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Investing in rural people

IFAD Management response to the impact evaluation of the Mozambique Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project

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For: Review

IFAD Management response to the impact evaluation of the Mozambique Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project

1. Management welcomes the conclusion of the impact evaluation of the Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project (SBAFP) that the project “has been an important milestone in the development of the artisanal fishery sector due to its integrated livelihood approach, which delivered tangible results beyond fishery development in remote fishing areas”.
2. The project has been highly appreciated by fishing communities and government authorities alike due to its unique ability to respond to the aspirations of the targeted population in relation to both social and economic aspects of development. The fact that IFAD was able to leverage additional resources and involve other development partners in support for the artisanal fisheries sector is commendable.
3. Management believes that the current impact evaluations carried out by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) are a hybrid between impact evaluations and project performance evaluations, as the attention to assessing impact is considerably diluted by the assessment of other criteria. Moreover, Management’s early concerns with regard to scope and limitations of the data collection for this particular impact evaluation were not fully addressed, therefore the results of the evaluation are not as insightful as expected. Given that Management itself is increasingly devoting attention to impact assessments – by conducting 30 such assessments in a replenishment period – it believes that IOE should consider complementing Management’s efforts by better aligning IOE impact evaluations with impact assessments undertaken by IFAD Management and other development organizations.

Recommendations

4. Management agrees with the recommendations and will ensure that they are acted upon during the implementation of the ongoing IFAD-financed Artisanal Fisheries Promotion Project (ProPESCA) as recommended. In this regard, Management would like to acknowledge the following:
 - (a) **Recommendation 1: IFAD should work in close partnership with the Government of Mozambique and the World Bank in order to ensure that artisanal fishers’ access to markets and finance are duly considered in the revised sectoral policy framework.**
Agreed. IFAD will coordinate with the World Bank and other partners to support the fisheries sector, in particular the renewal of the Strategic Plan for the Artisanal Fisheries Sector (PESPA) and the development of other policies/strategies of the new Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP), and to strengthen the new National Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (IDEPA). Further improving artisanal fishers’ access to formal financial institutions and markets is currently being addressed under ProPESCA.
 - (b) **Recommendation 2: Wider private-sector engagement is needed.**
Agreed. The involvement of private-sector actors in artisanal fisheries in the project areas is still in its infancy. The provision of services – ranging from fishing inputs to financial services – is currently undertaken through the ongoing ProPESCA and Project for Promotion of Small-scale Aquaculture (PROAQUA), given the still limited number of private-sector actors that could potentially get involved. The Government is fully committed to ensuring more private-sector engagement in the fisheries sector. In this context, it has

requested IFAD's support. In response, IFAD has assured the Government of its commitment to MIMAIP's private-sector engagement strategy.

- (c) **Recommendation 3: Project design should include due attention to gender mainstreaming, and specific activities should be carried out to empower women and ensure that they are more prominently involved in productive activities.**

Agreed. The projects designed after SBAPP, such as ProPESCA and the Pro-poor Value Chain Development in the Maputo and Limpopo Corridors (PROSUL), have already mainstreamed gender into their value chain methodology. For instance, ProPESCA has a strategy for gender mainstreaming in the fisheries value chain. It is implementing concrete gender-sensitive activities aimed at increasing women's capacity to fish, process and add value to fisheries products and improve their access to financial services and products, including the Fund for the Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs (FPME) and saving and credit groups. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems are set up to report sex-disaggregated data and progress on gender-related outputs and outcomes.

- (d) **Recommendation 4: M&E needs to be enhanced for promoting greater development effectiveness.**

Agreed. M&E has been weak throughout the country programme, not only in this project. IFAD is taking a portfolio-wide approach to improving logical frameworks, M&E systems and results-reporting. In this regard, the Mozambique IFAD Country Office is working closely with all the projects to provide intensified implementation support on M&E. The corporate-wide initiative on certifying project M&E staff (through the Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results [CLEAR Initiative]) is also expected to contribute to strengthening performance in this area.