



Main findings from the assessment of The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2013¹

CONTEXT

IFAD...

... was created in 1974 to **mobilise resources for agriculture and rural development** in developing countries. It provides financial and technical assistance to agriculture and rural development projects with the perspective that smallholder agriculture can act as both a crucial source of rural income and nutrition and a vector for rural economic growth.

...has a **unique and specialised mandate** that focuses exclusively on poverty alleviation of the rural poor through agricultural and rural development. IFAD has characteristics of both an International Financial Institution and a UN specialised agency.

...has a clear **Strategic Framework** (2011-2015) that sets out the strategic goals, objectives and principles of engagement. IFAD's overarching goals are to improve food security and nutrition, raise household incomes and strengthen resilience.

...has recently implemented a number of **organisational reforms** to improve its effectiveness in the areas of managing for development results, quality of projects, strategic planning, innovation, efficiency and human resources. In its Ninth Replenishment Period (2013 - 2015), IFAD has committed to increasing the focus on value for money and impact measurement.

...relies entirely on **voluntary contributions** provided by member state governments, other multilateral organisations, and foundations. Most of IFAD's operations involve a significant level of co-financing. In 2012, domestic co-financing was almost equal to IFAD's own commitment.

... was previously assessed by MOPAN in 2010. Its performance has steadily improved over the three years since the last assessment.

KEY STRENGTHS OF IFAD

- IFAD continues to be acknowledged for its **unique mandate** that gives IFAD a clear niche in the development landscape. IFAD's Strategic Framework (2011-2015) is well aligned with its mandate.
- IFAD has a strong focus on and provides **clear directions for results** at the organisational level. IFAD regularly updates its Results Measurement Framework with input from its members.
- IFAD addresses the **cross-cutting themes** of gender equality, environment, and food security and nutrition.
- IFAD's stakeholders in countries consider the organisation to be strong overall in **responding to the key priorities of national partners**. IFAD demonstrates strong support for national and

¹ This document presents the main findings from MOPAN's 2013 "IFAD Institutional Report".



partner plans, and for funding proposals designed and developed by national governments or other direct partners.

- The transparency of IFAD's **performance-based resource allocation** system is noted.
- The **independence of IFAD's Office of Evaluation**, the quality assurance of its evaluations, and the follow-up and use of performance information from evaluations is recognised.
- IFAD makes most of its **corporate documents available to the public** and amended its Disclosure Policy in 2010, in response to requests for greater public access to its documentation.
- IFAD has significantly improved its **human resource management policies and practices** in recent years and remains committed to ambitious reforms in this area.

KEY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT FOR IFAD

- IFAD has improved its approach to **results-based budgeting** at the institutional level but this is still a work in progress.
- Some of IFAD's decision-making authority has been **decentralised** but programme approval remains centralised.
- IFAD's current institutional reporting practices do not allow for a clear assessment of **its contributions to development outcomes and impacts**. The "Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness" (RIDE) provides evidence of progress towards planned outputs in thematic priority areas but limited evidence of IFAD's contribution to development outcomes at the country-level. However, changes in the IFAD9 replenishment period are likely to improve these aspects.

The full assessment report, the Executive Summary and the management response by IFAD to this assessment are available at: www.mopanonline.org