
Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2027–2029 and date of the visit to India

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the updated rolling plan of Executive Board country visits for the period 2027–2029 and to take note of the date of the visit to India.

Technical questions:

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1. The Office of the Secretary, with the assistance of the Department for Country Operations, 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,¹ 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 to a country with a fragile situation; and (iv) adequate regional rotation must be ensured in country selection.
4. Country visits provide Executive Board members with an opportunity to:
 - (i) Experience IFAD's impact on the ground while engaging with programme participants and government officials;
 - (ii) Engage in dialogue at the state and local levels on IFAD's role;
 - (iii) Contribute insights into public policy to promote rural development;
 - (iv) Deepen their understanding of lessons and recommendations from country strategy and programme evaluations;
 - (v) Gain a clearer understanding of the country context;
 - (vi) Provide guidance to the Executive Board; and
 - (vii) Build rapport and strengthen relations with fellow Board members, similar to the Annual Informal Meeting of the Executive Board, which is typically held in conjunction with the April/May session.

¹ [EB 2010/99/R.6](#).

5. In light of the above and in consultation with the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), the updated plan for country visits in 2027–2029 is the following:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>Fragile/LDC</i>
2027	West and Central Africa (WCA)	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2025	Yes
2028	East and Southern Africa (ESA)	Mozambique	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2026	Yes
2029	Near East, North Africa and Europe (NEN)	Uzbekistan	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2023	No

6. The Executive Board approved the visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo at its 139th session and the visit to Mozambique at its 142nd session. The rolling plan is hereby updated to include Uzbekistan as the destination for 2029.
7. Uzbekistan, a double landlocked country in Central Asia with a population of 37.9 million, is experiencing robust economic growth. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund project, respectively, growth rates of 5.8 per cent and 5.7 per cent for 2025, driven by fiscal expansion, infrastructure modernization, investment inflows and strong private consumption. Agriculture remains a vital sector, contributing 23 per cent to GDP in 2023 and employing 26 per cent of the labour force in 2022. The Government of Uzbekistan emphasizes agriculture's strategic role in its COSOP 2023–2027, with IFAD playing a key role in promoting rural prosperity.
8. Climate change poses significant challenges, particularly due to the drying up of the Aral Sea. Uzbekistan ranks among the countries with the lowest water productivity globally, with agriculture consuming 90 per cent of its water resources. In response, the country has adopted a green agenda, including pollution control reforms and a national green taxonomy.
9. The Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022–2026 outlines ambitious reforms aimed at reducing state economic involvement, boosting private sector growth, doubling farmers' incomes, halving poverty and achieving upper-middle-income status by 2030. Institutional reforms under the New Uzbekistan initiative have streamlined governance, reducing the number of government ministries from 25 to 21 and merging key economic bodies. These changes, while centralizing authority, have delayed IFAD's planned investments under the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12) cycle.
10. Since 2010, IFAD has supported rural development through three investment projects totalling US\$480.36 million, benefiting nearly 99 million people. In September 2024, IFAD approved the second phase of the Dairy Value Chains Development Project, with a US\$37.7 million agreement signed. The project is set to begin implementation in late 2025, with recruitment for the project management unit under way.
11. Additionally, the Adaptation Fund approved the Resilient Food Systems through Climate Services for Agriculture project in April 2025. Once agreements are finalized, a project management unit will be established under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change in Tashkent to begin implementation.
12. Uzbekistan has also requested new investment under IFAD13. A task force comprising government ministries and experts from the United Nations Development Programme has been formed to align priorities and prepare for the project design phase, with a concept note mission scheduled for September 2025.
13. Finally, the Platform for Remittances, Investment and Migrants' Entrepreneurship Central Asia Initiative, launched in May 2024 and co-funded by IFAD and the

European Commission, aims to enhance digital remittances and financial inclusion for rural migrant returnees. A follow-up mission in June 2025 strengthened regional engagement with stakeholders in Uzbekistan's remittance market.

14. For the visit to India, approved by the Executive Board at its 136th session, the common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives² has been consulted, and it is proposed that the visit take place from 2 to 6 November 2026.
15. The Executive Board is therefore invited to approve the updated rolling plan for the period 2027–2029 and take note of the date of the visit to India.

² Maintained by IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme.

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	Peru	LAC
2026	India	APR
2027	Democratic Republic of the Congo	WCA
2028	Mozambique	ESA
2029	Uzbekistan	NEN