



Investing in rural people

Evaluation Committee

133rd Session Reconvened
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Technical reference note Background sources and references for the reconvened 133rd Session of the EC

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Action: The Evaluation Committee is invited to take note of the information provided in the present document.

Technical questions:

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Technical reference note

Background sources and references for the reconvened 133rd Session of the EC

1. With a view to supporting the Evaluation Committee in its consideration of the upcoming agenda item "Appointment of the IOE Director (process, timeline, next steps)", the Office of the Secretary has collated for the Committee's ready reference some relevant institutional history and policy sources..
2. In summary, following the September 2019 review of the previous External Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation Function by the Evaluation Committee and the Executive Board, Management and IOE were requested to prepare **an action plan** addressing the report's recommendations. Among the recommendations was that of revising the IFAD Evaluation Policy. This was undertaken with, at the Board's request, the input of the incoming IOE Director. During the policy review process, and specifically with respect to **Annex I** on the Detailed procedures to select, appoint and dismiss the Director, IOE, the Evaluation Committee suggested benchmarking with other IFIs to ascertain whether revision was required. The **benchmarking exercise** conducted by IOE confirmed that the IFAD framework was among the most detailed across comparator institutions. Based on the benchmarking results, the Evaluation Committee concluded that the provisions of Annex I were robust and well detailed. **The Committee found that no additional revisions were required** and endorsed submission of the annex for approval by the Executive Board. **Annex I was subsequently approved by the Executive Board** in December 2021, forming an integral part of the current Evaluation Policy.
3. A more detailed timeline, with reference documents is provided below:

September 2019: Final Draft Report of the External Peer Review of the Evaluation Function at IFAD ([EB 2019/127/R.13](#)) was reviewed by both the Evaluation Committee ([EB 2019/127/R.9](#)) and by the Executive Board. The minutes of the Executive Board record, inter alia, that "The Executive Board further requested Management and IOE to present a draft action plan considering all the recommendations contained in the report for review at the next Evaluation Committee session on 29 October. The action plan would then be submitted to the Board for review in December 2019."

December 2019: The Action Plan for Follow-up on the External Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation Function, reviewed by the EB, revised Evaluation Policy foreseen for approval in September 2020. EB asked that the roadmap and timeline be revised "to allow for input by the new IOE Director" in the revised Evaluation Policy. ([EB2019/128/R.11](#) and [EB128 minutes](#))

April 2020: Action Plan for Follow-up on the External Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation Function, revised version submitted for the EB's information. Revised Evaluation Policy foreseen for submission in December 2020. ([EB 2020/129/INF.6](#))

Between April 2020 and April 2021, the Evaluation Committee reviewed the revised Evaluation Policy, including at a special session held in January 2021, the minutes of which record that the Evaluation Committee, in its review of the Draft Revised Evaluation Policy recommended that "A benchmarking exercise with other international financial institutions and United Nations agencies was suggested to support a possible future revision of annex I on the selection process for the Director, IOE." ([EB 2021/132/R.30](#))

April 2021: Revised IFAD Evaluation Policy the EB reviewed and approved the policy and “tasked the Evaluation Committee to further review annex I of the revised IFAD Evaluation Policy on the basis of a benchmarking exercise to be conducted by IOE with other IFIs and members of the Evaluation Cooperation Group of Multilateral Development Banks. The revised annex would be submitted for consideration to a future session of the Executive Board, subsequent to which it would form an integral part of the policy.” (See [EB132 minutes](#))

Between June and December 2021 The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD presented the results of the benchmarking exercise requested by the Evaluation Committee and endorsed by the Executive Board:

- First as a [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the 113th session of the Evaluation Committee. The results of the Committee’s review are recorded in the minutes of the session as follows:

“29. As requested by the Executive Board at its 132nd session in April 2021, IOE had reviewed the practices of independent evaluation offices in other international financial institutions (IFIs) on the selection and appointment of the head of the evaluation function, compared to those of IFAD. The benchmarking exercise confirmed that the IFAD Evaluation Policy is the most detailed in this sense and that, in all the organizations surveyed, the evaluation director is appointed by the Executive Board.

30. On the differences between IFAD and other IFIs regarding the composition of the selection panel, IOE explained that in other IFIs the panel includes selected members of the Evaluation Committee. Moreover, gender balance in the selection panel is not a formal requirement in any other IFI, and is not explicitly requested in any evaluation policy examined. On the role of the president, in all other IFIs the president has a consultative role regarding the appointment of the head of evaluation. At IFAD, the revised IFAD Evaluation Policy specifies that the President is consulted twice, once by the chair of the selection panel and then by the Executive Board at the time of the meeting for the formal appointment.

31. Committee members concurred that the process for the selection and appointment of the Director, IOE at IFAD, as provided in annex I of the revised IFAD Evaluation Policy, was very robust and well detailed. Members requested IOE to share their presentation with the Committee, and agreed to include the discussion on annex I in the agenda for the next session of the Evaluation Committee, with a view to formalizing and concluding the discussion on the annex. Once finalized, the revised annex would be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration and, if approved, would form an integral part of the IFAD Evaluation Policy.”

- and subsequently as a document to the 114th and 115th sessions ([EC 2021/114/W.P.9](#) and [EC 2021/115/W.P.8](#)) in September and October 2021. The minutes of both sessions may be viewed at [EC 2021/114](#) and [EC 2021/115](#). In short and in conclusion, the Evaluation Committee found that based on the results of the benchmarking exercise, “no additional revisions were required, and endorsed the submission of the annex to the 134th session of the Executive Board for approval.” ([EB 2021/134/R.35](#)).

December 2021: Annex I of the revised IFAD Evaluation Policy: the EB approved through vote by correspondence ([EB134 minutes](#)).

For ease of reference, links to the evaluation policies/principles of IFIs, including those surveyed in 2021, are provided here below:

- African Development Bank Group – [Independent Evaluation Policy](#)
- Asian Development Bank – [Evaluation Principles](#)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) - [Evaluation Policy](#)
- Inter-American Development Bank Group – [Evaluation Policy Framework](#)
- International Monetary Fund – Evaluation [Policy](#) of the Independent Evaluation Office
- World Bank Group – [Evaluation Principles](#)