
**Progress report on Rome-based agency
collaboration
Addendum
Management response to Member States' comments**

Document: EB 2022/137/R.27/Add.1

Agenda: 15(a)

Date: 6 January 2023

Distribution: Public

Original: English

FOR: INFORMATION

Technical questions:

Ronald Thomas Hartman

Director
Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource
Mobilization
e-mail: r.hartman@ifad.org

Mikael Kauttu

Senior Partnership Officer
Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource
Mobilization
e-mail: m.kauttu@ifad.org

Comments from Norway	Management response
<p>Norway welcomes the report as a good basis for strengthened RBA collaboration. We look forward to seeing the new MoU by the end of the year.</p>	<p>IFAD would like to thank Norway for their comment and commitment to supporting Rome-based agency (RBA) collaboration. The updated memorandum of understanding (MoU) is to be finalized by the end of 2022 and will highlight several RBA priority areas to focus collective efforts where it is relevant, practical, achievable and impactful at regional and country levels.</p>
<p>RBA collaboration must be based on the respective organizations' mandate and role in delivering on global food security. We do not ask for coordination in Rome on matters that do not provide added value for the people the RBAs are set to serve.</p> <p>We believe that the reform and repositioning of the United Nations Development System is a key to effective cooperation, because it speaks to what we want to see happening at the country level. This is also a clear message coming out of the evaluation, and we welcome the appointment of focal points for the United Nations Reform.</p>	<p>The RBA evaluation reinforced the importance of adhering to each agency's respective mandate and comparative advantage for effective cooperation. The current work being undertaken to address the recommendations as highlighted in the coordinated response, ensures that the RBAs have a way forward toward effective cooperation.</p> <p>The United Nations reform provides an important opportunity to strengthen RBA collaboration for better results on the ground. To this end, IFAD has designated focal points at both country and regional level to have an appropriate coordination mechanism for the full range of collaborative initiatives. Moreover, anchoring the collaboration at both regional and country levels will facilitate stocktaking of successful initiatives, synthesizing, and feeding back lessons learned and best practices, including as contributions to the dialogue on United Nations reform.</p>
<p>Engaging in United Nations reform, through the Resident Coordinators, will necessarily involve collaboration also with other United Nations organizations and other actors that are involved in food security, development and meeting humanitarian needs, such as the IFIs. So, when we assess RBA collaboration, we will first and foremost look at your performance in country. We know that collaboration works well in many countries,</p>	<p>Cooperation and sharing of intelligence with other agencies is part of IFAD's modus operandi in connection with all country-level activities, ranging from design to supervision of projects. IFAD recognizes at all levels – central, regional and country level – that it has everything to gain from collaboration, transparency and sharing of intelligence and plans in country operations with the other RBAs – as well as with the rest of the United Nations family and other international financial institutions (IFIs) and aid organizations.</p>

Comments from Norway	Management response
<p>but there are also instances where RBA representatives appear not even to have met each other. RBAs must pay attention to this.</p> <p>We are pleased that the RBAs are open to the fact that there is competition for resources between the organizations, and that overlapping work is done in some contexts. We expect that the organizations find suitable venues to address such matters.</p>	<p>Examples of the great synergy in this type of cooperation are the numerous joint designs (and also supervision) in which IFAD has routinely involved FAO specialists in country-level work, thus expanding its contact network and deep reach for intelligence and research, which naturally leads to efficient coordination with FAO and also WFP activities at field level. In some occasions this also leads to joint resource mobilization (a recent example is the Community-based Agricultural Support Project Plus (CASP+) in Tajikistan with US\$39 million from the Green Climate Fund).</p> <p>We note the comment on importance of effective communication and engagement between respective agency staff at the country level and reassurance is provided that this is a priority for IFAD and other RBAs.</p>
<p>Norway believes that demonstrating how, and what, you deliver in the humanitarian–development–peace nexus will be a key for us to sign off on the RBA evaluation. We would like to see examples of how you wish to take this forward, and know more about lessons learned in the next report.</p> <p>We see a <i>protracted</i> crisis, caused by conflict and climate change. This demands other responses than currently given. We expect the United Nations-Rome agencies to be innovative. We expect you to remove barriers for collaboration and delivering as one, at the global and national level.</p>	<p>IFAD is constantly seeking opportunities to leverage and strengthen partnerships with RBAs to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the agencies' contribution to food and nutrition security and in particular, the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2.</p> <p>The triple nexus approach (humanitarian–development–peace) is a core feature of RBA collaboration. This is evident in the joint work of the Sahel programme [Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C)] where each agency's participation lends itself to the components of the triple nexus where it has a comparative advantage. As such, it is a good example of RBA collaboration, and will be subject to close study as a model that could be scaled up in other contexts. The overall aim of the programme is to impact the institutional capacities of the G5 Sahel in terms of inclusive political and social dialogue in favour of peace and security with the active involvement of farmers' organizations. The programme addresses the short-term crisis needs of the region, while building resilience of rural communities in the region and, finally, the programme focuses on peacebuilding, which supports the ultimate aim of the programme.</p>