



# REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES COUNTRY STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME EVALUATION

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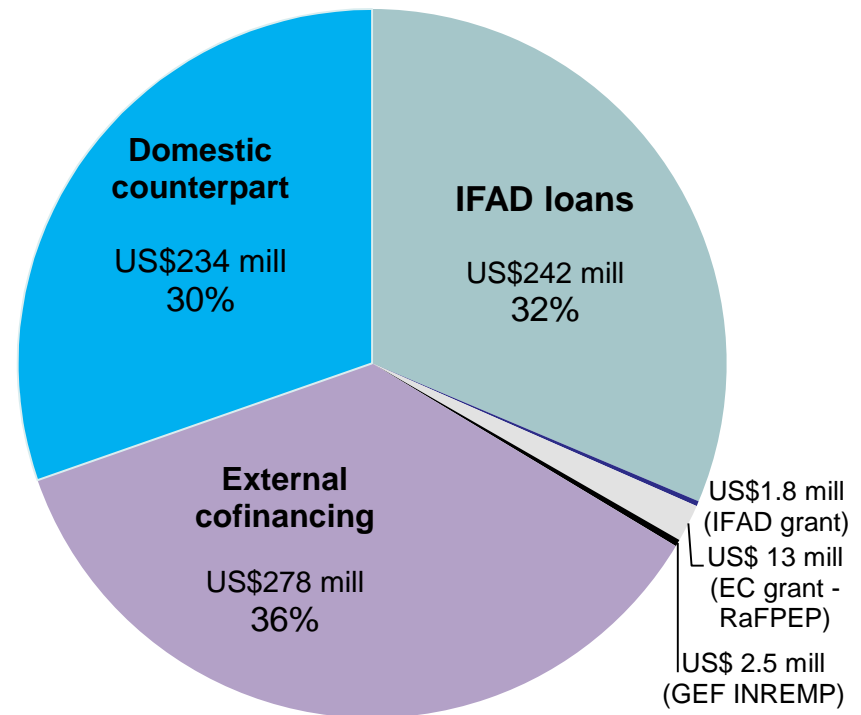
## Main evaluation findings and recommendations

Evaluation Committee 96<sup>th</sup> session, 23 March 2017

# IFAD in the Philippines: Overview

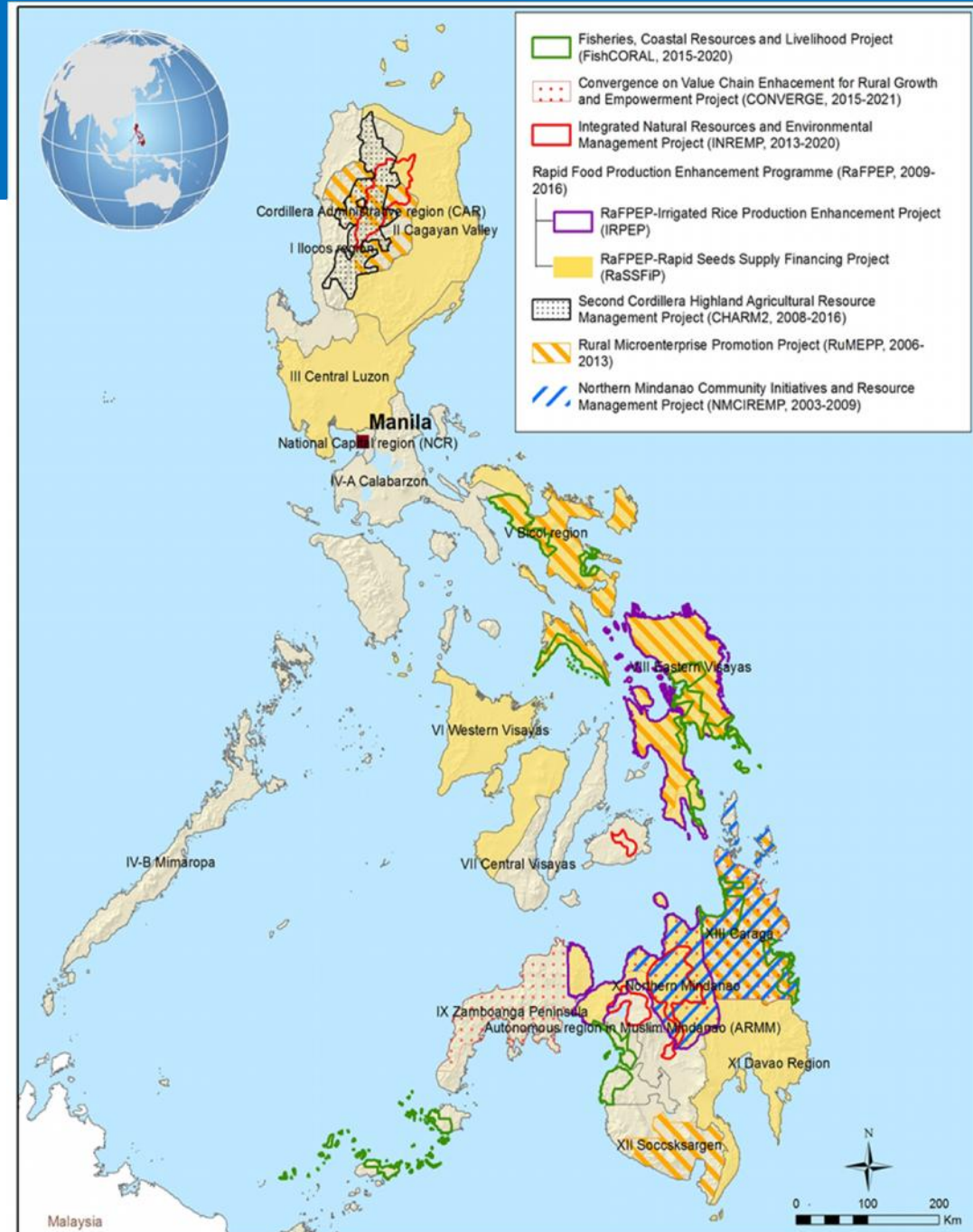
- Since 1978, 15 loans
- COSOPs 1999 & 2009
- Country presence since 2009
- Main areas of operations: community development, microenterprise, microfinance, NRM, agri-business development, rural infrastructure, irrigation

Total portfolio cost: US\$772 million



# CSPE scope

- Lending portfolio (effective 2003-) for 7 projects, IFAD financing of US\$154 mill
- Non-lending activities: policy dialogue, knowledge management, partnership building, grants
- Performance of IFAD and the Government



## Main evaluation findings - highlights

# Lending portfolio – strengths

- **Gender equality and women's empowerment:** strong across portfolio
- Improved agric. production through **communal irrigation systems** combined with strengthening of irrigators' associations
- **Positive influence on institutions and policies**, e.g.
  - Support to microenterprise development
  - Strengthening participatory development processes
  - Enhanced representation of indigenous peoples in local governance
- Good prospect for **sustainability of benefits**
  - Rural infrastructure: commitment and ownership (communities and local government units), fees collection
  - Conducive institutional and policy framework



## Main evaluation findings - highlights

### Lending portfolio – challenges and issues

- Considerable time lags from design to approval, and delays in initial years of implementation (e.g. 2 pipeline projects in 2009 COSOP approved in 2015)
- Lack of clarity in the target group in some cases (e.g. land tenure status of communal irrigation scheme farmers)
- Land titling for indigenous peoples for ancestral domains: successes in earlier project, but challenges in later project
- Post-emergency support with agricultural inputs distribution (2008 food crisis & typhoon Haiyan) - rapid project processing but implementation delays
- M&E – lack of reliable data on outcomes/impact hampering evidence-based analysis

# Main evaluation findings - highlights

## Non-lending activities

### Strengths

- KM - integral part of the country programme
- KM platforms (e.g. annual review, Gender Network) effective for experience sharing and cross fertilization
- Good linkages between the loan- and grant-financed projects
- Good extensive partnerships with government agencies, civil society organizations, research organizations

### Weak areas / challenges

- Missing element in good KM performance: a way of channeling knowledge to inform policy discussions
- Original COSOP objectives for policy dialogue – overambitious
- Room for strengthening partnerships with international development agencies and the private sector

# Synthesis and conclusions

- Mixed story of successful practices and results, and delays in project processing and portfolio progress
- Good performance and practices mainly *across* and *between* projects, e.g. KM, loan-grant linkage, contribution to “convergence”
- Wide geographical coverage, a multitude of activities, low intensity of investment and weak M&E at project level - present challenges in demonstrating rural poverty impact and generating lessons
- Securing value added beyond financing of investment projects – becoming even more relevant for MICs such as the Philippines

# Recommendations

1. Carefully reflect on IFAD's comparative advantage in new country strategy, including opportunities for non-financing support
2. Enhance diagnostic analysis of the potential target group and targeting
3. Strengthen leverage for policy engagement by improving the quality of knowledge and evidence
4. Strengthen partnerships with other development partners

