

Document:	<u>EB 2020/130/R.16/Add.1</u>
Agenda:	<u>8(e)(i)(a)</u>
Date:	<u>1 September 2020</u>
Distribution:	<u>Public</u>
Original:	<u>English</u>

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Investing in rural people

The Union of the Comoros
Country Strategic Opportunities Programme
2020–2025

Addendum

**Management's Response to Member States'
Comments**

Executive Board — 130th Session
Rome, 8-11 September 2020

For: **Information**

Comments from France	Management response
<p>France welcomes the relevance of the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme 2020-2025 for the Union of the Comoros. The strategy's priorities accurately reflect the main challenges faced by the Comorian authorities and are aligned with the National Agricultural Investment Plan 2020-2024.</p> <p>We invite management to thoroughly analyse and promote coordination of IFAD's operations with other donor's programs. In particular the World Bank, whose Country Partnership Framework 2020-2024 includes strengthening the agriculture and fisheries sectors, as well as the UNDP, who is funding a project to diversify and optimize the quality of food crops. We also invite IFAD to strengthen its coordination with the French Development Agency (AFD) in order to avoid overlap between PREFER and AFIDEV, a program for the development of export-oriented value chains funded by AFD.</p> <p>With regard to the project for the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for rural youth foreseen for IFAD12, France invites IFAD to capitalize on the ongoing vocational training and insertion stakeholders resulting from the European Union and AFD financing (such as the KomorInitiative project).</p> <p>Finally, we call on IFAD to provide details regarding the envisaged co-financing target, whose ratio of 1:0:54 is below the target set for IFAD11.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p> <p>We would like to provide assurances that we will ensure close coordination with other donors including the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) throughout the implementation of the country strategy opportunities programme (COSOP). These key donors and partners were indeed consulted during the formulation of the proposed COSOP and the draft document was also shared with them. With UNDP, World Bank, AFD, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), we participated in the coordination working group for agriculture in March 2020 (the working group is still informal but we will engage with other rural development donor and partners for its institutionalisation under the lead of the Ministry in charge of agriculture).</p> <p>The Country Delivery Team (CDT) shared with the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Environment, as well as PREFER's Management Team, the recommendation for stronger collaboration with AFIDEV and we will follow-up in close collaboration with AFD Representatives in the Union of the Comoros.</p> <p>The achievements and lessons learned regarding the ongoing vocational training and insertion stakeholders, funded by the European Union and AFD, will be capitalized during the design of the new project on rural youth employment and entrepreneurship foreseen for the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12) – subject to the country being allocated a Performance-based Allocation System (PBAS). The European Union and AFD will definitely be consulted notably to explore cofinancing opportunities with these two important development partners for the Union of Comoros.</p> <p>The cofinancing target (1:0:54) has been conservatively estimated on the basis of the current levels of cofinancing in the country. However, after the review of the COSOP and with the support of the Government, we will explore cofinancing opportunities with AFD, the European Union, World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Global Environment Facility and Arab banks, all of whom continue to express keen interest to support the agricultural sector in Comoros. In fact, preliminary discussions had already been held with AfDB and World Bank about cofinancing opportunities in the agricultural sector of Comoros.</p>

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Comments from Japan	Management response
<p>Japan supports the COSOP for the Union of Comoros. Here are some comments.</p> <p>Recognizing its climate change vulnerability and high prevalence of poverty in rural areas, where a large number of people depends their living on family farming, the two strategic objectives, SO1 and SO2, are reasonably set and well aligned with the Government's priorities.</p> <p>Food security and nutrition related indicators are still in worrying levels especially for women and children. Thus, we support that this country strategy emphasizes family farming and crop production together with better market access, which will contribute stable and diversified nutrition intake and more cash income gain for smallholder farmers. Prioritised targeting on women and youth are welcome.</p> <p>For strategic partnership, we welcome strengthening of partnership with other UN agencies and IFIs clearly articulated and in particular, we expect good coordination with FAO and UNDP in agricultural sector mentioned in paragraph 54.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p> <p>Noted with thanks.</p> <p>Noted with thanks.</p> <p>The CDT would like to reassure Japan that coordination and partnership with other United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, including FAO and UNDP, will be enhanced notably given that the COSOP foresees the recruitment of an in-country focal person on a part-time basis. The IFAD/Comoros country team participates actively in donors' and technical partners' platform for coordination, established in the Union of the Comoros, under the framework of "Forum des Partenaires au Developpement (FPAD)" as well as in the working group of partners working in rural development. In the framework of partnership between Rome-based agencies, regular dialogue is undertaken with FAO (interactions with FAO facilitated by sharing common office in Madagascar).</p>