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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **Draft Report of the Chairperson on the country visit to Mozambique for consideration by the Evaluation Committee**

### **Note to Evaluation Committee members**

#### Focal points:

#### Technical questions:

**Luciano Lavizzari**  
Director, Office of Evaluation  
telephone: +39 06 5459 2274  
e-mail: [l.lavizzari@ifad.org](mailto:l.lavizzari@ifad.org)

#### Dispatch of documentation:

**Deirdre McGrenra**  
Governing Bodies Officer  
telephone: +39 06 5459 2374  
e-mail: [d.mcgrenra@ifad.org](mailto:d.mcgrenra@ifad.org)

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For: **Information**

## Draft Report of the Chairperson on the country visit to Mozambique

1. **Background and objectives.** In line with its terms of reference, the Evaluation Committee undertook its annual country visit to Mozambique from 24 to 28 May 2010. All members apart from France and Ireland took part in the visit<sup>1</sup>. IFAD was represented by the Director of the IFAD Office of Evaluation (IOE), the Director of the Eastern and Southern Africa Division (ESA), the Senior Portfolio Manager representing the Associate Vice President of the Programme Management Department, the Mozambique Country Programme Manager and other staff. The Ambassador of Mozambique to Italy accompanied the Committee throughout the duration of its visit to the country.
2. The overall objective<sup>2</sup> of the country visits is to gain knowledge and experience of IFAD's evaluation work and operations in the field, thereby enabling the Evaluation Committee to provide more informed guidance on evaluation matters to the Executive Board, Management and IOE, and enhance members' competence in this particular area.
3. **Programme of the annual visit.** The Committee participated in the national round-table workshop for the Mozambique country programme evaluation (CPE) on 24-25 May held in Maputo. The Committee also held main bi-lateral meetings in Maputo with: (i) high level representatives of the Government of Mozambique, including the Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Agriculture, Vice Minister of Finance, and the Governor of the central Bank of Mozambique; (ii) the United Nations country team; and (iii) selected representatives from the National Agriculture Development Programme (PROAGRI<sup>3</sup>) donor working group.
4. Thereafter, the Committee travelled to Sofala Province to visit three IFAD-funded projects including the Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project, the Rural Financial Support Programme and the National Programme for Agricultural Extension.
5. **CPE national round-table workshop.** The event was organized by the Government of Mozambique and IOE, with the collaboration of ESA. The Government took the lead in organizing the event, which is a manifestation of the importance attributed to its partnership with IFAD. More than one hundred persons took part in the event, including government officials, project directors, NGOs and civil society representatives, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, representatives from the private sector, Evaluation Committee members, IFAD management and staff, and others. The workshop was inaugurated by the Mozambique Minister of Fisheries, and the Governor of the Central Bank of Mozambique delivered the closing statement of the event. The agenda of the workshop may be seen in Annex I of this report.
6. An Issues Paper was prepared by IOE in collaboration with the Government and ESA as background for the workshop discussions, which was circulated together with the main CPE report ahead of the event. The Issues Paper was organized around three themes: (i) Engaging private and civil society organizations in IFAD-supported programmes in Mozambique; (ii) Targeting aspects in future interventions in Mozambique; and (iii) Reflection on existing areas of intervention of IFAD in Mozambique – relevance and options for improvement. The Issues Paper effectively captured the main learning elements of the CPE and raised a number of pertinent points to be considered in the development of the new Mozambique

<sup>1</sup> The member from Netherlands was only able to take part in the national roundtable in Maputo on 24-25 May and not in the field visit to IFAD-funded projects from 26-28 May.

<sup>2</sup> As per the Evaluation Committee Terms of Reference for the 2010 Country Visit to Mozambique.

<sup>3</sup> ProAgri seeks to bring together over 70 donor-funded projects to deliver agricultural services to Mozambican farmers.

- country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP), which will be presented by the IFAD management to the Board for consideration in the near future.
7. The Committee found the workshop to be well organized, with adequate time and space for presentations and discussions in both plenary sessions and working groups. It provided a useful forum for the validation of the CPE's findings and discussion of key issues and lessons learned. It also served to collect valuable inputs for the CPE's Agreement at Completion point, as well as country context issues that would be useful for the preparation of the forthcoming COSOP. In fact, the CPE Agreement at Completion Point was signed at the end of the workshop in Maputo by the Government of Mozambique. The Committee was satisfied with the inclusive nature of the workshop, which brought together IFAD's varied clientele.
  8. In the closing session of the workshop, the Chairman of the Evaluation Committee offered his reflections on the IFAD-Government partnership in Mozambique. Among other issues, the Chairman underlined a number of issues that merit attention in the development of the new COSOP. These include the importance of promoting innovation in agriculture technology and their scaling up for wider impact on rural poverty; the need for achieving greater gender equality and women's empowerment in Mozambique; exploring opportunities for further strengthening partnership and synergies with the African Development Bank; the importance of promoting decentralization for bringing decision-making, resource allocation and implementation closer to the grassroots level; as well as findings ways and means to address the challenges posed by climate change to small farmers and fisher-folk.
  9. **Field visit.** The field visit to Sofala province was organized by the Government of Mozambique (under the overall aegis of the Ministry of Planning and Development) and ESA. It provided members with a good opportunity to exchange views and interact with different stakeholders at the project level including provincial authorities, implementing partners, beneficiaries and project staff. Before traveling to Sofala, ESA provided the Committee with an overview of the projects included in the field visit and the main activities undertaken.
  10. From the field visit, it was evident that IFAD is a respected partner that has a valuable role to play in rural poverty reduction in the country. Meeting with groups of women and fishing communities revealed that IFAD-funded projects are making an important contribution to promoting better incomes and livelihoods. However, the challenges of working in remote areas with a relatively low population density, weak infrastructure and limited access to markets are important constraints that need greater attention moving forward.
  11. The field visit gave the Committee a further opportunity to appreciate the coverage, both in terms of the number of projects and geographic area, of the IFAD-funded portfolio in Mozambique. While the Committee recognised the good and hard work of the national country officer based in Mozambique, it was felt that the Mozambique country staff are stretched as compared to the diversity of functions they are required to discharge. It was also evident from the field visit and interactions with various stakeholders that the country presence will need to be further strengthened if IFAD is to play a more effective role in combating rural poverty in the country. A stronger and more permanent country presence would be commensurate with the size and importance of the Mozambique portfolio, and enable IFAD to more actively participate in policy dialogue processes, knowledge management and partnership building activities.
  12. There were aspects related to the logistics of the field visit to Sofala that created some concern to members, including the long distances of travel that did not allow sufficient time for interactions with communities and visits to project sites.
  13. In closing, the Evaluation Committee would like to convey its deepest appreciation for the arrangements made and attention accorded to all participants during the

country visit by the Government of Mozambique during the CPE workshop and subsequently during the field visit to Sofala. The discussions with the various stakeholders – including beneficiaries, project officials, partner organizations and government representatives – were informative and useful.



**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE**  
**MINISTÉRIO DA PLANIFICAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO**  
**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**  
**IFAD Country Programme Evaluation National Roundtable Workshop**

Date	Hour	Activity	Presenter
<b>Day 1</b> <b>24.05.10</b>	10:00	Welcome remarks	Master of Ceremony
	10:05	Statement	Mr Luciano Lavizzari, Director, Office of Evaluation, IFAD
	10:15	Statement	Mr Shyam Khadka, Senior Portfolio Manager, Programme Management Department, IFAD (to deliver a statement on behalf of Mr Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice-President, Programmes, IFAD)
	10:25	Inaugural workshop address	Mr Victor Borges, Minister of Fisheries, Government of Mozambique
	10:35	Presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the Mozambique Country Programme Evaluation (CPE)	Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Senior Evaluation Officer (on behalf of Mr Paul Andre Rochon, Senior Evaluation Officer) and Mr Jakob Grosen, Mozambique CPE consultants' team leader, IFAD
	11:05	Plenary discussions	Moderated by Mr Salim Valá, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development, Government of Mozambique
	12:15	Organization of the three working groups	Mr Ashwani Muthoo
	12:30	Lunch	
	14:00	Participants break up into working groups	Working group 1: Engaging private and civil society organizations in IFAD-supported programmes in Mozambique Working group 2: Targeting aspects in future interventions in Mozambique Working group 3: Reflection on existing areas of intervention of IFAD in Mozambique – relevance and options for improvement
	15:30	Coffee break	
	15:45	Working groups reconvene for further discussions	
	17:00	Preparation of working group presentations	The chairperson and rapporteur of each working group will prepare a PowerPoint presentation with the support of IFAD representatives
	17:00	Closure	

Date	Hour	Activity	Presenter
<b>Day 2 25.05.10</b>	10:00	Opening remarks	Mr Salim Valá
	10:05	Reflection on the previous day's proceedings	Mr Ides de Willebois, Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Division, IFAD
	10:15	Presentations by the three working groups	Working group 1: Engaging private and civil society organizations in IFAD-supported programmes in Mozambique Working group 2: Targeting aspects in future interventions in Mozambique Working group 3: Reflection on existing areas of intervention of IFAD in Mozambique – relevance and options for improvement
	11:00	Plenary discussions on the presentations by the three working groups	Moderated by Mr Salim Valá
	12:00	Next steps in the finalization of the Mozambique CPE process	Mr Ashwani Muthoo
	12:15	Some reflections on the future direction of the new Mozambique country strategy opportunities programme	Mr Alessandro Marini, IFAD Country Programme Manager for Mozambique
	12:30	Main conclusions of the workshop	Mr Salim Valá
	12:45	Closing statements	Dr Abdel Aziz Mohamed Hosni, Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee of IFAD's Executive Board Governor of the Bank of Mozambique on behalf of the Government of Mozambique
	13:00	Lunch	