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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **Report of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee on the country visit to Mozambique**

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**For: Review**

## Report of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee on the country visit to Mozambique

### Background and objectives

1. In line with its terms of reference, the Evaluation Committee undertook a country visit to Mozambique from 24 to 28 May 2010. All members apart from France and Ireland took part in the visit.<sup>1</sup> IFAD was represented by the Director of the IFAD Office of Evaluation (IOE); the Director of the Eastern and Southern Africa Division (ESA); the Senior Portfolio Manager representing the Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department; the Mozambique Country Programme Manager; and other staff. The Ambassador of Mozambique to Italy accompanied the Committee throughout its visit to the country.
2. The overall objective of the country visits is to gain knowledge and experience of IFAD's evaluation work and operations in the field, thereby enabling the Evaluation Committee to provide more informed guidance on evaluation matters to the Executive Board, Management and IOE, and enhance members' competence in this particular area.

### Programme of the annual visit

3. The Committee participated in the IFAD Country Programme Evaluation National Round-table Workshop on 24-25 May held in Maputo. Following that, it travelled to Sofala Province to visit three IFAD-funded operations: the Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project; the Rural Finance Support Programme; and the Agriculture Support Programme, which supports the National Programme for Agricultural Extension.

### Country programme evaluation (CPE) national round-table workshop

4. The workshop was organized by the Government of Mozambique and IOE, with the collaboration of ESA. The Government took the lead in coordinating the event, which is a manifestation of the importance it attributes to its partnership with IFAD. More than 100 persons took part in the workshop, including government officials, project directors, NGOs and civil society representatives, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, private-sector representatives, Evaluation Committee members, and IFAD Management and staff. The workshop was inaugurated by the Mozambique Minister of Fisheries, and the Governor of the Bank of Mozambique delivered the closing statement of the event (see annex for workshop agenda).
5. An issues paper was prepared by IOE in collaboration with the Government and ESA as background for the workshop discussions. This paper was circulated together with the main CPE ahead of the event. The issues paper was organized around three themes: (i) engaging private and civil society organizations in IFAD-supported programmes in Mozambique; (ii) targeting aspects in future interventions in Mozambique; and (iii) reflection on existing areas of intervention of IFAD in Mozambique – relevance and options for improvement. The paper effectively captured the main learning elements of the CPE and raised a number of pertinent points to be considered in the development of the new Mozambique country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP), which will be presented to the Executive Board for consideration in the near future.
6. The Committee found the workshop to be well organized, with adequate time and space for presentations and discussions in both plenary sessions and working groups. It provided a useful forum for the validation of the CPE's findings and for discussion of key issues and lessons learned. It also served to identify country context issues that would be useful for the preparation of the forthcoming COSOP;

<sup>1</sup> The member from the Netherlands was only able to take part in the national roundtable in Maputo on 24-25 May and did not participate in the field visit to IFAD-funded operations from 26-28 May.

and to collect valuable inputs for the CPE's agreement at completion point, which, in fact, was signed in Maputo by the Government at the end of the workshop. The Committee was satisfied with the inclusive nature of the workshop, which brought together IFAD's varied clientele.

7. In the closing session of the workshop, the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee offered his reflections on the IFAD-Government partnership in Mozambique. He also underlined a number of issues that merit attention in the development of the new COSOP. These include the importance of promoting innovations in agriculture technology and their scaling up for wider impact on rural poverty; the need for achieving greater gender equality and women's empowerment in Mozambique; the opportunities for further strengthening partnership and synergies with the African Development Bank; the importance of promoting decentralization for bringing decision-making, resource allocation and implementation closer to the grass-roots level; and the need to find ways and means to address the challenges posed by climate change to small farmers and fishers.

#### **Field visit**

8. The field visit to Sofala Province was organized by the Government (under the overall aegis of the Ministry of Planning and Development) and ESA. It provided members with a good opportunity to exchange views and interact with different stakeholders at the project level including provincial authorities, implementing partners, beneficiaries and project staff. Before the Committee travelled to Sofala, ESA provided it with an overview of the projects included in the field visit and the main activities undertaken.
9. From the field visit, it was evident that IFAD is a respected partner that has a valuable role to play in rural poverty reduction in the country. Meeting with groups of women and fishing communities revealed that IFAD-funded projects are making an important contribution to promoting better incomes and livelihoods. However, the challenges of working in remote areas with a relatively low population density, weak infrastructure and limited access to markets are important constraints that need greater attention in the future.
10. The field visit gave the Committee a further opportunity to appreciate the coverage, both in terms of the number of operations and geographic area, of the IFAD-funded portfolio in Mozambique. While the Committee recognized the good and hard work of the national country officer based in Mozambique, it was felt that the Mozambique country staff are stretched given the diversity of functions they are required to discharge. It was also evident from the field visit and interactions with various stakeholders that the country presence will need to be further strengthened if IFAD is to play a more effective role in combating rural poverty in the country. A stronger and more permanent country presence would be commensurate with the size and importance of the Mozambique portfolio, and enable IFAD to more actively participate in policy dialogue processes, knowledge management and partnership-building activities.
11. There were aspects related to the logistics of the field visit to Sofala that created some concern to members, including the long distances of travel, which did not allow sufficient time for interactions with communities and visits to project sites.

#### **Bilateral meetings**

12. The Committee also held bilateral meetings in Maputo just before and after the commencement of the CPE national round-table workshop with: (i) high-level government representatives, including the Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Agriculture, Vice-Minister of Finance, and the Governor of the Bank of Mozambique;

- (ii) the United Nations Country Team; and (iii) selected representatives from the National Agriculture Development Programme (PROAGRI)<sup>2</sup> donor working group.
13. In bilateral meetings, representatives of the Government underlined, among other issues, the importance of IFAD as one of the major players in the agriculture sector in the country. The Government also emphasized the need for capacity-building at the provincial and district levels, in order to ensure timely delivery of services to promote sustainable smallholder agriculture and rural development. In this regard, in particular, Committee members took note of the Government's commitment to post key officials in selected districts to contribute to participatory planning and implementation of activities.
  14. The United Nations Country Team meeting was useful in clarifying the importance of the "Delivering as One" United Nations pilot programme, which has been successfully implemented in the country. The United Nations officials present at the meeting also highlighted the positive effects the pilot has had on the Mozambique Government and related agencies. For example, the pilot has contributed to a more coordinated and harmonized approach to broader development planning and resource allocation. Finally, the meeting with PROAGRI focused on ways and means to further streamline donor policies and projects in the country.
  15. In closing, the Evaluation Committee expresses its deepest appreciation for the arrangements made during the field visit to Sofala and for every effort carried out by the Government in making the Committee's 2010 country visit a success. The discussions with the various stakeholders – including beneficiaries, project officials, partner organizations and government representatives – were informative and useful. The Committee pays tribute to and acknowledges the invaluable participation of and interaction with the Ambassador of Mozambique, who accompanied the Committee throughout its visit to the country.

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<sup>2</sup> PROAGRI brings together over 70 donor-funded projects to deliver agricultural services to Mozambican farmers.



**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE**  
**MINISTÉRIO DA PLANIFICAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO**  
**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**  
**IFAD Country Programme Evaluation National Round-table Workshop**

Date	Hour	Activity	Presenter
<b>Day 1</b> <b>24.05.10</b>	10:00	Welcome remarks	Master of Ceremony
	10:05	Statement	Mr Luciano Lavizzari, Director, IFAD Office of Evaluation
	10:15	Statement	Mr Shyam Khadka, Senior Portfolio Manager, Programme Management Department, IFAD (to deliver a statement on behalf of Mr Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, IFAD)
	10:25	Inaugural workshop address	Mr Victor Borges, Minister of Fisheries, Government of Mozambique
	10:35	Presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the Mozambique country programme evaluation (CPE)	Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Senior Evaluation Officer (on behalf of Mr Paul Andre Rochon, Senior Evaluation Officer) and Mr Jakob Grosen, Mozambique CPE consultants' team leader, IFAD
	11:05	Plenary discussions	Moderated by Mr Salim Valá, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development, Government of Mozambique
	12:15	Organization of the three working groups	Mr Ashwani Muthoo
	12:30	Lunch	
	14:00	Participants break up into working groups	Working group 1: Engaging private and civil society organizations in IFAD-supported programmes in Mozambique Working group 2: Targeting aspects in future interventions in Mozambique Working group 3: Reflection on existing areas of intervention of IFAD in Mozambique – relevance and options for improvement
	15:30	Coffee break	
	15:45	Working groups reconvene for further discussions	
	17:00	Preparation of working group presentations	The chairperson and rapporteur of each working group will prepare a PowerPoint presentation with the support of IFAD representatives
17:00	Closure		

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hour</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>Day 2 25.05.10</b>	10:00	Opening remarks	Mr Salim Valá
	10:05	Reflection on the previous day's proceedings	Mr Ides de Willebois, Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Division, IFAD
	10:15	Presentations by the three working groups	Working group 1: Engaging private and civil society organizations in IFAD-supported programmes in Mozambique Working group 2: Targeting aspects in future interventions in Mozambique Working group 3: Reflection on existing areas of intervention of IFAD in Mozambique – relevance and options for improvement
	11:00	Plenary discussions on the presentations by the three working groups	Moderated by Mr Salim Valá
	12:00	Next steps in the finalization of the Mozambique CPE process	Mr Ashwani Muthoo
	12:15	Some reflections on the future direction of the new Mozambique country strategy opportunities programme	Mr Alessandro Marini, IFAD Country Programme Manager for Mozambique
	12:30	Main conclusions of the workshop	Mr Salim Valá
	12:45	Closing statements	Dr Abdel Aziz Mohamed Hosni, Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee of IFAD's Executive Board Governor of the Bank of Mozambique on behalf of the Government of Mozambique
	13:00	Lunch	