Investing in rural people

Executive Board
148th Session
Rome, 15 September 2026

Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2027−2030

Document: EB 2026/148/R.8

Agenda: 3(c)(ii)

Date: 11 August 2026

Distribution: Public

Original: English

FOR: APPROVAL

Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the updated rolling plan of the Executive Board country visits for the period 2027–2030 and take note of the dates of the visit to Senegal.

Technical questions:

Claudia ten Have
Secretary of IFAD
Office of the Secretary
e-mail: c.tenhave@ifad.org

Donal Brown
Associate Vice-President
Department for Country Operations
e-mail: d.brown@ifad.org

International Fund for Agricultural Development – www.ifad.org

Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2027–2030

I. Introduction

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.

Selection criteria

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.

Purpose

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 (CSPEs);

   (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, similarly to the Annual Informal Meeting of the Executive Board, which is typically held in conjunction with the April/May session.

Planned country visits for 2027 to 2030

5. The updated plan for country visits in 2027–2030, which was prepared in consultation with the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), is presented in table 1.

[1] EB 2010/99/R.6.

Table 1
Planned country visits 2027−2030

Year	*Region*	*Country*	*Recent evaluation*	Fragile/LDC
2027	**West and Central Africa (WCA)**	Senegal	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2025	LDC
2028	**East and Southern Africa (ESA)**	Mozambique	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2026	Fragile/LDC
2029	**Near East, North Africa and Europe (NEN)**	Uzbekistan	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2023	No
2030	**Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**	Brazil	Country strategy and programme evaluation planned for 2028	No

Destination for 2027: Senegal

6. At its 139th session, the Executive Board approved the 2027 country visit destination as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, in view of the evolving security situation in the country, including ongoing instability in certain areas and the associated operational and logistical challenges, the destination of the 2027 visit has been changed to Senegal. The visits to Mozambique and Uzbekistan were approved at the 142nd and 145th sessions of the Executive Board respectively. The rolling plan is hereby updated to account for the amendment to the 2027 visit and to include Brazil as the destination for 2030.

7. With the second largest IFAD portfolio in West and Central Africa, Senegal offers the Executive Board a strategic opportunity to see the scale and diversity of the Fund's operations at first hand. The visit builds on the recent CSPE conducted by IOE and meets the country selection criteria. As it is categorized as an LDC, Senegal also illustrates how IFAD's investments translate into impact in one of the region's most demanding development environments.

Country context

8. Senegal is one of Africa's most stable countries, having undergone peaceful political transitions since independence in 1960. It is a lower-middle-income country with a GDP per capita of US$1,744 (2024). Poverty incidence remains high at 36.9 per cent.[2] The average annual GDP growth rate over the past five years is 5.6 per cent making Senegal one of the faster-growing economies in West Africa. However, the benefits of growth have yet to be fully reflected in socioeconomic outcomes. Senegal's economic situation and poverty reduction efforts are strained by a debt crisis that came to light in 2025, when official estimates confirmed public debt had been significantly underreported. The Government now estimates that public debt stood at US$39 billion (119 per cent of GDP) at end-2024. In response, the Government has excluded several internationally financed projects, including all IFAD-financed ones, from the 2026 finance law, while capping international borrowing at 10 per cent of development programme costs. The Government strategy is now focused on reducing dependence on external debt and prioritizing high-return investments.

9. About half of the population (46 per cent) live in rural areas, where the incidence of poverty is 54 per cent, higher than the national average. Agriculture is a key driver of the economy and rural poverty reduction. It employs 60 per cent of the population and about 70 per cent of the rural population depend on agriculture or related activities for their livelihood. However, agriculture performance is weak. The sector is mainly made up of small-scale family producers engaged in subsistence and small-scale livestock farming characterized by (i) low productivity and the adoption of unsustainable practices that lead to the degradation of natural

[2] World Bank Poverty and Equity Brief, October 2025.

resources; and (ii) vulnerability to multiple shocks. According to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation (ND-GAIN) Index, Senegal ranks among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, with high vulnerability and relatively low readiness to adapt. Small-scale family producers struggle to meet household food needs throughout the year. Senegal imports nearly 70 per cent of its food.

Country programme

10. Since 1979, IFAD has supported 22 projects in Senegal worth about US$1.4 billion (of which about US$466 million from IFAD financing), partnering with bilateral and multilateral institutions to leverage cofinancing (of approximately US$934 million).[3] These investments have reached more than 1 million rural households. The current programme is composed of country-specific and regional operations, and the total financing is US$1 billion.

11. **Sovereign operations.** The programme is composed of the following sovereign operations: (i) Support to Food Sovereignty Project (SFSP), focused on enhancing the production, productivity and climate resilience of agricultural systems; (ii) Support to Agricultural Development and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme - Phase II (PADAER-II), focused on strengthening food security and increasing the incomes of smallholder farmers and livestock producers through greater production, diversification and value addition; (iii) Rural Youth Agripreneur Support Project (AGRI-JEUNES), aimed at promoting employment and income-generating opportunities for rural youth across the agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries sectors; (iv) the result-based lending operation Agriculture and Livestock Competitiveness Programme for Results (PCAE-PforR), the first such operation for the West and Central Africa Division, focused on enhancing the productivity and market access of priority commodity crop and livestock value chains; and (v) Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP), aimed at enhancing preparedness for food insecurity while improving the resilience and sustainability of food systems in Senegal.

12. **Regional operations.** In addition, the programme includes the following regional operations: (i) Joint programme for the Sahel in response to the challenges of COVID-19, conflict and climate change (SD3C); (ii) Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management Programme (AICRM); (iii) Inclusive Green Financing Initiative (IGREENFIN); and (iv) Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI). Finally, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program is financing technical assistance for farmers' organizations provided by the Senegalese association for the promotion of grassroots development.

13. **Policy alignment.** The Senegal 2050 strategy and 2025−2029 National Development Plan prioritize food sovereignty, youth employment, climate resilience and territorial development and are therefore closely aligned with IFAD's own strategic focus. This was confirmed by the recent CSPE, which recommends that these same themes anchor the new COSOP, which is currently being developed for the 2026–2032 period. The COSOP aims to contribute to food sovereignty, economic growth and climate resilience, in full alignment with the Senegal 2050 and IFAD's mandate to reduce rural poverty and promote sustainable food systems transformation.

Destination for 2030: Brazil

Country context

14. Brazil is the world's fifth-largest country by surface area and has the seventh largest population, with over 213 million inhabitants. Brazil has the largest Lusophone population in the world and is the only Portuguese-speaking country in the region. Covering roughly half of the land area of Latin America, it borders all

[3] The main cofinanciers are the World Bank, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the African Development Bank, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Ireland and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

other countries and territories on the continent except Ecuador and Chile. A large part of the Amazon basin is located in Brazil, including the world's largest river system and most extensive tropical forest. It ranks first among the world's 17 megadiverse countries, with diverse wildlife, a variety of ecological systems, and extensive natural resources spanning numerous protected habitats.

15. The country has significant regional discrepancies. The poorest region is the Northeast, where IFAD's operations are focused. The Northeast contains the largest concentration of absolute poverty in Latin America, with nearly half of the population living below the poverty line. Brazil is categorized as an upper-middle-income country. The COSOP,[4] endorsed in 2024, is IFAD's first programme for a country that has exceeded the graduation discussion income[5] threshold for three years.

Country programme

16. IFAD has a large country portfolio with a financial volume of US$1.1 billion and eight investment projects for which IFAD financing accounts for only 15 per cent. IFAD therefore plays a key catalytic role in leveraging additional funding to enhance scale and impact. It has attracted cofinancing from a range of national and international partners such as the Green Climate Fund, Brazilian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Germany and Spain, as well as federal and subnational governments. IFAD's work in Brazil involves policy dialogue, knowledge management and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), and supports these activities in the entire LAC region.

Recommendation

17. The common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives[6] has been consulted for the timing of the visit to Senegal, and it is proposed that the visit take place from 4 to 8 October 2027.

18. The Executive Board is therefore invited to approve the updated rolling plan for the period 2027–2030 and take note of the dates of the visit to Senegal.

[4] EB 2024/OR/7.
[5] EB 2021/133/R.5.
[6] 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

Year	*Country*	*Region*
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	Senegal	WCA
2028	Mozambique	ESA
2029	Uzbekistan	NEN
2030	Brazil	LAC