



# Update on the IOE Work programme in 2020

109th Evaluation Committee - 19 June 2020

Independent Office  
of Evaluation

**IFAD**  
Investing in rural people

# COVID-19 situation

- Global health crisis affecting all type of operations in all countries (developing and non-developing)
- IOE followed IFAD corporate measures and guidance
- Key constraints from an evaluation perspective:
  - Restrictions / bans on international travels
  - Restrictions on domestic travels (e.g., national consultants)
  - Availability / connectivity constraints of government and country stakeholders
  - Competition for the time of project stakeholders with other urgent / emergency tasks

# Key orientation followed by IOE

- Evaluation remains important during a period of crisis. However, it needs to adapt to the situation:
  - Respect the national and international provisions and restrictions
  - Health and safety for IFAD (incl. IOE) staff and consultants and all stakeholders involved are paramount
  - Optimise use of available documentation to identify available evidence and gaps
  - Pursue data collection remotely to the extent possible
  - Field visits for data collection and validation only if and after restrictions are eased
  - Exchanges with other evaluation networks (ECG, UNEG, Evalnet DAC)

# Options to be pursued

- There is **no perfect substitute** to traditional evaluation with country visits. Alternatives have **limitations** in terms of richness of analysis and ‘giving voice to the poor’. Some options
  - Remote interviews (e.g. phone / skype) with key stakeholders
  - Use of remote sensing data (e.g., satellite images)
  - Only national consultants travelling to the field (if declared safe)
  - International travels postponed or cancelled
- Still evaluations can provide **value added** by assessing results, identifying performance factors and providing strategic guidance

# Less affected - not requiring field visits

- ✓ ARRI
- ✓ CLE RBA Collaboration (start in 2020, carry over 2021)
- ✓ CLE Innovation (report finalization phase)
- ✓ Project Completion Report Validations (desk review)
- ✓ Communication and KM activities
- ✓ Partnerships with other evaluation offices / initiatives (virtual interactions)

# Evaluations requiring changes in approaches

- Country strategy and programme evaluations (5)
  - Desk review, remote interactions, national consultant visits; international team validation in second half 2020
  - Expect to complete 2-3 in 2020, finalization of the remainder in 2021
- Project Performance Evaluations (6)
  - Desk review, remote interactions and national consultant visits
  - Plan to complete all PPEs in 2020
- Impact evaluations (2)
  - Ethiopia (2019 carry-over 2020): data collection completed. One follow-up mission cancelled. **Proposal:** shift EC presentation from Oct 2020 to Mar 2021
  - New IE (2020-2021): on hold. **Proposal:** replaced by advancing work on other evaluations (e.g. Joint CLE on RBA Collaboration)

# Evaluations requiring changes in approaches – cont.

- Thematic Evaluation - Smallholder climate change adaptation
  - Desk review, remote interactions. Country visits in second half 2020
  - Currently on track
- Evaluation Synthesis – infrastructure
  - Desk review, remote interactions. No country visits
  - On track

# Next steps

## Further update in:

- Preview 2021 IOE Work programme and budget – EC Sept 2020
- Proposed 2021 IOE Work programme and budget – EC Oct 2020