IFAD12 Impact Assessment Report

Carola Alvarez

Managing Director, Office of Development Effectiveness

Evaluation Committee

September 2025 Rome, Italy

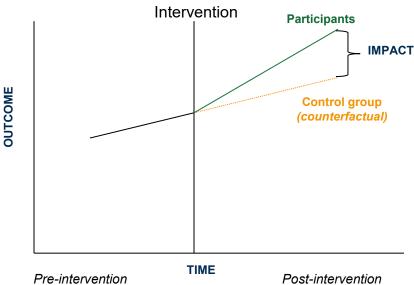






How does IFAD measure impact?

IFAD's impact assessments demonstrate the net impact of IFAD supported projects on participants, relative to a carefully selected control group.







IFAD12 Impact Assessment Report:Why This Report Matters

Strategic, rigorous evidence:

IFAD's most comprehensive impact report to date - what drives deep, transformational impact

Enhanced use of IAs:

Moves beyond corporate reporting
- positions IAs as tools for
strategic learning for project
design, country strategies, and
policy dialogue

Timely insights for IFAD13 -14:

Informs smarter project delivery and measurement of indicators

Aligned with institutional priorities:

Supports RIDE, the results agenda, and IFAD13's learningoriented strategy





Scope & Purpose

Evidence

base

16 IFAD12 projects

• 34 value chain projects

from 2016-24

Innovation

Distinguishes average from

transformational impacts,

Key Finding IFAD12 investments

delivered deep,

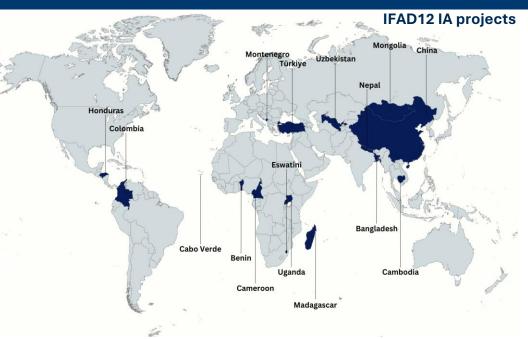
transformational

improvements to rural

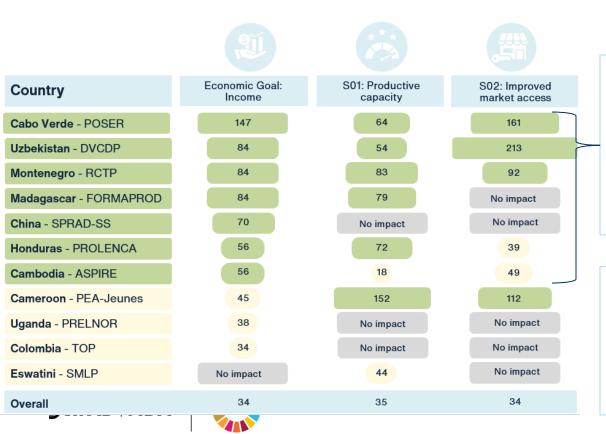
people



Sets the stage for **8 core lessons** to guide future programming



Lesson 1: Bundled interventions unlock transformational impact



7 out of 16 projects in IFAD12 delivered **transformational** income gains (>50%)

Successful bundles included:

- finance or infrastructure with
- training, inputs, extension, market linkages

Lesson: Unlocking constraints of liquidity, information and market connectivity *simultaneously* through bundled interventions proved most impactful

Lesson 2: Midstream investments are crucial in value

chain projects

Productivity



Due to nearly universal focus on production

Sales



Midstream investments in storage, processing, and market links





drove impact

Lesson: Successful VC projects convert productivity into profitability through midstream investments and downstream market integration.





*Private Sector Engagement

2-Systematic/4P Flements 3-

in-depth/full fledged 4P)

Country Montenearo - RCTP

Rwanda - PRICE Sao Tome and Principe - PAPAC

Ethiopia - PASIDP Tanzania - ASDP Papua New Guinea - PPAP

Nepal - HVAP China - SPRAD-SS

Cambodia - ASPIRE Indonesia - CCDP

Mozambique - PROSUL

Tanzania - MIVARE Eswatini - SMIP

Kyrgysztan - LMDP II Taiikistan - LPDP II

Pakistan - SPPAP - livestock

Uzbekistan - DVCDP

Madagascar - AD2M Phase II Ghana - REP III

Cameroon - PEA-Jeunes

Uganda - PRELNOR

Taiikistan - LPDP Honduras - PROLENCA

Zambia - S3P Malawi - SAPP

Argentina - PRODERI

China - GIADP

Engagement

Economic Goal: Income

69

S01: Productive

capacity

83

188

60

68

106

No impact

No impact

108

54

No impact

No impact

72

S02: Improved

market access

92

374

No impact

28

65

No impact

71

No impact

241

No impact

100

213

No impact

112

No impact

62

811

215

109

No impact No impact

125

56

No impact

No impact

16

12 74 21

No impact

No impact

Overall

Lesson 3: Achieving resilience impacts requires intentional designs and longer timeframes





Limited impact driven by multiple concurrent global shocks which intensified vulnerabilities and diluted impacts

Lesson: Resilience requires integrated, context-specific designs that combine climate adaptation, finance access, and livelihood support over time





Lesson 4: Improving food security and nutritional outcomes requires targeted approaches

Food security

8%

Promising impact, driven by 6

projects

Dietary diversity



Limited impact

Why the gap?

Most projects weren't designed with nutrition in mind.

What works?

Changing nutritional outcomes requires diet changes, food production and fortification, behavior change, food safety, water access

Lesson: Income and food production gains alone don't improve nutrition. Targeted, multisectoral strategies are essential for dietary change and nutritional impact





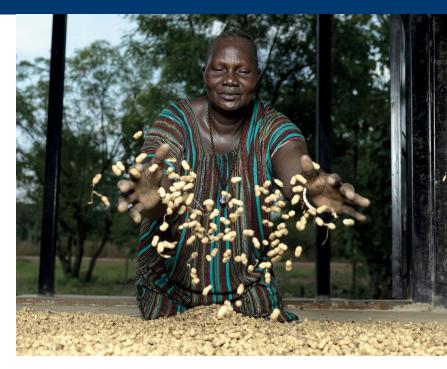


Lesson 5: Gender-specific targeting and inclusive delivery mechanisms promote empowerment

Women's 10% empowerment

Five projects with livestock, inclusive finance, and gendersensitive training proved successful

Lesson: Empowerment requires explicit gender targeting and inclusive delivery, enhancing not just income but also women's agency and decision-making







Lesson 6: Bundles to provide inputs and expand skills are impactful for youth empowerment

 Bundled support in Madagascar and Cameroon boosted youth skills, production, and income

Training

Coaching



Finance









Lesson: Go beyond production to strengthen youth capacity in value addition, entrepreneurship, and upgrading

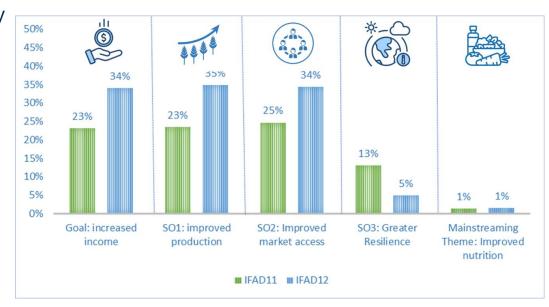






Lesson 7: Balancing depth versus breadth: understanding the trade-off between impact and outreach

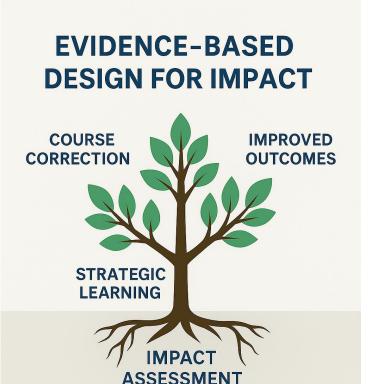
- Breadth reflects outreach-- shaped by country context, demographics, move towards holistic VC projects with fewer participants
- Depth of impact reflects magnitude and transformative quality of impact; often higher with tailored support
- Deeper impacts across income, production, and market access in IFAD12 compared to IFAD11 – but lower outreach



Lesson: Project designs must weigh trade-offs between scale and intensity to optimize cost-effectiveness and development impact



Lesson 8: IFAD13 will mark a strategic shift toward learning-oriented impact assessments



IFAD will shift toward strategic, **learning-oriented IAs**, focusing on evidence gaps

A combination of ex-post IA and IA embedded earlier in the project cycle → real-time insights

Forward-looking approach → adaptive management, course correction, and institutional learning

Thank you!

