



# Evaluation synthesis on IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples

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# Key background information

- 370 million indigenous peoples (IPs) worldwide according to the UN
- IPs 5% of the world's population, but 15% of the world's poor
- IFAD-financed investment projects 2004-2013
  - Between 20 and 40% of projects approved in a year with IPs among expected beneficiaries
  - 14% of total investment over 10 years estimated to be in support of IPs (US\$932 million)

# About this evaluation synthesis

- Key guiding questions relating to:
  - Targeting and engaging with IPs
  - Participation of IPs in strategy development and projects
  - Empowerment of IPs
  - Contribution to policy engagement and advocacy on IPs issues
- Main building blocks
  - Review of existing evaluations (8 CPEs, 19 project evaluations, mainly in LAC and APR, other evaluation products)
  - Review of COSOPs (old/new in 14 countries) and project designs to observe recent trends
  - Review of IFAD's activities at global/regional levels

# Main findings

- IFAD's policy on indigenous peoples (2009): considered to be in line with international standards (UNDRIP)
- The principles of engagement in the policy: in line with other IFAD corporate policies and strategies
- Geographical targeting – common first step in most projects
- Attention to IPs issues in COSOPs and recent project design: improvement observed but not consistent
- Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF): a flagship programme but remained small and challenge with linkages with IFAD's country programmes

# Main strengths

- Long-standing and accumulated experience in engaging with IPs
- Some investment projects: notable achievements in particular relating to empowerment, institutions and policies
- IPAF → partnerships and trust with IPs organization and their empowerment
- Substantial contribution to international processes and advocacy
- Indigenous Peoples' Forum: a unique and pioneer mechanism to institutionalize dialogue with IPs
- Inter-linkages between its operations and activities at different levels: at field level, international level, networks and partnerships

# Main areas for improvement

- Insufficient attention to culture and identifies of IPs for tailored approach and strategy
- Weakness in monitoring with disaggregated data and specific indicators
- Lack of clarity on how to operationalize “free, prior and informed consent” (FPIC) = IPs participation throughout project cycle
- Limited understanding of IPs’ issues among some staff

# Conclusions

- Size and nature of projects and IFAD mandate → enabled proactive approach to supporting IPs
- IFAD is in a unique position to support indigenous peoples' social and economic empowerment
- IFAD perceived as a “partner” and “pioneer” in working with IPs
- Building on experience and advantage, room for strengthening consistent IPs policy implementation, esp. at operational level

# Recommendations

- Revisit the main objectives and strategies of IPAF
- Pay greater attention to key project design elements and provide adequate implementation support
- Provide guidance on how FPIC can be best operationalized
- Enhance staff understanding of IPs' issues
- Strengthen knowledge management, taking advantage of substantial experience