at proved insufficient understanding of how this should be done.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Review and revise the 2020 Procurement Plan Review and revise the 2020 Procurement Plan to expedite procurement processes including consideration of framework contracts	Procurement/NPCO	09/2020
Finalise the procurement of the VMS systems Finalise the procurement of the VMS systems and development of a sustainability plan	Procurement controller/NPCO	10/2020
Continue providing TA for procurement and technical specialisation Continue providing TA for procurement and technical specialisation	IFAD	12/2020

e. Key SIS Indicators

Likelihood of Achieving the Development Objective	Rating: 3.65	Previous rating: 3.65
Assessment of the Overall Implementation Performance	Rating: 3.83	Previous rating: 3.83

F. Agreed Actions

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Overview and Project Progress		
Finalise the formal engagement of FAO or WorldFish as TA for FReMP Finalise the formal engagement of FAO or WorldFish as TA for FReMP	NPCO	09/2020
Prepare business plans Prepare business plans for all infrastructure investments and ensure that all CSU investments are under-pinned by business plans under TA hired - Continuous	NPCO/CSU	10/2020
Finalise the FReMP Restructuring Paper Finalise the FReMP Restructuring Paper and submit to IFAD for No Objection .The plan should indicate all the key assessments that will be done and key milestones until the MTR	NPCO	10/2020

<p>Develop a plan of engagement</p> <p>Develop a plan of engagement with the various technical national partners including NUEW, NUEYS, College of Education, Science and Technology (formerly COMSAT) with scope for formalization of their engagement in the project</p>	MMR/NPCO	12/2020
<p>Undertake Capacity Needs Assessment</p> <p>Undertake Capacity Needs Assessment and prepare a Capacity Development Plan for MMR (including NPCO) which will be considered under the restructuring – this will include capacities for the different areas including procurement, mainstreaming themes, technical expertise etc., and submit to IFAD for No Objection</p>	MMR/NPCO	12/2020
Development Effectiveness		
<p>Climate risk analysis and vulnerability assessment in both inland and marine fisheries:</p> <p>A ToR will be developed by the programme and shared with IFAD by 31/12/2018 for review, after which the programme will recruit a national consultant to undertake the work and produce a report</p>	NPCO, IFAD	03/2019
<p>Learning exchange visit:</p> <p>Organize learning visit for the programme staff to visit successful climate smart aquaculture and marine fisheries interventions within IFAD's fisheries projects portfolio for learning and possible technology transfer</p>	NPCO, IFAD	03/2019
<p>Climate Risk Assessment</p> <p>Finalise the TOR for the climate risk analysis</p>	NPCO	05/2019
<p>Climate Risk Assessment</p> <p>Provide a consultant</p>	IFAD	06/2019
<p>Climate Risk Assessment</p> <p>Include recommendations in 2020 AWPB</p>	NPCO	10/2019
<p>Climate Risk Assessment</p> <p>Incorporate comments provided by IFAD to TOR to recruit TA to undertake the climate risk assessment.</p>	NPCO	12/2019
<p>Capture and report on the nutritional outcomes</p>	NPCO	01/2020
<p>Undertake Household Food Survey on nutrition on FReMP Target Areas.</p>	NPCO	08/2020
<p>Develop TORs and identify a project nutrition focal point in the PCO</p> <p>Develop TORs and identify a project nutrition focal point in the PCO</p>	NPCO/IFAD	10/2020

<p>Enhancement of the Gender, youth and vulnerable groups strategy and action plan</p> <p>Revise the Gender Strategy with IFAD support into a Targeting and Social Inclusion strategy including women, youth, and other vulnerable groups and submit to IFAD for No Objection</p>	NPCO/GFP	12/2020
<p>Finalize piloting of energy efficient cooking stove and plan for promotion and scale up</p> <p>Finalize piloting of energy efficient cooking stove and plan for promotion and scale up</p>	NPCO	12/2020
<p>Finalize Climate Risk Analysis and integrate into the AWPB and monitoring system</p> <p>Finalize Climate Risk Analysis and integrate into the AWPB and monitoring system</p>	NPCO	12/2020
<p>Prepare a nutrition strategy and action plan and submit to IFAD for No Objection</p> <p>Prepare a nutrition strategy and action plan and submit to IFAD for No Objection</p>	NPCO	01/2021
<p>Conduct planned nutrition survey</p> <p>Conduct the planned nutrition survey, through a consultancy, to assess minimum dietary diversity of women, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices that hinder fish consumption and quality of diets of households and the most vulnerable groups, covering both inland and coastal zobas. TORs to be reviewed by the IFAD.</p>	NPCO/IFAD	01/2021
<p>FREMP to support development of MRRD Gender Mainstreaming Strategy</p> <p>The Ministry endeavours to develop a mainstreaming strategy with IFAD support.</p>	MMR/NPCO	02/2021
<p>Technical assistance for Nutrition</p> <p>Technical assistance (3 months) to help the project to define its nutrition strategy and action plan. This strategy and action plan will cover nutrition-targeting, project nutrition sensitive interventions across the project components, implementing arrangements partners, roles and responsibilities and relevant indicators and targets. The consultant will also conduct a capacity assessment of the MMR nutrition division and recommend relevant capacity development actions. IFAD to provide inputs to the TORs.</p>	NPCO/IFAD	02/2021
<p>Recruit a consultant</p> <p>Develop a TOR and recruit a consultant to undertake a Nutrition Education and Social Behaviour Change Communication strategy, building on the KAP survey.</p>	NPCO/IFAD	02/2021

<p>Provide inputs into the logframe of annual progress for the nutrition output indicator</p> <p>Provide inputs into the logframe of annual progress for the nutrition output indicator</p>	NPCO	12/2021
Sustainability and Scaling up		
<p>Capacity of community based groups</p> <p>Ensure that community based groups such as mangrove conservation groups have adequate capacity, structures and mechanisms as well as incentives to enhance sustainable utilisation and conservation of resources and to promote equitable benefit sharing.</p>	NPCO, Zobas, MMR	12/2018
<p>post-harvest fish losses and waste</p> <p>Explore feasible mechanisms and invest in management and processing of post-harvest fish losses and waste e.g. production of animal feeds.</p>	NPCO, MMR	01/2019
<p>Develop and integrate aquaculture development guidelines within the MoA dams' user manual</p>	MoA, MMR, Zobas	03/2019
<p>Facilitate linkages with buyers and the development of business plans for dam fishing groups</p>	NPCO, Zobas	10/2019
<p>prototype stove</p> <p>Develop and test the prototype stove in selected communities and develop a more cost-effective prototype that can be rolled out at scale.</p>	NPCO	10/2019
<p>Beneficiary training</p> <p>The project should train community groups and cooperatives on development of business plans that would ensure that communities are able to see activity interventions as sustainable and profitable business opportunities.</p>	NPCO/Zoba	12/2019
<p>Undertake business plan training for dam fishing groups</p>	NPCO, Zobas	12/2019
<p>Deliver procured equipment to the dam fishing groups</p>	NPCO, Zobas	02/2020
<p>The project should scale up the tested stove to the project communities.</p>	NPCO	05/2020
<p>Develop a plan of engagement</p> <p>Develop a plan of engagement with the various technical national partners including NUEW, NUEYS, College of Education, Science and Technology (formerly COMSAT) with scope for formalization of their engagement in the programme</p>	MMR/NPCO	12/2020
Project Management		

<p>Develop an Environment and Social Management Plan and its Monitoring Plan</p> <p>Share ToRs with IFAD for review and comments by 31/12/2018</p>	NPCO, MoLWE, Zoba	02/2019
<p>Put in place a quarterly reflection meeting with ZPCOs and NPCOs after data collection</p>	M&E	06/2019
<p>concrete proposals for SSTC initiatives</p> <p>Develop, in consultation with IFAD, concrete proposals for SSTC initiatives and exchange visits with other projects supported by IFAD to address key technical challenges, involving programme staff, implementing partners, community members, as well, if relevant, the political leadership</p>	NPCO	07/2019
<p>Develop ToR and undertake an impact assessment of the GEF funding target areas in collaboration with MoLWE</p>	NPCO/WoLWE	07/2019
<p>Elaborate a basic information management system</p>	M&E, NPCO	10/2019
<p>Compute cost ratios for all outputs with support by IFAD</p>	M&E	10/2019
<p>Review and assess training proposals with regard to their effectiveness and value for money</p>	M&E	10/2019
<p>development of the ESMP</p> <p>Finalise the development of the ESMP and its monitoring plan and ensure key indicators are included in the operational monitoring. The activity should be captured in the AWPB and Procurement Plan.</p>	NPCO	10/2019
<p>IFAD to provide comments on the draft ESMP report and NPCO to finalize the plan</p>	IFAD	12/2019
<p>Fast track the configuration of the already procured ADSL</p>	M&E, NPCO	01/2020
<p>Document evidence based lessons learned prior the 2020 MTR</p>	NPCO/KM Officer	03/2020
<p>Revise the 2020 AWPB</p> <p>Revise the 2020 AWPB to realistic level, including the budget for the COVID-19 response plan in respect of goods and grants</p>	M&E/Finance Controller/Project Coordinator	09/2020
<p>Formalise the engagement of Technical Leads</p> <p>Formalise the engagement of Technical Leads (or TA) - by component and on the mainstreaming themes - to expedite procurement processes and overall implementation</p>	MMR/NPCO	09/2020
<p>Prepare a COVID-19 Contingency Plan</p> <p>Prepare a COVID-19 Contingency Plan to facilitate business continuity under COVID-19 conditions and share with IFAD for No Objection</p>	NPCO	09/2020

Share with IFAD the new composition of the PTC Share with IFAD the new composition of the PTC	NPCO	09/2020
CSU Loan Portfolio Report CSU Loan Portfolio Report on performance of asset financing revolving fund. Number of loans, enterprises, repayment, gender in loans to be shared with IFAD IFAD to provide samples of loan portfolio report	M&E/CSU	10/2020
Provide IFAD with content and report of KM reflection meetings Provide IFAD with content and report of KM reflection meetings	M&E and KM	10/2020
Transmit the minutes of the PSC to IFAD Transmit the minutes of the PSC to IFAD	NPCO	11/2020
Conduct Water Quality Analysis Conduct Water Quality Analysis for the 15 dams	NPCO/MMR	11/2020
Report on the production of small and large pelagic fish. Report on the production of small and large pelagic fish. Catch and effort by species by landing site from entire fishery and by FReMP target groups to be shared with IFAD	NPCO/MMR	11/2020
Dam Management, ESMP, and CRA plan Expedite the Dam Management Plan, the Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Climate Risk Analysis (CRA) and submit to IFAD and include its outcomes into the 2021 AWPB	NPCO	12/2020
Prepare comprehensive report of the dams Prepare comprehensive report of the dams	NPCO/ZPCO	12/2020
Facilitate the Accreditation of the Quality Control Laboratory Facilitate the Accreditation of the Quality Control Laboratory - Continuous	NPCO/MMR	
Financial Management & Execution		
Internal Audit Request the MMR Internal Audit department to include FReMP in their annual rolling internal audit plans.	Fin Controller & Coordinator	10/2018
Beneficiaries contribution The PCO to establish a proper and consistent system for capturing and reporting in kind beneficiary contribution. Ensure that the system is consistently applied at PCO and ZPCO level.	NPCO and ZPCOs	12/2018

<p>Accounting System</p> <p>Procure and install a fully tested accounting software which is successfully being used by other IFAD funded programmes</p> <p>26/11/19. In progress; procurement process completed, contract under preparation</p>	NPCO	05/2019
<p>Internet capacity to be strengthened at ZPCO</p>	ZPCOs	06/2019
<p>Internet capacity to be strengthened at NPCO to enable adoption of IFAD's Client Portal (ICP) and other improvements</p>	NPCO	06/2019
<p>The audit report to disclose the procedures used by NPCO for reporting of domestic contribution, including in-kind contribution. The notes to the FS shall also disclose the breakdown of Counterpart Fund (i.e. time-salaries).</p> <p>Counterpart Funds</p>	Auditor	06/2019
<p>Additional accounts assistant to be hired</p> <p>Additional accounts assistant to be hired to support the finance unit and ensure appropriate segregation of duties</p> <p>26/11/19 update: in progress</p>	NPCO	06/2019
<p>Improved supporting documentation</p> <p>Invoices to be stamped 'paid', systematic evidence of voucher approvals (signatures), evidence of adequate documentation of staff travel and beneficiary training expenditure</p> <p>26/11/19 update: FC reported that recommendations are implemented, on site confirmation by next supervision</p>	NPCO finance unit	08/2019
<p>Facilitate implementation of ICP: strengthened internet at NPCO; ICP pre-assessment (official emails for approvers)</p> <p>The NPCO has moved to College of Marine and presently has no internet, however the situation is expected to be remedied in the coming weeks. Connectivity testing for ICP to be done</p>	NPCO, IFAD	12/2019
<p>To ease consolidation at head office level there should be uniform chart of accounts.</p> <p>No uniform chart of accounts are used at head office and Zobas.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019
<p>As disaster recovery procedure, backups have to be kept outside the premises of the relevant project office.</p> <p>Daily transaction backups are kept in the office premises of the organization.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019

<p>Accuracy of categories of expenditure on returns from Zobas must be checked thoroughly at head office. Furthermore, the categories of expenditure in the withdrawal application form must be in line with those in the returns.</p> <p>Neither are expenditure categories from Zobas thoroughly checked nor are they compared with those in the withdrawal application form.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019
<p>Procurement reports have to be prepared at frequent intervals comparing of the approved procurement plan and any delay should be reported incorporating action to be taken to resolve it.</p> <p>Procurement reports are not prepared as required by the laid down procurement plan.</p>	FReMP's management	12/2019
<p>Review and revise the 2020 Procurement Plan</p> <p>Review and revise the 2020 Procurement Plan to expedite procurement processes including consideration of framework contracts</p>	Procurement/NPCO	09/2020
<p>Submit withdrawal applications in respect of German grant</p>	Financial Controller	09/2020
<p>Submit the revised PIM to IFAD for review and No Objection</p>	Project Coordinator	09/2020
<p>Revise the 2020 AWPB to realistic level, including the budget for the COVID – 19 response plan in respect of goods and grants</p>	Programme Coordinator and Finance Manager	09/2020
<p>Finalise the procurement of the VMS systems</p> <p>Finalise the procurement of the VMS systems and development of a sustainability plan</p>	Procurement controller/NPCO	10/2020
<p>Complete and share with IFAD and internal audit report for the year 2019</p>	Financial Controller	10/2020
<p>Continue providing TA for procurement and technical specialisation</p> <p>Continue providing TA for procurement and technical specialisation</p>	IFAD	12/2020
<p>Accounting system: fast track procurement and installation of TOMPRO accounting software to facilitate improvement in project accounting</p>	Financial Controller	12/2020
<p>Include in audit Terms of reference verification of in kind counterpart contribution</p>	Financial Controller/M&E	04/2021
<p>Interim Financial Report: Improve the quality of the IFR by completing all fields provided for in the template</p>	Financial Controller	04/2021

Eritrea

Fisheries Resources Management Programme Partial Supervision Report

Logical Framework

Mission Dates: 19 August - 09 September 2020

Document Date: 08/10/2020

Project No. 2000001144

Report No. 5511-ER

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Fisheries Resources Management Programme

Logical Framework

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
Outreach Outreach	1.b Estimated corresponding total number of households members										
	Household members	0	40 000	87 500	8 240	24 965	28.5				
	1.a Corresponding number of households reached										
	Households	0	8 000	17 500	1 648	4 993	28.5				
	1 Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project										
	Females	0	12 000	26 250	3 120	8 295	31.6				
	Males	0	28 000	61 250	5 120	16 670	27.2				
Total number of persons receiving services		40 000	87 500	8 240	24 965	28.5					
Project Goal Contribute to household food and nutrition security and the alleviation of rural poverty	Reduction in prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting)							Global Nutrition Report 2015, RIMS baseline and impact surveys, household survey, MTR	Programme start-up and completion	NPCO and Ministry of Health	Political, social and Economic environment are favorable to the fishing and fish farming sector development (A); Macro- economy stagnates (R); Affordable fish products available in large quantities to poor consumers
	Children under 5	51	49	47							
	Percentage increase in household asset ownership							Global Nutrition Report 2015, RIMS baseline and impact surveys, household survey, MTR	Programme start-up and completion	NPCO and Ministry of Health	
Index		4	10								

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
Development Objective Increased incomes and improved nutrition situation for targeted beneficiaries and sustainable management of natural resources	Percentage increase in annual net income of artisanal fishers, processors and traders							MMR Annual Reports; M&E Reports; MTR, PCR	Annually	MMR and NPCO	Increased level of awareness on fish nutritional value and consumption, especially in the inland Zobas (A)
	Income		15	30							
	Land under improved management practices							MMR Annual Reports; M&E Reports; MTR, PCR	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Mangrove ha	0	750	1 500	138.5						
	Watershed ha	0	7 000	16 000	99.1						
	Increased fish consumption and dietary diversity							Food survey, MMR Annual Reports; M&E Reports; MTR, PCR; Special Studies	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
kg/pp/per year	0.4	0.7	1.5								
Outcome Production systems for fisheries developed and delivering increased volumes of fish to consumers	Average annual value of all fish delivered to consumers							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	Increased fish consumption, especially in the inland Zobas Coastal ecosystems managed and improved Post-crisis support will strengthen resilience and assist in resumption of fishing activities
	Value of fish/year	600	1 500	5 000							
	Average annual volumes of all fish delivered to consumers (tons)							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Inland Fish	0	40	100	1.3						
	Small pelagic (dry) tons	260	2 000	3 800							
	Large fish (wet) tons	1 800	1 800	3 000							
	Households reporting that fish production was maintained or improved due to recovery support							Programme M&E reports	Monthly	NPCO and CCU	
	Number			400							

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	1.2.8 Women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)							Nutrition Assessment study, MMR Reports, M&E Reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Women (%)										
	Women (number)										
	Households (%)										
	Households (number)										
	Household members										
Output Marine fishing cooperatives are established and receive adequate inputs	Number of rural producers' organizations supported							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	Supportive Policy and legal framework Post-crisis support will strengthen resilience and assist in resumption of fishing activities
	Small pelagic	0	80	255							
	Large fish	37	40	67							
	2.1.3 Rural producers' organizations supported										
	Rural POs supported	37	120	322		0	0				
	Total size of POs					0					
	Males					0					
	Females					0					
	Young					0					
	Not Young					0					
Women in leadership position					0						

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	Households receiving post-crisis support							Programme M&E reports	Monthly	NPCO and CCU	
	Number			400							
	1.1.8 Households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition							MMR Annual Reports, M&E data, Ad hoc nutrition surveys	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Households					0					
Output Inland fisheries at the target water reservoirs established	Number of watershed management plans above reservoirs established and effectively implemented							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	Supportive Policy and legal framework
	Plans	0	3	15							
	Number of inland fisheries cooperatives/enterprise groups established and operational							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Groups	0	12	60							
	3.1.4 Land brought under climate-resilient practices										
	Hectares of land		7 750	17 500		24	0.1				
Output Small pelagic fish processing/marketing cooperatives supported	Number of viable small pelagic fish processing/marketing cooperatives handling 100 tons of fish loaded							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Cooperatives	0	30	90							
Outcome Viable fisheries enterprises are developed and sustainable	Number of viable primary fisheries enterprises established							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	Supportive Policy and legal framework
	Enterprises	41	80	250							
	An umbrella cooperative for marketing small pelagic established and functioning profitably							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Umbrella cooperative	0	1	1							

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
Output Cooperatives/enterprise groups established and receiving assets financing	Percentage of cooperatives/enterprise groups receiving inputs from CCU							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Cooperatives	20	40	80							
Output CCU fully established at national and branch levels and providing services to members on a profitable basis	Number of cooperatives receiving and servicing fishing assets through CCU							Programme M&E reports	Annually	MMR and NPCO	
	Cooperatives	41	100	250							



Investing in rural people

Eritrea

Fisheries Resources Management Programme

Partial Supervision Report

Appendix 1: Financial: actual financial performance; by financier by component and disbursements by category

Mission Dates: 19 August - 09 September 2020

Document Date: 08/10/2020

Project No. 2000001144

Report No. 5511-ER

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Appendix 1: Financial: Actual financial performance by financier; by component and disbursements by category

Table 1A: Financial performance by financier

Financier	Appraisal (USD '000)	Disbursements (USD '000)	Per cent disbursed
IFAD Grant	15,000	4,004	27%
German Grant	5,966	1,800	30%
Financing Gap	8,390	-	0%
Beneficiaries	1,417	117	8%
Government	1,351	598	44%
Total	32,124	6,519	20%

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Table 1B: Financial performance by financier by component (USD '000) as 30 June, 2020

Component	IFAD Grant			German Grant			Financing Gap			Government			Beneficiaries			Total		
	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%
1. Develop Sustainable Fisheries system	4,958	692	14	26	-	0	6,508	0	0	286	169	59	504	100	20	12,282	961	8
2. Fisheries Enterprises Support Services	3,376	108	3	5,940	437	7	128	0	0	445	228	51	847	17	2	10,736	790	7
3. Institutional Strengthening and Implementation Support	6,666	1,562	23	-	-	-	1,754	0	0	686	200	29	-	-	-	9,106	1,762	19
Total	15,000	2,362	16	5,966	437	7	8,390	0	0	1,417	597	42	1,351	117	9	32,124	3,513	11

Table 1 C: IFAD grant disbursements (SDR, as at 31 June, 2020)

Category	Category description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Disbursement	WA Pending	Balance	Per cent disbursed
200003	Works	2,170,000.00	2,170,000.00	188,934.74	0.00	1,981,065.26	8.71%
200011	Equipment and Materials	1,420,000.00	1,420,000.00	249,759.18	0.00	1,170,240.82	17.59%
200012	Goods	0.00	87,000.00	0.00	0.00	87,000.00	0.00%
200013	Grants	0.00	29,000.00	0.00	0.00	29,000.00	0.00%
200016	Operating Costs	1,040,000.00	1,040,000.00	142,403.82	0.00	897,596.17	13.69%
200018	Salaries and allowances	890,000.00	890,000.00	36,527.34	0.00	853,472.71	4.10%
200019	Training	3,060,000.00	3,060,000.00	435,057.34	0.00	2,624,942.66	14.22%
200021	Vehicles	1,100,000	1,100,000	44,383.87	0.00	1,055,716.12	4.03%
270001	Authorised allocation	0.00	0.00	1,825,563.73	0.00	(1,825,563.73)	0.00%
290001	Unallocated	1,070,000.00	954,000.00	0.00	0.00	954,000.00	0.00%
	Total	10,750,000.00	10,750,000.00	2,922,529.97	0.00	7,827,470.02	27.19%

Table 1 D: German grant disbursements (EUR, as at 31 June, 2020)

Category	Category description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Disbursement	WA Pending	Balance	Per cent disbursed
200003	Works	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000,000.00	0.00%
200011	Equipment and Materials	3,750,000.00	3,750,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,750,000.00	0.00%
200018	Salaries and allowances	300,000.00	300,000.00	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	0.00%
200019	Training	800,000.00	800,000.00	0.00	0.00	800,000.00	0.00%
200021	Vehicles	150,000	150,000	0.00	0.00	150,000	0.00%
270001	Authorised allocation	0.00	0.00	1,617,977.53	0.00	(1,617,977.53)	0.00%
	Total	9,000,000.00	9,000,000.00	1,617,977.53	0.00	7,382,022.47	17.98%

Eritrea

Fisheries Resources Management Programme

Partial Supervision Report

Appendix 2: Physical progress measured against AWP&B

Mission Dates: 19 August - 09 September 2020

Document Date: 08/10/2020

Project No. 2000001144

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Programme Management Department

Appendix 2: Physical progress measured against AWP&B

Component/Outco		Period: to				Cumulative	Appraisal			
Sub-component or Output	Indicator	Unit	AWP&B	Actual	%	Actual	Target	%		
Component 1 /										
1: Develop Sustainable Fisheries System										
1.1 Develop Marine Fisheries Production and Post-Harvest Systems	Ice making facilities established		Lump sum	1	0	0%	1	1	0%	
	Fish drying facilities constructed		lump sum	2	0	0%	2	4	0%	
	Mobile solar fish dryers piloted		lump sum	1	0	0%	1	3	0%	
	Multi-purpose centres constructed		No	1	0	0%	2	2	0%	
	Mangrove managed planting and protecting	group for and	Ha		550 (520 protection and 30 plantation)	109 (9 ha plantation and 100 ha protection)	19.82 %	1410	990	19.8%
	Mari-culture technologies specific piloted		No of species	1	0	0%	1	4	0%	
	Mari-Culture hatchery established		Lump sum	1	0	0%	1	1	0%	
	Stakeholder consultation management convened		No	4	0	0%	8	15	0%	
Management plan developed		No	8	0	0%	8	6	0%		

	Reservoir Stakeholders meeting convened	No	8	8	100%	8	15	50%
	Hatchery and laboratory facilities in Mai-Srwa established	Lump sum	1	0	0%	1	1	0%
	National exchange visits conducted	No	2	2	100%	2	9	22.2%
1.3 Market Development and Promotion of Fish Consumption	Market survey for improved and new products	No	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
	Quality Control Laboratory accredited	Lump sum	-	0	0%	1	1	0%
	Fish product development materials and equipment procured	Lump sum	1	0	0%	1	2	0%
	TA recruited to assist in product development and market strategy	Lump sum	1	0	0%	1	1	0%
	Extension staff trained on nutrition	No	1	1	100%	3	1	300%
	Recipe of fish products developed	No	1	1	0%	2	1	0%
	Nutrition awareness campaign carried out		-	N/A	N/A	2	2	0%
	Fish promotion on targeted households, schools and hospitals carried out	Lump sum	-	N/A	N/A	1	2	50%
	Mainstreaming nutrition and small scale fisheries conducted at HFTC and Mai Sirwa		-	N/A	N/A	1	1	0%

Nutrition analyses for different seafood's conducted	Lump sum	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
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Component 2: Fisheries Enterprises Support Services

2.1- Entrepreneurial Capacity Development

Small Pelagic Fishing Cooperatives

Mobilization and awareness creation conducted		5	5	100%	25	100	20%
Small Pelagic Fishing Cooperatives formed		20	23	115%	40	100	23%
Coop members trained in gear and fishing techniques	cooperative	20	0	0%	40	100	0%
Coop members trained in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	cooperative	5	0	0%	40	100	0%

Small Pelagic Fish Processing Cooperatives

Mobilization and awareness creation conducted		-	N/A	N/A	10	120	0%
Small Pelagic Fish Processing Cooperatives formed	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	10	120	0%
Coop members trained in fish processing & value addition and quality assurance	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	10	120	0%
Coop members trained in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	10	120	0%

Large Fish Fishing Cooperatives

Mobilization and awareness creation conducted	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	15	15	0%
Large Fish Fishing Cooperatives formed	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	15	15	0%
Coop members trained in gear and fishing techniques	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	15	15	0%
Coop members trained in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	15	15	0%

Fish Retailing Enterprises

Mobilization and awareness creation conducted	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	5	5	0%
Fish retailing enterprises formed	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	5	5	0%
Members trained in fish handling and quality control	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	5	5	0%
Members trained in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	5	5	0%

Foot fisher cooperatives

Need assessment of foot fishers conducted	Lump sum	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
Mobilization and awareness creation conducted	cooperative	25	8	32%	25	20	40%
Foot fishers cooperatives formed	cooperative	25	4	16%	25	20	2%
Coop members trained in gear and fishing techniques	cooperative	25	0	0%	25	20	0%

Coop members trained in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	cooperative	25	0	0%	25	20	0%
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Boat engine maintenance/repair

coastal community members trained in boat/engine maintenance/repair	individuals	-	N/A	N/A	1	1	0%
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Women enterprise groups on net making/mending

Mobilization and awareness creation conducted	cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	6	6	100%
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Women enterprise group formed	cooperative	3	6	200%	6	6	100%
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Group members trained in net making/mending	cooperative	6	0	0%	6	6	0%
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Group members trained in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	cooperative	6	0	0%	6	6	0%
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Processing/Marketing enterprise groups for Inland Fisheries

Mobilization and awareness creation conducted	Women cooperative	-	-	N/A	8	14	53.3%
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Processing/Marketing Enterprises formed	Women cooperative	8	8	100%	16	14	53.3%
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Coop members trained in fish processing and marketing techniques	Women cooperative	8	8	100%	16	14	57%
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Coop members trained in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	Women cooperative	8	8	100%	50%	14	57%
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Fishing Enterprise groups for Inland Fisheries

	Mobilization and awareness creation conducted	and creation	Youth cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	8	45	17.8%
	Youth Enterprise formed	Fishing groups	Youth cooperative	8	8	100%	16	45	17.8%
	Coop trained members techniques	members fishing	Youth cooperative	8	8	100%	16	45	17.7%
	Coop trained members in entrepreneurship and group dynamics	members in	Youth cooperative	8	8	100%	16	45	17.7%
2.2 Strengthen Input Supply Services	Off-shore fishing boats procured	fishing	No	20	0	0%	20	40	0%
	Inshore canoes procured	canoes	No	20	0	0%	40	30	0%
	Fishing gear for inshore canoes procured	gear for canoes	lump sum	20	0	0%	40	80	0%
	Working capital for offshore fishing cooperative provided	capital for fishing cooperative	Group/cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	20	40	0%
	Working capital for small pelagic fish processing enterprise groups provided	capital for small pelagic fish processing enterprise groups	Group/cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	10	60	0%
	Working capital for fish retailing enterprise groups provided	capital for fish retailing enterprise groups	Group/cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	5	5	0%
	Canoes procured for foot fishers	procured for foot fishers	No	-	N/A	N/A	20	20	0%
	Toolkit procured for Coastal community member	procured for Coastal community member	No	-	N/A	N/A	14	14	100%

Working capital for women making/mending enterprise groups provided	Group/cooperative	-	N/A	N/A	6	6	0%
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Component 3: Institutional Strengthening and Implementation Support

3.1 Capacity building of MMR and Other Agencies for the Sustainable Development of the Fisheries Sector	Vehicles procured	No	-	N/A	N/A	10	20	0%
	Motor cycles procured	No	-	N/A	N/A	12	12	100%
	Bicycles procured	No	100	35	35%	120	10	350%
	Canoes for MMR Inland Fisheries procured	No	-	N/A	N/A	6	6	50%
	Trailer for towing canoes procured	No	-	N/A	N/A	6	6	50%
	SCUBA equipment procured	No	5	5	100%	5	5	100%
	Underwater camera procured	No	1	0	0%	2	1	500%
	Laptop computers procured	No	12	12	100%	21	15	120%
	Desktop computers procured	No	44	44	100%	68	15	373%
	Printers/photocopiers procured	No	5	7	140%	20	11	172%
	Office furniture set procured	No	24	0	0%	15	15	100%
	Still cameras procured	No	29	0	0%	47	12	150%
	Video cameras procured	No	10	0	0%	28	12	150%
LCD Projectors procured	No	2	2	100%	10	12	83%	

	MMR Staff trained	No of training	15	13	86%	16	3	466%
	CCU staff trained	No of training	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
	TA recruited to conduct stock assessment	No	1	0	0%	1	1	0%
3.2 Programme Coordination and Implementation Support Services	Start-up workshop	Lump sum	-	N/A	N/A	1	1	100%
	Baseline/preparatory studies	Study	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
	Annual planning workshops convened	No	7	0	100%	14	21	33.3%
	Bi-annual implementation review workshops convened	No	14	14	100%	28	42	33.3%
	M&E officers meeting conducted	No	1	1	100%	3	3	100%
	Learning & dissemination	Lump sum	1	0	0%	2	2	0%
	Knowledge management produced	Lump sum	1	0	0%	2	2	0%
	South-south cooperation for knowledge sharing signed	Session	1	1	100%	2	2	100%
	Exchange visits undertaken	No	1	0	0%	2	2	0%
	Recurrent costs							
	NPCO recruited staff	No of months	12	6	50%	32	36	72.2%
	ZPCO recruited staff	No of months	12	6	50%	32	36	72.2%
	General operating cost for NPCO	Lump sum	1	1	100%	3	3	100%

General operating cost for ZPCO	Lump sum	6	6	100%	18	18	100%
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Investing in rural people

Eritrea

Fisheries Resources Management Programme

Partial Supervision Report

Appendix 5: Mission preparation and planning, TORs, schedules, people met

Mission Dates: 19 August - 09 September 2020

Document Date: 08/10/2020

Project No. 2000001144

Report No. 5511-ER

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Appendix 5: Mission preparation and planning, TORs, schedules, people met.

List of people met

Name	Title	Email
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