



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Seventy-Fifth Session

Rome, 22-23 April 2002

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
IFAD/NGO EXTENDED COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ECP)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its Thirty-First Session, in September 1987, the Executive Board established the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP) to provide direct grant financing to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for pilot and experimental activities. The overall goal was to build knowledge and expertise for the design and implementation of participatory projects, responsive to the needs and requirements of poor rural people. “Operational Procedures for the Implementation of the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP)” were subsequently submitted to, and approved by, the Executive Board at its Thirty-Fifth Session in December 1988. Moreover, in all appropriate areas, ECP projects are expected to provide prototypes and effective instruments of intervention for both ongoing and forthcoming projects, and to prepare the ground for future IFAD investments.

2. Following an audit and an evaluation of the ECP during 1999-2000, an interdepartmental group was set up to revise the operational procedures. The group was to take into account the findings and recommendations of the above-mentioned review exercises and to align the ECP to the Fund’s evolving strategic objectives, as well as to streamline internal processes for grant processing and disbursement, project supervision, and information sharing and management. The scope of the priority activities eligible for ECP financing was amplified. Clear guidelines were provided for the preparation and submission of proposals, and precise eligibility criteria developed for NGO recipients. Finally, the ceiling for the grant amount of any single ECP grant was raised from 75 000 to 100 000 United States dollars (USD). The Executive Board approved these revisions at its Seventy-Second Session, in April 2001 (EB 2001/72/R.30). Subsequently the President issued President’s Bulletin No. OP/01/05, dated 8 June 2001, establishing the revised Operational Procedures for the IFAD/NGO ECP.



3. The overall goal of the programme, as specified under the revised operational procedures, is to enhance IFAD's direct collaboration with NGOs¹ in the promotion of participatory and community-based rural development and poverty alleviation, and to encourage recipient governments to build upon the experience and know-how accumulated through NGO activities and to engage themselves in dialogue and collaboration with these organizations.
4. The principal objectives of the programme are to:
 - extend direct grant financing in support of innovative pilot activities by NGOs, which can provide prototypes and instruments of intervention for ongoing or future IFAD loan operations;
 - offer IFAD opportunities to tap valuable NGO experience and know-how in order to improve its own approaches in the identification, design, implementation and evaluation of its projects, and thus contribute to the increased responsiveness and sustainability of its development operations;
 - contribute to the development of a repository of relevant experience and know-how in operational and strategic issues and thus enhance IFAD's role as a knowledge institution on rural poverty and its alleviation; and
 - build durable partnerships and maintain regular consultations and dialogue with a family of development NGOs that can assist IFAD's strategy articulation and choice of project interventions.
5. ECP-supported activities by NGOs focus primarily on three major areas:
 - identifying, testing and disseminating appropriate/innovative technologies for application to the agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions of IFAD's beneficiaries;
 - identifying and testing appropriate/innovative institutional approaches and mechanisms in various sectors and subsectors of interest to IFAD to ascertain their relevance, acceptability and sustainability; and
 - carrying out knowledge-gathering and dissemination activities and training programmes for improved management of resources through, *inter alia*, the creation of more effective systems of organization, based on viable grass-roots organizations, such as farmers' groups, water users' associations and other forms of grass-roots networks.
6. The above may also involve advocacy activities and processes of identification and capacity-building of potential NGO partners, including support for NGO networking activities.
7. In addition, in line with and in the furtherance of its objectives, the programme supports periodic and regular IFAD/NGO consultations on policy and operational issues pertaining to rural poverty alleviation and development, as well as the preparatory meetings of the IFAD/NGO Consultations Steering Committee.

1 For IFAD, the term 'non-governmental organization' generally refers to a non-profit, voluntary organization, either international or national, that is independent of government and that pursues activities to relieve poverty, hunger and human suffering; promotes the interests of the poor; protects the environment; provides basic social and economic services; or undertakes community development. An NGO operates under rules of private and not public law, and is duly organized and officially registered with the appropriate government authorities as an NGO or non-profit organization. The Fund tends to interact with two main categories of NGOs: (i) operational NGOs, whose primary purpose is the design and implementation of poverty alleviation and development projects and programmes; and (ii) advocacy NGOs, whose primary purpose is to defend and promote the cause of rural poverty alleviation and seek to influence the policies and practices of government and development institutions. In the context of the ECP, the majority of NGOs involved are operational NGOs, although a growing number of NGOs, worldwide, engage in both operational and advocacy activities.



8. While the relevance of the ECP to IFAD's institutional and regional priorities, objectives and strategies is recognized, it is important to emphasize that the ECP is only one mechanism of collaboration with NGOs. Most of the Fund's NGO partners are involved in projects supported by IFAD loans to governments. Indeed, of the 800 NGOs that have collaborated with IFAD in the field, only 194 have received ECP grants.

9. Collaboration between IFAD and NGOs should be considered within the wider context of the Fund's partnerships with civil society, the boundaries and requirements of which have been expanded considerably during recent years and are bound to expand even further, especially in the context of the objectives of IFAD's new strategic framework and the regional poverty strategies.

II. OVERVIEW OF ECP IN 2001

10. In 2001, 20 ECP grants were approved for a total amount of USD 1 562 000. NGOs themselves contributed USD 639 980 in cash. Additional resources, to the amount of USD 917 800, were made available from bilateral donors and other institutions involved in the design and implementation of these projects, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European Union (EU) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Finally, the beneficiaries themselves made cash contributions to the amount of USD 59 000. Thus, the total programme budget for 2001 reached USD 3 178 780.

11. Overall, ECP activities in 2001 focused on capacity-building of beneficiaries and their organizations, as well as institutional development to enable poor rural people to improve their livelihoods – a focus totally aligned with IFAD's mission. The specific activities supported by the ECP were also in line with IFAD's strategic objectives. More specifically, capacity-building and institutional development addressed access to assets, increased agricultural production and its diversification based on sustainable resource management, effective organization of financial services, development of rural enterprises and development of market linkages. Several ECP projects focused, more particularly, on the economic and social empowerment of indigenous people and women. Two grants addressed post-crisis rehabilitation and reconstruction. Most ECP projects were directly linked with IFAD's ongoing or planned investments.

III. ECP ACTIVITIES IN 2001

12. In **Mali**, the Malian Association for Development (AMADE) will strengthen the capacity of farmers' groups and organizations by promoting their membership in the farmers' movement in the Kayes, and by providing them with training to identify and address constraints to production and marketing.

13. Institutional support and local capacity-building is the purpose of an ECP project in **Zimbabwe**. Here, the grant will support the establishment of an innovative partnership between a developed-country NGO, the Cooperative League of the USA (CLUSA), and a national NGO, the Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE). Through that partnership, SAFIRE will be able to draw on CLUSA's extensive experience in organizing and linking farmers' groups to the market, and thus become capable of providing similar services to smallholder farmers in eastern Zimbabwe.

14. In **Nigeria**, the Nigerian Integrated Rural Accelerated Development Organization (NIRADO) will organize and train both community groups and local government personnel in participatory and demand-driven development. Moreover, it will undertake these activities with the active participation



of relevant personnel from federal agencies and local entities involved in the implementation of the IFAD-financed Community-Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (CBARD).

15. In **Uganda**, an ECP grant to the Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO) will increase not only the outreach and scope, but also the sustainability of UWESO's services in support of rural families caring for orphan children. Training activities will be organized for UWESO's branch staff, covering small-business development, planning and management, monitoring and evaluation, microfinance and computing. In addition, the information and communications facilities of the organization will be upgraded.

16. Secure access to land is one of the key factors for a sustainable livelihood for many poor rural people. This becomes even more critical for indigenous populations whose traditional right to their lands has historically often been denied or violated. In the **Philippines**, an ECP grant was granted to address precisely such a situation. With ECP support, the Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID) will assist nine indigenous peoples' organizations in the Caraga region of Northern Mindanao to negotiate for the legal recognition of their ancestral domain claims. It is expected that this ECP project will generate a model of approach to be replicated by other partner institutions under the IFAD-supported Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management Project.

17. Access to land can sometimes be threatened by successful development interventions. This was the case in **Togo**, where the restoration of soil fertility brought about by the IFAD-supported National Agricultural Services Support Project led to increased land tenure insecurity, especially for women. To address this situation, an ECP grant was extended to the Tongolese Association for the Promotion of Mankind (ATPH) to initiate a process of land tenure negotiations between owners and precarious users of cultivated land to persuade land owners to sign written leasing agreements of a practical duration.

18. Access to capital is critical for many poor rural producers, and a number of ECP grants were extended to test approaches and methodologies to address this requirement. For example, the Near East Foundation (NEF) in **Djibouti** will promote the establishment and effective functioning of community-based credit funds to be managed by local executive credit committees, their membership drawn from within the communities.

19. The main objective of another ECP grant, in **Madagascar**, is to build the technical and institutional capacity of the Professional Association of Mutual Finance Institutions (APIFM) so that it can form a strong microfinance network association, uniting microfinance institutions and enabling them to service the financial needs of poor rural populations effectively and efficiently. The beneficiaries of the project are: (i) Madagascar's microfinance institutions and savings and credit cooperatives; (ii) local institutions, both private and public, providing financial services; and (iii) NGOs and development organizations involved in the rural financial services sector.

20. Two ECP grants addressed the particular needs of livestock producers, their knowledge and organizational empowerment. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, VETAID will help poor pastoralists in three districts of the Arusha region to organize themselves to obtain access to the infection and treatment method (ITM) for the control of tick-borne and other animal diseases.

21. In **Bolivia**, the Association of Producers and Traders of Camelid Meat Products (ACOPROCCA) will receive ECP support to increase the income and improve the working conditions of producers of llama meat by training them in the basic national quality standards they must apply in the handling, transformation and commercialization of fresh meat.



22. Continuing the trend of 2000, a few ECP grants were extended to assist vulnerable rural people in resuming a normal productive life subsequent to natural calamities. This was, for example, the purpose of a grant extended to the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Trust in Gujarat, **India**, to assist stricken communities in reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in the aftermath of the January 2001 earthquake. The proposed project aims at building the capacity of the communities to adopt a participatory and community-based approach to integrated housing and habitat development, including the development of their skills in construction activities.

23. Another ECP grant was extended to the Toledo Maya Cultural Council (TMCC) to assist the Mayan people in resuming productive activities in the aftermath of Hurricane Iris, which hit **Belize** in October 2001 causing severe damage. TMCC will help households to improve food production around the homestead and help women to engage in small-scale agriculture and marketing of their produce. It will also engage in the collection of indigenous plant and crop species and their development, building on local knowledge and traditional practices.

24. Building knowledge and organizational capacity for diversified production was the objective of a number of grants, such as the one to CARE International in **Laos**. This NGO will work with highland communities in the Sayabouri province to diversify and increase their production, both on- and off-farm. Major activities will be paddy rice cultivation, improved upland cropping, animal husbandry, handicraft production and village water supply.

25. Similarly, World Vision, in **Mongolia**, received an ECP grant to engage with poor families in Hentii province and Nalaikh district in activities to improve food security and increase their income. Training will be provided in various aspects of vegetable growing, harvesting and storage and in processing of local raw materials such as fibre, hides and wood.

26. In **Panama**, with ECP support, the NGO, *Patronato del Servicio Nacional de Nutrición* will train small-scale farmers to help them increase and diversify their production. This will be achieved through the rehabilitation of 17 training centres and the establishment of five demonstration farms.

27. Since one of the overarching aims of the ECP is to promote participatory development, a number of grants will support local capacity for participatory and community-based approaches. In addition to the activities in **Nigeria**, noted in paragraph 14, in **Mauritania**, the Research and Technological Exchange Group (GRET) will strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations (including users' associations) to take over the operation and maintenance of the flood recession works established by the IFAD-supported Maghama Improved Flood Recession Farming Project.

28. Development of microenterprises, especially for women, can be an effective means to increase family income and welfare. In the northern region of **Jordan**, the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS) will establish, with ECP support, a village business incubator, the first of its kind in the country. Its purpose will be to provide rural women with orientation and counselling services regarding choice of enterprise, financial and training services during the launching of any given enterprise by individual women or women's groups or cooperatives, and technical and marketing assistance, together with follow-up visits.

29. Microenterprise development for women is the objective of another ECP grant, which will strengthen the capacity of the *Asociación Departamental de Mujeres Campesinas e Indígenas de Boyacá* (ADMUCIB) in **Colombia**, enabling it to provide greatly needed small- and micro-business-related non-financial services to women. Among these are business training and planning, and market facilitation.



30. Facilitation of access to credit by small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs is the objective of an ECP grant extended to Consultancy and Credit in Agriculture (CCA) in order to enhance the implementation of the IFAD-supported Rural Finance and Small Enterprise Development Project (RFSEDP) in the **Republic of Moldova**.

IV. HIGHLIGHTS FROM ECP PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION IN 2001

31. The overarching thrust of the ongoing portfolio of NGO/ECP grants in Asia is the promotion of participatory approaches and community mobilization. Two particularly interesting programmes involve the Centre for Integrated Agricultural Development (CIAD) and the Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS). CIAD is testing and developing best practices for impact assessment throughout IFAD's project portfolio in **China**. Some of the methodologies being piloted were demonstrated to the IFAD project and headquarters staff who attended the Subregional Portfolio Review Workshop in Hefei, in July 2001, in selected villages of the Southwest Anhui Integrated Agricultural Development Project. One of the outcomes of the grant to SAPPROS was the end-project study entitled *Hills Potentials and Rural Service Delivery Systems*. A workshop was held in August in **Nepal** to present the study, gathering high-level government representation and major donors. This provided IFAD with an excellent opportunity to influence both the Government's policies and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process.

32. In the context of the Smallholder Dry Areas Resource Management Project (SDARMP) in **Zimbabwe**, an ECP grant was extended to the NGO Africare to promote, on a pilot basis, the adoption and use of drought-resistant crops, namely cassava, sweet potato and pigeon pea. The project – ProFOOD – is recording considerable success. By focusing not only on the production of these crops, but also on their use, Africare has attracted great interest in the potential for their cultivation, especially among women farmers, who are the majority of the participants in the project. As a result, for the first time in Zimbabwe, producers are adopting cassava as a food security crop. In addition, farmers living close by are asking that the project area be extended so that they can have access to similar activities. In response, provision has been made for the requested extension under the SDARMP annual workplan and budget for 2002.

33. Notwithstanding progress and success so far, however, the impact of the project will not be sustainable by its current closing date of mid-2002, although, with more time, it may be. Nevertheless, at this stage, it appears that the project is accomplishing ECP objectives, namely promoting what is in **Zimbabwe** a new technology, which can then be replicated through ongoing IFAD-supported projects. As a follow-up, it may be interesting to conduct a review of ProFOOD next year, to focus on issues such as adoption rates, impact on food security, the gender impact, sustainability, etc., as well as the project's conformity to ECP objectives.

34. Indigenous people constitute the largest group (about 30%) of all rural poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean. IFAD believes that their economic and social empowerment is a critical precondition for rural poverty reduction in the region. In this regard, the development of tourism, combining innovative income-generation activities with cultural values and traditions, is a promising option. A few ECP grants in 2001 were extended precisely to test the potential benefits of such interventions for ethnic minorities. For example, the **Peruvian** NGO *Poquen K'anchay* received support to mobilize communities in Quillarumiyoc, Cusco, to rehabilitate a sacred archaeological site and restore cultivation and agricultural production on the adjacent terraces. The project activities focused on the training of community members in: (i) the cleaning and restoration of archaeological and sacred sites; (ii) the rehabilitation of the terraces and canal systems around the sites, for farming purposes; and (iii) the establishment and management of a tourist bureau to service the needs of



prospective tourists, including guided tours, accommodation, preparation of typical Andean foods, high-quality traditional handicrafts. To date, local people have cleaned and restored the sanctuary. The women of the village are recovering their ancient weaving traditions. Children and young people have become more knowledgeable of their history, traditions and culture, and express an interest to learn English so as to work as tourist guides. The first ten tourist groups have visited the site, and demand is growing. The *Poquen K'anchay* project, combining existing local resources, natural resource protection and cultural values, is a very interesting experiment, which provides a prototype for other indigenous groups, both in the Andes and elsewhere in the region.

35. Similarly, in the **Windward Islands**, the NGO Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) received a grant to test new approaches to participatory and community-based heritage tourism for rural development. The project has provided invaluable information on ways to sensitize and mobilize NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), local government authorities and decision-makers to promote new forms of tourism for higher income-generation among rural poor people, and assist communities in embarking on collective heritage tourism initiatives.

36. A critical issue in a number of countries in Eastern Europe is the limited capacity of local NGOs and other civil-society organizations to initiate and implement development initiatives. A grant extended to SHEN, an Armenian NGO, aims to assist small, local NGOs in one Armenian province in their efforts to promote economic development in vulnerable rural areas through capacity-building activities. This is being accomplished by: (i) offering a detailed training/capacity-building programme for participating local NGOs; and (ii) establishing a model production unit (a potato chip production line) to serve as a 'case study' for participating NGOs.

37. Following an NGO survey, assessment and selection process (based on an NGO mission, priority areas of activity, implementation experience and willingness to participate), eight NGOs were selected. Training was provided to the staff of these NGOs in community development, financial management and accounting, and project design and management. A used potato chip production and packaging line was then purchased and a workshop rehabilitated. The line should begin production in April 2002, with the first tranche of potato purchases from local farmers. A foundation (with membership consisting of the eight NGOs and SHEN) has taken over responsibility for the ownership and operation of the line, and has recently presented a business plan to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Armenia for support. It appears probable that funding will be granted for packaging materials and start-up costs associated with package production.



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Grant by Region, Country and Grant Number	USD	SDR*	NGO Cofinancing	Beneficiary/ Country
AFRICA I: WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA				
Farmers' Group of Kayes (COPAKA) Project (Mali) (No. 201)	100 000	79 554	6 900 (6%)	AMADE – Mali
Maghama Improved Flood Recession Project (Mauritania) (No.213)	75 000	59 731	15 000 (16%)	GRET - Mauritania
Sensitization, Mobilization and Involvement of Communities/Villages Project in Support of the IFAD-Funded Community-Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (CBARD) (Nigeria) (No. 204)	50 000	39 561	17 000 (25%)	NIRADO - Nigeria
National Agricultural Service Support Project (Togo) (No. 206)	75 000	59 580	11 000 (12%)	ATPH - Togo
AFRICA II: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA				
Support to Rural Mutual Savings Sector Project (Madagascar) (No. 211)	75 000	59 091	-	APIFM – Madagascar
Establishment and Evaluation of Delivery Systems for East Coast Fever (ECF) Vaccine Project (United Republic of Tanzania) (No. 203)	75 000	57 937	55 000 (42%)	VETAID – United Republic of Tanzania
UWESO Capacity-Strengthening Support Project (Uganda) (No. 205)	75 000	59 191	-	UWESO - Uganda
Pilot Market Linkage Programme in Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe) (No. 202)	100 000	79 276	-	CLUSA – Zimbabwe
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC				
Capacity-Building Project for Enhanced Community Participation in SEWA's Housing Reconstruction Programme (India) (No. 198)	92 000	73 266	48 000 (34%)	SEWA - India
Health Interventions Project in West Khasi Hills (India) (No. 200)	75 000	59 506	-	Khasi Jayantia Presbyterian Synod (KJP Synod) - India
Support to Northern Sayabouri Rural Development Project (Laos)(No. 207)	75 000	58 853	73 000 (49%)	Care International - Laos
Mongolia Food Security Enhancement Programme (Mongolia) (No. 215)	75 000	59 091	35 000 (31%)	World Vision Mongolia – Mongolia
Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management Project (Philippines) (No. 214)	100 000	79 217	186 480 (65%)	PAFID – Philippines
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN				
Livelihood Opportunities Project in Rural Areas Affected by Hurricane Iris (Belize) (No. 212)	50 000	55 289	-	TMCC – Belize
Processing and Marketing of Llama Meat Project (Bolivia) (No. 209)	70 000	55 289	22 000 (23%)	ACOPROCCA - Bolivia
Microenterprise Development Project for Women in the Boyacá Department (Colombia) (No. 216)	45 000	35 454	-	ADMUCIB - Colombia
Small Farms for Sustainable Community Development Project (Panama) (No. 199)	75 000	60 059	80 600 (51%)	Patronato del Servicio Nacional de Nutrición - Panama

* Special Drawing Rights



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Grant by Region, Country and Grant Number	USD	SDR*	NGO Cofinancing	Beneficiary/ Country
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA				
Establishing Community-Managed Credit Schemes Project (Djibouti) (No. 208)	95 000	74 976	10 000 (9%)	NEF – USA
Establishment of a Village Business Incubator (VBI) for Women’s Micro- and Small Enterprise Development Project in the Northern Region of Jordan (Jordan) (No. 210)	95 000	75 311	80 000 (45%)	AIDOS – Italy
Support to IFAD’s Rural Finance and Small Enterprise Development Project (RFSEDP) (Republic of Moldova) (No. 217)	90 000	71 135	-	CCA – Republic of Moldova
TOTAL	1 562 000	1 265 514	639 980	



Grant Title and No:	India: Capacity-Building Project for Enhanced Community Participation in SEWA's Housing Reconstruction Programme (No. 198)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 92 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 48 000
Name of NGO:	The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

Objectives and Activities:

Although Gujarat is relatively richer and has grown faster than other Indian states, the area most severely affected by the earthquake is poor. It includes the district of Kutch (where over 90% of the deaths and 85% of asset losses occurred) and the districts of Jamnagar, Patan, Rajkot and Surendranagar. It is a sparsely populated, resource-poor, arid region, vulnerable not only to earthquakes but also to cyclones and drought. In 2001, the region experienced its third consecutive year of drought. These calamities combine to render the people of this region extremely vulnerable, and every new calamity marginalizes them further, pushing a large percentage below the poverty line. The main sources of employment are agriculture and cattle rearing. However, arable land is not very productive due to deteriorating water resources and the advancement of the desert. Consequently, related activities, such as cattle rearing, are not supported all year round. The earthquake has severely affected communities in Gujarat. It has made the rural poor more vulnerable by putting further pressure on their fragile livelihood systems. If appropriate assistance is not made available to them in a targeted and focused manner, their marginalization is certain.

The districts of Gujarat selected as the project area are Kutch, Patan and Surendranagar. The proposed project aims at building the capacity of the communities to adopt a participatory and community-based approach to integrated housing and habitat development. More specifically, this project will: (i) support the participatory design of earthquake-resistant houses, which will be more relevant to the needs of various communities and thus cater to their felt needs; (ii) provide immediate income to the poorer members of the community by developing their skills in construction activities and thus offering them a coping strategy against the damage caused by the earthquake; (iii) raise awareness through mass campaigns among the rural households about the danger posed by the earthquake and ways of ensuring earthquake-resistant housing; (iv) build technical skills and capacity for the production of construction materials, which will contribute to the implementation of the larger IFAD-assisted loan project under design.

SEWA is a trade union of women in the informal sector. Established in 1972 as a trade union of self-employed women in Ahmedabad, in Gujarat state, India, it is the umbrella institution of a group of interrelated organizations. The Gujarat Mahila Housing SEWA Trust, an NGO established within the SEWA group, will implement this ECP project. With the benefit of eight years of dealing with housing programmes for the poor, it will pilot participatory design of earthquake-resistant houses and build community capacity to adopt an integrated habitat development process. For this reason, it also plans to use the services of some resource institutions specializing in earthquake-resistant housing design.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Panama: Small Farms for Sustainable Community Development Project (No. 199)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 80 600
Name of NGO:	<i>Patronato del Servicio Nacional de Nutrición</i>

Objectives and Activities:

Malnutrition among poor children is a severe problem in Panama. One fourth of the poor children and one third of the extremely poor children are undernourished. For small farms, government programmes of complementary feeding are provided to pregnant women and nursing mothers and to children until the age of five. However, complementary feeding cannot provide lasting solutions to this situation.

In response to the need for lasting solutions, this ECP project seeks to increase and diversify the production on small farms to: (i) boost family food consumption by raising family income through sales; and (ii) provide beneficiaries with training in production methods, nutrition and food security. The two main activities are the establishment of five farms demonstrating sustainable production, and the rehabilitation of 17 training centres for farmers working on farms established by the *Patronato*. Approximately 75 families and 1 500 individuals will benefit from participation in the proposed activities. The project will be implemented by the *Patronato del Servicio Nacional de Nutrición*.

The *Patronato* is registered as a non-profit organization, comprising representatives of the Association B'nai B'rith, the Catholic Church, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Ministries of Health, Education, Agricultural Development and Labour, and Social Welfare, as well as other private organizations and parents' associations. Its main objective is to integrate and coordinate efforts and resources with the purpose of improving, through project activities, the nutritional status of young people, pregnant women and nursing mothers.



Country, Grant Title and No:	India: Health Interventions Project in West Khasi Hills (No. 200)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
Name of NGO:	Khasi Jayantia Presbyterian Synod (KJP Synod)

Objectives and Activities:

Health outreach services are far from adequate in the West Khasi Hills, and most remote villages in the hills lack any health care coverage whatsoever. In addition, the absence of a monetary economy makes it very difficult for patients to seek medical care elsewhere. Every village gathering voices the need for access to a physician. As this has not yet materialized, the people of Khasi are requesting a person who can advise them on health matters and take care of them in times of illness, a first contact carer (FCC).

In response to the above, the present ECP grant will enable KJP Synod to: (i) develop a cadre of FCCs through a participatory selection, training and internship process; and (ii) pilot health insurance, revive herbal practices and develop linkages with formal governmental health systems. The FCCs should form the principal health intervention mechanism for primary health care purposes in all remote villages.

KJP Synod is a reputable, church-based NGO of Meghalaya and runs the KJP Synod hospital in the Jaiaw area of Shillong, where FCC training will take place. It also has a rural health centre in Mawphlang in West Khasi district. However, the strength of KJP Synod seems to be in education. In fact, they run more than 580 primary schools in their project areas.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Mali: Farmers' Group of Kayes (COPAKA) Project (No. 201)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 6 900
Name of NGO:	Mali Association for Development (AMADE)

Objectives and Activities:

In eastern Mali (Kayes region), there are major environmental problems, including soil degradation and erosion, and very severe periods of drought. Some 90% of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

The proposed ECP grant to the Mali Association for Development (AMADE) will focus on local capacity-building and empowerment of farmers' organizations in the Kayes region. The project will be implemented over a two-year period, and its main objectives are to: (i) strengthen the capacity of farmers' organizations that are part of the Farmers' Group of Kayes (COPAKA) and enlarge COPAKA's membership to all farmers' organizations in the region; (ii) strengthen grass-roots capacity; and (iii) provide training in sustainable development by undertaking studies on constraints to production and marketing. The ECP is expected to enhance the implementation of IFAD's Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme financed under a flexible lending mechanism.

AMADE is an NGO established in May 1983. Its mission is to take part in the socio-economic development of Mali by supporting marginalized populations through a participatory approach. Its objectives are to: (i) improve the quality of life of poor communities by promoting sustainable development; and (ii) strengthen the capacities of these communities by promoting training, education and the exchange of experiences.

Country, Grant Title and No: **Zimbabwe:** Pilot Market Linkage Programme in Zimbabwe (No. 202)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 100 000

Name of NGO: The Cooperative League of the USA (CLUSA)

Objectives and Activities:

Although Zimbabwe is undergoing a period of economic crisis that has undermined the agricultural sector and precipitated food shortages, it is imperative to lay the foundations for an eventual recovery by building an agricultural production base, starting from the country's smallholder farmers. The recovery of Zimbabwe's agribusiness sector will depend on replacing the production previously supplied by commercial farmers to agribusiness processors and exporters by smallholder production. In order for smallholders to assume this role, they will require support to enhance their production for, and access to, markets, and to organize themselves to negotiate collectively and take advantage of markets. It is in the context of such assessment and understanding that the present ECP project was developed and approved.

Its primary goal is to improve rural livelihoods, by: (i) extending selected improved production technologies to enhance the agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers; and (ii) establishing viable and enduring relationships between smallholder farmers and markets for inputs, services and produce.

The programme will target smallholder farmers in three districts in Manicaland Province in eastern Zimbabwe, all districts where SAFIRE, a national NGO, already has a lengthy history of engagement, including with IFAD.

The main programme activities will be: (i) identification of market opportunities; (ii) support for the establishment of farmers' enterprise groups; (iii) organizational and business training for groups; (iv) farmer-to-farmer extension; and (v) contract facilitation and supervision. All these activities will be implemented by SAFIRE with CLUSA providing its own expertise, experience and specialized support.

More specifically, CLUSA will: (i) draw on its extensive experience in Mozambique and Zambia in organizing and linking farmers' groups to agribusiness, and adapt its approach to Zimbabwean conditions; (ii) provide service and assistance to SAFIRE concerning market opportunity identification, the mechanics of buyer identification, forward contracting, and input access; (iii) train SAFIRE staff in the provision of organizational and business training to farmers' enterprise groups through a farmers' field school-based extension approach; and (iv) help farmers to access inputs on a credit basis from produce buyers and other commercial sources.

All three ongoing IFAD-financed projects in Zimbabwe have recognized the need to support the creation of farmers' enterprise groups. As yet, however, no agencies have been able to provide these services in the country. The provision of support to CLUSA to enable them to work with SAFIRE will not only establish a locally adapted model for the development of farmers' enterprise groups in Zimbabwe, but will also result in the creation of local capacity to provide such support services. These services will be taken up by all ongoing IFAD-financed projects, and the implementation experience will also provide valuable lessons upon which future projects could build.



ANNEX

Established in 1916, CLUSA is the oldest national cooperative development and membership association in the United States. Some 20 years ago, CLUSA began experimenting with an innovative approach to cooperative- and community-based development. The approach is founded on the belief that CLUSA's clients should be the decision-makers and that CLUSA's role should be one of providing its clients with training in analytical, problem-solving and entrepreneurial skills. It has been amply demonstrated that the CLUSA participative approach has been effective in imparting the skills necessary for communities to organize themselves, solve development problems and gain the confidence needed to negotiate agreements on their own with suppliers, buyers, banks, donors and government agencies.



Country, Grant Title and No:	United Republic of Tanzania: Establishment and Evaluation of Delivery Systems for East Coast Fever (ECF) Vaccine Project (No. 203)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 55 000
Name of NGO:	VETAID-Tanzania

Objectives and Activities:

Animal diseases, especially tick and tick-borne diseases (TTBD), are among the many factors that restrain the growth of the livestock sector in eastern Africa. More specifically in the United Republic of Tanzania, East Coast fever (ECF), one of the many TTBDs, is responsible for more than 43% of annual cattle mortality, threatening the food security of the agropastoralists who depend primarily on livestock for their livelihoods. In economic terms, the mortality associated with ECF results in losses of about USD 35 million, while reduced milk production is the second-largest loss, amounting to USD 6.3 million in 1997. Immunization by ITM would greatly facilitate the control of ECF in the United Republic of Tanzania, and experience has shown that, once properly sensitized, livestock keepers are enthusiastic about adopting this approach.

The main objective of the proposed ECP project is to alleviate poverty among pastoralists in resource-poor agropastoral and pastoral systems, by empowering them through access to ITM technology. This objective will be realized by sensitizing livestock keepers to ITM's benefits, training key professionals in ITM delivery and establishing appropriate and sustainable delivery systems.

The project will primarily target pastoralists and will be implemented in Hanang, Monduli and Samanjiro districts of the Arusha region of the United Republic of Tanzania. Its main activities will be: (i) market survey and identification of households in order to identify sites and appropriate delivery pathways; (ii) extension management and capacity-building of farmers in integrated control of TTBDs, with training and sensitization of key veterinary professionals and community animal health workers and livestock officers to routine diagnosis and management of TTBDs in the area; (iii) establishment of TTBD-control delivery systems; (iv) impact assessment of ITM; and (v) assessment of sustainability of the delivery system.

The project is in line with IFAD's strategy to assist pastoral populations in increasing their income from livestock. The project will also complement the regional technical assistance grant project, addressing impact assessment of ITM in the smallholder dairy sector in eastern Africa.

VETAID is a charitable NGO with a country office in the United Republic of Tanzania. VETAID-Tanzania has established an office in Arusha, and has been working in Samanjiro district since 1997. It has developed close and effective partnerships with two established local CBOs – Onyuate Moipo, and Simanjiro Animal Health Learning Centre – and with the pastoralist communities. It has successfully established a pilot community-based animal health scheme in 12 villages in the district, which use participatory techniques to catalogue the traditional coping methods and strategies employed by the local Maasai against diseases. All these activities are being carried out in partnerships with CBOs and government veterinary staff.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Nigeria: Sensitization, Mobilization and Involvement of Communities/Villages Project in Support of the IFAD-Funded Community-Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (CBARD) (No. 204)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 50 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 17 000
Name of NGO:	Nigeria Integrated Rural Accelerated Development Organization (NIRADO)

Objectives and Activities:

In Nigeria, the poor have to rent out their land for lack of capital to buy inputs, and their survival often depends on seasonal employment. They are powerless and regularly excluded from development programmes. They are most vulnerable to the hazards of the fragile environment and are food insecure, with very few assets and little access to basic social services or finance.

The proposed ECP project will enhance the implementation of the loan-funded CABARD programme. A concern of this programme has been the initial formation and training of community groups and the training of local government personnel in participatory and demand-driven development. The ECP grant will address precisely these issues by identifying and targeting the most vulnerable (including woman-headed households and young people) and empowering them to effectively participate in development activities through training in participatory, demand-driven approaches. In addition, relevant personnel from federal agencies involved in the CBARD programme and relevant local government officials will be fully involved in community mobilization activities and in workshops in community participatory planning methodologies. Implemented in two of the eight states covered by the CBARD programme, this ECP project will provide the necessary experience to be scaled up and applied to the other states.

NIRADO is an indigenous NGO established in 1984 as one of 34 affiliates of an international NGO, the Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI), based in Brussels. NIRADO was formed through the efforts of 14 Nigerian delegates to the International Exposition of Rural Development held in India in February of the same year. Concerned with rural development in Nigeria, it emphasizes the human factor. NIRADO believes that empowering the people themselves, through appropriate training programmes, is the most important element in the process of sustainable development. NIRADO has an established working relationship with IFAD, including previous loan projects and ECP grants.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Uganda: UWESO Capacity-Strengthening Support Project (No. 205)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
Name of NGO:	Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO)

Objectives and Activities:

As a result of almost two decades of civil war (1971-late 1980s) and the toll of the AIDs epidemic, almost 20% of Uganda's children are orphans. Their care is an additional burden on the extended rural family system. Strengthening the ability of families to assume this responsibility is a critical issue in the country.

Such strengthening is precisely what UWESO has been doing, with the support of IFAD and the Belgian Survival Fund for the Third World. With this support, UWESO has successfully developed a community empowerment approach through its savings and credit scheme, currently under implementation in several districts. This scheme facilitates the empowerment of foster families through skills development, provision of access to rural financial services, and the fostering of social cohesion. To date, 10 000 families taking care of over 47 000 children have benefited from the savings and credit scheme. Participating families have been able to improve their shelters and nutrition, while an increasing number can now send their children to school.

The main aim of the proposed two-year project is to help UWESO to become a self-sustaining entity by supporting: (i) capacity-building of branch staff through training in specialized fields such as small business development, planning and management, monitoring and evaluation, microfinance and computing; and (ii) the upgrading of information and communications facilities. The project will be implemented in five districts – Lira, Masaka, Mbarara, Kumi and Soroti – as well as in Kampala, where UWESO has its head office.

UWESO is a local NGO registered under Uganda's NGO Act. It was established to alleviate the suffering of children orphaned by the country's civil war and by HIV/AIDS. UWESO's mission is to improve the quality of life of needy orphans by empowering local communities to meet the social, moral and economic needs of such children. Its objectives are to: (i) develop capacity and creative ways of reaching more orphans and foster families; (ii) identify the concrete challenges faced by both foster families and orphans; and (iii) offer high-quality support services as one means towards economic empowerment. Since 1995 UWESO has expanded to rural areas and has supported 10 000 low-income households and 47 000 orphans.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Togo: National Agricultural Service Support Project (No. 206)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 11 000
Name of NGO:	Tongolese Association for the Promotion of Mankind (ATPH)

Objectives and Activities:

The proposed ECP project aims at providing support in a critical area affecting the ongoing loan-funded Village Organization and Development Project (PODV).

PODV's soil fertility restoration programme has brought about significant increases in yields. Consequently owners of the land used for the pilot scheme, in which yield increases were experienced, have taken the land back from the tenants and placed it on the market for a higher rent. This development has especially affected women, since their access to land is more difficult, particularly in the project area where pressure on land is strong.

One major recommendation of the mid-term review of PODV was precisely the need to urgently identify solutions to the emergent land tenure insecurity brought about by the achievements of PODV, and to initiate a process of land tenure negotiations between land owners and precarious users of cultivated land to persuade the farmers to sign written leasing agreements of practical duration.

In line with this recommendation, the proposed ECP project will test, in a limited number of villages, alternative negotiation strategies adapted to the specific characteristics of the project zones, so as to safeguard secure access to land by the target populations.

ATPH, a national NGO established in 1987, seeks to mobilize and strengthen local human capacity and resources, and consequently promote sustainable development. ATPH has good experience in land-tenure-related negotiations in the context of irrigated land, which was developed in the framework of its partnership with PODV. Furthermore, it has the competence necessary to adapt this experience to rainfed cultivation.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Laos: Support to Northern Sayabouri Rural Development Project (No. 207)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 73 000
Name of NGO:	CARE International – Laos

Objectives and Activities:

Laos is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia, with 1.9 million of its 5 million people living below the poverty line. About 86% of the population rely on agriculture for their livelihoods and live in small, scattered villages without regular road transport, electricity, health facilities or access to safe drinking water. There are 47 ethnic groups, with 149 sub-groups, with their own languages and distinct customs. About 80% of the country's terrain is mountainous, with some 15% of households, mainly ethnic minorities, practising shifting (swidden) agriculture. Increasing population pressure has forced farmers to observe shorter fallow periods, which in turn have started a process of progressive decline in soil fertility and productivity.

The goal of the Northern Sayabouri Rural Development Project is to improve the livelihood security of remote highland peoples in 17 Phrai villages of Sayabouri province. More specifically, the project seeks to improve the following aspects of their daily life: (i) access to clean water facilities; (ii) food production; and (iii) diversified agricultural production.

The objective of the proposed ECP project is to consolidate and expand the methodology and approaches of upland agricultural development developed by CARE International under its Remote Areas Development Project in Hongsa District of Sayabouri, initiated in 1999. In particular, it will seek to: (i) enhance livelihood security through the development of paddy rice cultivation, improved upland cropping, animal husbandry, handicraft production and village water supply; (ii) build the capacity of communities to evaluate options and formulate village development plans; (iii) strengthen the skills and capacities of the district technical and administrative staff in extending CARE's experiences, best practices and methodologies to other villages in the area; and (iv) provide lessons for the implementation of participatory development initiatives in the highlands under the Northern Sayabouri Rural Development Project, which is supported by IFAD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

CARE International-Laos is a local branch of CARE International, working closely with local communities in selected areas of the country. Established in 1992 and registered as a non-profit and non-governmental organization in accordance with relevant laws of Laos, CARE has a proven technical capacity and record of experience in performing tasks described. The successful expansion of CARE's portfolio in Laos over time is a concrete indication of its adequate management and qualified field staff.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Djibouti: Establishing Community-Managed Credit Schemes Project (No. 208)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 95 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 10 000
Name of NGO:	Near East Foundation (NEF)

Objectives and Activities:

In Djibouti, rural areas face many difficulties and problems: an overall inadequate economic base, lack of infrastructure, weak service delivery systems, uncertain land ownership and land-use plans, limited job opportunities, and a low standard of living. Poverty persists because institutions cannot respond appropriately to people's needs and opportunities, with a major requirement being capital to embark upon household-based productive enterprises and thus diversify survival strategies

This ECP project is designed to be the first stage in a longer-term strategy for improving accessibility of the poor to rural financial services and creating a sound culture for microfinance. The project will promote in a cost-effective manner the generation of microfinancial products in rural areas and the creation of sustainable grass-roots microfinance institutions to satisfy demand for credit by IFAD's target groups.

Building on its experience in this field in other countries and on its former association with IFAD, NEF will promote the establishment and effective functioning of community-based credit funds. Four funds will be established, serving villages of the districts of Ampouli and Aseyla in the first project cycle; and two other areas will be selected for a second cycle. Executive credit committees will design and manage these credit funds, mobilize local resources, make lending decisions and pursue their own lending activities.

This NEF project is based on a set of principles that reflect major strategies and concerns of IFAD's rural finance policy, such as:

- **participation:** the local community designs and controls the fund that serves its members;
- **sustainability:** returns on loans should offset administrative costs and capital depreciation;
- **ownership:** local communities, through local associations, should take initiatives, make decisions and manage their own efforts as a major part of this project; and
- **decentralization of authority:** the entire authority for designing the policies and procedures of the schemes rests with local community members, after basic concepts of community finance and credit schemes are agreed upon.

In addition, this proposal is compatible with IFAD's country strategy for Djibouti, the major thrust of which is to promote rural microenterprises and improve access of poor rural households to financial services.

NEF, established in 1915 as a refugee relief agency, assumed its present form in 1930, and launched a broad programme of agricultural and rural development in the Middle East and Africa. NEF's objectives are to increase food production and income as the most viable strategy for helping people improve their health and well-being. During this time, the NEF has sponsored a variety of innovative self-help initiatives, equipping individuals and community groups with information, training opportunities, new skills and technologies that have enabled them to improve their lives and increase their incomes.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Bolivia: Processing and Marketing of Llama Meat Project (No. 209)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 70 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 22 000
Name of NGO:	Association of Producers and Traders of Camelid Meat Products (ACOPROCCA)

Objectives and Activities:

While social indicators have improved since the late 1980s, 70% of Bolivians live in poverty. Poverty is more severe in rural areas, where an estimated 94% of the population are poor. The Government has placed increasing emphasis on social-sector development, with current sector policy aimed at alleviating poverty by involving grass-roots communities in essential services, and investing in human development.

It is estimated that 52 000 families in Bolivia are involved in raising more than 2 million llamas. Annually, they deliver approximately 246 000 animals for meat. Bolivian cultural heritage associates this animal with the native population, and for centuries this stereotype devalued its use. Nowadays it is a product subject to the dynamics of the market, where peasant families encounter biased trade practices. Despite the excellent nutritional quality of this meat, its price is still low. This situation is due not only to socio-cultural prejudices but also to how the product is presented in the market.

The objectives of this ECP project are to: (i) increase the income and improve the working conditions of producers of llama meat; and (ii) guarantee a product that fulfils the basic requirements of Bolivian legislation concerning handling, transformation and commercialization of fresh meat. The project area is the community of Palcoco, situated 35 km from the city of La Paz in the zone of Lake Titicaca. Direct project beneficiaries will be about 500 families whose main activity is processing and commercialization of llama meat. ACOPROCCA will implement the project and will be responsible for its financial management.

IFAD's financial support will be used to construct an abattoir, ensuring that the building's characteristics meet the certification requirements and norms established by the Bolivian Institute for Standardization and Quality Control (IBNORCA). IFAD will also offer technical assistance and training. This project proposal is connected with IFAD operations in Bolivia and in line with its strategy to promote the economic and social empowerment of indigenous populations. The project is based on the various experiences of the regional programme for camelids and the Regional Programme for the Development of South American Camelids (PRORECA).

ACOPROCCA, an NGO affiliated with the national association of producers and traders of camelid meat (ANPROCHAC), was created in order to standardize and facilitate the commercialization of fresh llama meat. It is an association of producers with traditional knowledge of raising llamas and has been working in the commercialization and transformation of llama meat for more than 14 years.

The Association's general assembly will guarantee the full participation of its associates and family members. ACOPROCCA will be responsible for generating and maintaining data and information, and for evaluating programme results and impact.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Jordan: Establishment of a Village Business Incubator (VBI) for Women’s Micro- and Small Enterprise Development Project in the Northern Region of Jordan (No. 210)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 95 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 80 000
Name of NGO:	The Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS) – Italy

Objectives and Activities:

The proposed ECP project is in line with national efforts to reach one of the major objectives of the Government: alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment, in particular among rural women, through the promotion of microenterprises.

The project will establish a model village business incubator (VBI), the first of its kind in Jordan, to promote women’s enterprise creation through a holistic approach. The VBI will provide rural women living in the northern region of Jordan with orientation and counselling regarding choice of enterprises; financial and training services during enterprise creation by individual women or women’s groups and cooperatives; technical and marketing assistance; and follow-up with field visits. It is foreseen that in three years’ time, 350 such enterprises will be created. The project will also help women entrepreneurs to develop their microenterprises into small and more sustainable operations and link them to larger enterprises through subcontracting and spin-offs.

The lessons learned and expertise developed through this ECP project will be very relevant for the activities organized for women under three IFAD-financed projects: the Yarmouk Agricultural Resources Development Project, the Agricultural Resource Management Project in the Governorates of Karak and Tafila, and the National Programme for Rangeland Rehabilitation and Development – Phase I.

AIDOS is an NGO established in 1981 by a group of development professionals and activists with the intent of carrying out the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: equality, development and peace. Since its creation, AIDOS has concentrated on four intervention areas where the contribution of Italian women is particularly relevant: (i) creation of micro- and small enterprises run by women, through the establishment of business service centres that provide technical and organizational support; (ii) adolescents’ and women’s reproductive health and rights through a holistic approach; (iii) capacity-building of women’s institutions and organizations; and (iv) documentation and communication service centres. Its primary objective is to support the concept and the methodology of women’s empowerment by reinforcing women’s organizations and NGOs in developing countries, enabling them to respond to women’s needs and to manage their interventions autonomously.

In this project, AIDOS will be working with a local partner, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

Country, Grant Title and No: **Madagascar:** Support to Rural Mutual Savings Sector Project (No. 211)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000

Name of NGO: Professional Association of Mutual Finance Institutions (APIFM)

Objectives and Activities:

In Madagascar, there is a strong demand for microfinance services by the rural poor population. Approximately 82% of the rural population are engaged in subsistence agriculture and employed in the informal sector. Rural financial systems are very weak, and consequently capitalization of the benefits and advantages of financial services by the informal sector is poor. Though restructuring and privatization of state-owned banks is ongoing to improve the banking system, this process is expected to lead to further contraction in the limited coverage of formal financial services in rural areas.

To address this situation, the Government plans to consolidate and extend the rural financial sector in order to expand coverage and ensure a dynamic process of rural development. APIFM was formed within this context to regroup the various actors in the financial sector and establish a sustainable rural financial sector. These objectives are in line with IFAD's strategy in the region: to develop rural financial services with the aim of empowering smallholders to develop their capacity to respond to their own needs and to interface with rural financial institutions.

The main objectives of this ECP project are to build the technical and institutional capacity of APIFM so that it can form a strong microfinance network association uniting microfinance institutions and enabling them to service the financial needs of both rural and urban populations effectively and efficiently. Project beneficiaries are: (i) Madagascar's microfinance institutions and savings and credit cooperatives; (ii) local private and public institutions providing financial services; and (iii) NGOs and development organizations involved in the rural and urban financial services sector.

The project's main activities are: (i) a workshop for microfinance networks to discuss constraints to and opportunities in the microfinance sector in Madagascar; (ii) exchange visits between microfinance institutions, especially for members elected to management and control functions; (iii) institutional and technical capacity-building of APIFM in order to strengthen its capacity to provide services to member microfinance institutions; (iv) thematic studies on subjects of relevance to support APIFM's advocacy role in its dialogue with regulatory authorities; and (v) the development and testing of methodologies and tools for auditing of microfinance institutions in the country.

The experience gained through this ECP project will help IFAD further its understanding of the microfinance sector in Madagascar and its outreach among rural populations. Furthermore, APIFM will provide direct support to the accreditation processes of the new microfinance institutions to be established under the Upper Mandrare Basin Development Project – Phase II and the auditing of microfinance institutions established under the North-East Agricultural Improvement and Development Project.

APIFM was established in 1998 by five mutual financial networks in Madagascar, replacing the *Association pour le développement du mouvement mutualiste d'épargne et de crédit (ADDMEC)*.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Belize: Livelihood Opportunities Project in Rural Areas Affected by Hurricane Iris (No. 212)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 50 000
Name of NGO:	Toledo Maya Cultural Council (TMCC)

Objectives and Activities:

Hurricane Iris struck Belize on 8 October 2001, causing extensive damage in the south of the country, where the poorest communities live. The hurricane left nearly 20 000 people homeless, of which 11 000 were children. In its immediate aftermath, structural damage was so serious that many people were forced to live outdoors. Agriculture was severely damaged and physical infrastructure destroyed. Communications and electric power systems were also significantly damaged, and most areas were without telephone and electricity for several weeks.

The hurricane further worsened the problems of the Mayan people and left most of them homeless and food insecure. The Mayas of the Toledo district are faced with severe socio-economic and political problems. The education system is inadequate, and consequently the illiteracy rate in this district is the highest in the country. Basic social infrastructure, including health care, transportation and community services, is severely underdeveloped. Up to 58% of people in Toledo fall below the poverty line, in comparison with the national rate of 35%. The Government and civil society responded immediately to the hurricane, providing massive relief action. However, complementary structural measures in the more remote indigenous areas are still critically needed.

The ECP project objectives are to: (i) redefine and improve food production within the immediate area of the homes; (ii) empower women by supporting their participation in small-scale agriculture and providing them with market training in order to increase their contribution to household income; and (iii) create a centralized collection of indigenous plant and crop species to ensure the further development and sustainability of back-yard production well into the future. Such local plant species are a very important element of indigenous and traditional knowledge, which will be strengthened by TMCC through effective training and coaching of village members.

TMCC is a legally instituted, non-profit organization, based in southern Belize, with over 20 years of experience in grass-roots activities addressing the pressing issues facing indigenous peoples in that area. Its mandate is to represent and to promote the sustainable, economic, social and cultural development of the Maya of 36 villages of the Toledo district of Belize. TMCC has wide experience in project implementation. It has executed projects such as the community-based mapping that produced the Maya Atlas, and has through the years developed a vast experience in advocacy work and community capacity-building.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Mauritania: Maghama Improved Flood Recession Project (No. 213)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 15 000
Name of NGO:	Research and Technological Exchange Group (GRET)

Objectives and Activities:

A major factor in rural poverty in Mauritania is the isolation of the rural populations from the country's economic, social, political and cultural mainstreams. The rural populations have limited human and social capital, often live in severely marginal and isolated areas, and have little access to basic infrastructure and services. They have little capacity to improve their technical knowledge, with constrained access to markets and financial services.

IFAD granted a loan of USD 10.9 million in December 1992 to the Government of Mauritania to finance the Maghama Improved Flood Recession Farming Project. The objectives of that project were: (i) capacity-building of village-level organizations; and (ii) technical and managerial support for operations of flood recession schemes. The project ended in December 2000, and the Government requested funding for a second phase to expand development actions in the area.

The present ECP grant will support activities deemed necessary during the transition period between the first and second phases of the Maghama Improved Flood Recession Project. Specific activities under this one-year ECP project will include: (i) consolidation of the land tenure arrangements established during the first phase of the loan-funded project; (ii) capacity-building of CBOs (including users' associations) to become more representative and inclusive of all community groups, particularly women and youth, and with broader responsibilities for local development initiatives; and (iii) organizational, technical and managerial support to users' associations so that they can assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the flood recession works established during the first phase of the project.

GRET has been present in Mauritania since 1990. They are active in technologically innovative programmes, such as rural electricity supplies, wind-driven power generation and processes to make surface water potable. Their policy consists in assisting in building structures that are active in national development. GRET has an excellent track record in Mauritania and was instrumental in contributing to IFAD's efforts to mobilize beneficiaries in the country.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Philippines: Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management Project (No. 214)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 186 480
Name of NGO:	Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID)

Objectives and Activities:

Although the Government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has already recognized some ancestral domain claims in Northern Mindanao, the boundaries of these domains have not been properly identified and mapped. This situation has caused extreme frustration within the communities whose claims were considered, while other communities saw their ancestral domain claim applications either rejected or ignored for nearly a decade.

The overall goal of this ECP project is to bring about full recognition of the rights of indigenous communities over their ancestral domains. The project will support the initiatives of nine indigenous peoples' organizations in the Caraga region of Northern Mindanao, which are negotiating for the legal recognition of ancestral domain claims or seeking to defend, secure or reoccupy their ancestral domains. The three-year project covering approximately 100 000 ha of ancestral domains will have three components: (i) participatory community mapping; (ii) ancestral domains management planning; and (iii) capacity-building.

PAFID will be responsible for the implementation of the project, which is complementary to three IFAD projects in the Philippines, namely the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project, the Western Mindanao Community Initiative Project, and the newly approved Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives, and Resource Management Project (NMCIREMP). Indeed, it is expected that the methodology to be adopted in the ECP project will be replicated in NMCIREMP by other agencies and NGOs. To this effect, provisions have been made in NMCIREMP to train other partner institutions in the use of this methodology.

Established following a conference organized in the mid-1960s by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), PAFID works exclusively with indigenous communities and focuses chiefly on security of tenure over ancestral lands and waters. Its objectives are to: (i) make appropriate and innovative technical assistance available to indigenous communities; (ii) promote holistic community development that is culturally sensitive and ecologically sound; and (iii) advocate in public and private institutions for policies and programmes that benefit and respect indigenous communities. Over 40% of PAFID staff are themselves members of indigenous communities, and several are second- or third-generation descendants of community partners and advocates who lobbied for ancestral land claims, and won.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Mongolia: Food Security Enhancement Programme (No. 215)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 35 000
Name of NGO:	World Vision-Mongolia

Objectives and Activities:

Substantial progress has been made in Mongolia's transition to a market economy over the last ten years. The country's economy has been growing for six consecutive years and inflation has dropped. However, many serious challenges still need to be overcome to increase the living standards of the population and overall social development. Due to its reliance on a few export commodities, the Mongolian economy remains highly vulnerable to external shocks. The lack of strong public-sector management and control has led to poor access to and quality of basic services, such as education and health. In addition, the targeting mechanism of social welfare systems is weak and inefficient.

With its dry climate, Mongolia is particularly susceptible to drought, which has been spreading across large sections of Asia for several years. This will affect both agriculture and livestock production. The closure of the country's highly subsidized large-scale state farms caused domestic food production to decline. This has been accompanied by a decrease in purchasing power as inflation and the decreasing value of the tugrik make goods more expensive.

The proposed ECP programme will cover Hentii province (500 km north-east of Ulan Bator, the capital city) and Nalaikh district (located 40 km east of Ulan Bator). Beneficiaries will be about 500 poor families that, *inter alia*, have been affected by the last two disastrous winters, have malnourished children or take care of orphans. The programme's objective is to improve the food security and increase the income of these families through training and skills development in agricultural and non-agricultural practices. The programme will also provide training in various aspects of vegetable growing, harvesting and storage, and processing of local raw materials, e.g. fibre, hides and wood. About 180 children will participate in a feeding and rehabilitation programme to improve their nutritional status, and training in nutrition will also be provided for long-term positive impact on food use. Groups will be encouraged to set up solidarity funds, allowing each member to deposit savings and draw small loans for productive purposes. Finally, the programme will enhance the capacity of individual producers and groups to market their products. For this purpose, the programme will carry out market studies in two locations with different economic settings. The experience gained through this programme will be relevant for IFAD's forthcoming Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme.

World Vision has been working in Mongolia since 1993 in the fields of primary health care, nutrition, crop production, livestock management, early childhood development, care for children in difficult circumstances, forestry and disaster response. It has worked in three areas: Bulgan province, Dundgobi and Ulan Bator. In 1998, World Vision-Mongolia decided to consolidate individual development projects into geographical units called area development programmes, which generally have a target population of 25 000 or more. World Vision-Mongolia is currently implementing the Disaster Rehabilitation and Food Security Project in Dundgobi and Kharkhorin, assisting 1 600 families. The project comprises skills development and business training, an intensive nutrition programme, food assistance, and support for education and fuel. It is also implementing a nutrition



ANNEX

programme in four provinces, concentrating on micronutrient deficiencies. In the context of the ECP programme, its staff will provide assistance in health, nutrition, crop production and monitoring and evaluation.



Country, Grant Title and No: **Colombia:** Microenterprise Development Project for Women in the Boyacá Department (No. 216)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 45 000

Name of NGO: *Asociación Departamental de Mujeres Campesinas e Indígenas de Boyacá (ADMUCIB) – Colombia*

Objectives and Activities:

The project will strengthen microenterprises run by women living in rural poor households in areas of the Boyacá department. Its goal is to increase the sales of products made by women's enterprises and promote new income-generating activities.

Poverty is widespread in the project area. Recently the situation has deteriorated due to armed conflicts. Violence, kidnapping and harassment are frequent. Many men migrate to urban areas, leaving women to manage household and productive activities.

The project will provide valuable knowledge about methods of working with woman-headed households in difficult circumstances, knowledge that will be very useful for IFAD activities both in Colombia and elsewhere in the region. ADMUCIB will enable it to provide greatly needed small- and micro-business-related non-financial services, including business training and planning and market facilitation.

ADMUCIB has previously cooperated with IFAD in its Rural Micro-Enterprise Development Programme, and some of its personnel received training under that programme.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Republic of Moldova: Support to IFAD's Rural Finance and Small Enterprise Development Project (RFSEDP) (No. 217)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 90 000
Name of NGO:	Consultancy and Credit in Agriculture (CCA)

Objectives and Activities:

The Republic of Moldova is a small, densely populated country that relies heavily on agriculture. The agriculture sector contributes about 42% of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employs about half of the total labour force. The country produces a variety of high-value agricultural products, including wine, fruits and horticultural products. The Government has taken decisive actions to: (i) stabilize the economy; (ii) provide a supportive environment for the emerging private farming sector; and (iii) advance land reform and farm restructuring. The number of private farmers is increasing rapidly.

The main objective of this ECP project is to enhance implementation of the IFAD-financed RFSEDP by facilitating access of small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs to RFSEDP credit resources.

The project's main activities are: (i) programme promotion campaigns; (ii) training of potential and existing RFSEDP beneficiaries in small-business opportunities, financial management and marketing; (iii) assistance in the identification and assessment of potential enterprises to be proposed for financing under RFSEDP; (iv) assistance to potential RFSEDP beneficiaries to prepare credit applications, and submit these to participating institutions; and (v) direct assistance for the establishment of savings and credit associations (SCAs) in the pilot area of the ECP project. Ten SCAs will be created. Within the credit line made available by RFSEDP, SCAs will provide short-term micro-loans for household purposes to its members, all residents of the serviced area.

CCA is an NGO created in 2000 by individuals who were once part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Project to Develop Land and Real Estate Markets in the Republic of Moldova. CCA operates throughout the country to accomplish the following goals: (i) promote the development of financial institutions by assisting them to adapt to international credit techniques and standards; (ii) promote the creation and development of rural entrepreneurs; and (iii) promote reforms and development in the agricultural sphere. CCA at present is successfully implementing three major community development projects.