



Republic of the Sudan

Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation

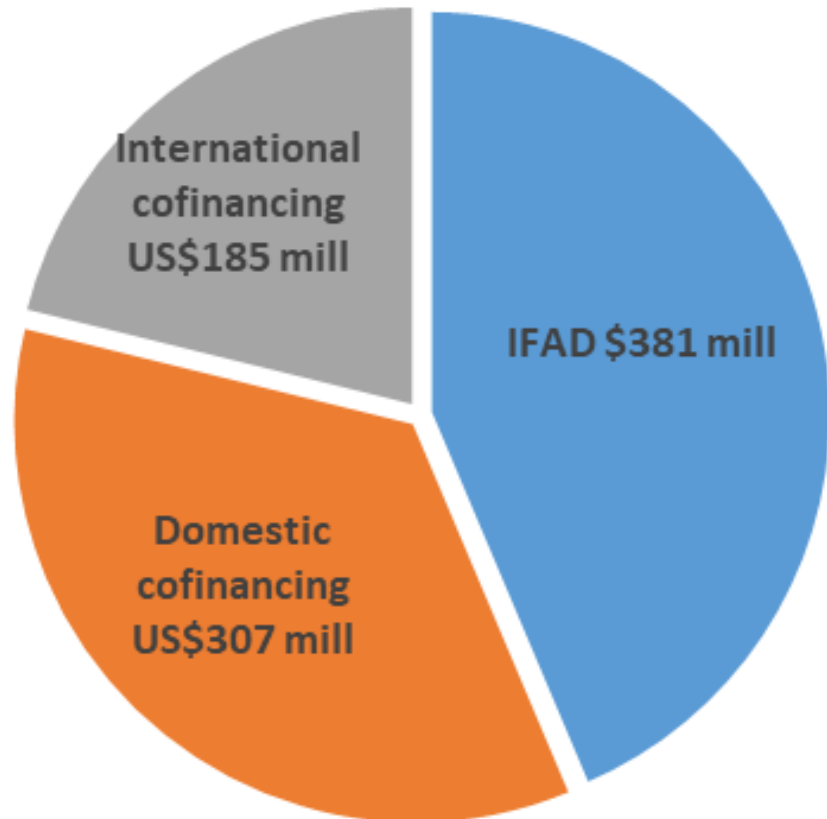
Main evaluation findings and recommendations

Evaluation Committee 111th session

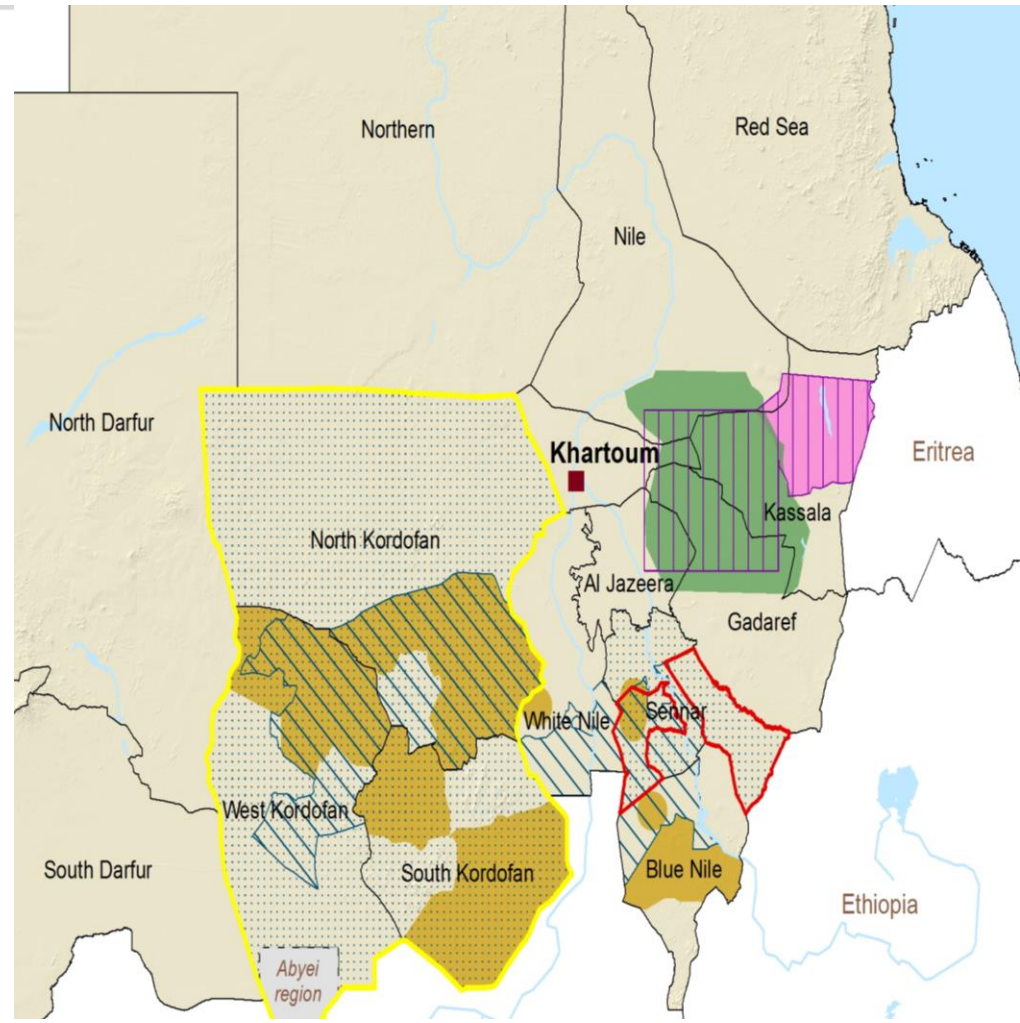
22 October 2020

IFAD operations in Sudan

IFAD-financed portfolio by financier since 1979 (22 projects)



Projects covered in CSPE portfolio assessment



Main evaluation findings - highlights

Project portfolio – strengths (1)

NR governance & management

- NRM an inclusive “platform” for change
- Stronger mechanisms for managing NR-related conflicts
- Improved range and forestry through community participation (e.g. 65,000 ha of community range in Butana)



Crop/livestock productivity↑ through:

- Improved agriculture techniques, crop diversification, animal husbandry practices
- Better availability of inputs and services

Main evaluation findings - highlights

Project portfolio – strengths (2)

Climate resilience strengthened through:

- Improved NRM and complementary practices (e.g. fodder management)
- Energy alternatives (e.g. LPG, solar), improved housing materials

Also contribution to increased carbon stock



Access to finance

- Partnerships with the Agricultural Bank of Sudan Microfinance Initiative (ABSUMI) and support to savings and credit groups (SCGs)
- 3,000 SCGs, 48,000 members (95% women), high repayment rate (>95%)

Main evaluation findings - highlights

Project portfolio – strengths (3)

Human & social capital, empowerment - underlying portfolio achievements

- Individual skills and knowledge, access to water, health, etc.
- Community development committees and their networks – greater role in development planning and advocacy (e.g. NR governance)
- Contribution to reduced NR-related conflicts



- Achievements in gender equality and women's economic and social empowerment
- Successful gender strategy: e.g. inclusion of traditional leaders and men

Main evaluation findings - highlights

Project portfolio – issues

- Project teams at state/locality levels – effective in delivering project services; but there could have been more attention to strengthening *institutional* capacity in Government agencies
- Pathways to achieve rural poverty, reduced food insecurity and malnutrition – not well-articulated
- Sustainability of benefits mixed: positive in some areas (e.g. community-level institutions); less certain in others (e.g. rural roads)
- Lessons in engagement with pastoral communities – not adequately taken up in the latest project

Main evaluation findings - highlights

Non-lending activities

- Good progress in knowledge management (e.g. Learning Routes)
- But for effective KM, project M&E systems need improvements (e.g. availability and quality of outcome/impact data)
- Strong partnerships with Government, projects working with the Native Administrations, community-level institutions
- But missed opportunities to work with other development partners for KM, policy and strategic issues (e.g. UNEP, FAO)
- On policy engagement, more could have been done to utilize project results to better inform policy issues (e.g. NR governance)

Storyline – key points

- With a consistent strategy focusing on traditional rainfed agriculture, significant results and impacts in many aspects relevant to the rural poor achieved
- However, greater efforts in non-lending activities and more effective engagement with the Government could have brought the results to a higher level, for scaling-up and sustainability

Recommendations (1)

- 1. Identify opportunities for partnerships and cofinancing for scaling-up and greater impact, e.g. non-State actors and development agencies**
- 2. Ensure a more inclusive and differentiated targeting strategy, in particular, for engagement with mobile pastoral communities and vulnerable households**
- 3. Support institutional capacity development of key Government agencies at local and state level, while building stronger links with IFAD-financed projects**

Recommendations (2)

4. **Articulate better the theory of change in country and project strategies**, with greater attention to the pathways to project goals (e.g. improved food security and nutrition).
5. **Strengthen the knowledge management platform for IFAD-financed projects**, for information-sharing across the projects and partnerships.
6. **Strengthen IFAD's capacity** to be better engaged in project supervision, knowledge management, coordination across strategic partnerships and policy dialogue.

Thank you!



Independent Office of Evaluation