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Investing in rural people

Republic of Tajikistan

Country Strategic Opportunities Programme

2019-2024

Addendum

Management's Response to Member States' Comments

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

For: **Information**

Comments from Canada	Management response
<p>The comments note that the COSOP could be strengthened with analysis of new market access risks created by the COVID pandemic.</p>	<p>The division thanks the representatives of Canada for its comments. The Country Delivery Team (CDT) agrees that the COVID-19 pandemic needs to be considered a risk relative to market access. Its mitigation will be countered by a market assessment during the specific project design process, which will allow us to consider also the relevant commodities and geographic aspects. It should be noted that the country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) was designed prior to the onset of the pandemic (August 2019), and that it is being presented to the Executive Board only now reflects the lengthy approval process for the document on the Tajik side.</p>
<p>The comments indicate that the climate adaptation section could be expanded; that the specific gender barriers and intersectional issues could be added; and that IFAD consider strengthening agrobiodiversity of the targeted communities.</p>	<p>The CDT agrees with these points and confirms that they will feed into the design of the next IFAD project. The strict limitations on the length of COSOPs mean that the text remains at a general level. More detailed and context-specific information can be provided in the course of the next project design.</p>

Comments from United Kingdom	Management response
<p>The comments point out that it seems strange that biodiversity loss in pastures is the only climate-related risk in the risk matrix.</p>	<p>The division thanks the representatives of the United Kingdom for its comments. We fully agree that the climate-related risks in the country encompass a much wider range of risks than those listed. In the synthetic risk matrix, the COSOP purports for each category to highlight only the selected risk(s) that are most pertinent to the IFAD portfolio, ongoing and contemplated. Given the strong focus of IFAD on pasture rehabilitation as well as the social and economic implications of degraded pastures, this has been identified as the most important climate-related risk.</p>
<p>The comments from the UK note that the SECAP does not include Tajikistan's NDC commitments.</p>	<p>The CDT agrees that this would be a valuable addition. The matter of the contribution towards Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments will be left for the detailed design of the projects, as meaningful and updated estimates can be made only then, in close consultation with the National Designated Authority (NDA) of the Committee on Environmental Protection and other relevant government partners.</p>
<p>The comments point out that the development objectives of the LPDP 1&2 remain important for the duration of the COSOP, at least as much as CASP which is being extended under CASP2.</p>	<p>The CDT fully agrees, and confirms that the successful elements of the Livestock and Pasture Development Project (LPDP) 1&2 will also be considered and most likely continued under the Community-Based Agricultural Support Project (CASP) 2; most notably the elements related to pasture rotation and reduction of pressure on pastures.</p>

Comments from Switzerland	Management response
The comments outline the importance of more information on other stakeholders besides government agencies, such as community-based organizations, women, migrants, etc.	The division thanks the representatives of Switzerland for its comments. The CDT agrees that these are valuable aspects to consider. While the key partners have been mentioned, given the tight word limit of the COSOP, a conscious choice has been made to defer a detailed elaboration to detailed design stage. The next design will include a full scoping of the relevant potential partners at the grassroots level, and provide an ample analysis and description of their inclusion in the programme.
The comments outline that overview on legislation could be updated with information on the New Water Code of April 2, 2020.	The CDT agrees that this is a valid point. It should be noted that COSOP was designed prior to the passing of the legislation, and that it is being presented to the Executive Board only now reflects the lengthy approval process for the document on the Tajik side (to whom it was submitted already in August 2019).
The comments makes note of that the COSOP does not include information about the security situation in the country.	The project is implemented by the Government's Project Management Unit embedded in the Ministry of Agriculture, which follows the Government's security prescriptions. The implementation of IFAD supervisions and designs are heeding the United Nations security ratings, plans and the periodical updates and recommendations. In the course of ongoing implementation, security issues have not prevented work even in the highlighted areas such as the Afghan border or the Sughd oblast, which is close to the Ferghana valley.
The comments note that gender is integrated in most parts of the document, but suggest to add a section on transversal themes; that the COSOP indicators be gender disaggregated re beneficiary satisfaction; and that an indicator on women's participation be added.	The CDT agrees that these are valuable points, and will ensure that they are taken on board in the next detailed project design. As is already the ongoing practice, the country team will make sure that gender-disaggregated data is available for all indicators.
The comments inquire whether food for work schemes are considered for rehabilitation of irrigation systems.	The CDT clarifies that typically rehabilitation is procured from local companies, where the workers are salaried professionals.
The comments inquire whether there are contingency plans for the case the country shuts down in case of COVID-19.	In the event of such an outcome, necessary adjusting measures will be taken in the context of the ongoing projects, taking into account the latest available information. IFAD's strategic response has been to provide specifically targeted grants, as well as sufficient operational flexibility for the ongoing projects. This has allowed us to consider the relevant value chains under threat, as well as geographic aspects. For example, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IFAD approved a repurposing of a project – within the confines of the financing agreement and the overarching project objectives – that allowed reaching out to 7,000 poor households to ensure their food security in connection with the spectre of closed borders and reduced food imports; as well as technical support from country teams together with other development partners.
The comments from Switzerland recommend to draw on the lessons learned from the Integrated Health and Habitat Improvement Rasth Valley Project on involvement of community-based organizations.	The CDT thanks the Swiss representative for the advice and assures that it will be followed in the course of the next project design.
The comments from Switzerland recommend that access to credit be discussed in the COSOP.	The division submits that due to strict space limitations of the COSOP, this issue has been deferred to be dealt with at length in the detailed project designs as it is dependent on the type of activities to be financed.

Comments from Switzerland	Management response
The comments from Switzerland recommend focus on supplying good quality seeds and fertilizers, increasing storage capacities and rehabilitating critical infrastructure.	The support provided to the communities through the LPDP 1&2 and CASP is in line with priorities expressed by the communities among a menu of various types of support, which includes the aforementioned. Having been very successful in creating community ownership, this same methodology is expected to be adopted in the future pipeline. Thus, the upcoming projects are indeed likely to include the aforementioned types of support, in line with community priorities and action plans.
The comments recommend elaborating on how sustainability will be attained, beyond the general statements made in the COSOP.	The CDT submits that the issue of sustainability is most appropriately taken up at the level of individual projects, where it is possible to define specific strategies to achieve sustainable results. At the COSOP stage, where such activities have not been planned in detail, it is difficult to move beyond broad statements of principle.
The comments mention that it would be good to have more 'illustrated' information on the expected results of more than 10 years of activities.	The CDT is grateful this suggestion and will seek to consider it in connection with the next design within the limits of what the relevant guidelines allow.

Comments from Japan	Management response
Japan's comments convey that they share the common view of the challenges for food security.	The division thanks the representatives of Japan for its comment.