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**Republic of Ghana**  
**Country strategic opportunities programme**  
**2025–2030**  
**Management’s response to Member States’ comments**

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**Technical questions:**

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Comments by the United Kingdom	Management's response
<p>The two strategic objectives <b>(SO)</b> make sense and align well with needs identified by FCDO Ghana. Particularly the focus on providing <b>affordable</b> finance, which is a far more salient problem in Ghana than other countries in the region (policy rate is still 25%, and has been as high as 30% in recent years)</p> <p><b>SO1 Enhance access to finance</b> for high-growth, climate-resilient, market-oriented value chains and financially viable MSMEs that are pro-poor and can drive rural growth.</p> <p><b>SO2 Enhance public and private investments</b> in rural productive infrastructure to strengthen climate resilience and market integration of rural livelihoods.</p> <p>Geographic targeting is sensible, focusing primarily on the north and middle of the country, and inclusion of the Eastern Region (southern zone) is fully supported.</p>	<p>Noted, with thanks.</p>
<p>Some of the targets for policy reform rely on the government being in a position to provide farmers with financial incentive, I suspect these will be areas IFAD will struggle to make progress, given the GOG current fiscal position, but this may change over the lifespan of the COSOP.</p>	<p>Indeed, this is expected to be a challenge, and IFAD intends to address this with a long-term view, in the knowledge that the policy process will likely take time – i.e. the entire duration of the country strategic and opportunities programme (COSOP). Long-term policy engagement, in partnership with other stakeholders, is seen as a viable approach.</p>

Comments by the United Kingdom	Management's response
<b>Specific observations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document would benefit from a brief description of what <b>AAFORD</b> and <b>PROSPER</b> are towards the start, as they are both referenced throughout the document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government system for capturing information on all farmers; and will include weather and market information</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>You may wish to refer to the <a href="#">IFAD country page</a> for both the design and the supervision reports of the Affordable Agricultural Financing for Resilient Rural Development (AAFORD) project and the Promoting Rural Opportunities, Sustainable Profits and Environmental Resilience (PROSPER) project, which are publicly disclosed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Page 4 – Financially Sustainable Rural Transformation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis notes a <b>43% increase in government expenditure on agriculture (2019–2023)</b> as a success of previous strategy</li> <li>Suggest clarifying how much of this increase was driven by rising fertiliser prices in that time period, which given GOG large subsidy programme at the time would have been a major cost drive.</li> <li>Request examples of <b>non-input subsidy expenditures</b> that IFAD can cite as successes from the last COSOP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Noted. Below, see explanations for the increase and examples of <b>non-input subsidy expenditures</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Explanations.</b> A few factors led to this increase – government expenditure (also IFAD financing) on input subsidies (seeds and fertilizers); and government responses to two major events – a drought in the northern region and floods in the eastern region during the same period.</li> <li><b>Examples non-input expenditures.</b> The development of pro-poor institutions and policies in the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) sector (i.e. the Ghana Enterprises Agency, business resource centres, the One District One Factory [1D1F] initiative and MSMEs) through the Rural Enterprise Programme, which includes cofinancing with the African Development Bank for infrastructure development – including rural roads, boreholes – and market-enhancing infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Page 4 – Private Sector Engagement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentions <b>One District One Factory (1D1F)</b> initiative as a success criteria</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>For several reasons, 1D1F interventions were initially not designed in a manner that was financially and operationally sustainable. This was amended in early 2023, when private sector participation was actively pursued. Subsequent lessons that have emerged from this investment are the importance of <b>shifting to demand-driven, client-centric business development services; structured</b></p>

Comments by the United Kingdom	Management's response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact is unclear, anecdotal evidence suggests limited success of 1D1F. Recommend elaborating on <b>lessons learned and what specifically was successful with 1D1F</b>, as these are relevant for ongoing initiatives like GROW 24 and Feed Industry</li> </ul>	<p><b>identification and modular training to improve enterprise outcomes; and early engagement with the private sector for sustainable enterprise promotion.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Page 5 – Nutrition-sensitive approach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Nutrition is being explored as a multidimensional aspect, including targeted interventions such as addressing anaemia in young women.</i> There is a Reference to this strategy tackling anaemia. But no more detail on tackling anaemia is provided throughout. The results framework (APPENDIX I) will also use minimum dietary diversity (MDDW) to assess enhanced nutrition, which is fine, but would not be best approach if you were targeting anaemia specifically.</li> <li>Suggest either <b>delete the sentence</b> or <b>expand with concrete interventions/monitoring</b> throughout the document.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>This has been addressed within project implementation. The intervention on anaemia targets young women in six regions in the north of the country. This has entailed establishment of nutrition groups involving 4,622 households, providing targeted nutrition training and establishment of kitchen gardens, including starter kits and poultry packages, which were distributed to the most vulnerable households. Community gardens have also been established. In PROSPER, we will continue to enhance nutrition through the selected value chains.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Page 11 – Potential Areas:</b></li> <li>• Request more detail on inclusion of <b>weather and market information systems and linkages</b>. Will IFAD be using <a href="#">GHAAP</a> and will IFAD be working with the World Bank on this who are already in this area?</li> </ul>	<p>A combined approach will be followed, using current information available with the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) and linking to the World Bank-financed Ghana Agriculture and Agribusiness Platform (GHAAP), which will be mainstreamed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Page 11 – Typo:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First footnote should read <b>2018</b>, not <b>2028</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Noted. The footnote will be amended.</p>