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**Republic of Mozambique**

**Country strategic opportunities programme  
2023–2027**

**Addendum**

**Management's response to Member States' comments**

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Comments from Switzerland	Management response
<p>Thank you for the possibility to send an online review, which was written by our Embassy in Mozambique.</p> <p>For many years, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been supporting economic development initiatives and strengthening food systems adopting the Market System Development Approach (MSD) and Value Chain Development approaches, especially in northern part of Mozambique. We commend the strategy and encourage IFAD to pursue its implementation in Mozambique.</p> <p>While the document does emphasize the vulnerability of women (and youth and persons with disabilities), the text is gender neutral – including the objectives. The document mentions both mainstreaming and more direct interventions for gender transformation (using GALs), it would be useful to see those commitments reflected in the objectives and results framework. There is also nothing mentioned with respect to gender and programme management.</p>	<p>Thank you for highlighting the importance of reflecting commitments to gender transformation in the Mozambique country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) objectives and results framework. It is indeed crucial that we ensure gender considerations are clearly integrated into our COSOP and of course the whole country programme.</p> <p>Please note that the COSOP's commitment to addressing gender disparities encompasses the vulnerability of women, youth and persons with disabilities under the second strategic objective, which emphasizes strengthening nutrition-sensitive value chains and improving access to financial services, with a specific emphasis on these marginalized groups. The COSOP commitment to addressing gender disparities is further emphasized by the inclusion of indicators that are disaggregated by gender and age. This is particularly aimed at reflecting IFAD's unwavering commitment to monitoring progress and outcomes for all members of rural communities, including women, men and youth.</p> <p>For the projects still to initiate during the COSOP implementation (the Artisanal Fisheries Resilience Development Project [PROPEIXE], currently under design, and eventually others), inclusion of the following provisions in project design reports and project implementation manuals will be mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Gender balance will be encouraged in all project management units;</li> <li>(ii) Sexual exploitation and abuse prevention measures will be included in the terms of reference of project coordinators, and will be implemented and respected in programme management and implementation;</li> <li>(iii) Gender sensitivity and work life balance will be respected in programme management; and</li> <li>(iv) For some positions, programmes may encourage and privilege applications from competent women or men (especially in male or female dominated fields).</li> </ul>
<p>IFAD's country presence in terms of staff is limited taking into account the size of the portfolio and investments. We wonder whether there would be a way to make the</p>	<p>The IFAD Country Office (ICO) is also keen to strengthen the collaboration with partners, as well as improve efficiency in all implemented activities. To that end, the ICO is considering increased engagement of United Nations volunteers and interns, as well as junior professional officers.</p>

<b>Comments from Switzerland</b>	<b>Management response</b>
<p>collaboration more efficient, maybe by increasing the staff on site.</p> <p>SDC and IFAD share an interest in the topic and both have a focus on youth, women and inclusion. We would welcome opportunities to share experiences and develop synergies among our programmes.</p>	<p>SDC is an important partner for IFAD and further collaboration will be explored in leveraging financial resources and in knowledge generation and innovation.</p> <p>For the IFAD-financed non-sovereign operation (Futuro Mcb) in Nampula, SDC is an important partner and shareholder.</p> <p>In addition, following a request from the Swiss Embassy in Mozambique, the IFAD-funded project Inclusive Agrifood Value Chain Development Programme (PROCAVA) was engaged to host Swiss students under the Bern University of Applied Sciences six-month internship for students in international agriculture.</p> <p>Further collaboration could be explored in mainstreamed and other areas.</p>