IFAD
Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation

IOE Multi-year Evaluation Strategy

114th Evaluation Committee, 1 September 2021

Policy – Strategy – Work Programme

Policy

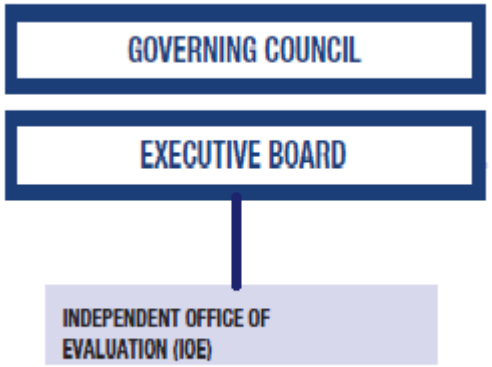
- EB approved revised Evaluation Policy in April 2021

Strategy

- Bridges between the Evaluation Policy and WPB
- Provides medium/ long-term strategic framework for IOE and guides IOE future work programme
- Covers two replenishment periods– IFAD12 and IFAD13 : 2022-2027

WPB

- Work programme and budget will continue to be approved on annual basis



Objectives of the strategy and key elements

Objectives

1. Contribute to forge IFAD as a **transparent, learning-oriented and accountable** organization

2. Improve evaluation **coverage,** promote **transformative evaluations**, ensuring rigour, and cost-effectiveness**.**

3. Engage with Management, member states and other external partners to support **evaluation capacity inside and outside IFAD**

4. Retain and deepen IOE's position as an **internationally recognised leader** in rural development evaluation

Key elements

A) Selectivity of evaluation topics; B) Rebalancing evaluation products; C) Strengthen collaboration with Management; D) Evaluation capacity development; E) Raise the bar

A. Selectivity principles for evaluations

Targeting evaluations and optimizing their 'impact'.

- ✓ Relevance to Strategic Framework 2016-2025, IFAD11, IFAD12 & 13 commitments, and Development Effectiveness Framework
- ✓ Demands from IFAD Governing Bodies and Management to underpin:
  - ➢ Improvements to the business and country programming model
  - ➢ New policies and strategic priorities
- ✓ Evaluability and cost-effective building of evidence
- ✓ Review and validation of self-evaluation
- ✓ Opportunities for methodological innovation and state-of-the art approaches

Tentative topics for future evaluations

Following the selectivity principles, some tentative evaluation topics for consideration:

- Evolving financial architecture of IFAD (IFAD11, IFAD12), its contribution to IFAD's mandate and to the Fund's financial sustainability
- Progress made in reforming IFAD's country programme delivery model
- IFAD's contribution to the SDG principle of 'nobody left' behind (equity, social justice)
- IFAD's collaboration with private sector entities
- IFAD and digital agriculture for smallholder farmers
- IFAD self-evaluation function and quality assurance processes
- Outcomes of IFAD11 and IFAD12 replenishments

B. Rebalancing evaluation products

Revising existing products:

-Corporate-level / Thematic Evaluations

-Country Strategy and Programme Evaluations (slightly increase numbers)

-Evaluation Syntheses

-ARRI

New products:

- Sub-regional evaluations
- Project cluster evaluations

Strengthen learning opportunities (in addition to accountability)

Fewer individual project performance evaluations, covering:

- recently closed projects
- ongoing, approaching completion
- projects closed years before

Test quasi-real time evaluation modality

C. Initiatives for enhanced collaboration with Management

…requires commitments from both sides…

D. External Partnerships & Evaluation Capacity building

Evaluation capacity development for external partners in the area of rural development

- Collaborate with GEI and other global initiatives. Bilateral collaboration on very selective basis

Enhance collaboration with other evaluation offices and evaluation networks

- FAO, WFP: joint evaluations and syntheses; Communities of practice (e.g., EvalForward);
- Networks: UNEG, ECG, Professional Associations
- GEF, UNEP, UNDP, e.g., climate resilience

Universities and think tanks

- Topic-specific
- Methodology and technology for evaluation

E. Raising the Bar

Enhancing Quality and Efficiency

- Updated Guidance (New Evaluation Manual)
- Evaluation Advisory Panel for feedback from renowned experts
- Invest in ICT (GIS, software, artificial intelligence)
- Streamline and re-engineer processes and products for greater efficiency
- Enhance use of recommendations: (i) improve quality; (ii) strengthen tracking and ex-post review
- Monitor key areas of IOE performance (Key Performance Indicators)

Resource implications

- This Strategy can help IOE better support IFAD's mandate through independent evaluation and evaluation capacity development
- In the medium/long-term, it may require larger resource envelope

IOE to take a phased and combined approach:

- ➢ Efficiency gains (simplify products and processes)
- ➢ Piloting and assessing value added and resource requirements
- ➢ Discuss with EC, AC, EB resource implication in the context of the WPB annual proposal