

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation

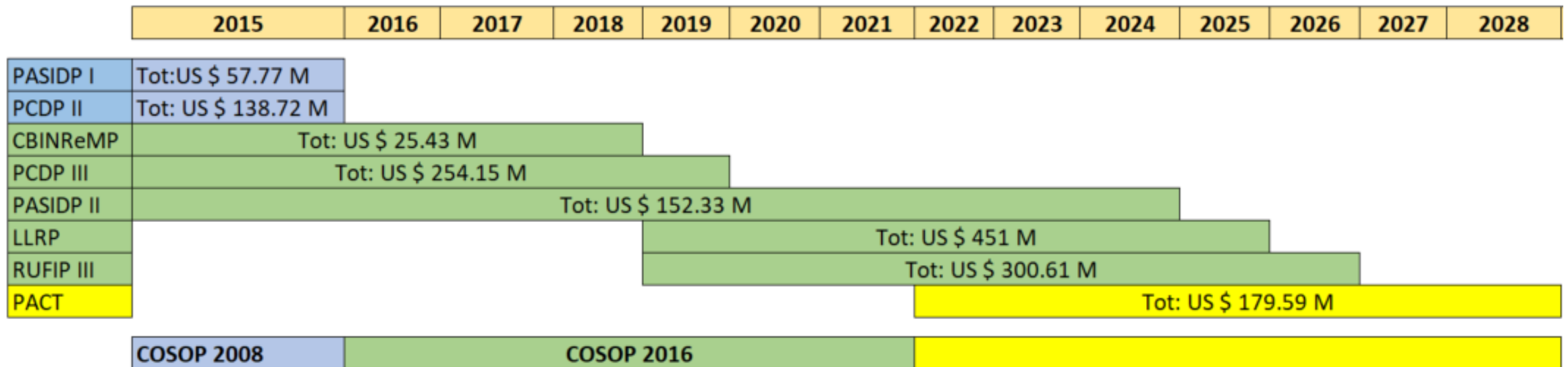


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Evaluation
Committee

Federal Republic of Ethiopia Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation *Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations*

6 October 2023

- Scope: COSOP: 2016-2022; 9 projects, 5 completed and 3 on-going, one new (2022).
- Evaluated portfolio: cost of US\$1.8 billion, with IFAD financing = 654.1 million.
- Co-financiers: World Bank, European Investment Bank, African Development Bank.
- Methodology: mixed method approach; Purposeful sampling for site visits in three regions of the country.



In terms of coherence and non-lending activities.

- Confirmed IFAD's comparative advantage for small irrigation and inclusive rural finance.
- Good synergy with the WB for the implementation of community driven development approach.
- Several knowledge studies carried out and good dissemination of projects' results.
- Strong and effective strategic partnership with the government.
- Effective operational partnerships with various organizations.
- Policy change obtained due to results of IFAD supported projects.



In terms of effectiveness and impacts.

- Increased access to financial and social and economic services, e.g.: 1547 water points, 2486 schools, 1089km roads, 928 health posts
- Improved ecosystem resilience: ~40000 ha small scale irrigation, about 200,000ha watershed and rangeland managed;
- Various innovations promoted, e.g.: soil and water conservation practices, energy saving technologies, bio-fortified crops;
- Evidence of contribution to: increased agricultural production, improved households' income; and improved social capital.
- Strengthened community mechanisms to manage natural resources.



Gender and sustainability results, including environmental.

- Quantitative targets of women participation achieved: 30-50%
- Evidence of contribution to women economic empowerment.
- Sustainability prospects: anchorage within governmental institutions; and effective linkages at field levels.
- Scaling up results achieved: from practice to policy;
- Environmental sustainability enabled with the promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices;
- Climate change adaptation enhanced through: irrigation schemes, conservation agriculture, livelihood diversification.



In relation to coherence and effectiveness.

- The projects have evolved in isolation, thus not facilitating the sharing of experiences inter-projects.
- There was no systematic approach of knowledge utilization to inform decision making.
- Insufficient focus on downstream segments (e.g. storage, processing and marketing).
- Islamic compliant financial services still not generalized.
- MFIs lack technical capacities for effective M&E activities.
- Insufficient mechanisms for systematic sharing of experiences and for learning in the rural sector.

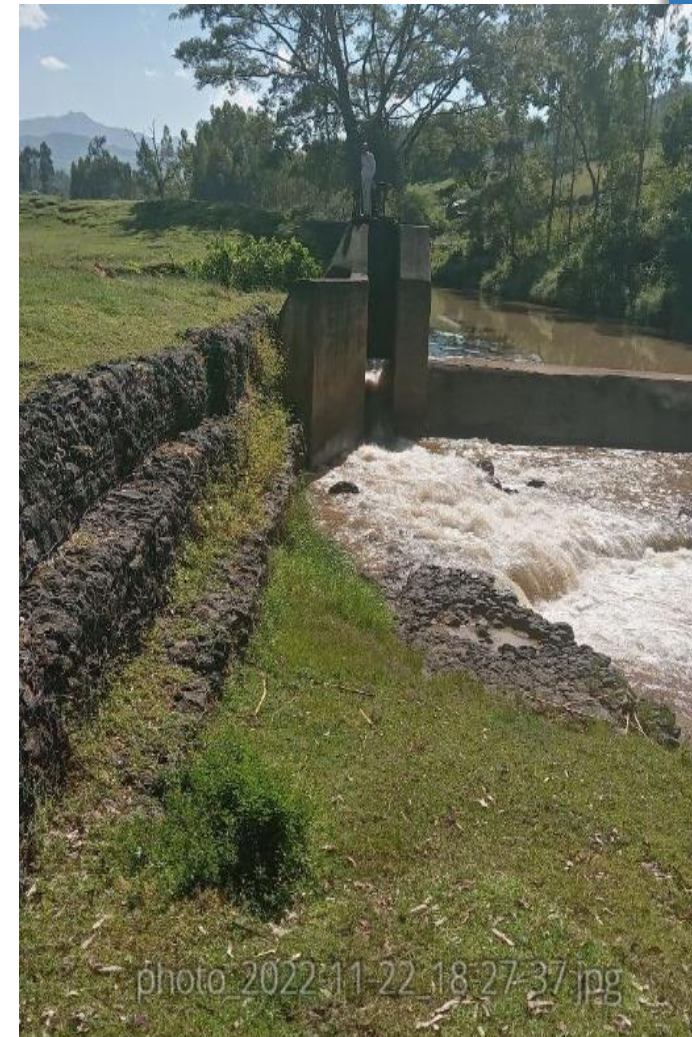


In relation to sustainability and gender.

- Challenge to sustain access to credit lines for smaller MFIs.
- Limited capacity of farmers' groups and grassroots' organizations.
- Limited scale of watershed managed to protect irrigation schemes and inefficient water usage techniques by farmers.
- Mixed results in relation to rural women leadership within communities and in taking into account their voices.
- Very few or absence of women among staff members.
- Lack of a comprehensive approach for effective youth involvement and empowerment.



- IFAD's country strategy and program included strategic objectives and orientations to tackling fragility causes in rural areas of Ethiopia.
- Effective commitment and ownership by the government enabling results on: rural finance, community-driven social services, ecosystem and economic resilience.
- Insufficient actions at downstream of agricultural value chain.
- Critical emphasis on ecosystem resilience, grassroots organizations and gender issues.
- Still, challenges to overcome for sustaining achievements on these last themes.



Recommendation 1

- Explicitly include in the next strategic objectives aspects of pro-poor value chain development, especially when agricultural surplus (both crop and animal production) become significant.

Recommendation 2

- Enhance the resilience building supports, especially in remote fragile rural areas, by focusing on the development of absorptive and adaptive capacities, as well as transformative capacities ultimately.

Recommendation 3

- Consolidate and sustain results achieved in relation to financial inclusion, by enabling stronger engagement of key national players to identify innovative solutions, for instance digital finance, customer protection and micro insurance services.

Recommendation 4

- Upscale or replicate the implementation of the gender transformative approach to other projects, either of the country programme or under the MoA, to address the root causes of gender-inequality at a significant scale.

Recommendation 5

- Facilitate the sharing of lessons to enhancing the consolidation of results achieved within the program and the national agriculture sector.



Thank you

