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## **Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2025–2028**

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**Action:** The Executive Board is invited to approve the updated rolling plan for the period 2025–2028.

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**Technical questions:**

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## Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2025–2028

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,<sup>1</sup> which was endorsed by the Executive Board at its ninety-ninth session.
2. In December 2012, the Executive Board approved the current modality for country visits, which required the Board to decide on the destination of future annual visits. Under these 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 (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 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 (IOE), the updated plan for country visits in 2025–2028 is the following:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>Fragile/LDC</i>
<b>2025</b>	<b>Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)</b>	Plurinational State of Bolivia	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2025	
<b>2026</b>	<b>Asia and the Pacific (APR)</b>	India	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2024	
<b>2027</b>	<b>West and Central Africa (WCA)</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2025	Fragile/LDC
<b>2028</b>	<b>East and Southern Africa (ESA)</b>	Mozambique	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2026	Fragile/LDC

5. At its 136<sup>th</sup> session, the Executive Board approved the 2025 country visit destination as Haiti. However, given the current circumstances, the destination of the 2025 visit has been changed from Haiti to the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The visit to India was approved at the 136<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board and the visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo was approved at the 139<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board. The rolling plan is hereby updated to account for the amendment to the 2025 visit and to include Mozambique as the destination for 2028.
6. The Plurinational State of Bolivia is a landlocked lower-middle-income country in South America. While rich in natural resources like lithium and natural gas, the country has been navigating significant socioeconomic challenges amidst political turbulence and a fluctuating global economy, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite efforts to diversify the economy, the country remains heavily dependent on its natural resources exports. Inflation has been relatively contained

<sup>1</sup> EB 2010/99/R.6.

compared to other Latin American countries, but poverty and inequality remain pressing issues. The Government has been pursuing various social programmes aimed at reducing poverty and improving health and education, but progress has been slow and uneven, especially in rural areas. According to figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the country has the highest prevalence of hunger in South America.

7. Moreover, the country is challenged by a considerable rural-urban gap, with 25.8 per cent extreme poverty in rural areas compared to 7 per cent in urban areas. While the urban population continues to grow (reaching around 71 per cent of the total population), the country has a large number of smallholder farmers (i.e. 3.53 million) who produce mainly for domestic consumption and local markets and face many challenges, such as limited access to land, credit, technology, infrastructure and markets, as well as the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranks the Plurinational State of Bolivia as the tenth most vulnerable country to climate change. Despite these difficulties, agriculture remains a vital source of livelihoods and food security for millions of Bolivians, especially for Indigenous Peoples and women. Agriculture accounts for about 27 per cent of total employment.
8. IFAD has been supporting the country's rural development since 1979, through 15 investment projects cumulatively worth US\$276 million, of which US\$156 million is funded by IFAD. These investments have reached more than 277,000 rural households. The overall size of IFAD's ongoing portfolio in the country is US\$92 million, including cofinancing. This includes: (i) the Promoting Agroecological Transitions in Family Farming for Food Security with Sovereignty Programme (Agroecological Frontier), which focuses on strengthening the capacities of rural producers in production and marketing techniques based on agroecology; (ii) the Constructing a Culture of Resilience Against Climate Change for Rural Families in Bolivia (ACCESOS RURAL) programme, focusing on increasing the income of the most vulnerable small rural producers and increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change in the south of the country; and (iii) the recently completed Integral Strengthening Programme for the Camelid Value Chain in the Bolivian High Plateau (PRO-CAMELIDOS), which supported the improvement of living conditions of families and productive economic organizations linked to the camelid production complex, while ensuring sustainable management of natural resources. The Plurinational State of Bolivia COSOP 2021–2025 is expected to be extended, to benefit from learning from the country-level evaluation slated for 2025 and ensure government ownership in light of the upcoming 2025 country elections.
9. Mozambique is currently categorized as a least developed, fragile and conflict-affected country.<sup>2</sup> Mozambique borders the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Eswatini. Its long Indian Ocean coastline of 2,700 kilometres faces east to Madagascar. About two thirds of its estimated 33 million people (2022) live and work in rural areas. The country has ample resources, including arable land, abundant water sources, energy, mineral resources and newly discovered natural gas deposits off its coast. It is also strategically located: four of the six countries it borders are landlocked, hence dependent on Mozambique as a gateway to global markets. Mozambique's strong ties to the region's economic engine, South Africa, underscore the importance of its economic, political, and social development to the stability and growth of Southern Africa as a whole.<sup>3</sup> Despite its huge area, potential and reserves of natural resources, Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world,<sup>4</sup> and one of

<sup>2</sup> <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/608a53dd83f21ef6712b5dfef050b00b-0090082023/original/FCSListFY24-final.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mozambique/overview>.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc\\_list.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc_list.pdf).

Africa's most climate change vulnerable country. Despite all government efforts and investments, the national poverty rate surged from 48.4 per cent to 62.8 per cent between 2014/2015 and 2019/2020.<sup>5</sup>

10. A new COSOP 2023–2027 was approved in late 2023. The overall size of IFAD's ongoing portfolio is US\$291 million, including cofinancing; of this, IFAD financing amounts to approximately US\$176.4 million from the performance-based allocation system (PBAS).
11. The country's portfolio currently accounts for about 6 per cent of the overall portfolio in the East and Southern Africa region. This includes the recently approved (December 2023) Artisanal Fisheries Resilient Development Project (PROPEIXE) focusing on the development of sustainable and climate resilient fisheries. IFAD's support is aligned with the National Development Strategy (2015–2035), recently revised to 2045, and has national coverage, with a special focus on the provinces highly vulnerable to climate change and affected by insurgency in northern Mozambique. The country investments also have a strong focus on youth and women's empowerment, nutrition and inclusion of people with disabilities in all project value chains.
12. The dates for the visit to Uganda last year were 27 November to 1 December 2023, and the visit to Tunisia was set for 4 to 8 November 2024. For the visit to the Plurinational State of Bolivia in late November or December of 2025, possible dates will be identified to allow for the completion of the country strategy programme evaluation prior to the visit. The Board will be informed of the country visit dates in due course.
13. The Executive Board is therefore invited to approve the updated rolling plan for the period 2025–2028.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mozambique/overview>.

**Summary table of Evaluation Committee/Executive Board member visits:**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Region</i>
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	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	LAC
2026	India	APR
2027	Democratic Republic of the Congo	WCA
2028	Mozambique	ESA