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## **Approach paper for the thematic evaluation of IFAD's support to nutrition**

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**Action:** The Evaluation Committee is invited to review the approach paper for the thematic evaluation of IFAD's support to nutrition.

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**Technical questions:**

**Indran A. Naidoo**  
Director  
Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD  
e-mail: i.naidoo@ifad.org

**Genny Bonomi**  
Senior Evaluation Officer  
Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD  
e-mail: g.bonomi@ifad.org

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## Executive summary

1. This thematic evaluation of IFAD's support to nutrition was approved at the 137<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, held in December 2022. It is the first corporate-level evaluation to be undertaken on the topic of nutrition and will provide evidence of the organization's work in nutrition across IFAD's lending and non-lending activities.
2. Nutrition is a key element of IFAD's commitments and has seen increasing prioritization in recent years. In 2015, IFAD approved its first nutrition action plan, which guided IFAD's commitments during the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD10). This was followed by a second action plan covering the IFAD11 and IFAD12 cycles. IFAD's investments in nutrition seek to contribute to diverse, nutritious and safe diets and, in doing so, reduce all forms of malnutrition. To achieve this goal, IFAD applies a nutrition lens to investments in agriculture, food systems and rural development so as to optimize their contributions to nutrition outcomes.
3. The evaluation has dual learning and accountability dimensions. It will provide an important and first-time opportunity to review IFAD's strategic documents and interventions related to nutrition and to examine progress towards results. The evaluation will identify good practices and specific areas of work where IFAD is bringing (or could bring) added value to nutrition. It will examine IFAD's work within the broader context of the evolving nutrition landscape and actors through a strong country- and context-specific lens.
4. The evaluation will draw on country case studies to identify good practices and distil technical and managerial lessons. It will assess IFAD's entry points and approaches, including taking stock of the pathways that IFAD has prioritized in its investments and how it has worked with and complemented other actors. Through the review of country portfolios of nutrition-sensitive projects, including linkages with other IFAD work and with external partners, the evaluation will identify interventions that have the potential to improve nutrition. This will enhance understanding on where IFAD may need to modify its approaches.
5. The evaluation will pay particular attention to IFAD's comparative advantage, its unique relationship with national governments and its broader partnerships. A thematic study on partnerships will shed light on how to navigate and take advantage of IFAD's specific and unique features. The evaluation will also review IFAD's internal environment – with particular emphasis on leadership, management, monitoring, staffing and funding efforts – to assess how conducive this has been in terms of programming approaches and implementation support. Round table discussions involving internal and external actors will provide important opportunities to share emerging findings and ground the evaluation recommendations in a strong understanding of evolving needs, opportunities, challenges and priorities.
6. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of this evaluation will inform IFAD's continued engagement on nutrition, specifically providing inputs for the new IFAD Strategic Framework, which will start in 2026, and IFAD's third nutrition action plan, also starting in 2026. The detailed design of the evaluation will be concluded in February 2024 and the final evaluation report will be submitted to the Executive Board in 2025.

# Approach paper for the thematic evaluation of IFAD's support to nutrition

## I. Introduction

1. This thematic evaluation of IFAD's support to nutrition was approved at the 137<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, held in December 2022. As the first global IFAD nutrition evaluation, it will provide evidence on the organization's work in this area across diverse IFAD lending and non-lending activities since 2016. The findings, conclusions and recommendations will inform both IFAD's continued engagement on nutrition and the nutrition priorities for the new IFAD Strategic Framework which will start in 2026, and IFAD's third nutrition action plan, also starting in 2026.
2. The evaluation approach paper sets out the priorities and methodology for the evaluation. It draws on a review of documentation and consultations with IFAD's nutrition team, supplemented by individual and group interviews with key units across the organization.<sup>1</sup>
3. The following sections outline the rationale for this evaluation (section II), the context and key concepts (section III), the characteristics of IFAD's nutrition commitments and work (section IV), the evaluation framework (section V) and the evaluation process (section VI).

## II. Rationale for the evaluation

4. Consultations undertaken for the approach paper underscored the timeliness of a thematic evaluation at this moment given the maturity of some of IFAD's investments, the forthcoming new IFAD Strategic Framework and IFAD nutrition action plan, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) horizon. During the consultations, the rationale for this evaluation was found to be multiple, as summarized below:
  - **Needs and relevance.** Despite progress made, undernourishment and malnutrition remain alarmingly high, making the achievement of the SDG 2 target to eradicate hunger and malnutrition difficult. Pressing needs for effective actions are a strong argument for a stocktaking of IFAD's work and positioning and the implications for IFAD's priorities moving forward.
  - **Nutrition impact targets.** IFAD11 Impact Assessment Report found that IFAD has exceeded all targets set in the Results Management Framework (RMF) with the exception of the target of 12 million people with improved nutrition.<sup>2,3,4</sup> To complement the results, the assessment also included impacts on food security showing an improvement – although this was not an RMF target – and concluded that specific dedicated investments are required to complement IFAD's projects to improve nutrition. The evaluation will explore which types of interventions have the potential to deliver the needed changes.
  - **IFAD's enabling environment and conduciveness.** Despite progress made by IFAD in mainstreaming nutrition, the share of investments

<sup>1</sup> See appendix IX for the list of people interviewed during the scoping phase.

<sup>2</sup> IFAD, 2022a.

<sup>3</sup> The RMF uses dietary diversity as indicator for nutrition.

<sup>4</sup> Among the reasons indicated is that nutrition was not systematically mainstreamed in investments before IFAD11 and the impact assessment included projects that were designed before (IFAD, 2022a).

allocated to nutrition activities remains limited.<sup>5</sup> Internal consultations and documentation review suggest that there has been progress in the form of increased staffing and expertise but that not all internal incentives are conducive to nutrition-sensitive project design and implementation. The evaluation will therefore be an opportunity to examine how conducive the enabling environment has been and what bottlenecks and weaknesses need to be addressed to ensure a stronger nutrition-sensitive approach internally.

- **Proof of concepts and approaches.** IFAD's entry point in nutrition has been a focus on mainstreaming nutrition in its agricultural investments with the aim of improving dietary quality to address all forms of malnutrition. In doing so, specific nutrition pathways are being prioritized.<sup>6</sup> There is demand from the organization to understand how IFAD applies these pathways and whether there are additional ones through which IFAD could improve nutritional outcomes or address missing links. This evaluation is therefore timely in allowing for an assessment of IFAD's nutrition entry points and approaches, and for a critical reflection on where IFAD could add more value.
- **Future strategic directions.** Finally, a nutrition stocktaking exercise was conducted in 2022, which provided an important update on progress made by the organization in mainstreaming nutrition, but there has been no independent organization-wide assessment of IFAD's work in nutrition so far. This exercise is a clear "ask" from IFAD Management to support decision-making moving forward.

### III. Background

#### A. Concepts and definitions

5. **Optimal nutrition** is determined by the quantity and quality of foods consumed and by the ability of the body to use them. These factors are influenced by the interaction between diets and an individual's health status.<sup>7</sup> Optimal nutrition in early life is important because well-nourished children learn better. Adequately nourished people are more productive, have more and better income opportunities and can gradually break the cycles of poverty and hunger.<sup>8</sup>
6. In turn, **malnutrition** is an outcome of food insecurity and/or other factors, such as inadequate care practices for children, lack of health and other basic services, an unhealthy environment, unhealthy diet habits, and inadequate sanitary and hygiene practices.<sup>9</sup> Previously, the term malnutrition has been mainly associated with **undernutrition**, a diet-related condition resulting from insufficient food intake to meet needs for energy and nutrients and measured by levels of wasting, stunting, underweight or deficiencies in vitamins or minerals. Currently, malnutrition is considered in all its forms, including overweight and obesity as well as dietary factors that increase the risk of non-communicable diseases.
7. Different forms of malnutrition can coexist within countries, communities and families – and even within an individual. This double burden of malnutrition is the leading cause of poor health in the world and is especially prevalent in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>10</sup> The developmental, economic, social, and medical

<sup>5</sup> The nutrition stocktaking exercise conducted in 2022 indicates that for IFAD11 the nutrition-sensitive portfolio represented over US\$5.5 billion in investments. However, the nutrition activities of these projects only represented 3 per cent of the total budget (IFAD, 2022b).

<sup>6</sup> On pathways see section V.C. and appendix III.

<sup>7</sup> World Bank and UNICEF, 2003.

<sup>8</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), 2024; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2014.

<sup>9</sup> World Bank and the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2003.

<sup>10</sup> IFPRI, 2014; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, 2019; Popkin, Barry M., Camila Corvalan & Laurence M. Grummer-Strawn, 2020.

impacts of the global burden of malnutrition are serious and lasting for individuals and their families, for communities and for countries.<sup>11</sup>

8. Among other factors, a **healthy diet** is key to preventing malnutrition. A healthy diet is one that promotes growth and development, prevents malnutrition and diseases, and supports health outcomes. A healthy diet is defined as a diet that provides adequacy, without excess of nutrients and health-promoting substances from nutritious foods, and avoids the consumption of health-harming substances.<sup>12</sup> Consuming a healthy diet throughout the life cycle is critical for preventing all forms of malnutrition, including child stunting and wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight or obesity.<sup>13</sup>

## **B. Global context and evolving approaches**

9. **Undernourishment and malnutrition remain alarmingly high.** It is estimated that between 691 million and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022 and more than 3.1 billion people in the world – or 42 per cent – were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021.<sup>14</sup> In 2022, among children under five years of age worldwide, an estimated 148.1 million (22.3 per cent) were affected by stunting, 45 million (6.8 per cent) by wasting and 37 million (5.6 per cent) were overweight.<sup>15</sup> Stunting and wasting were 1.6 and 1.4 times higher in rural areas. Some progress has been noted in the reduction of stunting and wasting, but not yet on track to achieve the SDG targets.<sup>16</sup> At the same time, levels of overweight and obesity are rapidly increasing, particularly in urban areas.
10. **Major policy developments** with regard to nutrition and food security have taken place since 2010, globally as well as within IFAD. These include the emergence of nutrition-focused initiatives such as the United Nations Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) and the commitments resulting from the first Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2013. The adoption of the World Health Assembly targets in 2012 and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016 were important milestones to unify and standardize global targets related to nutrition and food security. The Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in 2014, resulted in the development of a Framework of Action that reinforced the importance of food-based approaches to address malnutrition in a sustainable manner. This was followed by the UN Declaration of the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016 to 2025 and more recently by the global Food Systems Summit held at the end of 2021.
11. Following global developments, the **food systems approach** has been promoted with the aim of leading to better diets and improved nutrition. A food system is defined as the sum of all the diverse elements and activities that together lead to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socioeconomic and environmental outcomes.<sup>17</sup> The food system approach integrates nutrition-sensitive interventions and combines investments in the agriculture sector with investments in other relevant sectors to improve diets and nutrition.<sup>18</sup>
12. In this context, the concept of **nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA)** emerged as an approach to enhance the nutritional outcomes of the food system. The NSA approach seeks to ensure the production, marketing and consumption of a variety of affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate and safe foods in adequate quantity and of adequate quality to meet the dietary requirements of populations in a

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<sup>11</sup> WHO, 2023.

<sup>12</sup> Neufeld, Lynnette M., Sheryl Hendriks and Marta Hugas, 2021.

<sup>13</sup> WHO, 2018.

<sup>14</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and WHO, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security (HLPE), 2014, p. 29.

<sup>18</sup> HLPE, 2017; FAO, 2017.

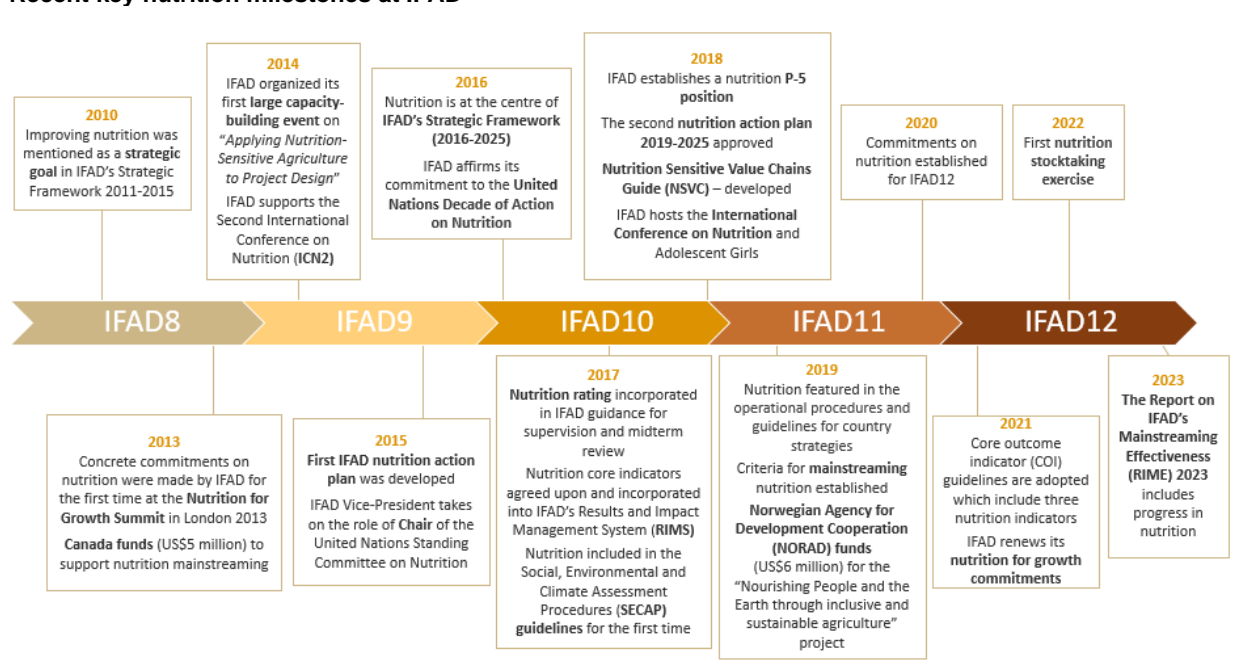
sustainable manner.<sup>19</sup> The NSA puts nutritionally rich foods and dietary diversity at the heart of overcoming malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.<sup>20</sup>

## IV. IFAD's support for nutrition

### A. Evolution of nutrition in the organization

13. While IFAD has always worked in the area of food security and nutrition, there has been an increasing and more explicit focus on nutrition over the past decade (see figure 1 and appendix V). Improving nutrition along with food security was part of the IFAD Strategic Framework 2011–2015, but it was only in 2016 that “nutrition” clearly entered in the strategic framework as a distinct thematic area included within one of the strategic objectives.<sup>21</sup> This coincides with IFAD's first action plan – the Mainstreaming Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Action Plan<sup>22</sup> (2016–2018) – which guided IFAD's commitments during IFAD10. A second action plan followed – the Mainstreaming Nutrition in IFAD Action Plan (2019–2025) – guiding the implementation of IFAD11 and IFAD12.<sup>23</sup>

Figure 1  
Recent key nutrition milestones at IFAD



Source: Nutrition stocktaking exercise<sup>24</sup> adapted by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE).

14. **Replenishment commitments** were made starting from IFAD10 onwards to accelerate mainstreaming of nutrition across IFAD's portfolio. IFAD10 set the operational targets for 100 per cent of country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) and 33 per cent of projects to be nutrition-sensitive; the latter was further increased to 50 per cent for IFAD11 and 60 per cent for IFAD12. **RMF impact targets** were also defined to ensure improved nutrition for 12 million people in IFAD11 and 11 million people for IFAD12. While the operational targets were all achieved and even surpassed, corporate commitments to nutrition

<sup>19</sup> FAO, 2017.

<sup>20</sup> FAO, 2014.

<sup>21</sup> IFAD, 2016a.

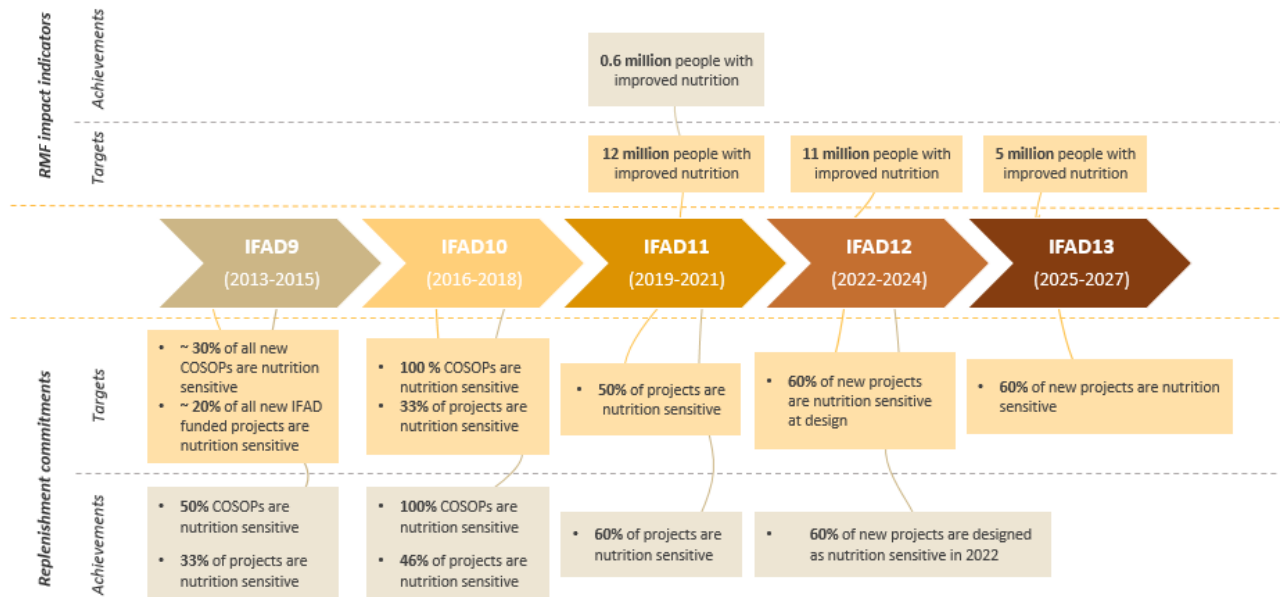
<sup>22</sup> IFAD, 2015b.

<sup>23</sup> IFAD, 2019c.

<sup>24</sup> IFAD, 2022b.

lag behind. For the upcoming IFAD13, those targets have been readjusted to 5 million people (see figure 2 below).<sup>25</sup>

Figure 2  
Evolution of nutrition commitments in IFAD<sup>26</sup>



Source: IOE.

- The increased attention and commitments to nutrition have been accompanied by the introduction of various mechanisms contributing to mainstreaming nutrition and monitoring results; for example, nutrition performance ratings were introduced into IFAD’s guidance for supervision and midterm reviews; nutrition has been integrated into SECAP and nutrition core indicators included in IFAD’s monitoring system; guidelines for mainstreaming nutrition were issued, defining criteria for COSOPs and projects to be nutrition sensitive.<sup>27</sup> Since 2019, IFAD has introduced a framework for implementing transformational approaches to mainstreaming themes aimed at incorporating environment and climate, gender, nutrition and youth into programmes in a comprehensive and integrated way.<sup>28</sup>

## B. IFAD’s project portfolio related to nutrition

- Portfolio of nutrition-sensitive investments.** Overall, 130 projects approved after 2010 have been classified as nutrition sensitive by the organization. Of these projects, 21 have reached completion.<sup>29</sup> The highest concentration of nutrition-sensitive projects is found in three regions: 41 in East and Southern Africa, 36 in West and Central Africa and 32 in Asia and the Pacific. A list of types of intervention contributing to nutrition results provided by the nutrition team is presented in table 1 below.

<sup>25</sup> Management proposed reducing the nutrition target from 11 million people to 5 million people based on projections from latest impact assessment data and the proportion of nutrition-sensitive projects closing in IFAD13.

<sup>26</sup> Sources of information include Nutrition for Growth (2013), replenishment consultation reports and Reports on IFAD's Development Effectiveness.

<sup>27</sup> IFAD, 2019b.

<sup>28</sup> IFAD, 2019a.

<sup>29</sup> See appendix VIII for the list of nutrition-sensitive projects.



Table 1  
Types of activities supporting nutrition

	<b>Intervention type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Nutrition-sensitive home-gardens</b>	Production of varied and nutritious home-grown foods to supplement and diversify diets, facilitate adequate food consumption at household level, and contribute to increased household income.
<b>2</b>	<b>Food production</b>	Support to production of nutrient-rich and safe foods for enhancing dietary quality, such as fruits and vegetables; animal-sourced foods; neglected and underutilized species; bio-fortified crops; and staples such as grains, roots and tubers.
<b>3</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	Mainstream nutrition at all stages of agricultural value chains (including processing, distribution and marketing), leveraging the nutrition potential of markets and the private sector, with a special focus on ensuring food safety and reducing food loss and waste.
<b>4</b>	<b>Nutrition education and behaviour change communication</b>	Promote behaviour change communication and nutrition education activities to improve food choices (in production, purchase and consumption); food preparation, processing and conservation; hygiene; and good nutritional practices.
<b>5</b>	<b>School-based interventions</b>	Improve children's nutritional education and practices through activities such as school gardens and training workshops and support to school meals and school feeding programmes.
<b>6</b>	<b>Gender equality and women's empowerment</b>	Promote gender equality and women's empowerment in ways that help improve nutrition through investments in women's access to productive resources, time and labour-saving technologies and income-generating activities. Promote water, sanitation and hygiene investments.
<b>7</b>	<b>Policy engagement</b>	Contribute to nutrition governance, strengthen policy frameworks, and multisectoral action, commitments and partnerships for creating an enabling environment for nutrition.

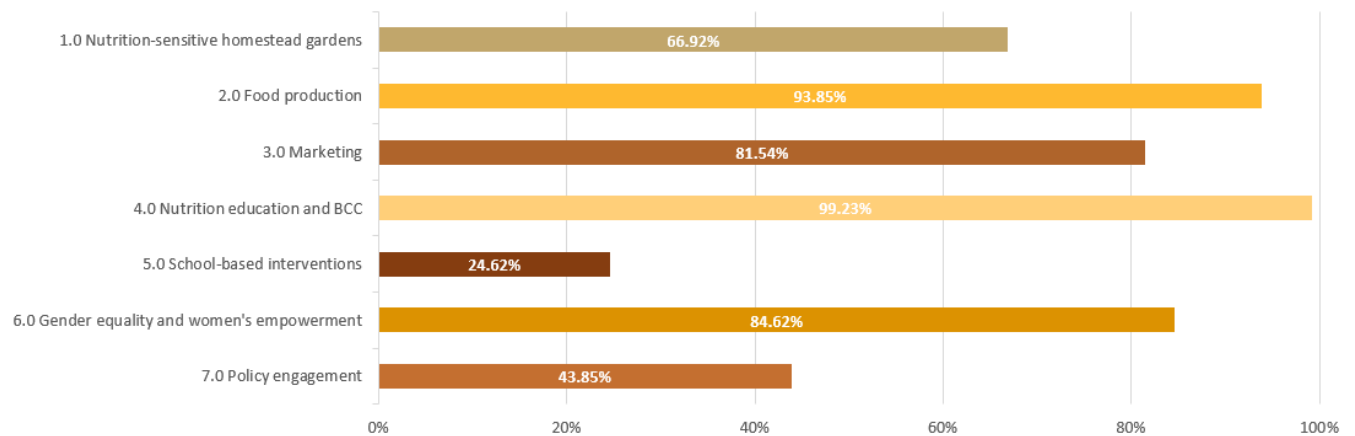
Source: IOE, based on IFAD guidance note on mainstreaming nutrition<sup>30</sup> and project review.

17. A classification of nutrition-sensitive projects by type of activities is presented in figure 3.<sup>31</sup> The four most frequent activities are nutrition education and behaviour change communication (BCC), food production, gender equality and women's empowerment, and marketing.

<sup>30</sup> IFAD, 2019b, pp.19-20.

<sup>31</sup>The list of activities and sub-activities was defined by IFAD's nutrition team, who also clustered the investments in IFAD11 and IFAD12 under each activity and sub-activity. For IFAD8, IFAD9 and IFAD10 projects, categorization was conducted by IOE, drawing on the database developed by the nutrition team to identify nutrition-sensitive projects and project design reports.

Figure 3  
Distribution of nutrition-sensitive projects by type of activities 2010–2023 (percentage)



Source: IOE.

18. **Supplementary funds and grants.** IFAD received supplementary funds in support of mainstreaming nutrition from a range of sources including Germany (EUR 670.000 between 2013 and 2017); Canada (US\$5 million between 2013 and 2019); and more recently NORAD (US\$6.7 million between 2019 and 2023). In addition to these funds, which are managed by the nutrition team, others have been mobilized by different divisions and offices. An initial search in IFAD's internal systems identified 24 grants related to nutrition. These will be further analysed during the evaluation.

## V. Evaluation framework

19. This section presents the objectives and scope of the evaluation, along with the evaluation questions, approach and methodology. Together these form the framework for the evaluation.

### A. Objective and scope

20. **Purpose.** This thematic evaluation will serve an accountability function for IFAD's members and will support Management and staff in learning from almost a decade of experience to strengthen nutrition mainstreaming in COSOPs and operations. From a forward-looking perspective, it will feed into IFAD's future strategic planning.
21. **Objectives.** In concrete terms, the thematic evaluation has the following objectives:
- (i) Assess the relevance, coherence and institutional capacity of IFAD to work on human nutrition in collaboration with governments and relevant development partners;
  - (ii) Assess the effectiveness of IFAD's practices and specific approaches and the results thus far;
  - (iii) Provide lessons and recommendations that help refine IFAD's comparative advantage, improve project quality and feed into preparing the new nutrition action plan and IFAD Strategic Framework.
22. **Scope.** The thematic evaluation covers the period starting from 2016, the year in which the first nutrition action plan was introduced, and coincides with the period of IFAD's current strategic framework. The evaluation will focus on nutrition-sensitive projects that were operational over the period 2016–2023. At the country level, it will look at how the nutrition-sensitive projects have fed into the overall investment portfolio and achieved complementarities and synergies

with other IFAD-funded interventions. The evaluation will not assess non-nutrition-sensitive projects per se.

23. Aspects covered by the evaluation include: IFAD's corporate policies and commitments related to mainstreaming nutrition; IFAD's comparative advantage in nutrition; IFAD's partnerships on nutrition and cofinancing arrangements; design and implementation support provided to COSOPs and nutrition-sensitive investments; results achieved on the ground including identification of good and poor practices, challenges and factors for scaling up; adequacy of the reporting system; contribution of supplementary funds and grants to nutrition approaches and results; the interconnection of nutrition with other IFAD's cross-cutting thematic areas; knowledge management; and extent to which IFAD is equipped to deliver on its nutrition targets.

## B. Evaluation questions

24. This evaluation design and its conduct are guided by evaluation questions (EQs). Four complementary areas of enquiry have been validated through internal and external consultation, as follows:
- **EQ 1 – Relevance.** To what extent are IFAD's current nutrition priorities and approaches relevant and sufficiently tailored to national priorities and IFAD's target group needs, the global context and IFAD's corporate commitments and priorities?
  - **EQ 2 – Coherence.** To what extent are IFAD's nutrition efforts maximizing its unique comparative advantage and how have partnerships, policy engagement and knowledge management been instrumental in achieving nutrition results?
  - **EQ 3 – Effectiveness.** Are IFAD's nutrition-sensitive interventions (operations and COSOPs) and, in particular, nutrition pathways and approaches effective for delivering against nutrition objectives and what progress has been made in achieving and contributing to nutrition results?
  - **EQ 4 – Effectiveness.** To what extent has IFAD put in place an appropriate and effective enabling environment for the delivery of nutrition objectives?
25. Subquestions have been identified for each overarching evaluation question and are set out in the evaluation matrix (see appendix I). The subquestions, associated lines of investigation and evaluation data collection sources provide details on how the evaluation will seek to answer these questions.

## C. Evaluation theory of change and evaluation approach

26. The theory of change (ToC), reconstructed for the evaluation, is presented in appendix III and can be described as follows:
- IFAD's main goal for nutrition (as stated in the action plan) is to contribute to diverse, nutritious and safe diets to address all forms of malnutrition, hence leading to the improved nutrition and health of beneficiary groups.
  - To achieve this goal, IFAD applies a nutrition lens to investments in agriculture, food systems and rural development so as to optimize their contributions to nutrition outcomes. Through different pathways, IFAD's projects play a role in shaping food systems to make them more nutrition-sensitive. This will contribute to increasing the availability and affordability of diverse, nutritious and safe foods. At the same time, IFAD's operations develop capacities to influence consumer behaviour, improve attitudes and practices, and increase demand for and use of safe and nutritious food.
  - As depicted in the ToC, nutrition outcomes at country level will be a reflection of the quality of project design, the implementation capacity of

government and partners and the support provided by IFAD, the strength of partnerships and the existence of an enabling environment in-country. Knowledge management, policy engagement, advocacy at country, regional and global levels and an adequate allocation of financial and human resources are all important factors of the internal enabling environment needed to mainstream nutrition effectively and hence essential conditions for achieving the expected results.

27. Following the ToC, in terms of the evaluation approach, specific attention will be devoted to IFAD's positioning within the broader external multisectoral nutrition environment, looking at complementarities and synergies of IFAD's work with other partners and how IFAD-funded operations are part of a broader effort to improve nutrition within the context of sustainable food systems. The **food systems framework** will be used to explore IFAD's positioning, examine its partnerships, the entry points that IFAD is currently not sufficiently exploiting and where it may have a specific comparative advantage.
28. At country level, building on NSA main nutrition pathways, IFAD has identified potential outcomes in its nutrition action plan that can be considered entry points for improving dietary diversity (see figure 4 below).

Figure 4

**IFAD's entry points to contribute to improved diets**



Source: Prepared by IOE based on IFAD's nutrition action plan 2019–2025 and guidance on mainstreaming nutrition 2019.<sup>32</sup>

29. Starting from these entry points through different **nutrition impact pathways**, interventions are expected to contribute to diverse, nutritious and safe diets.<sup>33</sup> Thus, at country level, an important step in the evaluation will be **mapping nutrition pathways** in IFAD's investments through desk review and consultations. Once the pathways will be identified, the evaluation will assess progress made and identify challenges and constraints in moving along these pathways. This should allow for assessing progress towards the envisioned

<sup>32</sup> IFAD, 2019c; IFAD, 2019b.

<sup>33</sup> See appendix III for a description of the main nutrition impact pathways.

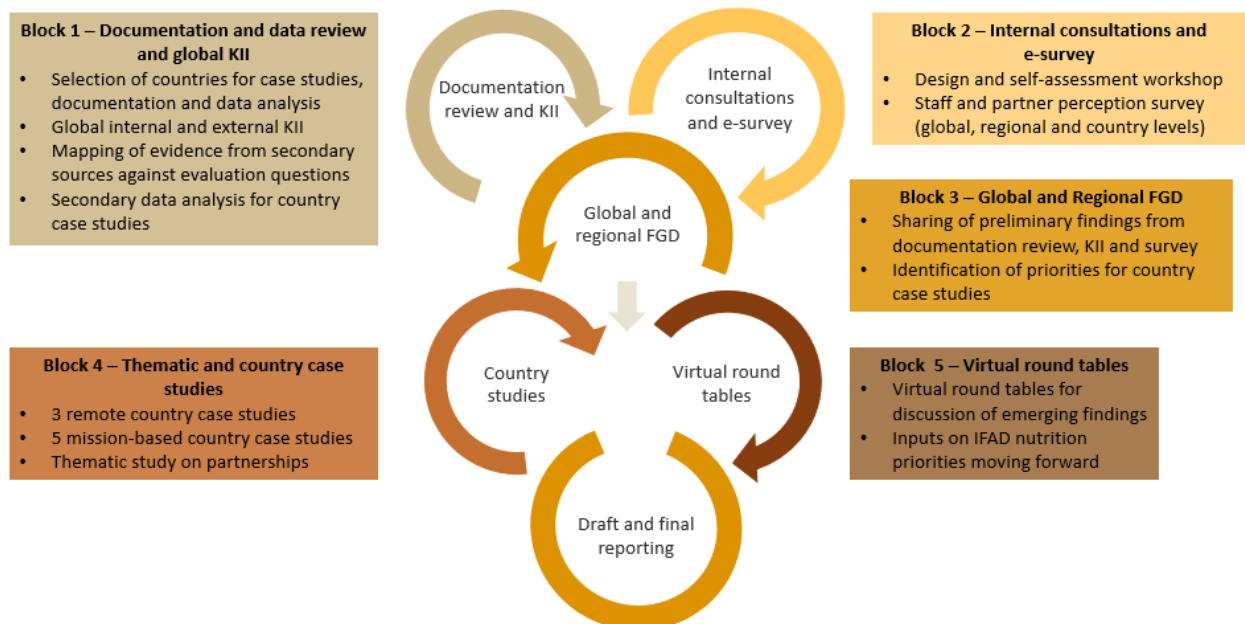
outcome of dietary diversity for priority populations and the likelihood of achieving results. The evaluation will also **explore potential entry points and additional pathways** that need prioritization. Negative potential outcomes or effects will also be taken into account.

## D. Data collection

30. The evaluation will adopt a strong country lens and a result-focused approach. The starting point for data collection will be to map progress against pathways at country level, identifying what worked and what did not work, challenges and opportunities. The evaluation will then branch out to look at the three other evaluation questions and interrogate on the relevance of IFAD's work on nutrition, coherence of IFAD's efforts with its internal priorities and with the work of external partners and the extent to which the internal enabling environment is conducive to progress. Together the four questions will allow the evaluation to formulate conclusions and recommendations and draw lessons.
31. The evaluation will use mixed evaluation methods for data collection combining a review of secondary sources and global key informant interviews (KII), an IFAD staff and partner survey, regional focus group discussions (FGD), thematic and country studies, and virtual round tables. Data collection blocks and their envisioned sequencing is shown below.

Figure 5

### Evaluation data collection blocks and proposed sequencing



Source: IOE.

32. **Documentation and data review, and global KII (Block 1)** will focus on internal and external documentation. It will provide a global overview of IFAD's work on nutrition as well as preliminary insights against evaluation areas of enquiry for the 10 country studies. This will be complemented by global internal and external KII, which will gauge the perspectives of IFAD Management, technical staff and external informants.
33. **Global staff and partner survey (Block 2).** Secondary data analysis and global KII will be complemented by data collection through the global staff and partner e-survey which will focus on respondents at country, regional and global levels. The survey will be launched early in the evaluation process to provide insights on perceptions around the enabling environment, IFAD's comparative advantage, and

partnerships – three areas in which initial documentation review and interviews at the approach paper design phase have highlighted gaps.

34. **Regional focus group discussions (Block 3)** will ensure that the initial set of (partial) findings against evaluation questions from the preliminary survey findings and secondary data analysis inform priorities for evaluation pursuit in the next phase. At the regional focus group discussions with IFAD staff and experts from outside IFAD, highlights from the documentation review and survey will be shared, and feedback and commentary solicited to support the evaluation team in refining the priorities for the country studies.
35. **Thematic and country case studies (Block 4).** The evaluation will conduct eight country case studies of which five will be mission-based and three remote. In addition, it will rely on evidence collected by country strategy and programme evaluations that IOE will be conducting over the same period in Egypt, Ghana and Lao People’s Democratic Republic. The country case studies will look at aspects related to programme design, implementation, partnerships, knowledge management and policy engagement. They will position IFAD’s work on nutrition within the overall country portfolio, to allow for an understanding of (potential) internal synergies and to assess its conduciveness to nutrition results within the country context and the group of partners involved in nutrition-related activities.
36. Box 1 below presents the criteria used for selecting countries for case studies.

Box 1

**Criteria for the selection of countries for case studies**

The selection will prioritize **countries with a relatively mature and diversified IFAD nutrition-sensitive portfolio** to ensure that case studies provide meaningful insights. The selection criteria are as follows:

- Countries with two or more nutrition-sensitive projects of which at least one has gone through a midterm review or has been completed;
- A good mix of different types of nutrition activities and pathways;
- Countries reflecting geographic/regional diversity, including examples of fragile contexts;
- Examples of cofinanced investments and projects receiving supplementary funds.

**External criteria** will prioritize:

- Countries with high levels of malnutrition, and will also include two countries with significant issues of overweight and obesity;
- Countries with varying levels of maturity in nutrition coordination.

The views of the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division (ECG) and regional divisions will be sought to fine-tune the selection of countries.

Source: IOE.

37. A thematic study on partnerships for nutrition will be conducted to identify good practices as well as constraining factors. The thematic study will cover IFAD’s traditional implementing partners and will look at the (potential for) complementary partnerships with others and how these have worked well or less well in bringing in expertise and experience on nutrition.
38. **Virtual round tables (Block 5).** A set of virtual round tables will take place once the country study data collection has been completed. The virtual round tables will share emerging findings and engage stakeholders in a discussion and reflection on the implications of these findings for IFAD’s work moving forward.
39. Limitations that the evaluation might face and proposed mitigation measures are presented in appendix III.

## E. Synthesis

40. **Synthesis and reporting.** The evaluation team will synthesize evidence from secondary sources and remote KII against the evaluation questions prior to the country visits. This will allow the team to focus the enquiry at country level on the findings to be tested and on gaps. A country evaluation matrix for all country studies, which mirrors the key evaluation questions and lines of enquiry, will capture the evaluation findings from the desk review and country visits. The country case studies will be used as illustrations of what worked and did not work and the evaluation will only generalize where clear pathways emerge across countries and types of interventions. The country matrix will be combined with the findings from the survey and global KII as well as further desk review and will feed into the overall evaluation report. A final workshop will provide an opportunity to share and discuss preliminary conclusions and recommendations before the finalization of the report.

## VI. Evaluation process

41. **Evaluation team.** Under the overall strategic direction of Indran Naidoo, IOE Director, and Fabrizio Felloni, IOE Deputy Director, the thematic evaluation will be led by Genny Bonomi, Senior Evaluation Officer, IOE and Enala Mumba, Evaluation Officer, IOE. The team will include an evaluation expert, Muriel Visser, and a thematic food security and nutrition expert, Silvia Kaufmann. Additional experts with experience in nutrition and evaluation and with context-specific knowledge will be hired for the country case studies. Thematic experts will be involved on an ad hoc basis for specific aspects that the evaluation will cover such as value chains, climate change and gender.
42. **Quality assurance mechanisms.** The approach paper was reviewed by a senior adviser, Jessica Fanzo, an expert in nutrition and food systems. She will provide technical guidance during the evaluation process and review the final evaluation report to ensure technical quality. The approach paper was submitted to a peer review process internal to IOE, as will the draft evaluation report.
43. **Core learning partnership group.** A core learning partnership group will be established comprising representatives of the five regional offices and the following divisions: ECG, Research and Impact Assessment Division (RIA), Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division (PMI), Quality Assurance Group (QAG), Office of Strategic Budgeting (OSB), Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division (GPR), Operational Policy and Results Division (OPR), Communications Division (COM), Financial Management Services Division (FMD) and Food System Coordination. The evaluation team will meet with this group at key moments during the evaluation to gather their views and feedback, in particular during the design workshop, the self-assessment workshop and the emerging findings workshop. The group will review and comment on the draft evaluation report, and promote the dissemination and use of the evaluation results throughout IFAD and beyond.
44. **Ethical guidelines.** Considerable care will be given to ethics, data privacy and inclusiveness issues. The privacy of those providing information will be ensured to avoid putting participants who engage at risk. The thematic evaluation (TE) manager will ensure that each team member adheres to the United Nations Evaluation Group ethical principles for evaluation as outlined in IFAD's Evaluation Manual.
45. **Phases and timeline.** As set forth in the IFAD Evaluation Manual, the TE will have four main phases: (i) design, including further refinement of the approach paper with data collection tools; (ii) implementation, including secondary and primary data collection and initial synthesis; (iii) reporting; and (iv) completion

and dissemination. The table below provides an indicative timeline for the evaluation.

Table 2  
Evaluation timeline

Activities	Dates
Desk review and online key informants interviews	January – April 2024
Design workshop and self-assessment workshop	March 2024
Presentation of the approach paper to the Evaluation Committee	22 March 2024
Field missions	April – July 2024
Data analysis and synthesis	July – August 2024
Emerging findings workshop	September 2024
Report drafting	July – October 2024
IOE internal and external quality assurance	November 2024
Report shared with Management	December 2024
Management comments	December 2024
Report finalized and disseminated	2025



## Evaluation matrix

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
<b>EQ 1 – Relevance and continued relevance</b> - To what extent are IFAD’s current nutrition priorities and approaches relevant and sufficiently tailored to national priorities and IFAD’s target group needs, the global context and IFAD’s corporate commitments and priorities?		
<p>1.1.To what extent and in what ways are IFAD’s nutrition priorities and approaches aligned with the evolving global nutrition and food security context and with IFAD’s priorities as an organization?</p> <p><b>(Assumption 7, Assumption 12)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of alignment of the narrative in the action plan with global nutrition priorities and IFAD’s priorities as an organisation</li> <li>• Evidence that IFAD’s action plan priorities and approaches continue to be relevant with the evolving global nutrition challenges</li> <li>• Evidence that IFAD’s nutrition priorities and approaches are complementary to broader nutrition agendas</li> </ul>	Secondary sources (Block 1)
<p>1.2.How well designed and tailored are nutrition sensitive activities and approaches (applied in IFAD’s investments) to needs in specific contexts (regions or countries) and in particular to the needs of IFAD’s target group?</p> <p><b>(Assumption 1)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the design of COSOPs and interventions is consistent with country and IFAD’s nutrition-priorities and is tailored to different contexts and existing needs</li> <li>• Evidence that investments address the identified country nutritional problems</li> <li>• Evidence that IFAD approaches and targeting mechanisms are effective and functional to reach the poor and nutritionally vulnerable rural people</li> <li>• Evidence that IFAD targeting related to nutrition has taken account of special categories of most vulnerable persons, including women and children, rural youth, and persons with disability</li> <li>• Evidence that IFAD’s approaches value and promote indigenous and Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge on nutrition, including diverse food sources, cultural and social practices linked to gathering and production of nutritious food</li> <li>• Extent to which nutrition pathways and approaches applied in IFAD’s investments are in line with the most updated knowledge at country and global levels on nutrition/NSA</li> </ul>	Secondary sources (Block 1) Country studies (Block 5)

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
<p>1.3. Is IFAD using the design phase to its maximum advantage to ensure project success for nutrition?</p> <p><b>(Assumption 1)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which the design is based on in-depth context and problem analysis which is cognisant of the broader nutrition environment and the opportunities and challenges</li> <li>• Extent to which the quality of design is up to standard in particular in relation to the choice of entry points, nutrition pathways (and if these are included in the TOC), partners and population needs</li> <li>• Extent to which design maximizes opportunities for advancing IFAD's nutrition priorities and prepares the ground for strong implementation</li> <li>• Extent to which the design phase builds understanding and explores/strengthens the partnerships that are needed for ensuring attention to nutrition in implementation, capacity development and policy engagement</li> <li>• Extent to which the current criteria for validating nutrition sensitive projects at design are relevant including how and if they should be improved</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Country studies (Block 4)</p>
<p><b>EQ 2 – Coherence</b> - To what extent are IFAD's nutrition efforts maximizing IFAD's unique comparative advantage and how have been partnerships, policy engagement and knowledge management instrumental to achieve nutrition-results?</p>		
<p>2.1. How clear is IFAD comparative advantage in nutrition to internal and external stakeholders, and how well adapted is it in different contexts?</p> <p><b>(Assumption 6)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree of clarity internally of IFAD's role and positioning in nutrition</li> <li>• Extent to which IFAD's comparative advantage in nutrition has evolved over time</li> <li>• Identification of specific areas of comparative advantage, including potentially in school-based interventions</li> <li>• Analysis of partners' perceptions of IFAD's placement and perceived specific role in the international and national spectrum in terms of nutrition</li> <li>• Extent to which globally and at the country level IFAD is recognized (by governments and other partners) for its comparative advantage in nutrition-sensitive agriculture</li> </ul>	<p>Regional FGD (Block 3) Thematic and Country studies (Block 4)</p>

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
<p>2.2. How effective has IFAD been in identifying, pursuing and nurturing the partnerships at different levels (global and country) to ensure delivery of results?</p> <p><b>(Assumption 9)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which partnerships have worked well or not and why in relation to specific issues (with a focus on capacity strengthening, evidence-based policy influence and dialogue) and contexts</li> <li>• Nature and significance of global level nutrition partnerships and evidence of the influence these have had</li> <li>• Analysis of the specific character and strength of IFAD's engagement with governments on nutrition in different phases of the project/programme cycle</li> <li>• Extent to which IFAD was able to forge relationships with relevant government ministries to promote synergies and cooperation necessary to produce successful nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions</li> <li>• Analysis of the specific character and evolution of IFAD's relationship and co-financing arrangements with IFIs (including WB-GASFP) and other resource partners on nutrition, unexplored opportunities, and the (further potential) contribution of this relationship to nutrition priorities</li> <li>• Analysis of the specific character and relationship with NGOs and research organisations, and opportunities (for enhanced) contribution to IFAD's nutrition priorities</li> <li>• Evidence of IFAD's work and role in nutrition being complementary to that of other UN agencies, in particular RBAs, at country and global levels</li> <li>• Analysis of the extent to which IFAD has played a unique influencing role or engagement role vis-à-vis specific partners such as the private sector</li> </ul>	<p>Global staff and partners survey (Block 2) Regional FGD (Block 3) Thematic and Country studies (Block 4)</p>
<p>2.3. In what ways has IFAD's policy engagement globally and at country levels sought to advance the nutrition agenda, been complementary to the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which IFAD's policy engagement at national and international level reflects shared priorities with that of other key partners</li> </ul>	<p>Thematic and Country studies (Block 4)</p>

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
<p>work of other partners, and appropriately evolved over time? <b>(Assumption 1 and Assumption 7)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which IFAD’s policy engagement in nutrition nationally and internationally is demonstrating attention to evolving priorities (including links between nutrition and gender, climate change, youth and Indigenous Peoples)</li> <li>• Evidence that in policy engagement IFAD is using (and seeking to maximize) its specific position and its comparative advantage in nutrition</li> </ul>	
<p>2.4. Are IFAD’s efforts at knowledge management in nutrition commensurate to the needs of the organization and its partners and effectively supporting its work? <b>(Assumption 8)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that nutrition knowledge is being used internally for decision making</li> <li>• Extent to which IFAD has drawn lessons from its nutrition experience in countries</li> <li>• Evidence that lesson learning from IFAD and partner programmes are being taken on board and implications used to inform IFAD’s operations, and changes in approaches and strategies.</li> <li>• Evidence that IFAD nutrition knowledge/products are relevant to internal and external stakeholders – at country and global levels</li> <li>• Views on the utility and comprehensiveness of IFAD’s nutrition indicators in providing a view of IFAD’s work</li> <li>• Extent to which knowledge generation is focussing on innovative practices and advancing the understanding of barriers to achieving shared nutrition goals.</li> <li>• Extent to which adequate human resources are assigned to nutrition focused knowledge management activities</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources including impact assessments (Block 1) Country studies (Block 4) Virtual round tables (Block 5)</p>
<p>2.5. To what extent and how have supplementary funds and grants been instrumental to mainstream nutrition in the organization and have been appropriately used for specific investments?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which grants and supplementary funds (including the Indigenous Peoples’ Assistance Facility (IPAF)) have contributed to build capacities, develop knowledge and tools and helped to mainstream nutrition in the organisation</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Regional FGD (Block 3) Country studies (Block 4)</p>

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
<b>(Assumption 9)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which grants and supplementary funds have contributed to integrate nutrition in IFAD funded investments at country level</li> </ul>	
<b>EQ 3 – Effectiveness</b> - Are IFAD’s nutrition-sensitive interventions (operations and COSOPs) and in particular nutrition pathways and approaches effective for delivering against nutrition objectives and what progress have been made in achieving and contributing to nutrition-results?		
3.1. What are the main pathways and approaches implemented in IFAD-funded operations to support the nutrition agenda?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of main nutrition approaches and pathways and clustering</li> </ul>	Secondary sources (Block 1) Country Studies (Block 4)
3.2. How and in what ways is IFAD contributing to nutrition results at country level and what is the contribution to improved dietary diversity? <b>(Assumption 8, Assumption 12)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of nutrition results at country level against different pathways used, strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>Evidence of contribution to availability and affordability of diverse, nutritious, healthy and safe food and of changing nutrition KAP</li> <li>Likelihood and emerging evidence of contribution to dietary diversity</li> <li>Evidence that results are bringing quality benefits to the groups that are priorities for IFAD</li> <li>Extent and type of interventions that have proven to be more effective in delivering the nutrition results that IFAD has set out to achieve, with due regard for different contexts and different IFAD target groups</li> <li>Identification of good practices and poor practices (what did not work) and challenges, understanding of obstacles and possible solutions</li> <li>Extent and type of interventions that amplify impact and outreach</li> <li>Extent to which interventions have been scaled up and what have been the contributing factors</li> <li>Identification of examples of IFAD promoted approaches that have resulted in strong engagement by MoA in nutrition (e.g. through particular partnerships) and factors that have facilitated this</li> </ul>	Secondary sources (Block 1) Country studies (Block 5)

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which IFAD's overall country investments adheres to good principles and 'do no harm' to nutrition or household food security</li> <li>Existence of negative and unintended outcomes and extent to which IFAD has sought to learn from these and attenuate their effects</li> </ul>	
<p>3.3.What evidence is there that IFAD support is generating innovative nutrition approaches and solutions? <b>(Assumption 8)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of innovations introduced having an impact on nutrition</li> <li>Evidence of adoption and scale up of innovative nutrition approaches by other stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Country studies (Block 5)</p>
<p>3.4.How and to what extent are synergies with other IFAD priorities (in particular gender, climate resilience, youth and indigenous people) and different types of activities contributing to results? <b>(Assumption 9)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which other parts of IFAD's work (IFAD's portfolio) are contributing to nutrition-results and existence of trade-offs</li> <li>Existing complementarities among different parts of IFAD's portfolio and identification of opportunities not currently pursued for synergies</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Virtual round tables (Block 5)</p>
<p><b>EQ 4 – Effectiveness and Efficiency</b> - To what extent has IFAD put in place an appropriate and effective enabling environment for the delivery of nutrition objectives?</p>		
<p>4.1.Are there appropriate institutional arrangements for relevant and effective nutrition interventions in place at the corporate level? To what extent has internal nutrition leadership been conducive to achieving nutrition objectives? <b>(Assumption 2)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of senior-management commitment to nutrition</li> <li>Existence and adequacy of an enabling organisational set-up and how the global set-up links to and support the regional and the country levels</li> </ul>	<p>Staff and partner perception survey (Block 2) Country studies (Block 4) Virtual round tables (Block 5)</p>
<p>4.2.Are human resources for nutrition being effectively, efficiently and appropriately deployed at different levels of the organization at critical moments in the project cycle to provide support to implementation and to contribute to IFAD's positioning in nutrition? <b>(Assumption 3)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution of staffing numbers and profiles over the evaluation period</li> <li>Extent to which the current staffing pathways is appropriate to IFAD's ambitions on mainstreaming nutrition in investments including extent to which there are sufficient capacities to support design and implementation of nutrition-related activities</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Staff and partner perception survey (Block 2) Country studies (Block 4) Virtual round tables (Block 5) Analysis of evolution of human resources</p>

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which IFAD has the right capacities and allocates sufficient resources to build staff capacities</li> <li>• Extent to which capacity strengthening has focused on the critical entry points</li> </ul>	
<p>4.3. Extent to which appropriate institutional arrangements and partnerships for delivering on nutrition are in place at country programme and project level? <b>(Assumption 4)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which the right institutions and partners have been involved in the implementation of IFAD funded investments (mandate, nutrition expertise, context knowledge ...) at country level</li> <li>• Extent to which IFAD has contributed to ensuring capacities in nutrition are available to the implementing partners (e.g. ministries of agriculture) to implement, monitor and assess results, and draw on evidence</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Country studies (Block 4) Virtual round tables (Block 5)</p>
<p>4.4. To what extent have the right levels and kinds of financial resources been allocated at different moments in the project cycle and been fully supportive of achieving project objectives? <b>(Assumption 5)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which adequate resources are allocated at design and implementation stage</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Staff and partner perception survey (Block 2) Country studies (Block 4) Analysis of financial resources allocated to nutrition in projects</p>
<p>4.5. To what extent tools introduced for mainstreaming nutrition are appropriate and effectively support delivery on nutrition results? <b>(Assumption 2)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which IFAD guidelines in place are supporting design, monitoring and implementation of nutrition activities (ex. operation manual, supervision guidance ...)</li> <li>• Extent to which nutrition is adequately addressed in the SECAP and this latter is used as a tool for adaptive management for nutrition-related work</li> <li>• Extent to which capacity development resources and trainings are supporting IFAD, government project staff and partners staff in delivering nutrition-results</li> <li>• Extent to which there is evidence that IFAD approach for labelling projects as nutrition sensitive (including criteria and indicators) is adequate</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Staff and partner perception survey (Block 2) Country studies (Block 4)</p>

Evaluation sub-questions	Main lines of investigation	Data collection/data sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent to which projects having been labelled as NS increase the likelihood to achieve better nutrition results</li> </ul>	
<p>4.6.To what extent are the monitoring and reporting systems collecting the right information to inform decision making? Are efforts at collecting data against nutrition indicators efficient and effective? <b>(Assumption 2, Assumption 11)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolution of malnutrition indicators over time</li> <li>Extent to which IFAD has the right nutrition indicators</li> <li>To what extent the current reporting system is covering different types of impacts on nutrition (including both improvement of beneficiaries' nutritional status as well as contributions to food systems transformation)</li> <li>Coherence between nutrition objectives, indicators and reporting system</li> <li>Quality of data collected</li> <li>Feasibility of indicators given existing capacities</li> <li>Extent to which efforts invested is commensured to information generated</li> <li>Extent to which information is used for programming and implementation</li> <li>Comparison of IFAD's approach to measure results on nutrition with other agencies</li> </ul>	<p>Secondary sources (Block 1) Staff and partner perception survey (Block 2) Country studies (Block 4)</p>
<p>4.7.What are other factors explaining project success or failure? <b>(Assumption 10, Assumption 12)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of other factors internal or external to IFAD that explain the success or failure of projects</li> </ul>	<p>Country studies (Block 4) Virtual round tables (Block 5)</p>



## Elements of IFAD's nutrition action plans

<b>Mainstreaming Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture at IFAD Action Plan 2016-2018</b>	<b>Mainstreaming Nutrition in IFAD Nutrition Action Plan 2019-2025</b>
<p>The <b>goal</b> of IFAD's work in nutrition and agriculture is to address problems of malnutrition in all its forms (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overnutrition) and to improve nutritional levels of poor rural people, especially smallholders, in developing countries.</p> <p>The <b>objective</b> is to increase the nutritional impact of the Fund's investments and of its advocacy and policy engagement at global and national levels. IFAD works primarily through agriculture and food-based approaches to improve the diets of rural families in terms of both quality and quantity.</p>	<p><b>First level of results:</b> IFAD's investments in nutrition contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, directly through the second SDG ("Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture").</p> <p><b>Second level of results:</b> In relation to IFAD's Strategic Framework, nutrition investments contribute to IFAD's Strategic Objective 1: "Increase poor rural people's productive capacities".</p> <p><b>Third level of results:</b> In relation to development results, IFAD has committed to improving the nutrition of 12 million people by 2021.</p>
<p><b>Nutrition outcomes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Nutrition-sensitive projects shape agriculture and food systems in ways that contribute to nutritious diets;</li> <li>ii. Projects promote behaviour-changing communications to improve food choices and related preparation and post-harvest practices;</li> <li>iii. Projects promote the equality and empowerment of women in ways that help them improve nutrition for themselves, their children and their families;</li> <li>iv. Activities in policy engagement, advocacy and partnerships, as well as research and knowledge management, contribute to better governance, a supportive enabling environment for projects and more effective projects.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Project-level results.</b> IFAD's investments contribute to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Diverse, nutritious and safe diets: IFAD projects play a central role in shaping food systems and food environments to be nutrition-sensitive, and in ensuring that diverse, nutritious and safe foods for a healthy diet are available and affordable at all times.</li> <li>ii. Improved health: Although IFAD is primarily concerned with the food determinants of malnutrition, within its scope and mandate IFAD's investments aim to contribute to improving the health of beneficiary populations, for example through providing safe drinking water.</li> </ol> <p>The action plan in the TOC section emphasises that project-level outcomes are context specific and provide a list of nine project-level outcomes that can be considered IFAD's nutrition entry points, these are: growth and diversification of production; increased availability in markets; growth and diversification of income; nutrition knowledge and practices; empowerment of women and youth (especially adolescent girls); environmental health; Climate resilience and environmental sustainability, indigenous people; and enabling.</p>
<p><b>Operational objectives:</b></p> <p>Included as indicators of Action Area 1 on Operations:</p>	<p>The <b>fourth level of the results</b> framework corresponds to the <b>overall objective</b> of this Action Plan: to improve the contribution to nutrition by</p>

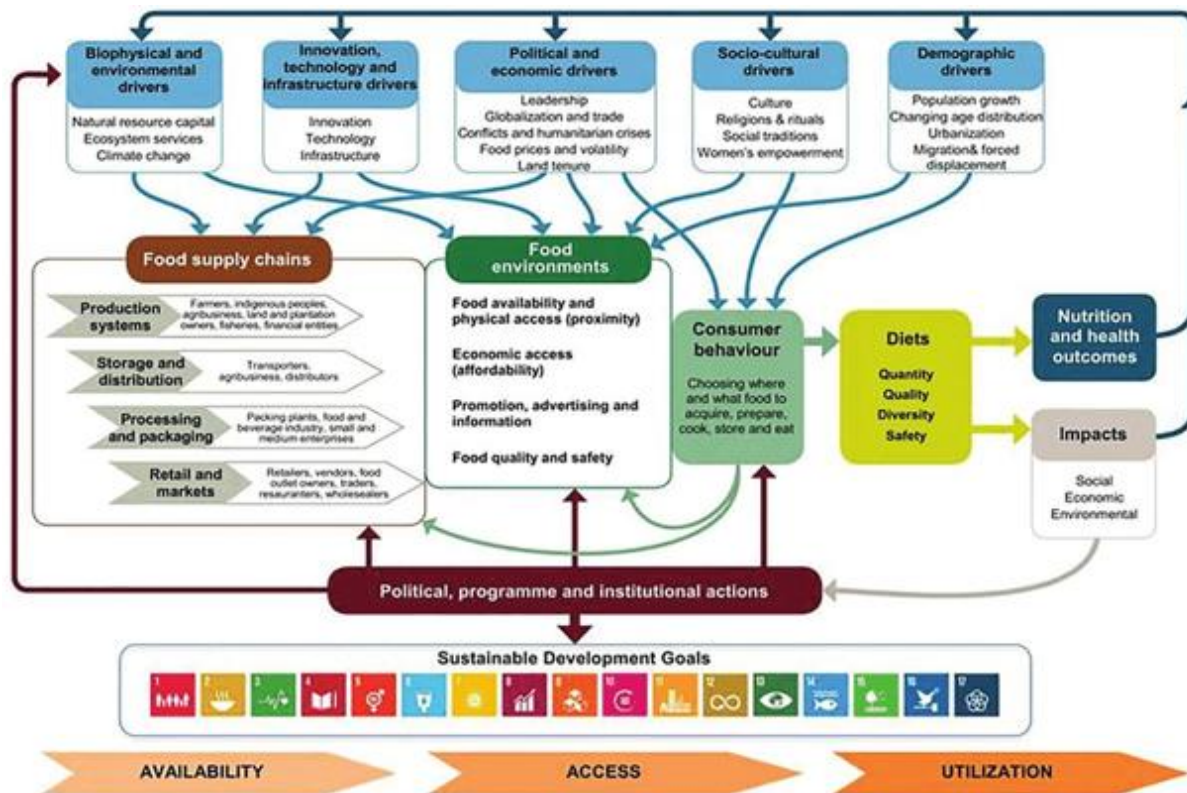
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new COSOPs include a nutrition situation assessment, including noting how the COSOP's strategic objectives relate to nutrition.</li> <li>• One-third of new project design reports are nutrition sensitive, with explicit nutrition objectives, actions and indicators.</li> </ul>	<p>IFAD's investments. This objective will be measured through the following three key performance indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One hundred per cent of COSOPs are nutrition-sensitive. A nutrition-sensitive COSOP includes a nutrition situation assessment and specifies how the COSOP's strategic objectives relate to nutrition.</li> <li>• Fifty per cent of new projects are nutrition-sensitive by 2021. A nutrition-sensitive project has explicit nutrition objectives, activities and indicators. This target will be raised to 60 per cent by 2025. The 2025 target is tentative, to be revised and adjusted based on the results achieved by 2021.</li> <li>• By 2025, 50 per cent of ongoing projects obtain a performance score of 4 (moderately satisfactory) or above on nutrition at the project's mid-term review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Areas:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Operations. Design and implement nutrition-sensitive projects, country strategies and grant;</li> <li>2. Capacity strengthening. Develop and strengthen the technical, analytical and managerial capacities of implementing partners, including communities and government institutions;</li> <li>3. Policy influence, engagement and partnerships (at national, regional and global level);</li> <li>4. Knowledge and evidence;</li> <li>5. Organizational capacities at IFAD.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Action Areas:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designing nutrition-sensitive COSOPs and projects;</li> <li>2. Implementation capacity;</li> <li>3. Policy influence, engagement and partnerships;</li> <li>4. Knowledge, communications and evidence; and</li> <li>5. Human and financial resources.</li> </ol>

## Elements of the evaluation framework

### Conceptual framework of food systems for diets and nutrition and IFAD’s reconstructed theory of change

The figure below presents the conceptual framework of food systems for diets and nutrition introduced in the report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the CFS in 2017 on nutrition and food systems.

Figure 6  
Conceptual framework of food systems for diets and nutrition



Source: HLPE. 2017. Nutrition and food systems. A report by the High level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. Page 26. Rome.

As described in the report, the constituent elements of food systems are the following (adapted from HLPE, 2017):

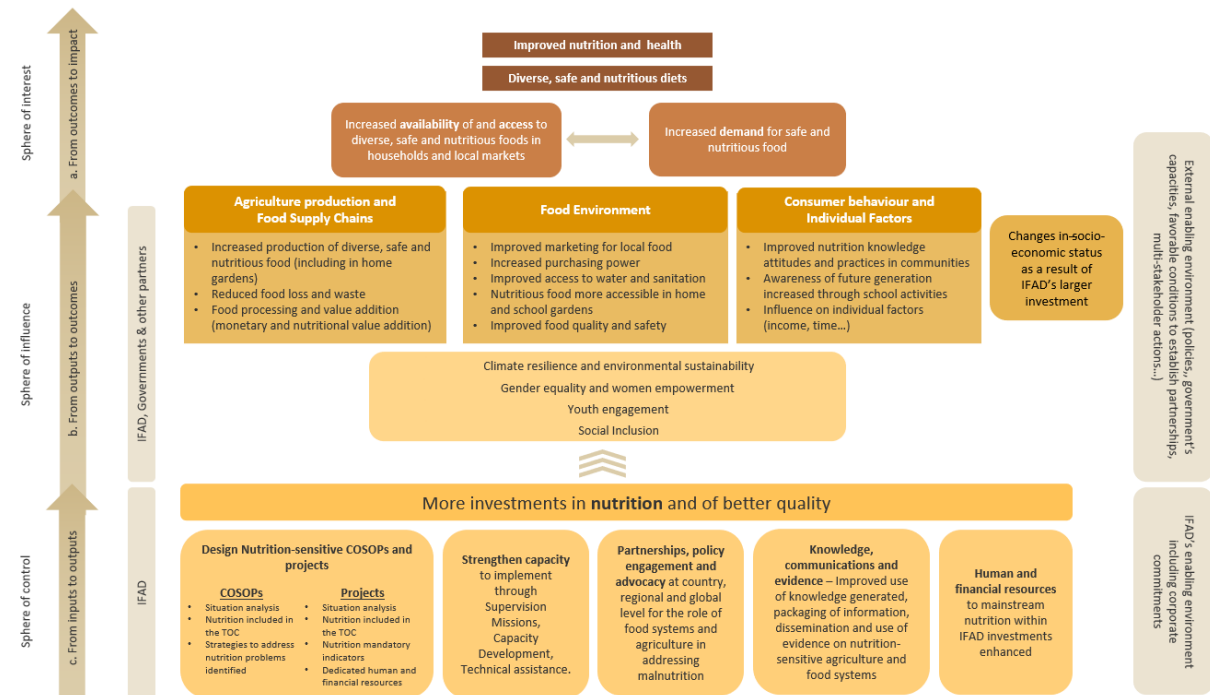
- **Food supply chains** – consisting of the activities and actors that take food from production to consumption and to the disposal of its waste. The steps of the food supply chain include: production, storage and distribution; processing; packaging; retail and markets.
- **Food environment** which refers to the physical, economic, political and socio-cultural context in which consumers engage with the food system to make their decisions about acquiring, preparing and consuming food. It consists of: food entry points or the physical space where food is purchased or obtained; features and infrastructures of the built environment that allow consumers to access these spaces; personal determinants of consumer food choices (including income, education, values, skills etc. – these can also be seen as separate from the food environment and grouped under individual factors); and surrounding political, social and cultural norms that underlie these interactions.
- **Consumer behaviour** reflects all the choices and decisions made by consumers, at the household or individual level, on what food to acquire, store, prepare, cook

and eat, and on the allocation of food within the household (including gender repartition and feeding of children).

These elements which are influenced by the drivers shape diets and determine the final nutrition, health, economic and social outcomes of food systems.

This framework was used to reconstruct a Theory of Change with possible outcomes for IFAD’s work under the three food system dimensions (see figure 7). First the list of nutrition activities identified in IFAD projects have been classified under the three components of the food system and then transformed into potential outcomes. Project-level outcomes proposed in the Nutrition Action Plan TOC were also added. The final result (reported in the figure below) and the evaluation assumptions were discussed and commented by the nutrition team during a meeting organised for this purpose.

Figure 7  
**IFAD’s theory of change for the evaluation including reconstructed potential outcomes**



Source: IOE

The TOC is organised around three levels, as follow:

- a) IFAD’s main goal for nutrition (as stated in the Action Plan) is to contribute to diverse, nutritious and safe diets which will allow IFAD to address all forms of malnutrition, hence lead to improve nutrition and health of beneficiary populations.
- b) To achieve this goal IFAD applies a nutrition lens to investments in agriculture, food systems and rural development so as to optimize their contribution to nutrition outcomes. Through different pathways, IFAD’s projects play a role in shaping food systems to make them more nutrition sensitive. This will contribute to improving the availability and affordability of diverse, nutritious and safe foods for a healthy diet at all times. At the same time IFAD develops capacities to influence consumer behaviours, improve attitudes and practices and increase demand and use of safe and nutritious food.
- c) As reflected in the ToC, nutrition outcomes at country level will be a reflection of the quality of project design, the capacity of government and partners to implement and IFAD’s support provided as well as of the strength of partnerships and the existence of an enabling environment in-country. Indeed, the TOC highlights the collaborative nature of IFAD’s work and the role that Governments and Partners play as directly involved in the implementation, but also due to the multi-sectorial

nature of the approach required to improve nutrition in which many other partners are contributing. Knowledge management, policy engagement, advocacy at country, regional and global level and an adequate allocation of financial and human resources are all important factors of an enabling environment needed to mainstreaming nutrition effectively, and hence, essential conditions to achieve the expected results.

In addition to making explicit these three levels of intervention, the ToC highlights the importance of the internal and external environment to influence likelihood of achieving results. Finally, climate change, gender, youth and social inclusion appear as cross-cutting themes given that these are all linked and interacting with nutrition. The TOC reports reconstructed potential IFAD's outcomes for the different food system dimensions that can be considered examples.

The drafting of the ToC, and its discussion with the nutrition team informed the fine-tuning of the evaluation questions and of sub-questions. Key assumptions (see table below) were identified from a review of documentation and inception interviews and set against a general understanding of the organizational and institutional character of IFAD. The assumptions have been reflected as specific lines of inquiry in the evaluation matrix (see appendix I). The table below shows in the right hand column which evaluation sub-question will interrogate each of the identified assumptions. This will ensure that the evaluation provides a robust opportunity to assess the extent to which these assumptions have held true and remained valid over time.

Table 3

**Evaluation assumptions and their link to evaluation sub-questions**

<b>Assumptions from inputs to outputs</b>	<b>Evaluation sub-question</b>
1. IFAD's investment projects are effectively designed and supported to address the nutritional issues identified.	1.2, 1.3, 2.3
2. IFAD's organizational culture, systems, processes, and organizational incentives are supportive of nutrition mainstreaming.	4.1, 4.5, 4.6
3. IFAD staff skills / competencies across different levels and parts of the organization are aligned to needs of the Nutrition Action Plan.	4.2
4. IFAD's systems and incentives encourage partnership pursuit in ways which reflect IFAD's comparative advantage, advance the implementation of the NAP and are conducive to achieving its objectives.	4.3
5. Sufficient resources are dedicated to nutrition at the design and implementation phase.	4.4
<b>Assumptions from outputs to outcomes</b>	
6. Governments, and in particular Ministries of Agriculture, (increasingly) prioritize nutrition and are willing to use IFAD loans to address nutrition priorities.	2.1
7. The external environment is favourable to establish partnerships (Government's openness to partnerships, existing partners with expertise on nutrition, existing multi-stakeholder actions...).	1.1, 2.3
8. IFAD uses quality evidence and learning that allows for nutrition programme design, adaptation and learning across its portfolio and different contexts.	2.4, 3.2, 3.3
9. IFAD's projects operate in a complementary manner internally, and to other actor's interventions, reflecting IFAD's comparative advantage and ensuring adequate mainstreaming of gender and other priorities.	2.2, 2.5
10. Commitment to nutrition is ensured for long enough to allow results to be successful and sustained.	4.7

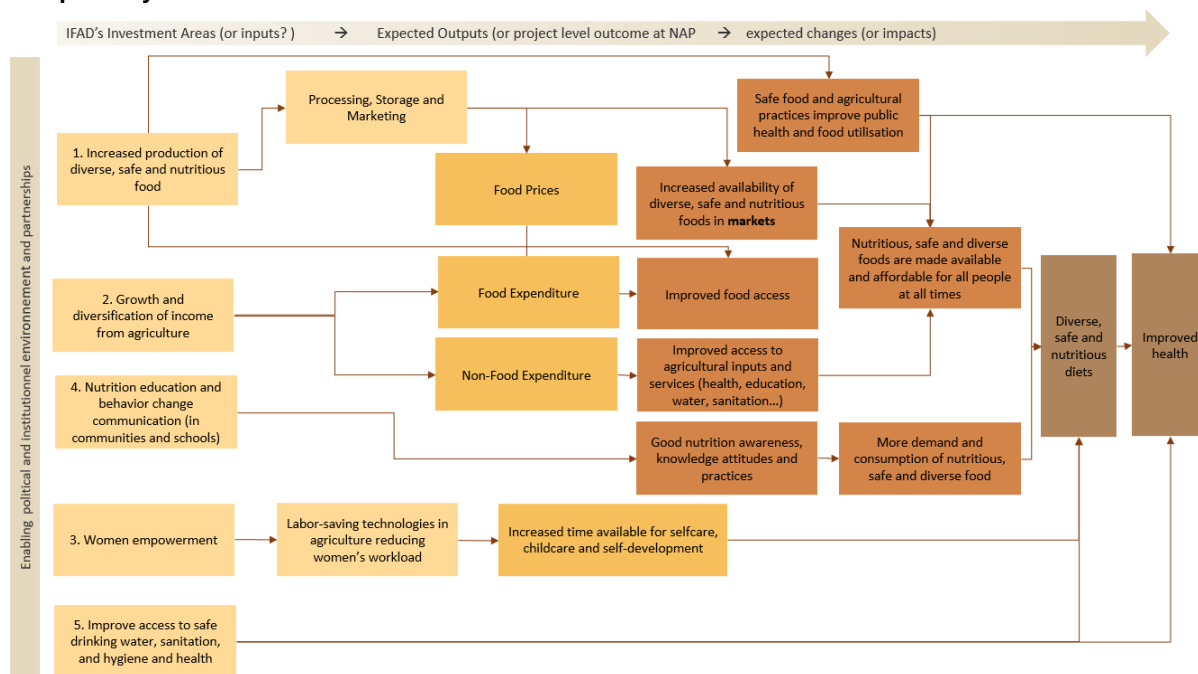
11. IFAD indicators are able to demonstrate outcome achievement at beneficiary level across different areas of the nutrition portfolio.	4.6
<b>Assumptions from outcomes to impact</b>	
12. Contextual political, economic, social, drivers of needs do not undermine the nutrition gains	1.1, 3.2, 4.7

Source: IOE

### Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture pathways

The nutrition sensitive agriculture approach recognises three main conceptual pathways leading from agriculture to nutrition, which are: (i) production; ii) agricultural income and iii) women empowerment (in particular how decision-making power over households' resources is allocated and how women's time and energy are spent).<sup>34,35</sup> Based on the conceptual pathways between agriculture and nutrition, as described by Herforth, A. and Harris, J. (2014)<sup>36</sup>, and desk review of IFAD's main nutrition documents, an attempt was made by the evaluation team to represent IFAD's main nutrition pathways through which investments are expected to result in improved nutritional outcomes. These are shown in figure 8 below. During the evaluation additional research will be conducted to further map IFAD's nutrition pathways.

Figure 8  
NSA pathways in IFAD



Source: IOE based on NSA pathways, IFAD Guidance on mainstreaming nutrition and IFAD Nutrition Action Plan.<sup>37,38,39</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Herforth, Anna, and Jody Harris, 2014.

<sup>35</sup> Suneetha Kadiyala, Jody Harris, Derek Headey, Sivan Yosef and Stuart Gillespie, 2014.

<sup>36</sup> In particular see figure "Conceptual pathways between agriculture and nutrition" at page 3 in Herforth, Anne, and Jody Harris, 2014.

<sup>37</sup> Herforth, Anna, and Jody Harris, 2014.

<sup>38</sup> IFAD, 2019b.

<sup>39</sup> IFAD, 2019c.

## Evaluation limitations

Desk review and initial consultations conducted during the preparatory phase allowed to identify potential limitations the evaluation will face during its conduct which are reported in the table below. For each limitation, mitigation measures have been developed to take them into account during the process.

Table 4

**Evaluation limitations and proposed mitigation measures**

Limitation	Proposed mitigation measures
1. Main corporate changes related to nutrition were introduced with IFAD11 which started in 2019. Given the time required for designing and starting up of new investments, those changes might not be visible/measurable yet.	The evaluation has a deliberate focus on the likelihood of results. Stakeholder engagement (internal and external) in the reflection on likelihood of results will be sought to get balanced views and a good understanding of potential bottlenecks.
2. Nutrition activities are broader than those that are captured in the list of nutrition-sensitive projects. Indeed, nutrition might encompass more than the distinct nutrition actions formulated in NS-investments. This may make it challenging to understand how other IFAD's work is contributing to nutrition.	The evaluation will look at nutrition sensitive projects at country level in the context of the full IFAD's portfolio. Evaluation field work and interviews will consistently seek to understand what complementarities exist with other areas of IFAD's work and bring out opportunities and challenges in this respect.
3. Country studies will reflect the specificities of the setting and context and therefore will not be easily generalizable.	The evaluation will use triangulation with the broad review of the secondary evidence and the staff and partner survey to reflect on generalizability of the findings. Stakeholder reflection and engagement through round tables at different moments in the evaluation will bring out which findings are common to different contexts. The relatively large number of country cases should allow for a sense of what issues are common across countries and the use of a country matrix will ensure a systematic approach to the inquiry.

## Descriptive analysis of IFAD's nutrition-sensitive project portfolio

### Nutrition-Sensitive projects database

The evaluation is relying on a database of Nutrition-Sensitive projects provided by the Nutrition Unit. On total, it consists of 130 NS-projects approved since 2010. Criteria for nutrition-sensitive projects were introduced only in 2019. Before that year, an effort was made to categorize projects approved since 2010 in a database to monitor and track the progress of nutrition mainstreaming activities over time. The criteria used were nutrition objectives, activities, and related nutrition indicators. Based on these criteria, projects were classified under four categories as detailed in Table 5.

Table 5

Categories for classifying Nutrition-Sensitive Projects approved since 2010 before 2019

CATEGORY		DESCRIPTION	NS
A	<b>No Nutrition</b>	<p>The project has no consideration of nutrition, either because it is not relevant given the type of project or the context, or because nutrition was not addressed in any way during project design. It is unlikely that the project will have a significant impact on nutrition.</p> <p>Specifically, projects in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not incorporate any nutrition goal/PDO/outcome/output or associated indicators in the logical framework and/or only incorporate the child malnutrition anchor indicator at impact level.</li> </ul> <p><u>And</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not include activities that address nutrition concerns in any relevant way and/or only include activities remotely related to nutrition without channeling them towards achieving nutrition outcomes</li> </ul>	NO
B	<b>Minimal consideration of nutrition</b>	<p>The project has an implicit consideration of aspects that are relevant for nutrition but lacks a clear and coordinated effort that would justify its consideration as nutrition-sensitive. Impact on nutrition is expected to be limited or marginal, and in any case, would not respond to a systematic effort to mainstream nutrition into the project.</p> <p>Specifically, projects in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only refer to nutrition at the goal/PDO level of the logical framework (for example, through incorporation of the child malnutrition anchor indicator at impact level and an objective focused on food security)</li> </ul> <p><u>And/or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate some activities implicitly related to nutrition, but without tracing a clear impact pathway, or demonstrating an intentionality of shaping the intervention towards achieving nutrition outcomes</li> </ul>	NO
C	<b>Nutrition - sensitive</b>	<p>The project addresses a range of nutrition-relevant aspects through a systematic strategy that reflects a significant effort to mainstream nutrition. Although nutrition may not be the primary goal of the project, it is reasonable to expect a plausible impact on nutrition as a result of the intervention.</p> <p>Specifically, projects in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include nutrition at different levels of the logical framework: aside from the child malnutrition indicator, nutrition is reflected in the PDO, outcome or outputs, and/or its indicators.</li> </ul> <p><u>And</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate a range of activities related to nutrition that can have a plausible impact on nutrition, with an explicit intentionality of contributing to nutrition outcomes</li> </ul>	YES



<b>D</b>	<b>Integrated approach to mainstreaming nutrition</b>	<p>The project provides an integrated response to a number of nutrition concerns including coordination with sectors outside agriculture, constituting what can be considered 'best practice' in terms of nutrition mainstreaming and programmatic convergence. It is highly likely that the project will make a significant contribution to nutrition. Specifically, projects in this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include nutrition at different levels of the logical framework: aside from the child malnutrition indicator, nutrition is reflected in the PDO, outcome or outputs, and/or its indicators.</li> </ul> <p><u>And</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate a range of activities related to nutrition that can have a plausible impact on nutrition, with an explicit intentionality of contributing to nutrition outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><u>And</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include policy dialogue / coordination with sectors and institutions outside agriculture to enhance nutritional impact</li> </ul>	YES
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Source: Programme Management Department (PMD). 2016. Mainstreaming Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture and Rural Development. Nutrition Portfolio Review. IFAD's internal document.

For projects approved since 2019 (IFAD11), criteria were defined for Nutrition-Sensitive projects at design as reported in the table below.

Table 6

**Requirements for Nutrition-Sensitive projects at design since IFAD11**

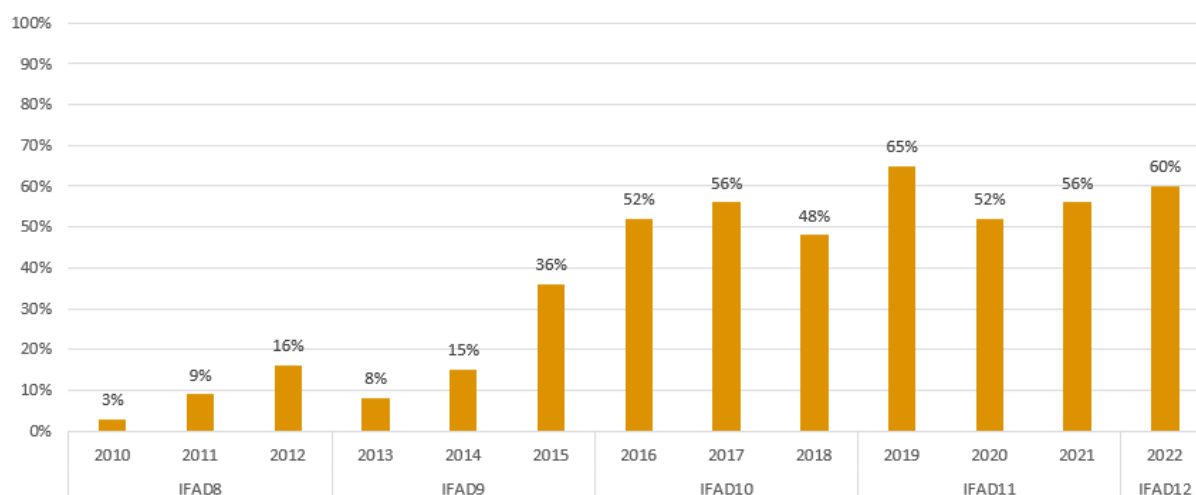
<b>Situation Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Description of national policies, strategies and actors addressing nutrition, analysis of main nutrition problems and underlying causes of malnutrition of affected groups in the project area.</li> <li>✓ Identifies nutritionally vulnerable beneficiaries by group.</li> </ul>
<b>Theory of Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The PDR includes nutrition impact pathways, and presents linkage between nutrition related problems, outcomes and impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory indicators</b>	<b>Logframe</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Disaggregate Outreach indicator (C.I.1) by sex, youth and (if relevant) indigenous peoples.</li> <li>✓ Specify Households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition (C.I.1.1.8 on Output). Disaggregate by households, household members, sex, youth, and (if relevant) indigenous peoples.</li> <li>✓ Include one of these outcome level nutrition indicators: 1.2.8 (MDDW); 1.2.9 (KAP).</li> </ul>
<b>HR &amp; Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There is dedicated human and financial resources to nutrition and or a partnerships/consultant to support implementation.</li> <li>✓ Allocate funds to deliver nutrition-related activities.</li> </ul>

Source: IFAD, 2020a.

## Portfolio analysis

On total the number of NS-projects identified is 130, of which 21 are already completed while 9 have been recently approved and have not yet started. The table below shows the trend of NS-projects at design over the years since 2010.

Figure 9  
Percentage of nutrition-sensitive projects at design by replenishment year (IFAD8-IFAD12)<sup>40</sup>



Source: IOE and stocktake exercise (IFAD, 2022b).

The geographical distribution of projects shows a concentration in three regions, ESA, APR and WCA, corresponding to the regions showing the higher malnutrition rates (figure 10). Table 7 presents number of projects by country.

Figure 10  
Distribution of NS-projects by region



Source: Evaluation Team.

Table 7  
Distribution of NS projects by country

APR		ESA		LAC		NEN		WCA	
Country	Num	Country	Num	Country	N	Country	Num	Country	Num
Afghanistan	1	Angola	4	Argentina	1	Djibouti	2	Benin	3
Bangladesh	3	Burundi	4	Bolivia	2	Egypt	2	Burkina Faso	5
Bhutan	1	Comoros	1	Brazil	3	Sudan	2	Cameroon	2
Cambodia	1	Eritrea	2	Dominican Republic	1	Tunisia	2	Central African Rep	3
Fiji	1	Ethiopia	4	Guatemala	1			Chad	3
India	4	Kenya	3	Guyana	1			Congo	1
Indonesia	3	Lesotho	2	Haiti	2			Cote d'Ivoire	1

<sup>40</sup> Total number of projects was obtained in Oracle and ORMS. Number of NS projects from the evaluation database (gathering Nutrition team databases). Projects identified as NS after design (PADEE, SAPP, S3P and ProPesca) are not included in this graph so the total number of projects considered in this graph is 126.

APR		ESA		LAC		NEN		WCA	
Country	Num	Country	Num	Country	N	Country	Num	Country	Num
Kiribati	1	Madagascar	4	Honduras	1			DR Congo	1
Lao	5	Malawi	4	Nicaragua	1			Gambia	1
Maldives	1	Mozambique	2					Ghana	2
Myanmar	1	Rwanda	3					Guinea	1
Nepal	2	South Sudan	1					Guinea-Bissau	1
Pakistan	4	Tanzania	1					Liberia	1
Samoa	1	Uganda	1					Mauritania	1
Sri Lanka	2	Zambia	2					Niger	5
Tonga	1	Zimbabwe	3					Nigeria	3
								Sao Tome	1
								Sierra Leone	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>36</b>

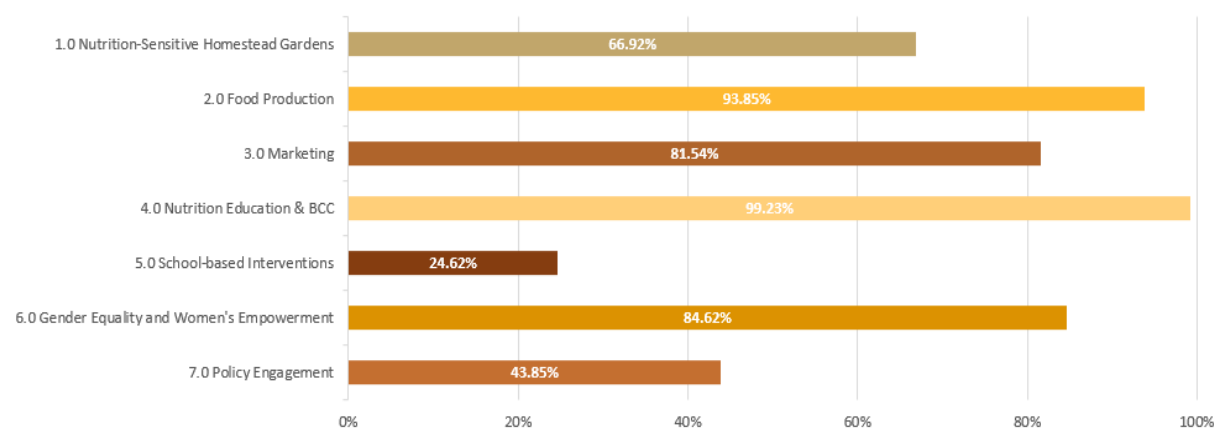
Source: IOE.

## Nutrition-sensitive activities overview

The types of investments made by IFAD in nutrition have been aggregated into 8 types of activities and 34 sub-activities, as listed in Table 1. The categories of activities and sub-activities were designed by IFAD's nutrition team, who also clustered the investments in IFAD11 and IFAD12 under each activity and sub-activity. For IFAD8, IFAD9 and IFAD10 projects, categorization was conducted by IOE, drawing on the database developed by the nutrition team to identify nutrition-sensitive projects, and project design reports.<sup>41</sup>

Figure 11

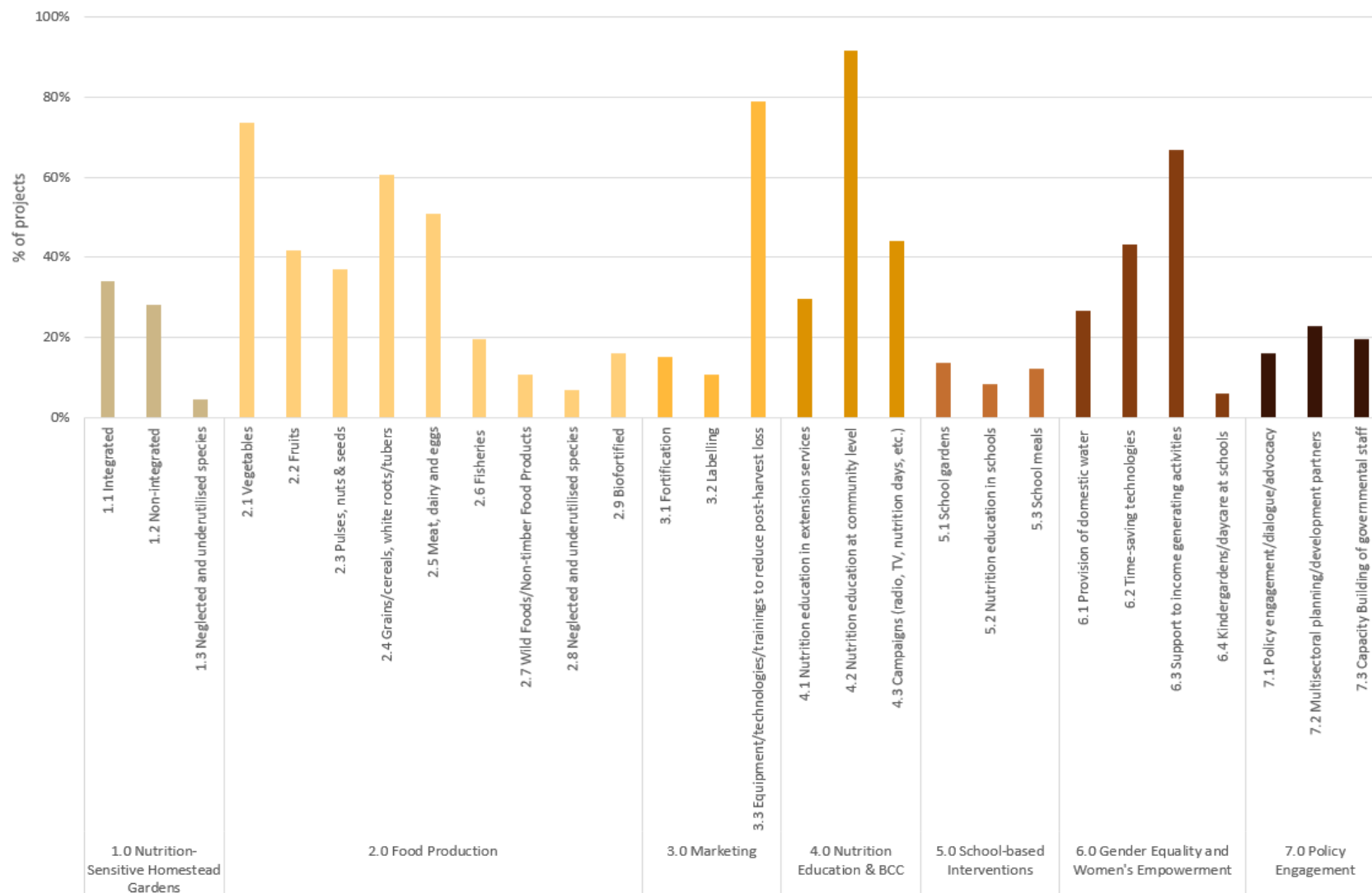
### Distribution of activities in IFAD-funded projects 2010-2023 (%)



Source: IOE.

<sup>41</sup>Some projects included nutrition-related activities at implementation (e.g., after receiving suppl. funding). In the cases of VCDP, PADEE, SAPP, S3P, ProPesca, FARMSE, DEFIS, PAPFA, PADAAM, and SIRP, project reports such as Mid Term Reviews or Supervision Missions have also been consulted.

Figure 12  
**Distribution of NS-projects by sub-activities 2010-2023 (%)**



Source: IOE.

## Evolution of nutrition in IFAD

In the first **Nutrition for Growth Summit** in 2013, IFAD, with support from Canada, committed to advancing nutrition through a focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development. This commitment aimed for approximately 20% of new IFAD-funded projects to be nutrition-sensitive and around 30% of new COSOPs to incorporate nutrition-sensitive analysis, indicators, and activities.<sup>42</sup>

In the same year, IFAD signed an agreement with **Canada for supplementary funding** (5 million USD) to support mainstreaming of nutrition.<sup>43</sup> IFAD, in collaboration with the World Bank, FAO, and REACH, organized its first **large capacity-building event** in 2014 titled "Applying Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture to Project Design." Concurrently, the **ICN2** was held in Rome and the conference secretariat, co-chaired by FAO and the WHO and supported by IFAD and WFP, produced two critical outcome documents: the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action.<sup>44</sup>

In 2015, the **first IFAD Nutrition Action Plan**, "Mainstreaming Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture at IFAD (2016-2018)," was developed to address malnutrition in all forms and to improve nutritional levels among poor rural populations during IFAD10.<sup>45</sup> It outlined four strategic outcomes: i) NS projects shape agriculture and food systems in ways that contribute to nutritious diets, ii) projects promote behaviour-changing communications to improve food choice, iii) projects enhance equality and empowerment of women in ways that help them improve nutrition, and iv) activities in policy engagement, advocacy and partnerships, research and knowledge management, contribute to better governance and a supportive enabling environment for more effective projects. In the same year, IFAD's Vice President, was elected **Chair of the UNSCN**.

In 2016, IFAD launched its **Strategic Framework (2016-2025)**, highlighting Nutrition as one of its four Areas of thematic focus within the first strategic objective of increasing poor rural people's productive capacities.<sup>46</sup> The same year, IFAD affirmed its full commitment to actively contribute to the **Nutrition Decade** in support of its Member States. In 2017, **Nutrition ratings** were incorporated into IFAD's guidance for supervision and Mid-Term Review. Simultaneously, **IFAD Results and Impact Management System** was renewed, introducing Core Indicators based on the project's main thematic area(s), including nutrition.<sup>47</sup> Nutrition indicators introduced were at output level the number of persons/households provided with targeted support to improve nutrition and at outcome level the percentage of women reporting improved quality of their diets.

The **second Nutrition Action Plan** was approved for 2019-2025, outlining specific criteria for nutrition-sensitive projects and objectives for IFAD's nutrition portfolio.<sup>48</sup> The plan focused on five areas of action: (i) designing nutrition-sensitive COSOPs and projects; (ii) implementation capacity; (iii) policy influence, engagement and partnerships; (iv) knowledge, communications and evidence; and (v) human and financial resources.

A **Nutrition-Sensitive Value Chain Guide** was developed in 2018 with supplementary funds from Germany, offering guidance on designing nutrition-sensitive value chain projects.<sup>49</sup> In October 2018, IFAD and Save the Children Italy hosted an **international conference** entitled "Leaving no one behind – making the case for adolescent girls".

In 2019, new Operational **Procedures and Guidelines for Country Strategies** were developed, featuring nutrition as a mandatory consideration in 100% of COSOPs and CSNs. This involved a SECAP Background Study in each COSOP, considering socio-economic

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<sup>42</sup> Nutrition for Growth, 2013.

<sup>43</sup> IFAD, 2017a.

<sup>44</sup> IFAD, 2015a.

<sup>45</sup> IFAD, 2015b.

<sup>46</sup> IFAD, 2016a.

<sup>47</sup> IFAD, 2017b.

<sup>48</sup> IFAD, 2019c.

<sup>49</sup> IFAD, 2018a.

situations and underlying causes, with nutrition as a vital dimension.<sup>50</sup> Additionally, a How-to-do-note was released in 2019, providing practical guidance on mainstreaming nutrition in IFAD-supported country strategies and investment projects.<sup>51</sup> In the same year, **NORAD** committed 6.7 million USD to support IFAD's work on mainstreaming nutrition under the three-year programme "Nourishing People and the Earth through Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture".<sup>52</sup>

**IFAD12** aimed to expand ambition around the four mainstreaming themes, including **commitments on nutrition** for the programme of loans and grants. **COI Guidelines** adopted in 2021 included **mandatory indicators for nutrition**: at output level households provided with targeted support to improve nutrition, and at outcome level percentage of women reporting minimum dietary diversity, and/or percentage of households with improved nutrition Knowledge Attitudes and Practices.<sup>53</sup>

In 2022, IFAD conducted its **first Nutrition Stocktaking Exercise** to assess achievements, examine constraints, and review key milestones in mainstreaming nutrition during IFAD11.<sup>54</sup> The **Report on IFAD's Mainstreaming Effectiveness (RIME) 2023** was launched, highlighting achievements in nutrition and other mainstreaming themes. Notable accomplishments included 100% of COSOPs being nutrition-sensitive, 60% of new projects designed as nutrition-sensitive in 2022, 72% of projects rated moderately satisfactory or above at MTR, 42% of nutrition-sensitive projects reporting on at least one core indicator, and the production of five policy deliverables.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> IFAD, 2019d.

<sup>51</sup> IFAD, 2019b.

<sup>52</sup> IFAD, 2020b.

<sup>53</sup> IFAD, 2021a.

<sup>54</sup> IFAD, 2022b.

<sup>55</sup> IFAD, 2023c.

## Concepts and definitions

**Diets** are a combination of foods consumed at the given time. A healthy diet should be composed of safe and nutritious foods. Nutritious foods are those foods that provide nutrients that are beneficial to meet an individual's requirements, these nutrients include protein, vitamins, major and trace minerals, essential amino acids and fatty acids, as well as dietary fibre. At the same time, foods should be safe and should not impair health outcomes, hence, harmful substances, such as anti-nutrients, quantities of sodium, saturated fats, sugar should be minimised.<sup>56</sup>

There is no globally accepted classification of individual food items to be considered as 'nutritious', 'less' or 'not nutritious' foods, but the combination of foods consumed makes it a healthy or unhealthy diet.

A **healthy diet** promotes growth and development, and prevents malnutrition and diseases, supports health outcomes. A healthy diet is defined as a diet that "provides adequacy without excess, of nutrients and health-promoting substances from nutritious foods and avoids the consumption of health-harming substances".<sup>57</sup> Though different concepts and approaches exist to promote healthy diets at different stages in life, key recommendations remained relatively un-changed over the recent years, guiding principles for a healthy diet have been updated by FAO and WHO in 2019, highlighting the importance of being contextually appropriate sustainable, affordable and healthy.<sup>58</sup>

**Dietary diversity** contributes to a healthy or balanced diet. A healthy diet is composed of a variety of nutritious and safe foods that provide dietary energy and nutrients in the amounts needed for a healthy and active life. It is based on a wide range of unprocessed or minimally processed foods, balanced across food groups, while it restricts the consumption of highly processed foods and drinks. A healthy diet includes wholegrains, legumes, nuts, an abundance and variety of fruits and vegetables, and can include moderate amounts of eggs, dairy, poultry and fish, and small amounts of red meat.<sup>59</sup>

Consuming a healthy diet throughout the life cycle is critical for preventing all forms of malnutrition, including child stunting and wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight or obesity. In this regard, healthy diets reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and certain types of cancer.<sup>60</sup>

**Sustainable healthy diets** are dietary patterns that promote all dimensions of a healthy diet and, in addition, minimise a negative impact on the environment and support the preservation of biodiversity and planetary health. Sustainable healthy diets must ensure a healthy diet while combining all dimensions of sustainability to avoid unintended consequences.<sup>61</sup>

**Optimal nutrition** is determined by the quantity and quality of foods consumed and by the ability of the body to use them. These factors are influenced by the interaction of diet and an individual's health status. In turn, malnutrition is an outcome of food insecurity and/or other factors, such as inadequate care practices for children, or lack of health and other basic services and an unhealthy environment and inadequate sanitary and hygiene practices.

**Malnutrition** no longer refers only to undernutrition measured by levels of wasting, stunting, underweight or deficiencies in vitamins or minerals. Malnutrition, in all its forms, includes overweight and obesity as well as dietary factors that increase the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and certain forms of cancers.

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<sup>56</sup> GAIN, 2017; Drewnowski, A. 2005; Katz, David L., Doughty, K., Njike, V. et al., 2011.

<sup>57</sup> Neufeld, Lynnette M., Sheryl Hendriks and Marta Hugas, 2021.

<sup>58</sup> FAO and WHO, 2019.

<sup>59</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2023.

<sup>60</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, 2019; WHO, 2018.

<sup>61</sup> FAO and WHO, 2019.

Different forms of malnutrition can coexist - within countries, communities and families or even within an individual. As an example, a country can have high levels of stunting as well as obesity, or anemia, and a child can suffer from both stunting and overweight. This double burden is the leading cause of poor health in the world, and is especially prevalent in low and middle-income countries.<sup>62</sup>

Malnutrition, in all its forms, is caused by different factors. Direct factors include dietary intake and a person's health status. Dietary intake includes types and quantities of food one eats, determined by the ability to access and consume diverse foods year-round. An un-healthy environment, lack of access to clean water, in-adequate sanitary and hygiene practices and maternal and child's caring practices are among the underlying causes.<sup>63</sup>

Levels of overweight and obesity are rapidly increasing, largely caused by dietary patterns and sedentary lifestyles, globalization and economic growth are among the key factors of the rapid increase in overweight and obesity.

**Food Security** has been defined by the World Food Summit in 1996 as "all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".<sup>64</sup> Food security is an outcome of adequate physical availability, economic and physical access and proper utilisation of foods over time, the latter being referred to as "stability". Globally and at a national level it is being measured by the level of undernourishment and food insecurity. Household food security is an essential condition but not sufficient to ensure optimal nutrition, which is determined by a whole range of biological, economic and social factors, and measured by an individual's nutritional status.

**Nutrition-specific interventions** address the immediate causes of malnutrition, such as inadequate food and nutrient intake, feeding, care-giving and parenting practices, and low burden of infectious diseases. Examples of nutrition-specific interventions include treatment of severe acute malnutrition, disease management, maternal and child micronutrient supplementation, support for exclusive breastfeeding and fortification of foods.<sup>65</sup>

**Nutrition-sensitive interventions** target the underlying determinants of malnutrition, such as household food insecurity, poor maternal and childcare, and unhealthy environment. Nutrition-sensitive interventions aim to make nutritious foods more accessible and available to everyone at all times promote access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation, access to education and employment, access to healthcare especially maternal and child health, social safety nets among others. Nutrition-sensitive interventions are the responsibility of multiple sectors – agriculture, education, social welfare, trade, water among others.<sup>66</sup>

## **Definitions of malnutrition**<sup>67</sup>

**Undernutrition** is a diet-related condition resulting from insufficient food intake to meet needs for energy and nutrients, including stunting, wasting, underweight and micronutrient deficiencies.

**Stunting**, also called chronic malnutrition, is a form of childhood undernutrition. It is the result of chronic or recurrent undernutrition in utero and early childhood. Stunting, refers to the condition of being too short for one's age, undermines the physical and cognitive development of children. Stunted children not only earn less as adults as a result of less schooling and learning difficulties when in school, but they are also more likely to be at risk of overweight and obesity than children of normal height.

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<sup>62</sup> IFPRI, 2014; FAO and WHO, 2019; Popkin, Barry M, Camila Corvalan, Laurence M Grummer-Strawn, 2020.

<sup>63</sup> The World Bank & UNICEF, 2003; USAID Advancing Nutrition, 2022.

<sup>64</sup> FAO, 2006.

<sup>65</sup> IFAD, 2019b.

<sup>66</sup> IFAD, 2019b.

<sup>67</sup> UNICEF, WHO and World Bank, 2023.



**Wasting**, also called acute malnutrition, is a form of childhood undernutrition. It is a life-threatening condition attributable to poor nutrient intake, disease, poor nutrient absorption and/or frequent or prolonged illness, in particular diarrheal diseases. Wasting refers to a condition of being too thin at a given height. Characterized by a rapid deterioration in nutritional status over a short period of time, children suffering from wasting have weakened immunity, increasing their risk of death due to greater frequency and severity of common infection, particularly when severe.

**Micronutrient deficiencies** can occur in children and in adults. It is caused by inadequacies in intake of one or more vitamins and minerals essential for the prevention of malnutrition in all its forms. Iron-deficiency anemia, Iodine deficiency and Vitamin A deficiency are among the most prevalent public health problems with severe impacts on maternal and child morbidity and mortality.

**Overweight and obesity** can occur in children as well as in adults. It is defined as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a risk to health. They are caused by a combination of modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors, including lifestyle/behavioural, environmental, physiological and genetic factors. Obesity is both a chronic disease and a risk factor for other nutrition-related NCDs. Particularly children who are overweight or obese face both immediate and potentially long-term health impacts, including a higher risk of NCDs later in life.

## Preliminary list of nutrition documents and capacity development materials produced by IFAD

	<i>IFAD Policy/Action Plans/Key reports</i>	<i>Guidelines/ how-to-do notes</i>	<i>Specific publications on Nutrition</i>
<b>2010-2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFAD Strategic Framework 2011-2015</li> </ul>		
<b>2014</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving nutrition through agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFAD Nutrition Action Plan (2016-2018)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to do note: Integrated homestead food production</li> <li>Scaling up note on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and rural development</li> </ul>	
<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFAD Strategic Framework (2016-2025)</li> <li>IFAD and the Nutrition Decade</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions in East and Southern Africa (ESA)</li> </ul>
<b>2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFAD Guidance for supervision and MRT</li> <li>Consultation on IFAD 11: mainstreaming of climate, gender, nutrition, and youth IFAD</li> <li>Taking IFAD's Results and Impact Management System (RIMS) to the Next Level</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support of development of nutrition-sensitive value chains in middle-income countries</li> <li>The Nutrition Advantage. Harnessing nutrition co-benefits of climate-resilient agriculture</li> <li>Research Series Issue 18 - Do agricultural support and cash transfer programmes improve nutritional status?</li> </ul>
<b>2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFAD Nutrition Action Plan (2019-2025)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to do note: Nutrition-sensitive value chains: A guide for project design. Vol I &amp; II</li> <li>Nutrition Sensitive Value Chains Guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Series Issue 24 - Influence of nutrition-sensitive interventions on dietary profiles of smallholder farming households in East and Southern Africa</li> <li>Research Series Issue 30 - Nutrition-sensitive value chains from a smallholder perspective: A framework for project design</li> <li>Developing nutrition-sensitive value chains in Nigeria</li> <li>Developing nutrition-sensitive value chains in Indonesia</li> </ul>
<b>2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational Procedures and Guidelines for Country Strategies</li> <li>IFAD11 took on mainstreaming youth, gender, climate and nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to do note: Mainstreaming nutrition into COSOPs and investment projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Latin America and Caribbean Advantage Family farming – a critical success factor for resilient food security and nutrition</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational Guidance - Supporting Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture through Neglected and Underutilized Species</li> </ul>	
<b>2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFAD at the Midterm of the Eleventh Replenishment</li> <li>IFAD12: Deepening Impact and Building Resilience through Mainstreaming</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-Learning course: Sustainable Food Value Chains for Nutrition</li> </ul>
<b>2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core Outcome Indicators Measurement Guidelines (COI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to do note: Crop selection for diet quality and resilience</li> <li>How to do note: Mainstreaming NUS in national policy for nutrition outcomes.</li> <li>How to do note: Market needs and emerging opportunities assessment in NUS value chains</li> <li>How to do note: Promote neglected and underutilized species for domestic markets</li> <li>How to do note: Interventions in support of NUS export markets.</li> <li>How to do note: Mainstreaming NUS in national policy for nutrition outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ppt on Mainstreaming Nutrition in IFAD-Funded Projects in East and Southern Africa</li> <li>Food system interventions with climate change and nutrition co-benefits</li> </ul>
<b>2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstreaming Guidelines for Social Inclusion Themes. Annex VII</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition Glossary</li> <li>Sustainable and resilient indigenous people's food systems for improved nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition Stocktake</li> <li>E-Learning course: small and medium enterprises and nutrition - upgrading business models</li> <li>NORAD Baseline surveys (Zimbabwe, Malawi, Benin, and Madagascar)</li> <li>Knowledge in focus: Nutrition</li> </ul>
<b>2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-Learning course. Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture</li> <li>Case Study Burundi Food Systems</li> <li>Tackling overweight and obesity in LMICs in the realm of rural development and food systems: a country mapping</li> </ul>

## List of nutrition-sensitive projects

Replenishment	Region	Project	Country
IFAD8	APR	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project - CLAP - AF	Afghanistan
IFAD8	APR	Char Development and Settlement Project IV (CDSP IV)	Bangladesh
IFAD8	APR	Project for Agricultural Development and Economic Empowerment	Cambodia
IFAD8	APR	Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project - JTELP	India
IFAD8	APR	Soum Son Seun Jai - Community-based Food Security and Economic Opportunities Programme - SSSJ	Lao People's Democratic Rep
IFAD8	ESA	Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme	Malawi
IFAD8	ESA	Artisanal Fisheries Promotion Project	Mozambique
IFAD8	ESA	Smallholder Productivity Promotion Programme	Zambia
IFAD8	WCA	Participatory Natural Resource Management and Rural Development Project in the North, Centre6North and East Regions	Burkina Faso
IFAD8	WCA	Reviving Food Crops and Small Livestock Production in the Savannah - PREVES	Central African Republic
IFAD8	WCA	Projet d'Appui à la Sécurité alimentaire et au Développement de la région de Maradi - PASADEM	Niger
IFAD8	WCA	Ruwanmu Small-Scale Irrigation Project- RUWANMU	Niger
IFAD8	WCA	Value Chain Development Programme VCDP	Nigeria
IFAD9	APR	Fiji Agricultural Partnerships Project - FAPP	Fiji
IFAD9	APR	Meghalaya: Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project - LAMP	India
IFAD9	APR	Odisha PTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme - OPELIP	India
IFAD9	APR	Integrated Participatory Development and Management of the Irrigation Sector Project - IPDMIP	Indonesia
IFAD9	APR	Outer Island Food and Water Project - OIFWP	Kiribati
IFAD9	APR	Southern Laos Food and Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Programme (FNML)	Lao People's Democratic Rep
IFAD9	APR	Economic Transformation Initiative Gilgit-Baltistan - ETIGB	Pakistan
IFAD9	ESA	Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project - AFAP	Angola
IFAD9	ESA	National Programme for Food Security and Rural Development in Imbo and Moso - PNSADR-IM	Burundi
IFAD9	ESA	Programme de Développement des Filières-Deuxième Phase II - PRODEFI Phase II	Burundi
IFAD9	ESA	Pastoral Community Development Project III - PCDP III	Ethiopia
IFAD9	ESA	Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme (KCEP-CRAL)	Kenya
IFAD9	ESA	Projet d'appui au développement de Menabe et Melaky Phase II - AD2M Phase II	Madagascar
IFAD9	ESA	Programme for Rural Irrigation Development - PRIDE	Malawi

Replenishment	Region	Project	Country
IFAD9	LAC	Programa de Fortalecimiento Integral del Complejo Camélidos en el Altiplano - PRO-CAMELIDOS	Bolivia
IFAD9	WCA	Market Gardening Development Support Project - PADMAR	Benin
IFAD9	WCA	Projet d'amélioration de la résilience des systèmes agricoles au Tchad - PARSAT	Chad
IFAD9	WCA	Programme de Développement de l'Agriculture Familiale (ProDAF) dans les régions de Maradi, Tahoua et Zinder	Niger
IFAD10	APR	Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project (SACP)	Bangladesh
IFAD10	APR	Rural Empowerment and Agricultural Development Scaling-Up Initiative	Indonesia
IFAD10	APR	GAFSP- Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) - Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project (SSFSNP)	Lao People's Democratic Rep
IFAD10	APR	Western States Agribusiness Project (WSAP)	Myanmar
IFAD10	APR	Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP)	Nepal
IFAD10	APR	National Poverty Graduation Programme	Pakistan
IFAD10	APR	Smallholder Agribusiness Partnership Programme (SAP)	Sri Lanka
IFAD10	APR	Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (TRIP II)	Tonga
IFAD10	ESA	Smallholder Agriculture Development and Commercialization Project in Cuanza Sul and Huila Provinces (SADCP-C&H-SAMAP)	Angola
IFAD10	ESA	Agricultural Recovery Project (ARP)	Angola
IFAD10	ESA	Agricultural production intensification and vulnerability reduction project in Burundi (PIPARV-B)	Burundi
IFAD10	ESA	Family Farming Productivity and Resilience Support Project (PREFER)	Comoros
IFAD10	ESA	Fisheries Resources Management Programme (FRMP)	Eritrea
IFAD10	ESA	Participatory Smallholder Irrigation Programme II - PASIDP II	Ethiopia
IFAD10	ESA	Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP)	Kenya
IFAD10	ESA	Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains Development Programme (DEFIS)	Madagascar
IFAD10	ESA	Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprise Programme	Malawi
IFAD10	ESA	Rural Enterprise Finance Project (REFP)	Mozambique
IFAD10	ESA	Dairy Development Project (RDDP)	Rwanda
IFAD10	ESA	Enhanced Smallholder Agribusiness Promotion Programme (E-SAPP)	Zambia
IFAD10	ESA	Smallholder Irrigation Revitalisation Programme (SIRP)	Zimbabwe
IFAD10	LAC	Rural Families' Productive Inclusion and Resilience	Dominican Republic
IFAD10	LAC	Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development Project (HEAD)	Guyana

Replenishment	Region	Project	Country
IFAD10	LAC	Agricultural and Agroforestry Technological Innovation Programme (PITAG)	Haiti
IFAD10	LAC	Project for the Economic and Social Inclusion of Small Rural Producers in Northeast Honduras (PROINORTE)	Honduras
IFAD10	LAC	Desarrollo de una agricultura familiar sostenible en el corredor seco de Nicaragua - NICAVIDA	Nicaragua
IFAD10	NEN	Surface Water and Soil Management Programme (PROGRES)	Djibouti
IFAD10	NEN	Promoting Resilience in Desert Environments (PRIDE) Project	Egypt
IFAD10	NEN	Integrated Agricultural and Marketing Development Project (IAMDP)	Sudan
IFAD10	NEN	Projet de développement agricole et des filières associées dans le gouvernorat de Siliana - Value Chain Development Project in Governorate of Siliana (PROFITS Siliana)	Tunisia
IFAD10	WCA	Agricultural Development and Market Access Support Project (PADAAM)	Benin
IFAD10	WCA	Agricultural Value Chain Support Project (PAPFA)	Burkina Faso
IFAD10	WCA	Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah	Central African Republic
IFAD10	WCA	Strengthening Productivity and Resilience of Agropastoral Family Farms	Chad
IFAD10	WCA	Agricultural Value Chains Development Programme (PADFA)	Cote D'Ivoire
IFAD10	WCA	Family Farming, Resilience and Markets project in Upper and Middle Guinea	Guinea
IFAD10	WCA	Inclusive value-chains development project (PRODeFI) - former PROFITABLE	Mauritania
IFAD10	WCA	Family Farming Development Programme in the Diffa Region (ProDAF)	Niger
IFAD10	WCA	Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project in the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND)	Nigeria
IFAD10	WCA	Agricultural Value Chain Development Programme	Sierra Leone
IFAD11	APR	Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project	Bangladesh
IFAD11	APR	Nav Tejaswini Maharashtra Rural Women's Enterprise Development Project	India
IFAD11	APR	The Development of Integrated Farming Systems in Upland Areas	Indonesia
IFAD11	APR	Partnerships for Irrigation and Commercialisation of Smallholder Agriculture Project	Lao People's Democratic Rep
IFAD11	APR	Maldives Agribusiness Programme	Maldives
IFAD11	APR	Value Chain for Inclusive Transformation of Agriculture	Nepal
IFAD11	APR	Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project II	Pakistan
IFAD11	APR	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Economic Transformation Project	Pakistan

Replenishment	Region	Project	Country
IFAD11	APR	Samoa Agriculture & Fisheries Productivity and Marketing Project	Samoa
IFAD11	APR	Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project	Sri Lanka
IFAD11	ESA	Smallholder Resilience Enhancement Project	Angola
IFAD11	ESA	Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme	Burundi
IFAD11	ESA	Integrated Agriculture Development Project	Eritrea
IFAD11	ESA	Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project	Ethiopia
IFAD11	ESA	Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project	Kenya
IFAD11	ESA	Smallholder Agricultural Development Project II	Lesotho
IFAD11	ESA	Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods	Lesotho
IFAD11	ESA	Recovery and Resilience of Rural Households in the South	Madagascar
IFAD11	ESA	Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship Programme	Malawi
IFAD11	ESA	Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets Programme	Rwanda
IFAD11	ESA	Kayonza Irrigation and Integrated Watershed Management Project - Phase II	Rwanda
IFAD11	ESA	Livelihoods Resilience Programme	South Sudan
IFAD11	ESA	Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme	Tanzania
IFAD11	ESA	National Oilseeds Project	Uganda
IFAD11	ESA	Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project	Zimbabwe
IFAD11	LAC	Rural Transformation and food security through social and economic inclusion	Argentina
IFAD11	LAC	Constructing a culture of resilience against climate change for rural families in Bolivia	Bolivia
IFAD11	LAC	Planting climate resilience in rural communities of the Northeast	Brazil
IFAD11	LAC	Market-driven inclusive, resilient and innovative value chains Programme	Guatemala
IFAD11	LAC	Inclusive Blue Economy Project	Haiti
IFAD11	NEN	Integrated Water Resources Management Project	Djibouti
IFAD11	NEN	Sustainable Transformation for Agricultural Resilience in upper Egypt	Egypt
IFAD11	NEN	Sustainable Natural Resources and Livelihoods Programme	Sudan
IFAD11	NEN	Economic, Social and Solidarity Project	Tunisia
IFAD11	WCA	Regional Programme for the Integration of Agricultural Markets	Benin
IFAD11	WCA	Agricultural Value Chains Support Project in the Southwest, Hauts-Bassins, Cascades and Boucle du Mouhoun Regions	Burkina Faso
IFAD11	WCA	Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change	Burkina Faso
IFAD11	WCA	Commodity Value-Chain Development Support Project - Phase II	Cameroon

<b>Replenishment</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Country</b>
IFAD11	WCA	Project to Improve the Productivity and Access to Markets of Agricultural products in the Savannah zones	Central African Republic
IFAD11	WCA	Project to Strengthen Innovation in Youth and Women Agro-Pastoral Entrepreneurship in Chad	Chad
IFAD11	WCA	Inclusive and Resilient Rural Development Programme	Democratic Republic of Congo
IFAD11	WCA	Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Programme	Gambia
IFAD11	WCA	Affordable Agricultural Financing for Resilient Rural Development Project	Ghana
IFAD11	WCA	Promoting Rural Opportunities Sustainable Profits and Environmental Resilience	Ghana
IFAD11	WCA	Family Farming Diversification, Integrated Markets, Nutrition and Climate Resilience Project	Guinea-Bissau
IFAD11	WCA	Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project	Liberia
IFAD11	WCA	Project to Strengthen Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutrition Insecurity	Niger
IFAD11	WCA	Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programme	Nigeria
IFAD11	WCA	Commercialization, agricultural productivity and nutrition project	Sao Tome and Principe
IFAD12	APR	Building Resilient Commercial Smallholder Agriculture	Bhutan
IFAD12	APR	Agriculture for Nutrition - Phase 2	Lao People's Democratic Rep
IFAD12	ESA	Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation Programme	Ethiopia
IFAD12	ESA	Programme to Strengthen Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Support Economic Integration of Rural Youth	Madagascar
IFAD12	ESA	Horticulture Enterprise Enhancement Project	Zimbabwe
IFAD12	LAC	Amazon Sustainable Management Project	Brazil
IFAD12	LAC	Piaui Inclusive Sustainable Project	Brazil
IFAD12	WCA	Programme to Strengthen Smallholder Resilience to Climate Change	Burkina Faso
IFAD12	WCA	Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Development Support Programme	Cameroon
IFAD12	WCA	Empowerment through Nutrition-sensitive, Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural and Rural Entrepreneurship	Democratic Republic of Congo



## List of people consulted

Abdelkarim Sma, Lead Regional Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division

Abigail Perry, Director of Nutrition, World Food Programme

Alessandra Garbero, Lead Regional Economist, Near East, North Africa and Europe Division

Ann Turinayo, Country Director Burkina Faso, West and Central Africa Division

Antonella Cordone, Senior technical specialist – Nutrition, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

Arnoud Hameleers, Country Director Bangladesh, Asia and the Pacific Division

Chitra Deshpande, Lead Advisor, Results & Resources, Operational Policy and Results Division

Dede Ekoue, Country Director Nigeria, West and Central Africa Division

Fernanda Thomaz Da Rocha, Country Director Pakistan, Asia and the Pacific Division

Gianluca Capaldo, Senior Portfolio Advisor, Near East, North Africa and Europe Division

Han Ulac Demirag, Country Director India, Asia and the Pacific Division

Iliara Bianchi, Senior Nutrition Specialist, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

Isabel de la Peña, Country director for Cuba and Guatemala, Latin America and the Caribbean Division

Joseph Rostand Olinga, Country Director ad interim for Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles, East and Southern Africa Division

Joyce Njoro, Lead Technical Specialist - Nutrition, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

Juan Carlos Mendoza, Director Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department

Lynnette Neufeld, Director Nutrition Division, FAO

Maine Astonitas, Senior Portfolio Advisor, Latin America and the Caribbean Division

Mariatu Kamara, Country Director Kenya, East and Southern Africa Division

Marlene Pra, Junior Professional officer, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

Nadine Gbossa, Director Food Systems Coordination, External Relations and Governance Department

Nomindelger Bayasgalanbat, Senior technical specialist - Nutrition, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division outposted in ESA

Sara Savastano, Director Research and Impact Assessment Division

Tarek Ahmed, Lead Portfolio Advisor, West and Central Africa Division

Victoria Wise, Senior technical specialist Nutrition, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

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