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Investing in rural people

Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2023-2025 and date of visit to Sierra Leone

Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 133rd Session
Rome, 13-16 September 2021

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the revised rolling plan for the 2023-2025 period and the date for the visit to Sierra Leone.

1. The Office of the Secretary, with the assistance of the Programme Management Department, is responsible for managing the field visit programme for the Executive Board in accordance with the recommendation contained in the Peer Review of IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Evaluation Function, which was endorsed by the Executive Board at its ninety-ninth session (EB 2010/99/R.6).
2. In December 2012, the Executive Board approved a new modality for country visits, which required the Board to decide on the destination of future annual visits. Under the new procedures, country visits would be open to participation by Executive Board members that were not members of the Evaluation Committee. Nine members would participate in the visits: four from List A, two from List B and three from List C. The Lists would decide on the participation, and the visits would be fully funded by IFAD. The Board also stipulated that a maximum of three additional members of the Executive Board that were not members of the Evaluation Committee could join the country visits on a self-financing basis. These new rules were to be applied for the annual country visits from 2014 onwards.
3. In identifying the destination, the following criteria determine the country selection: (i) an ongoing country programme is present (ideally with a mix of lending and non-lending activities); (ii) the country has been subject to a country-level evaluation or a completion report has been produced on the results-based country strategic opportunities programme (RB-COSOP) within the previous two years; (iii) at least two of three country visits over a replenishment period should be to a least developed country (LDC) or country with a fragile situation; and (iv) adequate regional rotation must be ensured in country selection.
4. In light of the above and in consultation with the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), the updated plan for country visits in 2023-2025 is the following:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>Fragile/LDC</i>
2023	East and Southern Africa (ESA)	Uganda	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2020	LDC
2024	Near East, North Africa and Europe (NEN)	Tunisia	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2019	
2025	Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	Haiti	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2023	LDC / Fragile

5. The visits to Uganda and Tunisia were approved at the 131st session of the Executive Board. The rolling plan is hereby updated with the introduction of Haiti as the destination for 2025.
6. Haiti is categorized as an LDC and as fragile; a country strategy and programme evaluation will be carried out tentatively in 2023; and the ongoing portfolio in 2025 will have a total value of US\$48 million, with IFAD funding for about US\$18 million, subject to performance-based allocations for the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12). Projects in Haiti will include IFAD's first blue economy project in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. This project focuses on coastal management in a protected area where the country's poorest people live. In

addition, a Green Climate Fund project is being designed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), showcasing close collaboration among the Rome-based agencies.

7. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the visit to Egypt planned for 2020 was postponed to 25-29 October 2021 – the dates previously approved for the 2021 visit to Sierra Leone. New dates therefore need to be selected for the visit to Sierra Leone in 2022. The common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives¹ has been consulted and two possible periods have been identified. These are:
 - (i) 23–27 May 2022; and
 - (ii) 21–25 November 2022.

The November dates would be the best option as the country's rainy season starts around May, making travel complicated.

8. The Executive Board is therefore invited to approve the updated rolling plan 2023-2025 and a date for the visit to Sierra Leone in 2022.

¹ Maintained by FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme.

Summary table of Evaluation Committee/Executive Board member visits:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Region</i>
2004	Syrian Arab Republic	NEN
2005	Indonesia	APR
2006	Mexico	LAC
2007	Mali	WCA
2008	Philippines	APR
2009	India	APR
2010	Mozambique	ESA
2011	Brazil	LAC
2012	Ghana	WCA
2013	Viet Nam	APR
2014	United Republic of Tanzania	ESA
2015	Morocco	NEN
2016	Brazil	LAC
2017	Bangladesh	APR
2018	Ethiopia	ESA
2019	Cameroon	WCA
2020	Cancelled	
2021	Egypt	NEN
2022	Sierra Leone	WCA
2023	Uganda	ESA
2024	Tunisia	NEN
2025	Haiti	LAC