



Republic of Tunisia

Country strategy and programme evaluation

104th Session of the Evaluation Committee

28 March 2019

Country context

- **Successive** political, social and economic **crises** – weakened public services
- **Limited growth** and **increasing public debt**
- **Strong contrasts** between urban and rural areas, coasts and interior
- Particular **social challenges** for rural development
- **Weak coordination of development partners** in the agricultural and rural sector

Population		11 million
Urbanisation		67%
Average growth	2010	3.5%
	2011	-1.9%
	2017	1.9%
Public debt	2010	40.7% of GDP
	2016	69.9% of GDP
Poverty rate	urban	10.1%
	rural	26%
Unemployment	total	15.5%
	15-24 yrs	35.7%

IFAD in Tunisia

- **13 projects since 1980** estimated at USD 465M (37% IFAD)
- **First COSOP in 1998**: Participatory approaches, natural resources management, gender, rural finance
- **First Country programme evaluation (2002)** recommended strengthening 3 key areas:
 - Targeting of the rural poor, women and youth
 - Innovative character of the country programme
 - Non-agricultural economic activities
- **Country strategy note 2017-2018** introduced a value chain approach and made farmer organisations the main entry point

CSPE scope

From **2003 to April 2018**

- **6 projects (US\$ 248M)**
- **Non-lending activities**
- **IFAD & Government performance**
- **Country strategy performance**

Ongoing

 PRODESUD-II (2014-2020)

 PRODEFIL (2015-2021)

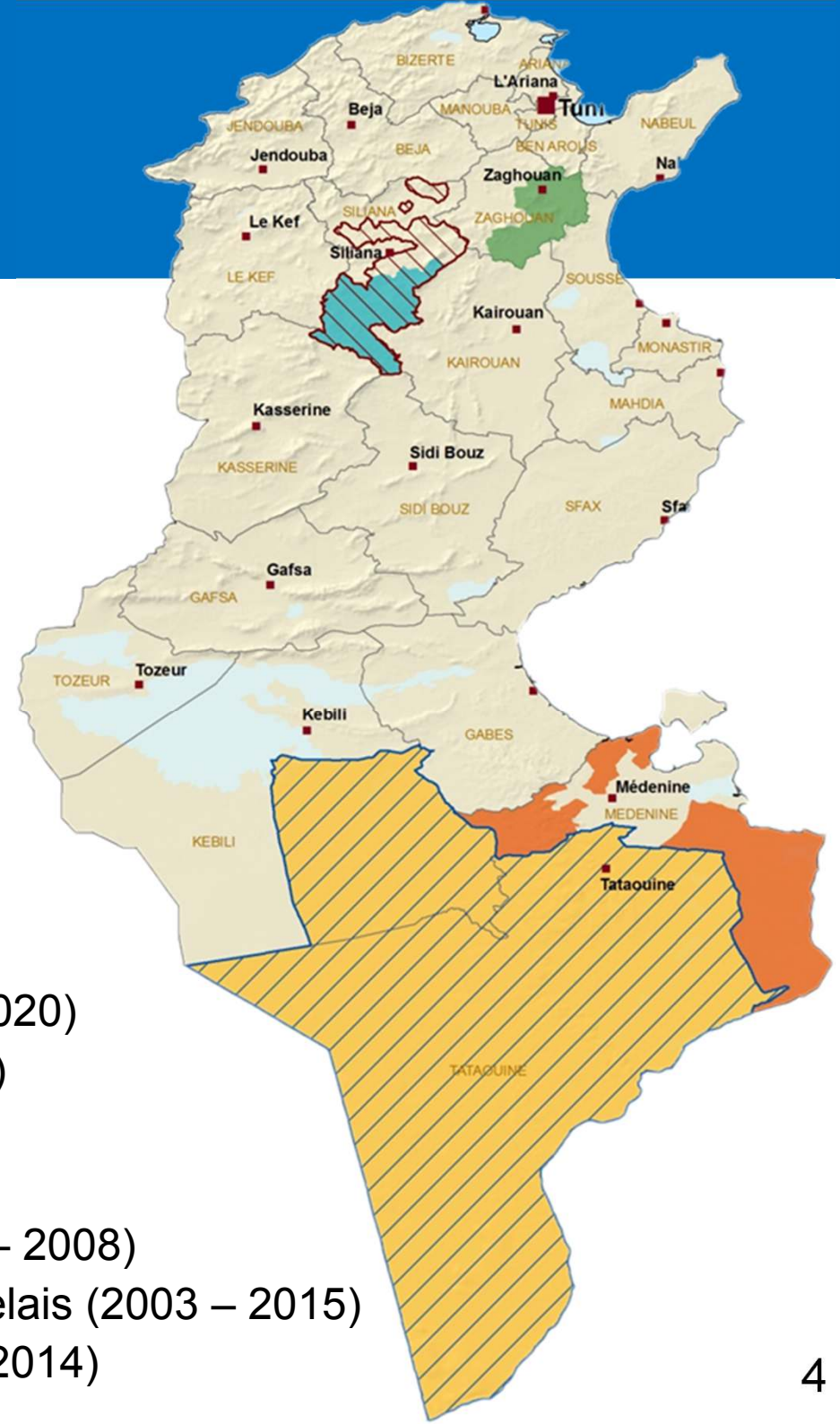
 PROFITS (2017-2023)

Completed

 PDAI Zaghouan (2000 – 2008)

 PRODESUD + phase relais (2003 – 2015)

 PDAI Siliana-II (2007 - 2014)





Evaluation findings

Relevance

- **Project objectives have evolved** in line with country and IFAD policies and strategies
- **Development approaches generally relevant** but some limitations
- **Recent value chain approach** expected to create more **local added value** and generate much needed **rural employment**
- **Geographic targeting** makes sense
- Only a small proportion of **financing** is **dedicated specifically to the poorest and most vulnerable** population groups

Effectiveness and rural poverty impact

- Improved access to **socio-economic infrastructure** with **multiple impacts** (income, health, workload) also **benefiting rural women**
- Significant impact on **agricultural productivity** (and income)
- Strengthening of **citizen's participation** in development planning and management of public goods, but **limited participation of women**
- Limited performance on **income generating activities and rural enterprises** targeted towards poorer and more vulnerable groups → Little perceptible impact on **job creation** for young people and women

Efficiency and sustainability

- Important impact of the **context** on efficiency and sustainability
- Almost systematic **start-up delays**
- **Operating costs and unit costs were generally acceptable** but costs per beneficiary were high especially in the South
- **Sustainability** is integrated as a basic principle in all projects, but also shows significant limitations
 - **Ownership of approaches** by public administration but **limited resources** to upscale
 - **Participation and accountability** of beneficiaries, **but local institutions remain fragile**
 - Important **natural resource protection** investments, but some **environmental risks**

Non-lending activities

- Important **innovative** development approaches and techniques
- Strong partnerships with **research institutions** but **insufficient with the private sector**
- Highly **complementary parallel co-financing** (GEF, France, Spain, EU)
- **No strategies and resources** for knowledge management and policy engagement
- **Policy dialogue is constrained** by internal and external factors, but there have been **some modest contributions**
- Good integration of **loans and grants**



Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

- Important contribution to the **improvement of living conditions** in disadvantaged rural areas through **“traditional” investments**
- Notable progress in terms of **rural participation** in the management of public goods, but grassroots organisations remains fragile
- **Remarkable environmental and NRM results**, but with some risks for sustainability.
- The successes can be attributed in part to **fruitful partnerships**, although the private sector has been weakly involved

Conclusions

However:

- A low proportion of funding was directed specifically towards the **poorest and most vulnerable social groups**
- Very modest impact on the **social and economic empowerment** of rural women and youth
- **Scaling up of innovations** through **knowledge management** and **policy engagement** was limited

Main recommendations

- **Recommendation 1.** **Target** financing and interventions towards the poorest and most vulnerable economically active populations, especially extremely poor family farmers, women and young adults.
- **Recommendation 2.** Strengthen and scale up **innovative approaches** for the reduction of rural poverty, in coordination with a wide range of stakeholders.
- **Recommendation 3.** Strengthen **strategic partnerships** to **promote policy engagement** to the benefit of the rural poor.

Thank you

