
Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2024-2026 and date of visit to Uganda

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the the revised rolling plan for the 2024-2026 period and the date for the visit to Uganda.

Technical questions:

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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 country strategic opportunities programme 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 a 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, the updated plan for country visits in 2024-2026 is the following:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>Fragile/LDC</i>
2024	Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia (NEN)	Tunisia	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2019	
2025	Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	Haiti	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2023	Fragile/LDC
2026	Asia and the Pacific (APR)	India	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2024	

5. The visits to Tunisia and Haiti were approved by the 133rd session of the Executive Board. The rolling plan is hereby updated with India as the destination for 2026.
6. India is currently categorized as a lower-middle-income country. A country strategy and programme evaluation is tentatively planned for 2024 and the ongoing portfolio in 2026 is projected to have a total value of US\$1.93 billion, with IFAD funding amounting to approximately US\$560 million, subject to performance-based allocations and eligibility for the Borrowed Resources Access Mechanism for the first two years of the Thirteen Replenishment of IFAD's Resources period (2025 to 2027).
7. Projects in India will receive about 18 per cent of the resources allocated to the Asia and the Pacific region. This includes the Rural Enterprise Acceleration Project,

which will focus on climate-smart solutions to make agriculture and related sectors more resilient and remunerative for small-scale producers. The geographic focus, which is in line with government priorities, will be on remote areas, in particular the Himalayan and tribal dominated areas in the country.

8. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the visit to Egypt planned for 2020 was postponed to 25–29 October 2021, the dates previously assigned to the Sierra Leone visit. The dates approved for that visit are now 21-25 November 2022. For the visit to Uganda in 2023, the common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives¹ has been consulted and the following periods have been identified as options:
 - (i) 29 May to 2 June
 - (ii) 27 November to 1 December
9. The Executive Board is therefore invited to approve the updated rolling plan 2024-2026 and a date for the visit to Uganda in 2023.

¹ Maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 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
2026	India	APR