

Template 21: Grant completion report

Assessing the Gendered Impact of Rural Development Projects

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) | Grant#: 2000002043

Reference Period: November 29, 2021 – December 31, 2022

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List of acronyms

FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
IA	Impact Assessment
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
MIVARF	Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance Support
PRAREV	Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas
PMR	Rural Microfinance Program
REP III	Rural Enterprise Programme -Phase III
RIA	Research and Impact Assessment
UTaNRMP	Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project
VCDP	Value Chain Development Programme
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture

Background

Name of grant	Assessing the Gendered Impact of Rural Development Projects
Name of recipient	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Goal, objectives and target group(s)	<p><i>Goal</i> To increase the capacity to track progress on SDG'1, SDG 2 and SDG 5 in rural areas in a disaggregated way to assess the specific progress on rural women, particularly young rural women.</p> <p><i>Objectives</i> To develop and validate methodology and tools for measuring and tracking the impact of rural development projects disaggregated by sex and by age group; To assess the impact of agricultural development projects on women's empowerment and other development outcomes including food and nutrition security by using the developed and validated methodology; and To generate rigorous evidence to inform policies, programs and investments for better targeting of rural and young women.</p> <p><i>Direct beneficiaries</i> Governments and national/international development organizations will benefit from new methodologies to assess the impact of their rural development projects on women, particularly young women.</p> <p><i>Indirect beneficiaries</i> Development practitioners, technical specialists and researchers will benefit from new methodologies and more evidence to be used to assess gender-transformative impacts. Rural women in general will be benefited as this project aims to make them visible and track changes in their empowerment. Overall, the project will also benefit the rural population in general as the knowledge and lessons from this project will allow governments and development partners to mainstream gender and youth issues into rural development projects.</p>
Benefitting country(ies)	Mali, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Djibouti
Date of grant approval	November 29, 2018
Date of grant effectiveness	November 29, 2018
Completion date	December 31, 2021
Grant extension	December 31, 2022
Value of IFAD-funded grant (in US\$)	\$3,200,000
Amount disbursed to date (in US\$)	\$2,705,156.02
Total financing, including co-financing (in US\$)	\$3,840,000

Overall implementation progress

Highlight two or three opportunities and/or key generic issues/risks, if any, that affected overall grant implementation. Describe the progress and performance of the grant by component, and including a review of the main activities performed and outputs delivered. Attention should be given to all specific targets mentioned in the logical framework. This section should also describe implementation progress against the logical framework and the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB).

After successfully finalizing the first two Impact Assessments (IAs) in Mali and Nigeria in 2019, grant implementation was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Indeed, fieldwork in Ghana for the collection of the REP-III survey was delayed for almost a year (from March 2020 to February 2021) due to government's restrictions on movements and social gatherings. When restrictions were lifted, the grantee immediately filed an application for fieldwork resumption, and data were finally collected in February 2021. During the same year, data were processed, and the first draft report was prepared and submitted to IFAD in December 2021.

The Tanzania impact assessment was also severely and negatively affected by the pandemic, as the fear of the virus spread greatly delayed the collection of beneficiary and control data. IFPRI initially contracted a former IFAD project collaborator to compile M&E data for the collection of beneficiary and control data. Given the delay in collecting and submitting beneficiary data, the grantee team then contracted a local university. Survey data for the IA was collected by a local non-profit Tanzanian research and development organization. This activity was successfully completed in November 2021 and final cleaned datasets were produced by early 2022. Data processing was finalized in February 2022 with the first draft report prepared and submitted in April 2022.

In Djibouti, beyond the delays caused by the pandemic, the difficulty of efficient and effective communication between grantee and local staff affiliated with the PRAREV project generated additional delay in the original timeline despite the assistance and support from IFAD-HQ staff. Moreover, given the coverage and spillover of the PRAREV program in the fishing sector across the country, the sampling design and the construction of a control group proved to be more challenging than originally expected. Fieldwork took place between November and December 2021, data processing was finalized in early 2022, and a first draft report was prepared and submitted in March 2022.

In Kenya the COVID spread was wider than in other project countries, and the government requirements for in-person data collection was more stringent and took additional unforeseen time to be met by the local survey firm and the grantee team. Fieldwork ultimately took place between November and December 2021 with cleaned datasets produced by early 2022. Data processing for Tanzania, Djibouti, and Kenya took place at about the same time and all the final IA reports were submitted by June 2022.

All reports submitted to IFAD-HQ staff and program management units were presented and discussed during validation meetings (in June 2021 for Nigeria-VCDP; March 2022 for Mali-PMR and Djibouti-PRAREV; May 2022 for Ghana-REP III, and June 2022 for Tanzania-MIVARF and Kenya-UTaNRMP) where feedback was gathered and then later addressed in the final reports.

Overall, the grant has been effectively and efficiently implemented, with all deliverables submitted by December 2022, including the preparation of country briefs and infographics for the six IAs and the synthesis report focusing on the assessment of the gendered impact of the six IFAD rural development projects.

Relevance to IFAD target groups

This section should assess how grant results benefitted IFAD target groups, and how the outputs and outcomes of the grant will be concretely useful to them. The section should also assess the effectiveness of the project's targeting strategy and its adherence to the targeting principles established for the grant. The assessment should also take into account the beneficiaries' role in influencing the choice and/or sequencing of activities, and the degree to which activities were demand driven and tailored to their needs.

The evidence generated provided stakeholders -beyond IFAD- with better information for assessing the effects of their activities on poverty reduction, livelihoods improvement, and empowerment of women and girls. Target groups have included international and national development organizations, and national agencies that can apply the validated tools, methodology, and results to their own programming. Other target groups, including rural households and populations, particularly women, will also benefit from the grant in the future due to more effective development programs as the lessons from this grant are applied.

Gender focus

Where the design had a specific gender focus, this section should assess the grant's ability to address gender/women's empowerment issues in line with the IFAD Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and the IFAD12 commitments. Attention should be given to specific targets mentioned in the Logframe with respect to women.

The development community is benefiting from the availability of improved sex- and age-disaggregated data and methods. Rural women in general are benefiting as this grant generated indicators on the extent to which rural development projects reach, benefit, and empower women. More broadly, dissemination methods targeted the international development community and provided international public goods of methods, data, tools and findings that the project has generated.

Disaggregation by gender and age is helping to generate information on the specific issues faced by rural male and female youth, in order to inform the design and implementation of future projects. In particular, the grant's results show that: First, almost all projects assessed, as part of the grant activities, have increased joint participation in decision-making, especially in the agricultural value chain but also beyond agricultural activities. Overall, fostering joint participation, production, and management has led to increased market access and economic mobility. Second, women's empowerment based on several metrics has increased in four of the five countries where the i-WEAI module was administered as part of the household survey data collection. Overall, the evidence suggests that the IFAD projects analyzed have achieved positive impact on several dimensions of women's empowerment, although substantial room for improvement requiring investments and dedicated effort remains, depending on the specific project and country context. In particular, for most projects -with the exception of Djibouti-PRAREV- more attention should be devoted to enhancing female-only decision making, without negatively affecting other development outcomes targeted to women. Special attention should also be devoted to improving female food security and female asset ownership (especially land).

Environment and climate focus

Where the design had a specific focus on climate and environment, this section should assess the grant's ability to address environmental and climate issues in line with IFAD's ENRM Policy and the IFAD12 commitments.

The grant focused on assessing the impact of six IFAD projects (in Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, and Djibouti), of which two were geared towards addressing environmental and climate issues.

The Kenya Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project (UTaNRMP) was implemented to contribute to poverty reduction in the Upper Tana catchment area through (i) enhanced sustainable management of natural resources (land, water, biodiversity) for provision of environmental services; and (ii) increased sustainable food production and incomes. Findings from the impact assessment activities of this grant show that the programme had a positive impact on household net income coming from crop activities and on a number of measures of asset accumulation. These positive results achieved on crop farming were linked to the program's successful promotion of irrigation systems, better landscape management practices, and use of improved seeds. However, the program seemed unable to effectively meet its objectives in the livestock value chain where impact was not observed.

The Djibouti Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas (PRAREV) supported coastal populations affected by climate change (CC) to improve resilience, reduce vulnerability to CC, and promote co-management of marine resources through (i) increase ownership of activities more resilient to CC; (ii) improvement in the living conditions of target groups affected by CC through the strengthening of their cooperatives/associates; (iii) increased incomes of beneficiaries; and (iv) an increase in fish landings, without harming the natural resource base. Results show that PRAREV helped develop the fishing sector in target areas and contributed to improvements of small-scale fishers' livelihoods. Beneficiaries, who were more likely to own fishing equipment due to PRAREV, experienced an increase in fishing revenues and market access, mostly derived from the increase in fish trading activities.

Nutrition focus

Where the design had a specific focus on nutrition, this section should assess the grant's ability to address nutrition issues in line with the IFAD12 commitments.

The grant was specifically designed to tackle nutrition through developing and validating methodologies and tools for measuring and tracking the impact of IFAD-funded rural development projects on women's empowerment and other development outcomes including food security and dietary diversity. While reaching gender equality is an important end in itself, its fulfilment plays a crucial role in achieving other SDGs including the eradication of poverty (SDG 1), ending hunger, and achieving food and nutrition security (SDG 2). Data were collected for assessing food security at the household level also through the use of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), disaggregated by gender, as well as other household-level indicators of dietary patterns and food consumption.

Findings show that almost all projects improved the food security situation, as measured by the food insecurity experience scale. Beneficiary households in Djibouti, Ghana, Tanzania, and Nigeria had significantly improved food security compared to non-beneficiaries. In most cases this improvement was accompanied by a similar increase in the proportion of food secure households and a reduction of the incidence of moderate and severe food insecurity. Moreover, household dietary diversity scores increased among beneficiary households in Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Youth focus

Where the design had a specific focus on youth, this section should assess the grant's ability to address issues related to the creation of opportunities for youth in line with the IFAD12 commitments. Attention should be given to specific targets mentioned in the Logframe with respect to youth.

The empirical evidence generated through the impact assessments of the six rural development projects funded by IFAD not only informed the relative effectiveness of alternative interventions in achieving the intended project goals but is guiding on how best to mainstream gender and youth issues into the design of new rural development projects. Until now, most monitoring and evaluation efforts of agricultural development programs, including the pro-WEAI, have paid little attention to youth empowerment (e.g., its achievement, the relative importance of its component domains, its measurement aspects). The Ghana REP III project impact assessment, in particular, helped fill this gap.

Indeed, similar to most countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana has a relatively young age structure with an estimated 55% of the population under the age of 25. Given the low education and experience levels of this age group, Ghana's youth face relatively high barriers to market entry. Unemployment rate among Ghana's youth is significantly higher than the national rate, with a large, discouraged segment of youth out of the labor force.

Under the Ghana REP III project, beneficiaries of the *Business Development Services* component received various types of trainings on technical and management skills, as well as individual and group start-up kits, as this component sought to benefiting the youth by supporting the creation of profitable and viable agricultural and rural enterprises, such as e-commerce platforms and a premium equity greenhouse vegetable chain. Furthermore, under the *Enabling Business Environment* component that aimed at promoting access to rural finance, matching grant funds were established to enhance access to and the social benefits of economic and financial groups (especially women) and to facilitate a graduation process for youth, i.e., from apprenticeship or training to profitable business ownership through start-up kits and financing to invest in productive assets. In addition, the Youth Business Development Fund and the Graduate Youth Challenge Fund have been created for youth. The former seeks to facilitate access to a loan worth 30% of the investment from the PFIs for participating youth; the latter targets innovative and scalable projects in the agribusiness/value chain and information and communications technologies (ICT) that have the potential to solve bottlenecks within the agricultural value chains and create jobs for the benefit of rural communities.

Results from the IA suggest that Ghana REP III's efforts to generate good job opportunities for the youth were successful, with strong, positive, and significant impacts of the programme on both gross and net household income of youth-headed households being observed. This finding is in line with the strong REP III support towards the most vulnerable groups, especially youth. However, evidence shows that business profitability remains a weak area in REP III's intervention for this sub-group as well.

Synergies and linkages with IFAD operations

This section should assess whether the grant successfully established linkages to the wider IFAD portfolio and with other investments/instruments under the IFAD12 business model, both within the target countries and at the regional/global level depending on the nature and scope of the grant. Explain how the grant helped strengthen PoLG delivery and results, in particular through IFAD country programmes. The concrete contribution of the grant to the realisation of specific country programme objectives (as established in the relevant COSOP/CSN), as well as to broader development initiatives and IFAD corporate priorities should be considered. Discuss the concrete

activities and mechanisms used to support exchanges with IFAD country / regional teams and Project Management Units.

This grant successfully established close linkages with the wider IFAD portfolio by providing key lessons learned linked to IFAD's development effectiveness efforts and IFAD's gender transformation agenda. On the one hand, IFAD's Development Effectiveness Framework highlights the importance of projects achieving development effectiveness through being inclusive by supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. The first step towards generating evidence in this area is to develop the methodology to measure the impact of rural development projects in a disaggregated manner by sex and by age groups, which has been achieved through the activities of this grant. On the other hand, during IFAD10 and IFAD 11, IFAD had set an ambitious goal of achieving 15-25% of its projects to be gender transformative. This grant has generated the required methodologies needed to assess the progress towards this corporate goal.

Innovation

IFAD defines innovation as “a new process, product or approach that adds value and delivers a sustainable, equitable, inclusive and/or new contextual solution to rural development challenges”. IFAD aims to catalyse the generation, testing and scaling up of solutions that have the potential to contribute to deliver equitable, better and greater impact for the rural poor by leveraging on learning, strategic partnerships, digitalization and the implementation of suitable tools and guidelines. For IFAD, the most important innovations are those that impact rural poor people directly.

This section should assess whether the grant generated, tested and/or scaled up innovations, by exploring methodologies, institutional/organizational arrangements or technologies that are new in the context in which they are applied. Describe, in particular, any innovative solutions based on information and communications technologies for development and digital agriculture approaches.

Although development agencies and project implementers already use sex-disaggregated data throughout the project cycle, indicators to measure women's empowerment are not routinely part of projects' monitoring and evaluation systems. The grant has supported IFAD in improved learning and accountability through *ex-post* impact assessments of IFAD-supported projects that have explicitly targeted women in the theory of change. To this end, the grantee team has developed an integrated Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (I-WEAI) that adapts the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) for inclusion in standard impact assessment surveys, such as the one designed by the Research and Impact Assessment (RIA) division of IFAD. The grant has proposed and implemented the I-WEAI methodology in five of the six project countries, reporting the results from these efforts in the IA reports. As an example, evidence for Mali points towards strengthening existing components that support women's empowerment and engagement in group activities, such as literacy, financial and business generation training; conducting mandatory gender training for local agents and implementing the programs; including an explicit gender component or separate gender training, which targets both men and women; and finally creating opportunities or events that promote inter-group or community dialogue.

Partnerships and policy

This section should assess progress against the grants' partnership and policy objectives. Please focus on the operational partnerships established or strengthened through the grant and on the mechanisms and platforms used to support and promote higher-level policies for inclusive and sustainable rural and food systems transformation, fostering an enabling environment for investing

in smallholder agriculture. Report any cases in which grant's activities successfully influenced the policy or institutional framework through the enhancement of smallholder participation in policy processes, the production or utilization of evidence in policy processes and / or the increased policy capacity of governments (or other relevant actors, depending on the grant's scope and objectives) to design and / or implement policies.

The grant has established partnerships with many local partners and organizations during the course of the implementation. The results of the grant have been used in affecting policy-making, as was the case in Mali when the grantee team and IFAD staff had a high-level dialogue with the Minister of Agriculture on the IA of the Mali-PMR. Empirical results of the application of the grant-supported new methodology were presented at numerous international conferences and IFAD regional validation meetings, during which the grantee team has had the possibility of presenting the IA results, as such informing the design of future projects or upcoming phases of the same projects evaluated. The methodology was also presented to various international development agencies and institutions (e.g., the World Bank, USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation during the Data for Policy Conference in December 2022).

Knowledge management and Communication

Based on the strategic objective/s defined for the grant's knowledge management strategy, this section should assess: how KM was used to improve the project's own performance; how it contributed to the scaling up strategy and how lessons were shared within IFAD and among a wider audience. The assessment should reflect the extent to which relevant and useful knowledge products were produced, disseminated and taken-up, and whether the grant recipient regularly and clearly acknowledged IFAD's contribution in every knowledge and/or communications product, initiative and/or event.

The I-WEAI methodology was an innovative and ground-breaking attempt to integrate the 12 pro-WEAI indicators into standard multi-topic household surveys (such as the one proposed by the RIA Division of IFAD) for project evaluation, with a proof-of-concept applied to at least five IFAD gender-sensitive projects conducted by IFPRI, with the aim of reducing the interview time of pro-WEAI, keeping consistency in the pro-WEAI three domains of empowerment and 12 component indicators, and including as many indicators as possible in the standard multi-topic household-level instrument. The I-WEAI methodology was presented at the 2020 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, at a webinar at IFPRI in 2021, at the 2021 International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE), at the IFAD conference on Jobs, innovation, and rural value chains in the context of climate transition in 2022, and at the 2022 Data for Policy Conference in Seattle, Washington, USA.

Scaling up and sustainability

This section should assess the extent to which grant financed initiatives and innovations are being scaled up, or the extent to which they contribute to scaling up processes (i.e. grants supporting knowledge management or policy processes). The sustainability of the grant activities and benefits should be assessed, and updated information should be provided on the grants' exit strategy with clear indications on mechanisms, timelines and responsibilities.

The I-WEAI approach proposed and implemented under the grant was also explored as part of gender integration into national surveys under the [50X2030 initiative](#), with consequent high probability of scaling-up to other large-scale initiatives by international organizations and local governments. Internally at IFAD, there is discussion to use the I-WEAI methodology to measure women's empowerment in gender transformative projects, as part of the monitoring and evaluation of IFAD-

funded projects in addition to promoting the use of associated data tools and analysis to inform in-country policy dialogue on women's empowerment in rural areas.

Lessons learned and implementation issues

Provide a summary description of the lessons learned from grant implementation. Highlight two or three opportunities and/or key generic issues/risks, if any, that affected overall grant implementation, that were discussed with IFAD and/or key stakeholders - and the proposed mitigation measures that were adopted and could be adopted in the future for similar issues.

The grant has generated and validated the methodology and tools for use by governments and national/international development organizations to monitor and measure the empowerment of women and girls. It has provided rigorous empirical evidence on the impact of rural development projects on women and girls' access to productive and natural resources as well as subsequent economic and development outcomes, has generated various knowledge products and platforms (e.g., technical reports, peer-reviewed publications, country briefs, infographics, conference presentations, training materials, webinars, policy seminars) to disseminate validated methodology and tools as well as project findings. In addition, the grant has helped improve the capacity of development professionals working with IFAD-funded projects, including project implementers, monitoring and evaluation specialists, donors and researchers— to use the I-WEAI and related concepts and tools to improve M&E systems and meet the growing demand to adequately incorporate women's empowerment and gender parity in the design, implementation, and assessment of rural development projects. In general, the grant has enhanced the ability to track progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda, especially SDGs 1, 2, and 5.

However, grant implementation has been affected by some challenges. First, the lack of a solid, rigorous, and updated monitoring system for beneficiaries and interventions by IFAD projects severely hampered the timeliness and effectiveness of the grant, with the consequent need to collect the missing data on beneficiaries and interventions as part of the grant activities, considerably lengthening the impact assessment cycle and the preparation of the associated knowledge products. Collecting this type of project data at the time of (or in some cases even after) project closure proved to be particularly challenging, given the absence of IFAD-project management unit staff on the ground who were needed to support this activity. Second, the external, global shock of the COVID-19 pandemic created, besides the health and economic crises, a universal and immediate recession, exacerbated by restrictions on social gatherings and movements. The global downturn has negatively affected the potential of the ex-post impact assessment surveys to rigorously capture the impact of IFAD-supported projects on various outcomes of interest, with an unknown effect on the estimated indicators to date. In addition, restrictions imposed by governments in various project countries had the effect of halting all data collection initiatives, leading to postponement of activities in some cases by one year. Understandably, more stringent requirements for securing ethical approvals from IFPRI and local authorities, following the COVID-19 outbreak, had to be met inadvertently causing further delays for the approval of data collection on human subjects, given the legitimate concerns on social distancing. The ban on international travels also greatly hindered the effectiveness of the grant, for which field interaction with local actors, counterparts, and collaborators is essential for the implementation of grant activities related to impact assessments.

Implementation arrangements

Describe implementation arrangements, including IFAD supervision and implementation support. If applicable, also include changes in the grant implementation context, grant design and/or outreach, describing adjustments that were made in response to the challenges encountered.

IFAD supervision and implementation support has been constantly high during the entire course of grant implementation. The IFPRI team was in continuous contact with IFAD staff, attending meetings and providing regular updates on grant progress, also owing to the convenient duty station of the grant's principal investigator, at an arm-length from IFAD-HQ staff. In some instances, some changes in grant designs were deemed necessary (for example, a project in Morocco was initially selected for assessment, but later replaced by the PRAREV project in Djibouti), and in other cases different modalities of data collection were explored (e.g., phone surveys due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person interviewing). As mentioned above, one of the implementation adjustments that had the biggest impact on the timeliness and effectiveness of the grant activities was the necessity to conduct face-to-face data collection, entailing in-person interactions with IFAD beneficiaries and comparison group communities. This was overwhelmingly challenging in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which remained persistent and severe for several months in the countries selected as part of the grant. Notwithstanding, these issues required changes in the grant's course of action and eventually a no-cost extension of the grant activities. Overall, the agility of the grantee and strong collaboration with the IFAD country teams enabled the grant activities to be carried out successfully.

Monitoring and evaluation

This section should describe the grant M&E system from data collection to data analysis. All M&E outputs produced by the grants (e.g. surveys, case studies) should be described, as well as the extent to which these were used and will be used for informed decision-making.

The grant M&E system has been mainly focused on the following outputs:

- Impact Assessment plans for Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, and Djibouti
- Survey data collection

	Year	Number of surveyed households
Mali Ex-post PMR evaluation household and community survey	2019	1,814
Nigeria Ex-post VCDP evaluation household and community	2020	1,735
Ghana Ex-post REP III evaluation household and community	2021	1,738
Djibouti Ex-post PRAREV evaluation household and community survey	2021	1,385
Kenya Ex-post UTaNRMP evaluation household and community survey	2021	1,608
Tanzania Ex-post MIVARF evaluation household and community survey	2021	1,828

- Data reporting for all six countries based on IFAD template and aggregation dictionary
- Collective and time-agency new methodological survey modules

-Research papers:

- Integrating Measures of Women's Empowerment in Impact Assessments of Rural Development Projects: Methodology and Pilot Results from Mali
- Measuring Women's Empowerment: Gender and Time-use Agency in Benin, Malawi, and Nigeria
- Conceptualization and Development of Survey Questions for the Measurement of Time-Use Agency, a New Concept for Measuring Women's Empowerment
- The Time-Use Agency Scale: Development and Validation of a Measure for Ghana and Beyond
- The Group-Related Collective Agency Scales (GCAS-23 and GCAS-12) – Full and Short Form Scales for Construct Measurement
- Do rural micro and small enterprise development programs work? Lessons from Ghana
- Technical efficiency and technological change of value chains in five Nigerian states

-Validation meetings

- Nigeria-VCDP validation meeting June 2021
- Mali-PMR validation meeting: March 2022
- Djibouti PRAREV validation meeting: March 2022
- Ghana REP III validation meeting: May 2022
- Tanzania MIVARF validation meeting: June 2022
- Kenya UTaNRMP validation meeting: June 2022

-Reports and other products

- Methodological report (2020)
- Action 22 note to Executive Board (2020)
- Synthesis report (2022)
- Quantitative Impact Assessment reports for all six countries
- Qualitative reports for all six countries
- Country briefs and infographics for all six countries
- Report on Nigeria Value Chain Development Program Cognitive Interview

Financial and fiduciary management

This section should provide information on project costs and financial management, and it should include a statement of expenditures detailing the amount budgeted, spent and left outstanding under each budget category.

See the Statement of Expenditure as of December 31, 2021 attached

Other information

This section should include any other relevant information that the recipient wishes to highlight with regard to progress made in the implementation of the grant.

Conclusions and recommendations for follow up

Annotations:

This section should describe the major accomplishments achieved and constraints encountered, as well as recommendations for any following phases of grant implementation.

The team has accomplished what was committed in the grant agreement, despite the enormous exogenous challenges due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The health and economic emergency had halted fieldwork data collection in Ghana for almost a year (from March 2020 to February 2021) due to government's restrictions on movements and social gatherings.

The Tanzania impact assessment was also significantly and negatively affected by the pandemic, as the fear of the virus led to major delays in the collection of beneficiary and control data, which had been assigned to a local university, given the lack of updated beneficiary data at project level.

In Kenya the COVID-19 spread was disproportionately higher than in other project countries selected for grant activities, and the government's requirements for in-person data collection were more stringent, requiring additional unforeseen time to allow the local survey firm and grantee team to implement the grant activities.

In addition, in Djibouti, the delay in the original timeline was due to the fear of the pandemic, which had limited movements and social interactions for beneficiary data collection. There were also communication issues experienced between the grantee team and the local staff affiliated with the PRAREV project.

The grant team's efforts were hampered by the impossibility of the team to carry out local supervision missions and in-person interaction in all countries, rendering remote activities particularly difficult and challenging. Despite the pervasive effects of the pandemic in all sectors of the economy the grant was effectively led and implemented. All the data, impact assessment parameters and reports committed were prepared and submitted to IFAD by the agreed-upon time for all countries.

Annexes/Appendices

Projects' main characteristics

	PMR	VCDP	REP III	MIVARF	UTaNRMP	PRAREV
Project Name	Rural Microfinance Program	Value Chain Development Programme	Rural Enterprises Programme - phase III	Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance Support	Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project	Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas
Country	Mali	Nigeria	Ghana	Tanzania	Kenya	Djibouti
Timeframe	2010-2018	2012-2024	2011-2024	2011-2020	2012-2022	2013-2021
Sector	Crop	Crop	Households' Enterprises	Crop	Natural resources management	Natural resources management
Targeting	Rural households	Farmers engaged in rice and cassava value chains	Rural households	Rural households	Rural households	Fishing cooperatives and Fishermen
Funding	IFAD (60%), Canadian Cooperation (26%) Govt of Mali (9%) Implementing partners (4%) Beneficiaries (1%)	IFAD (65%) other co-financiers (11%) Local private sector (16%) Beneficiaries (7%)	IFAD (17%) AfDB (38%) Govt of Ghana (13%) District assemblies (21%) Participating financial institutions and clients (11%)	IFAD (53%) AfDB (37%) Govt of Tanzania (2%) Implementing partners (5%) Others (3%)	IFAD (53%) Govt of Kenya (13%) Spanish Trust Fund (19%) Beneficiaries (9%), others (6%)	IFAD (76%) Govt of Djibouti (19%) Other (5%)
Total cost	US\$ 42.08 million	US\$ 330.5 million	US\$ 185.1 million	US\$ 170.5 million	US\$ 87.37 million	US\$ 13.3 million