



Investing in rural people

Independent Office
of Evaluation



Republic of Niger Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation

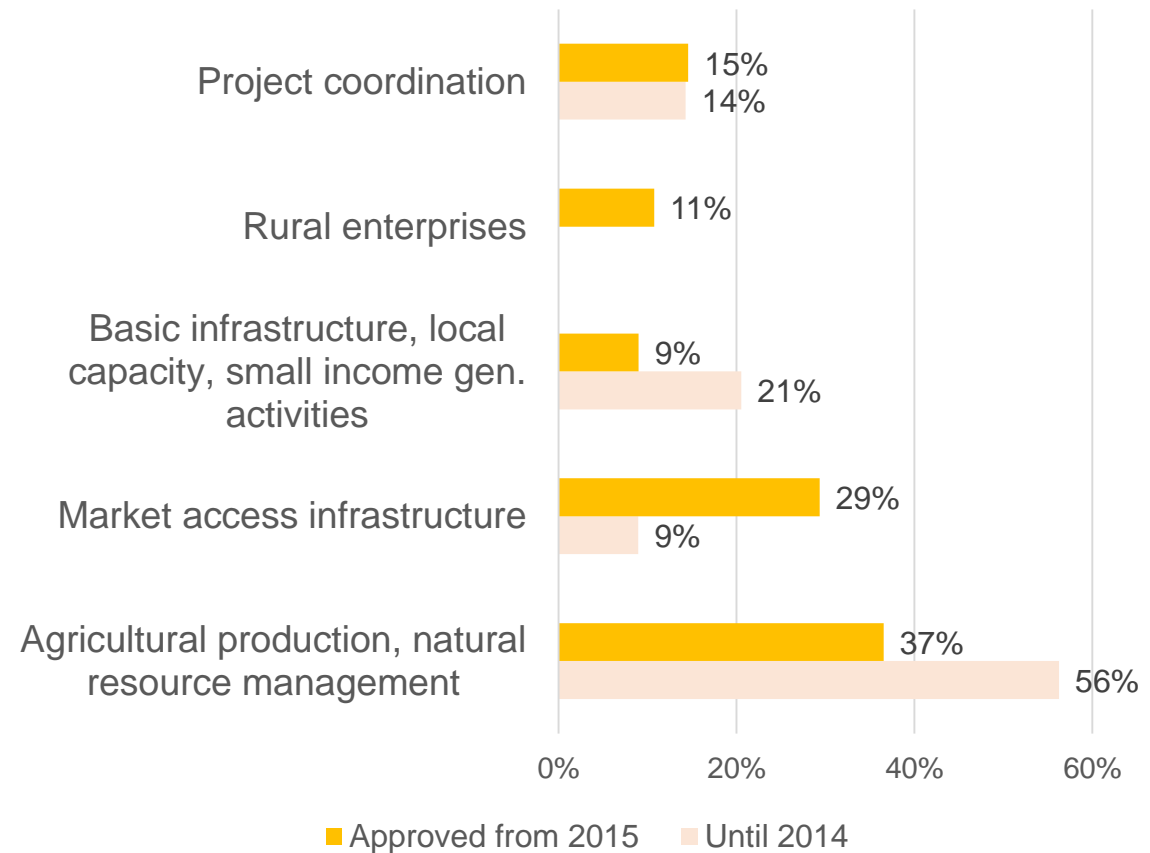
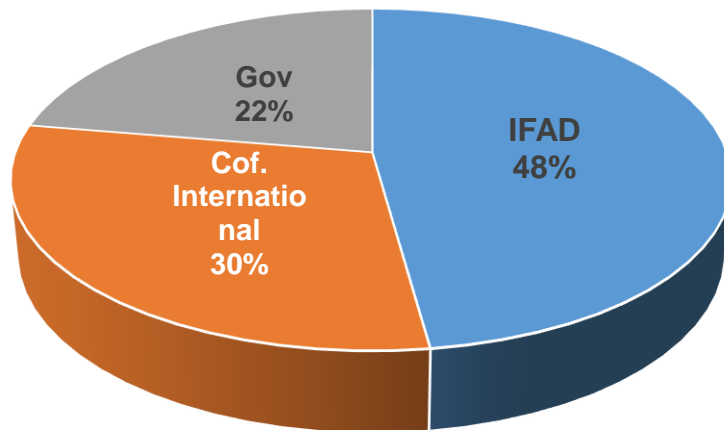
113th Evaluation Committee
Rome, 30 June 2021

- Second CSPE in Niger, covering 2011-2020
- Level of analysis
 - a) Project portfolio: 8 projects (5 closed, one with IOE impact evaluation)
 - b) Non-lending activities (knowledge management, partnership, policy engagement, grants)
 - c) Assessment of cooperation strategy Niger-IFAD
- Methodology adapted to COVID-19 pandemic:
 - a) Intensive desk review and self-assessment by Government
 - b) Remote interviews
 - c) Field visits by national consultants based on detailed checklists
- National workshop in virtual modality, April 2021

IFAD in Niger in figures

Projects approved	14 (15 including WB separate financing) from 1980
Total estimated costs	739 (765) million USD

Financing sources



Context and strategic priorities

Contextual elements

- 83% of population is rural
- Malnutrition: stunting: 47.8%
- Fragility conditions
 - (i) political and social instability since independence
 - (ii) drought-related climate hazards
 - (iii) a precarious security situation along the northwest border and the southern border with Nigeria.

COSOP 2012

General goal

Improve food security and resilience of 195,000 hh in the regions of Maradi, Tahoua et Zinder

Specific objectives

- 1) Sustainably increase agro-forestry-pastoral production of small producers
- 2) Improve post-production and marketing for small producers
- 3) Strengthen social capital to improve sustainability of local initiatives

Portfolio performance– strengths

Design

- Projects well integrated in national strategies.
- From individual projects to more coherent national programme
- Growing support to ‘*economic development poles*’ integrating production and marketing basins

Effectiveness

- Soil and water conservation techniques -> improved vegetation cover, soil quality; recuperation of abandoned land
- Agricultural advisory services helped disseminate better crop management technique and seed production

Sustainability: ownership by local governments and communities

Challenges and areas for reconsideration

Design

- Reduced budget and investments in basic infrastructure

Effectiveness

- Achievements below targets for market infrastructure (30% completed) and rural roads (46%).
- Support to rural enterprises (10-20% of targets)
- Some small-scale income generating activities (poultry): high mortality, prophylaxis measures not followed

Sustainability threats

- Grassroots organizations weak in managerial skills
- Funding for maintenance remains a '*question mark*' in many activities

Impacts on rural poverty

-Improvements in agricultural productivity and revenues

- ✓ Increase in yields : +48% millet (PPI Ruwanmu: CES/DRS), + 36% irrigated crops (vegetables) (PUSADER)
- ✓ PASADEM : restocking of small ruminants
- ✓ PPI : annual agricultural revenues doubled

- Little information on quality of human nutrition

- **Economic empowerment of women** (village cereal warehouses, training in income generating activities); less attention to reducing workload

Non-lending activities and strategy



Non-lending activities

Knowledge Management

- Technical notes in collaboration with the Network of Chambers of agriculture, focusing on project sub-component. Limitation: can not inform sectoral policy discussions
- **Partnership development**
 - Strong partnership at central level (Min of Ag, Plan, Infrastructure, I3N). Engagement with regional administrations and communes
 - Cofinancing with AfDB, Italy, Norway, GEF, OPEC, WB, GCF. Common initiatives with RBA

Policy engagement

- Several projects (PASADEM, PRODAF, PRECIS) had policy-related activities. Engagement mostly delegated to National project coordination Unit. Limited IFAD 'presence'

Key strategic conclusions

1. In a context affected by several fragility factors, the country programme supported resilience of households and communities
2. Growing attention to market access and trans-border exchanges.
 - Responds to clear needs but benefit – cost ratio still to be assessed
3. Decreased investments in basic infrastructures and services (sanitation, water, functional literacy) and in income-generating activities for the very poor
4. Support to enterprises performed below expectations: strategic priorities and financing mechanisms not worked out completely

Recommendations

1. Complete the transition towards an integrated programme
2. Economic development poles: review cost-benefits of market infrastructure and focus on inclusive value chain governance
3. Rebalance investments towards basic infrastructure and income generating activities
4. Better integrate agricultural production and NRM, within a perspective of conflict management
5. Elaborate a strategy to support small enterprises (build upon partnerships with Chambers of agriculture)
6. Strengthen IFAD's consultation with Government and development partners