



## **Evaluation synthesis: IFAD's support to livelihoods involving aquatic resources from Small-scale Fisheries, Small-scale Aquaculture and Coastal Zones**

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Investing in rural people

# Background

- High relevance to IFAD's mandate:
- Fisheries and aquaculture employ approximately 190 million people globally;
- Role of aquatic products for a balanced nutrition;
- Women make up at least 50 per cent of the workforce in the aquatic sector;
- Risk of resource depletion
- Aquatic resources highly relevant to many Sustainable Development Goals to which also IFAD subscribes.

# Overall portfolio

- IFAD not a large player in the aquatic resources sector: 8.1% of total allocations in the period 1979-2017, US\$ 1.56 billion;
- Only slightly Increase over time

	<b>Total project value (million US\$)</b>	<b>Number projects</b>	<b>Share of IFAD's contribution to aquatic resources</b>
<b>1979-2008</b>	1620,78	65	7.4%
<b>2009-2017</b>	1753,29	33	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	3374,07	98	8.1%

# Relevance

- High relevance of projects to IFAD's Strategic Frameworks and to Governments' policies;
- Mixed relevance to poverty alleviation: targeted participants not always from the poorest sections of rural population;
- Frequently, aquaculture and freshwater capture fisheries components “added on” to agricultural development projects, leading to low attention to sectoral specificities.
- Limited analysis on context at design (e.g. social and institutional constraints)

# Effectiveness

- In “high focus projects”, evidence of positive results:
  - Improving fishing techniques; fresh fish conservation (ice); post-harvest processes;
  - Infrastructures built;
  - Projects addressing marine capture fisheries more effective than others
- Less evidence on:
  - Access to suitable rural financial services for fishers and fishmongers
  - Trickle-down effects to poorer sections of stakeholders when working with better-off producers.

# Sustainability

- Mixed evidence
- Key factors:
  - Political ownership, engagement with local governments and support to institutional development;
  - Long-term commitment by IFAD to the sector;
  - Delays and disconnects in implementing key components, such as infrastructure and rural finance services

# Women's empowerment and gender equality

- Capacity development of fishmongers (processing, marketing skills, access to financial services) achieved results;
- Self-help groups, including for saving and credit, were very successful among women in fishing communities;
- Little evidence of empowerment or effects on gender relations;

# Natural resources management and Climate change adaptation

## **Natural Resource Management**

- Evolution from focus on increasing catches to sustainable aquatic resources management
- Better integration of the NRM at design in small island and coastal zone projects, less so in aquaculture projects.

## **Climate change adaptation**

- Progressive integration of climate change implications for stock management in marine capture fisheries projects
- Consequences of coastal zone erosion on the livelihoods of the poor in coastal zone projects



# Overall conclusions

- Overall mixed performance
- There are cases of successes in impact on poverty and livelihoods
- When interventions on aquatic resources were sub-components of an agricultural development project, they tended to become “invisible”
- Positive steps forward since 2015, with in-house expertise. Newly approved projects are more realistic and better designed
- Few knowledge products, though of good quality

# Recommendations

1. IFAD should maintain its commitment to the sector, and improve design and support to implementation of projects addressing aquatic resources.
2. More partnerships with agencies specialized in the aquatic resources sector.
3. Projects in this sector should mostly or fully focus on aquatic resources.
4. Improve attention to and integration of social development issues.
5. Improve attention and integration of environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change.