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## **Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2025–2027 and date of visit to Tunisia**

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**Action:** The Executive Board is invited to approve the updated rolling plan for the 2025–2027 period and the date for the visit to Tunisia.

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**Technical questions:**

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## Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2025–2027 and date of visit to Tunisia

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 applied for the annual country visits from 2014 onwards.
3. 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 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 2025-2027 is the following:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>Fragile/LDC</i>
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	
2027	West and Central Africa (WCA)	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2025	Fragile/LDC

5. The visits to Haiti and India were approved at the 136<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board. The rolling plan is hereby updated to include the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the destination for 2027.
6. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently categorized as a least developed country and as a country with a fragile and conflict-affected situation.<sup>1</sup> It is the third most populated country in sub-Saharan Africa and has the largest area of arable land in the continent, estimated at 80 million hectares. At present 10 per

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, FY24 list of fragile and conflict-affected situations: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/608a53dd83f21ef6712b5dfef050b00b-0090082023/original/FCListFY24-final.pdf>.

cent of this land is being cultivated. Despite its huge reserves of natural resources, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world.<sup>2</sup>

7. The West and Central Africa region hosts 31 per cent of the world's extreme poor, of whom 65 per cent live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. IFAD's effectiveness in the region is therefore greatly influenced by the results and impact achieved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A COSOP completion review is planned for 2024 and a two-year extension of the current COSOP is already envisaged. The overall size of IFAD's ongoing portfolio in the country is US\$410 million, including cofinancing; of this, IFAD financing amounts to approximately US\$117 million, sourced from both the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) and the Borrowed Resources Access Mechanism (BRAM).
8. The country's portfolio currently accounts for about 5 per cent of the overall portfolio in the West and Central Africa region. This includes the recently approved Empowerment through Nutrition-Sensitive, Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural and Rural Entrepreneurship (AVENIR) project, which focuses on promoting rural enterprises, and the ongoing Inclusive and Resilient Rural Development Programme (PADRIR) and the Agricultural Support Project in North Kivu (PASA-NK), which focus on productivity and sustainable agricultural value chain development. The geographical focus is on remote rural areas, in particular the provinces of North Kivu, Kasai, Maniema, Kwilu and Mai-Ndombe and the rural periphery of Kinshasa, with the aim of decreasing dependency on food imports, promoting employment for women and youth, and improving the incomes of rural households.
9. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the visit to Egypt planned for 2020 was postponed to 25 to 29 October 2021. The dates for the visit to Sierra Leone were approved as 21 to 25 November 2022. The dates for this year's visit to Uganda are 27 November to 1 December. For the visit to Tunisia in 2024, the common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives<sup>3</sup> has been consulted and possible dates have been identified as 4–8 November.
10. The Executive Board is therefore invited to approve the updated rolling plan 2025–2027 and the dates for the visit to Tunisia in 2024.

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<sup>2</sup> World Bank, Country Overview 2023.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/drc/overview#:~:text=DRC%20is%20among%20the%20five.in%20SSA%20lives%20in%20DRC.>

<sup>3</sup> 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
2027	Democratic Republic of the Congo	WCA