
Third update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative

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Useful references: Protecting Rural Livelihoods and Resilience - IFAD's Response to the Impacts of the War in Ukraine: A Crisis Response Initiative (CRI) ([EB 2022/135/R.39](#)); Update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative ([EB 2023/OR/3](#)), Second update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative ([EB 2024/OR/12](#))

Action: The Executive Board is invited to review the third update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative.

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Third update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative

I. Overview of the initiative

1. The Crisis Response Initiative (CRI) was launched in April 2022 to protect productive rural livelihoods and promote their resilience in a global crisis caused by the war in Ukraine and other factors that affected food, agricultural inputs, fuel markets and prices. The initiative was designed to leverage and complement IFAD's ongoing programme of work, enabling small-scale producers to benefit from emerging local market opportunities while safeguarding development gains already made.
2. In line with its design, the CRI channelled grant funding through four pillars: (i) ensuring small-scale farmers, fishers and livestock producers have affordable access to inputs such as breeding stock, seeds, fodder, fuel, fertilizer and technology; (ii) improving food systems and production by investing in small-scale infrastructure to improve productive capacity and reduce post-harvest losses; (iii) supporting access to finance; and (iv) facilitating access to markets and market-related information.
3. Countries were prioritized based on their needs and vulnerabilities, as outlined in document [EB 2022/135/R.39](#). Ultimately, 16 countries were included in the initiative. IFAD allocated US\$72,863,775 of the overall budget of US\$80,331,548 to 12 IFAD loan programmes and 4 stand-alone projects implemented by third-party partners. The initiative completed in December 2024, with financial closure in June 2025. In agreement with the donors, the remaining funding will be reallocated to a stand-alone project in Afghanistan scheduled to begin in January 2026.
4. By completion, the CRI reached a total of **583,886 rural households**, corresponding to around **3.5 million household members** across 16 countries, achieving tangible results across the four pillars.
5. IFAD has committed to reporting annually to donors and the Executive Board on the CRI. The first update was submitted in August 2023 ([EB 2023/OR/3](#)) and the second in October 2024 ([EB 2024/OR/12](#)). This third update for the Executive Board provides an overview of CRI completion. A final update will be submitted after full financial closure of the initiative and will include information on the stand-alone project in Afghanistan.

II. Implementation summary of the Crisis Response Initiative

A. Resource mobilization

6. In late summer 2022, Ireland contributed EUR 1 million and the Kingdom of the Netherlands EUR 10 million. Towards the end of 2022, Germany contributed EUR 30 million and the United States US\$10 million. In March 2023, Norway notified IFAD of its intention to cofinance ongoing projects under the CRI. On 22 June 2023, an additional contribution agreement was signed with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation for NOK 300 million.

Table 1
Financial contributions to the CRI as at 31 August 2024

Member State	Local currency	Management fees (local currency)	Net amount (local currency)	Management fees (US\$)	Net amount (US\$)	Total contribution (US\$)
Ireland	EUR	80 000	920 000	80 984	931 316	1 012 300
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	EUR	800 000	9 200 000	799 144	9 190 151	9 989 295
Germany	EUR	2 400 000	27 600 000	2 534 622	29 148 153	31 682 775
United States	US\$	800 000	9 200 000	800 000	9 200 000	10 000 000
Norway	NOK	24 000 000	276 000 000	2 211 774	25 435 404	27 647 178
Total				6 426 524	73 905 024	80 331 548

B. Design, country allocation and extension

7. As described in [EB 2024/OR/12](#), the CRI had staggered financial contributions resulting in staggered design and implementation. This approach, combined with an initial short timeframe and a focus on support in challenging contexts, prompted IFAD to request an extension of the initiative from donors, with the completion date moving from June 2024 to December 2025.
8. At the project level, 13 countries requested extensions of two to six months. On average, CRI project implementation lasted 13 months from first disbursement to completion, including extensions. Table 2 provides an overview of allocations, design approval, first disbursement, initial completion dates and extensions.

Table 2

**Overview of the timing of the design process, allocations and the requested extensions
(AF = additional financing)**

Availability of funding	Country design	Allocation (US\$)	Approval of design	First disbursement	Initial completion	After extension
June 2022	Somalia	3 000 000	10/2022	01/2023	06/2024	12/2024
	Eritrea	3 300 000	10/2022	07/2023	12/2023	06/2024
	Afghanistan	3 300 000	10/2022	12/2022	12/2023	06/2024
	Yemen	3 300 000	08/2023	10/2023	06/2024	12/2024
	Ethiopia	3 299 850	01/2023	05/2023	03/2024	N/A
	Burundi	3 000 000	01/2023	09/2023	06/2024	12/2024
	Madagascar	3 000 000	01/2023	11/2023	05/2024	11/2024
	Mozambique	3 008 036	03/2023	10/2023	06/2024	12/2024
	Haiti	3 245 000	03/2023	12/2023	06/2024	12/2024
	Central African Republic	3 003 608	03/2023	12/2023	06/2024	09/2024
Nov. 2022	Malawi	3 000 000	02/2023	05/2023	06/2024	N/A
	Mali	2 887 000	05/2023	01/2024	06/2024	12/2024
	Niger	3 000 000	10/2023	01/2024	06/2024	12/2024
	Chad	3 253 000	05/2023	12/2023	06/2024	11/2024
	Uganda	3 210 000	04/2023	09/2024	06/2024	12/2024
	Afghanistan AF	2 024 000	09/2023	11/2023	06/2024	08/2024
	Somalia AF	7 000 000	08/2023	11/2023	06/2024	12/2024
	Mozambique AF	2 766 118	09/2023	01/2024	06/2024	12/2024
	Burundi AF	1 841 771	08/2023	04/2024	06/2024	12/2024
	Central African Republic AF	2 765 392	09/2023	12/2023	06/2024	09/2024
June 2023	Malawi AF	5 060 000	10/2023	01/2024	06/2024	N/A
	Uganda AF	1 840 000	08/2023	09/2024	06/2024	12/2024
	Gambia (The)	2 760 000	11/2023	01/2024	06/2024	12/2024
	Total	72 863 775				

C. Disbursement rate

9. By the overall initiative's **completion date** (31 December 2024), US\$67.83 million of the total US\$72.86 million allocated to country projects had been disbursed (93 per cent of the total).
10. Table 3 provides an overview of country status at the initiative's **closing date** (30 June 2025). For countries that achieved financial closure, an updated amount financed is included, reflecting CRI expenditures in that country, and the refund of the balance (if any) to IFAD. Projects that still show a balance were not yet closed on 30 June 2025.

Table 3
Financial status by country as at 30 June 2025

Country	Initial Amount Allocated (US\$)	Updated Amount Financed	Amount disbursed	Balance
Somalia	10 000 000.00	9 995 000.00	9 995 000.00	0.00
Yemen	3 300 000.00	3 300 000.00	3 300 000.00	0.00
Afghanistan	5 324 000.00	5 315 657.10	5 315 657.10	0.00
Eritrea	3 300 000.00	3 300 000.00	3 300 000.00	0.00
Burundi	4 841 771.00	3 501 099.50	2 714 196.33	786 903.17
Madagascar	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	2 481 654.30	518 345.70
Ethiopia	3 299 850.00	3 299 850.00	3 299 850.00	0.00
Central African Republic	5 769 000.00	5 769 000.00	5 685 666.67	83 333.33
Malawi	8 060 000.00	8 060 000.00	8 060 000.00	0.00
Haiti	3 245 000.00	3 245 000.00	889 825.31	2 355 174.69
Mozambique	5 774 154.00	5 774 154.00	5 774 154.00	0.00
Uganda	5 050 000.00	5 050 000.00	5 034 293.90	15 706.10
Chad	3 253 000.00	3 253 000.00	3 247 731.85	5 268.15
Mali	2 887 000.00	2 887 000.00	2 882 902.88	4 097.12
Niger	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	3 000 000.00	0.00
Gambia (The)	2 760 000.00	2 760 000.00	2 760 000.00	0.00
Total	72 863 775	71 509 760.60	67 740 932.34	3 768 828.26

Note: Data compiled by IFAD's Financial Controller's Division using IFAD's Oracle Business Intelligence platform on 30 June 2025. Projects that still show a balance are not yet financially closed.

11. Since some countries (Burundi, Haiti, Madagascar and the Central African Republic in particular) were unable to spend all the funds allocated to the country by completion (December 2024), donors agreed in November 2024 to reallocate the remaining resources to a new stand-alone project in Afghanistan after financial closure of the entire initiative. Once all projects have been closed, the total amount available, estimated at between US\$3.5 million and US\$4 million, will be confirmed.
12. In **Burundi**, the CRI faced a series of complex operational and contextual challenges, such as national foreign exchange shortages that limited the country's ability to import inputs, and widespread fuel scarcity that delayed the transport and distribution of agricultural and livestock inputs to remote rural areas. The volume and cost of the goods to be purchased, in addition to the need to import most of them, led to complex and lengthy procurement processes, preventing full use of funds allocated to the CRI by the completion date. The goods procured and delivered after the completion date were paid for and distributed by the anchor project to ensure that commitments to small-scale producers were met.
13. In **Haiti**, persistent instability, repeated changes in government and a rapidly deteriorating security environment hampered the operational capacity of the project management unit (PMU) of IFAD's anchor Inclusive Blue Economy Project (I-BE). Procurement bottlenecks, such as lengthy contracting procedures and a shortage of in-country service providers, led to delayed execution of several planned CRI activities, including rice value chain and fisheries investments. Progress was also impeded by the fact that the I-BE anchor project was in its early start-up phase and still needed to set up teams and processes. Nevertheless, the CRI supported the acceleration of I-BE's field operations and implementation. An exit strategy was designed to ensure that unfinished activities would continue under the anchor project.
14. Smaller balances remained unspent in Madagascar and the Central African Republic. In Madagascar, some of the allocated budget was refunded to IFAD after the non-operationalization of the revolving fund, due to the short project implementation period. In the Central African Republic, some allocations were left unused at project completion.

D. Results of the initiative

- 15. IFAD has consolidated the outputs, outreach and outcomes of the CRI in a dedicated results management framework (RMF), presented in appendix I.

Tier I – Development results

- 16. Tier I¹ of the RMF focused on the CRI's contribution to maintaining or improving household income, production, market sales and food security compared to the pre-crisis situation. These outcome indicators were measured through rapid assessments.
- 17. Eight of the 16 CRI projects were selected for rapid assessments to ensure geographical balance and coverage across the four pillars. The selected countries were Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Somalia and Uganda. Using a brief standardized questionnaire, the rapid assessments collected self-reported data from 500 households in each country. This approach ensures that the data are comparable across countries, allowing for harmonized and scalable reporting of results.
- 18. The results of the rapid assessments point to a strong recovery from the impact of the war in Ukraine on the various Tier I indicators after the start of CRI activities, as most participating households reported that the CRI had helped them maintain or improve Tier I indicators over pre-crisis levels. Thus, households whose income or production initially fell due to the crisis but subsequently recovered to their original levels are classified as having "maintained" household income, production, market sales and food security in comparison with the situation before the crisis, even though this trajectory reflects a positive development, as they saw an improvement post-project.
- 19. Across the overall sample, most households reported having maintained or increased household income, production, market sales and food security compared to the situation before the crisis. The highest positive response was in agricultural sales (61 per cent), followed by total household income and food security (both at 59 per cent) and production (54 per cent). While the data show that women were significantly more impacted by the crisis, the results also show that they recovered at nearly the same rate as men, highlighting the initiative's successful gender-sensitive approach. These findings support the notion that CRI projects helped maintain or improve rural livelihoods, particularly in terms of market participation and hunger mitigation. Overall, an estimated 316,000–370,000 households had improved outcomes in different indicators, out of a total of 583,886 households participating in the CRI.
- 20. The rapid assessments had some inherent limitations. Since they were conducted during or immediately after project completion, the reported changes reflect only a limited timeframe. For instance, increases in production, sales or income were not yet evident among project participants who had received support near the end of the project period. Moreover, due to the nature of this methodology, it is impossible to fully isolate the results of concurrent external shocks, such as Cyclone Freddy in Malawi and Mozambique, insecurity restricting movement in Ethiopia and Somalia, or droughts and floods affecting production in Chad.

Tier II – Overall outreach and service delivery

- 21. Tier II measured outreach overall and by pillar. The CRI reached a total of 583,886 rural households across the four pillars, including 217,931 woman- and 176,668 youth-headed households. This translates into about 3,542,796 household members. The CRI only accounted for direct participants.

¹ Tier I indicators are the indicators that measure the development results in CRI's results-based framework and are as follows: number/percentage of households reporting (yes/no) that the following were maintained or improved during the CRI implementation period: household income, value of production, value of market sales, food security.

22. In terms of pillar breakdown, 511,769 households in 15 countries were reached under pillar 1, by far the largest pillar under the CRI. Thirty-seven per cent of the households benefited were women-headed and 30 per cent youth-headed.
23. Pillar 2 reached 83,251 households across 11 countries, exceeding the target of 70,429. Women-headed households represented 35 per cent of the project participants and youth-headed households 28 per cent. This overachievement reflects both the fact that some projects exceeded their targets and the inclusion of pillar 2 activities in some countries, where not originally foreseen at design.
24. Pillar 3 was implemented in 8 countries and supported 24,549 rural households, or some 50 per cent of the design target. Given the strict timeframe, funds were often reallocated to pillar 1, allowing for faster delivery. Nevertheless, pillar 3 achieved the strongest gender and youth results, with women-headed households representing 46 per cent of the project participants and youth-headed households 37 per cent. This is particularly significant, given the greater challenges that rural women face in accessing financial services compared to their male counterparts. A total of US\$458,000, close to the design target of US\$528,000, was channelled to rural financial service providers under conditions marked by business disruptions or liquidity constraints.
25. Pillar 4 was implemented in 7 countries and reached 81,447 households with digital and market access support, almost three times the target envisaged at design (29,300). This achievement is due mainly to remarkable performance in Afghanistan and Uganda (250 per cent and 180 per cent of the targets, respectively), as well as the addition of pillar 4 activities in Mozambique, which was not envisaged at design.
26. Short summaries of implementation by country are presented in the annex.

Tier III – Operational efficiency and effectiveness

27. Tier III indicators were used to assess operational performance. Regarding the speed of IFAD's response target (90 days from design approval to first disbursement), the average time needed to reach disbursement was 147 days. This average was affected by outliers such as Madagascar and Haiti, where delays in government signature of financing agreements and fulfilment of disbursement conditions significantly postponed start-up. The delay in Uganda was excluded from the average, as the project operated with direct payment, which was made only once activities were completed. Despite delays, IFAD teams at headquarters and in-country continuously strove to improve performance and capture lessons throughout the implementation period.
28. IFAD achieved the target for the scale of the initiative through timely commitment of the total US\$72,863,775 foreseen for country implementation in 16 countries.
29. Regarding the speed of implementation (indicator measuring the disbursement rate at completion), the CRI did not hit the 100 per cent disbursement target at completion. Overall, 93 per cent of allocations were disbursed at completion date.
30. Concerning in-country partnerships, 12 CRI projects were implemented through government entities, 3 by NGOs (Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen) and 1 through United Nations/Rome-based agency collaboration (RBA) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO] – Niger).
31. Regarding learning and knowledge-sharing, 87 learning/dissemination events about the CRI and its impact on targeted rural communities (target of 28) and 14 external blogs (target of 13) were published. The CRI team coordinated the development, delivery and sharing of dedicated events, lessons learned sessions, highlights, podcasts and blogs. An overview of CRI-related communications and knowledge products is presented in appendix II.

E. Lessons learned and recommendations.

32. Building on the experience of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF), the CRI used a simplified project design process that helped accelerate the design and launch of activities at the country level. Teams also strove for simplicity and realism in project design, with a view to supporting rapid activity start-up. While rapid start-up and delivery are clearly important, particularly in crisis response situations, one lesson learned is the **need to balance speed and flexibility with continued solid quality assurance** mechanisms to ensure the quality of design and implementation.
33. A second key lesson learned was the importance of **flexibility in the duration of response** implementation. A fixed one-year implementation timeframe, as used in the CRI, made it hard to achieve both immediate crisis response and longer-term sustainable outcomes. Allowing for adaptable timelines can facilitate more meaningful impact and responsive management as circumstances evolve.
34. The presence of a **well-functioning anchor project** was a key enabler for most CRI interventions. Leveraging existing delivery mechanisms, including monitoring and evaluation systems, financial and procurement structures and trusted partnerships helped reduce start-up delays and ensured continuity beyond project completion. In contrast, projects nearing their end or in the start-up phase often performed more poorly or experienced greater challenges.
35. **Sufficient staffing** of PMUs and implementing partners is critical for successful implementation. When additional activities are introduced, as was the case with most CRI interventions, their implications in terms of staffing requirements need careful management to avoid disruptions to core (e.g. anchor project) operations. Under the CRI, countries implementing anchor projects often failed to allocate enough additional resources for staffing, hindering effective delivery.
36. The CRI provided a valuable **platform for piloting and scaling innovative activities and approaches**, such as the introduction of Mbeya fertilizer in Malawi and tailored extension service models for women in Afghanistan. These initiatives demonstrated how innovation can drive impact and offer scalable solutions across diverse contexts, even in crisis or post-crisis situations. Such successful activities and approaches identified through the CRI can be leveraged to inform future operations.
37. **Community-driven approaches** proved particularly effective. By actively involving community members in decision-making and implementation, these models heightened transparency and accountability, accelerated the pace of activities and fostered a sense of ownership. This empowerment not only increased the relevance and sustainability of interventions but improved IFAD's ability to operate in complex and rapidly changing situations. The success of these approaches underscores the importance of investing in community engagement and capacity-building as a core strategy for future operations in similar settings.
38. **Rural institutions, producers' organizations and cooperatives** emerged as key partners for decentralized implementation. Their deep local roots and established networks enabled them to maintain continuity and the relevance of interventions, even as national circumstances shifted. They played a critical role in mobilizing communities, facilitating access to resources and sustaining project activities. Their involvement was vital not only for effective crisis response but for supporting long-term development objectives.
39. Despite operating in restrictive environments, the CRI was able to advance **gender equality and social inclusion**. This was achieved through context-specific strategies such as facilitating community dialogues and actively involving local leaders, which helped build trust and foster meaningful participation among marginalized groups. These approaches enabled projects to overcome social and

cultural barriers, ensuring that women and vulnerable groups could participate. The experience underscores the value of flexible, locally adapted strategies and the importance of engaging influential community figures to promote inclusive outcomes.

40. Concerning **procurement**, while this was a common challenge across countries, several projects were able to introduce solutions to speed up processes and make them more effective, such as: decentralization or geographic segmentation of procurement, procurement through producers' organizations or cooperatives, the use of community-based contracting and the establishment of local procurement committees. Such successful approaches identified through the CRI can be leveraged to inform future operations.
41. Finally, specific crisis response at the national or local level and more and better **contingency planning in anchor projects** will increase agility and crisis response capacity while protecting development gains.

III. Conclusions and next steps

42. The CRI has demonstrated high relevance, as both a valuable complement to IFAD-funded anchor projects and a set of stand-alone initiatives aligned with IFAD country programmes and mandate where no active anchor projects have been established. It has enabled the introduction of innovative and adaptive approaches, while generating valuable lessons in crisis response that will inform future operations.
43. Throughout 2025, the CRI coordinator has worked closely with [IFAD's Fragility Unit](#) to review results and distil lessons learned. A series of workshops with IFAD country teams and the cross-departmental fragility technical working group has fostered collective reflection and identified opportunities to further strengthen IFAD's engagement in fragile settings.
44. While the CRI benefited from lessons learned under the RPSF by achieving more streamlined design and implementation and increased financing, there is room for further improvement. Key priorities for crisis response include:
 - (i) **Increasing flexibility in implementation:** Combining rapid start-up with adaptable timelines will help secure both immediate relief and longer-term development outcomes.
 - (ii) **Improving procurement and financial management:** Tailoring procedures to crisis responses will further increase efficiency and accountability.
 - (iii) **Strengthening contingency planning:** Integrating robust contingency measures throughout project design will improve preparedness and resilience.
45. Between June and December 2025, the final CRI projects will complete financial closure in accordance with anchor project audit timelines. During this period, a new stand-alone project for Afghanistan will be designed, leveraging the achievements and lessons of the CRI, with support from IFAD's Fragility Unit. As agreed with donors in November 2024, the remaining CRI funds will be reallocated to this initiative, which is scheduled to commence in January 2026. A short final update will be submitted to the Executive Board with information on financial closure and the new stand-alone project.

Overview of CRI implementation by country

1. In **Afghanistan**, the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) implemented the CRI project as a stand-alone initiative with a total budget of US\$5.3 million. The project reached 176,638 households and supported 234 veterinary field units. It established 40 community fodder banks, 47 milk collection centres, 115 village and district sales points and 5 milk processing plants. More than 50,000 farmers and pastoralists received training in livestock treatment, business skills and microfinance. In total, 8.6 million animals were vaccinated, 2.1 million treated and 6 million dewormed. A rapid assessment was conducted to capture lessons from implementation. The CRI in Afghanistan demonstrated an adaptive, locally anchored crisis response in a highly fragile context. Among its key innovations was the use of the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes model, which enabled women to continue participating in training and knowledge exchange via remote platforms, even under severe mobility restrictions. The introduction of artificial insemination practices contributed to climate-smart livestock breeding, boosting genetic productivity while reducing environmental pressures. The piloting of cashmere traceability and certification systems, planned for scaling up in the next phase, will position Afghan pastoralists to access premium export markets, creating new opportunities for value addition and economic recovery. The remaining CRI funds will be reallocated to a new stand-alone project in Afghanistan, building on the achievements of the current phase.
2. In **Burundi**, under the Agricultural Production Intensification and Vulnerability Reduction Project, CRI activities were implemented with a total budget of US\$4.84 million, benefiting 48,715 households. Support included the provision of inputs and small equipment, such as 701 kg of climate-resilient vegetable seed, 230 tons of hybrid maize seed, 600 backpack sprayers, 1,200 watering cans and 2,200 kg of plant protection products. These inputs addressed a critical gap in national availability. In response to the Rift Valley fever epidemic, 417 cattle kits were distributed to affected households, along with 1,200 pig kits and 92 mushroom kits to support nutrition and income diversification. The CRI in Burundi encountered a series of complex operational and contextual challenges that significantly constrained delivery performance, resulting in low disbursement and expenditure rates at completion. National foreign exchange shortages severely limited the country's capacity to import fertilizer, while widespread fuel scarcity delayed the transport and distribution of agricultural and livestock inputs to remote rural areas. The 1,300 tons of fertilizer initially earmarked for CRI financing were imported after the initiative's completion and were therefore included in the budget of the anchor project, although they were distributed to CRI project participants.
3. In the **Central African Republic**, under the Project to Improve Productivity and Access to Markets for Agropastoral Products in the Savannah Zones, CRI activities were implemented with a budget of US\$5.77 million, reaching 13,200 households. Key achievements included the distribution of 1,500 food kits, 1,000 market gardening kits, 1,000 small ruminant kits and 2,906 poultry kits. Drip irrigation systems were installed across 60 hectares, and 3 warehouses and 6 butcher shops were constructed. Additionally, 222 groups were organized into village savings and credit associations. The CRI in the Central African Republic encountered a range of operational challenges, including procurement delays and gaps in the contracting and performance of service providers. In particular, the post-harvest infrastructure would have benefited from longer-term support to ensure full operationalization. Conversely, the introduction of the Noiler poultry breed, well-adapted to local conditions, sparked strong interest among project participants and opened new opportunities for high-value poultry production. Although delivery fell short of targets, drip irrigation systems demonstrated clear potential to support year-round horticultural production.

4. In **Chad**, under the Strengthening Productivity and Resilience of Agropastoral Family Farms Project, CRI activities were implemented with a total budget of US\$3 million, reaching 11,614 households. Inputs were distributed, and 4,769 hectares were brought under climate-resilient management practices, including 2,449 hectares managed with grass dikes, 2,276 hectares ploughed with organic matter and 44 hectares devoted to market gardening. In all, 7,376 households adopted sustainable natural resource and climate risk management practices. Regarding infrastructure, 42 facilities were constructed or rehabilitated, comprising 10 community stores, 10 storage warehouses, 13 vegetable-drying units and 9 meat-drying units. A total of 625 households received training in income-generating activities and business management, while 5,500 producers were trained in sustainable agronomic practices. One of the most notable innovations was the introduction of meat- and vegetable-drying units, which improved food safety, reduced post-harvest losses and contributed to a 50 per cent increase in market prices for processed vegetables. At the same time, the doubling of meat-processing capacity demonstrated how modest technical investments can unlock greater efficiency and income generation.
5. In **Eritrea**, under the Integrated Agriculture Development Project, CRI activities with a total budget of US\$3.3 million reached 36,282 households. Through the CRI, 150 tons of wheat seed and 6.4 tons of rapeseed were distributed, resulting in the planting of 1,499 hectares of wheat and 1,058 hectares of rapeseed. Although climate-related shocks, including excessive rainfall during the 2023 harvest, affected yields, the CRI still achieved a total output of 1,950 tons of wheat grain and 127 tons of rapeseed, with project participants' yields consistently outperforming those of non-participating farmers. Soil and water conservation works were implemented through food-for-work projects in vulnerable communities, contributing to the rehabilitation of 1,952 hectares of degraded watershed land. Activities also included the production of marine-waste-derived organic liquid fertilizer, based on seaweed and fish waste, reaching 181,410 individuals. Use of this biofertilizer has been widely embraced by local farmers, including those who were not direct participants. Strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Marine Resources, local private enterprises such as Abdur PLC and cooperatives facilitated the establishment of a sustainable, locally rooted supply chain for organic inputs. The use of marine waste provided an eco-friendly solution aligned with Eritrea's emerging organic agriculture policy.
6. In **Ethiopia**, under the Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme – Phase II, CRI activities with a total budget of US\$3.3 million reached 53,342 rural households. A total of 2,715 tons of fertilizer, 461 tons of improved seed, 4,070 tons of agricultural lime and 171,800 fruit seedlings were distributed. Rural savings and credit cooperatives prepared and distributed agricultural input vouchers while administering a revolving fund to provide loans to project participants on flexible terms, ensuring the sustainability of the fund and continued access to inputs. Implementation benefited from strong alignment with local institutional structures, particularly *woreda* agriculture offices and cooperatives. Despite logistical and security constraints, the CRI successfully met its objectives and provided an operational model for targeted, input-driven agricultural recovery. The participatory community-driven approach, through the involvement of 78 *woreda* development committees, proved instrumental in fostering transparency, accountability and responsiveness.
7. In **The Gambia**, under the Resilient Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS), CRI activities with a total budget of US\$2.8 million reached 12,593 households. Households and village farmers' associations were supported with agricultural inputs and ploughing services to boost production. The intervention distributed 775.2 tons of fertilizer, 70.6 tons of rice seed, 11.5 tons of maize seed, 16.7 tons of groundnut seed and 29,420 litres of fuel, supporting

cultivation across 9,200 hectares. Infrastructure investments included 37 flap gates, 42 sliding gates, 20 culverts, 4 solar-powered onion-curing facilities, 1 tomato processing plant and 9 cold storage units. Additionally, 15 tricycles were provided to facilitate produce collection and transport to markets. Despite procurement delays and compressed timelines, the CRI was fully integrated into ROOTS, allowing for continuity through a bridging mechanism with the anchor project.

8. In **Haiti**, under the Inclusive Blue Economy Project (I-BE), CRI activities with a budget of US\$3.2 million reached 1,626 households. The project experienced significant start-up delays due to civil unrest, political instability and the absence of goods and service providers in the country. In addition, the anchor project was in its early start-up phase and not yet fully implementation-ready, which further delayed CRI activities. Despite these challenges, the CRI supported 469 beekeepers with modern hives and training and 700 households with vegetable gardening kits. It also strengthened 27 community savings groups, reaching 1,602 members, and trained 457 fishers in sustainable fishing practices. Although only partially implemented, the CRI contributed meaningfully to the start-up of I-BE field operations. Online bid submissions and decentralized delivery mechanisms enabled adaptive implementation. The project underscored the importance of proximity, institutional collaboration and flexible governance structures in fragile contexts. An exit strategy was developed to ensure the continuation of unfinished activities under the main programme.
9. In **Madagascar**, under the Vocational Training and Agricultural Productivity Improvement Programme, CRI activities with a budget of US\$3 million reached 9,121 households across 7 regions. The project distributed 69 tons of seed and 1,230.5 tons of fertilizer, exceeding initial targets. Livestock support included 2,034 breeding kits, with a total of 11,832 animals distributed; however, national vaccine shortages limited delivery to 50 per cent of the target. Training was provided to 3,093 crop and 1,334 livestock producers. Additionally, 309 producers received digital marketing training, and 4 farmers' organizations were supported to engage in group sales. Despite delays in fund transfers and operational bottlenecks, the CRI demonstrated adaptability by reallocating resources to maximize input distribution. Activities under pillar 3 could not be fully operationalized, as the revolving fund was established only towards the end of the implementation period. Most of the resources allocated to the revolving fund have been refunded to IFAD.
10. In **Malawi**, under the Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme, CRI activities with a budget of US\$8.06 million reached 107,745 households. The intervention distributed 6,360 tons of fertilizer and 119.6 tons of certified seed, including maize, groundnuts and soybeans. Mbeya fertilizer, a farmer-developed hybrid input, was promoted through training and awareness campaigns, resulting in the production of 4,311 bags. Efforts to strengthen the seed system included the production of early-generation seed and the installation of cold storage units. Livestock support was provided through the distribution of 1,050 goats, 900 chickens and 525 rabbits. Media outreach included 37 radio and television segments, three documentaries and 25,000 copies of 9 different technical booklets. Despite procurement delays and variable weather, the CRI successfully embedded crisis response in long-term investments, demonstrating the value of traditional innovations and community-based resilience.
11. In **Mali**, under the Multi-Energy for Resilience and Integrated Territorial Management Project, CRI activities with a budget of US\$2.89 million reached 13,330 households. The project rehabilitated 108 market garden plots equipped with solar-powered irrigation systems and developed 75 community adaptation plans. These plans aligned local investments with national climate strategies and supported future access to adaptation finance. Despite early challenges, including the withdrawal of an NGO and coordination gaps, the CRI achieved full

disbursement through decentralized delivery and resource reallocation. For example, biodigesters were excluded from the specific CRI activities due to time constraints and will be introduced under the anchor project. Innovations such as solar-powered irrigation and participatory climate planning reinforced community ownership and institutional legitimacy.

12. In **Mozambique**, under the Inclusive Agrifood Value Chain Development Programme, CRI activities with a budget of US\$5.77 million reached 53,636 households. The programme distributed 33,861 input kits and trained 434 seed multipliers and 1,290 extension agents. A total of 14,600 fruit tree seedlings and 120,000 pineapple suckers were distributed. Infrastructure investments included 31 silos, a diffuse-light storage facility for potatoes and 7 semi-mobile agro-input shops. Clean energy solutions were promoted through the distribution of 2,899 improved cookstoves and training for 262 artisans in their production, maintenance and distribution. The programme supported 383 farmers' organizations and developed a digital platform for weather and market information. Despite climate shocks and political unrest, the CRI demonstrated the effectiveness of decentralized delivery and integrated crisis response. Innovations in local seed systems, clean energy and mobile input shops heightened resilience and improved market access.
13. In **Niger**, the CRI project is implemented by FAO, building on existing collaboration with IFAD. Following the coup d'état in July 2023, implementation shifted from an IFAD anchor project to direct implementation by FAO, allowing IFAD to retain CRI resources in the country. With a budget of US\$3 million, the CRI reached 16,500 project participants across 30 communes. The project distributed 15,000 input kits, 10,000 cassava bundles, 500 motorized pumps and 1,500 ruminant kits (comprising 6,000 animals, 43,160 doses of vaccine and 48,910 anti-parasitic tablets), as well as 1,800 tons of livestock feed. It rehabilitated 60 hectares of irrigated land using solar-powered pumping systems and drip irrigation infrastructure and developed 7.5 hectares of market gardens. Institutional support included the establishment of 269 village complaint committees. In terms of post-harvest handling, five input stores and two tomato processing units were constructed. Despite delays caused by the 2023 coup, FAO's decentralized delivery model ensured timely implementation. Innovations included a digital participant tracking tool and the resilience scorecard, offering scalable models for diagnostics and early warning.
14. In **Somalia**, the CRI was implemented by the Sadar Development and Resilience Institute NGO, with a budget of US\$10 million, making it the largest among CRI country allocations. The project reached 16,120 households, focusing on agropastoralists, riverine farmers, fishers and pastoralist communities. The intervention delivered a wide range of support: 9,900 input kits, 9,000 backpack sprayers, 325 walking tractors, 17 tractors and 25,204 breeding goats were distributed, while 2,750 agropastoralists received animal feed. A total of 663 project participants were trained (240 in the use of maintenance and equipment, 100 in good agricultural practices, 323 in fodder production). Post-harvest handling was improved through 34 grain threshers, 12,000 vegetable-handling crates and the construction of 2 fodder storage banks. In coastal areas, 4 fishing cooperatives received 216 fish cooler boxes, nets and ropes to support marine livelihoods. Water access was significantly improved through the installation of solar-powered irrigation systems, drip irrigation kits and the rehabilitation of shallow wells. The project also created school gardens for demonstration and learning. Water users' associations introduced e-voucher cards for water payments, promoting financial inclusion and sustainability. Despite challenges in security, staffing and procurement, the project achieved full disbursement through close collaboration, adaptive management and innovative delivery mechanisms. Third-party post-distribution monitoring increased

transparency and accountability, while the use of digital payment systems helped overcome infrastructure limitations and empowered women through mobile financial access.

15. In **Uganda**, under the National Oil Palm Project, CRI activities with a budget of US\$5.05 million reached 10,164 households. The intervention focused on fertilizer delivery, distributing 3,888 tons to support maize and soybean cultivation across 48,855 acres. Training activities reached 35,575 individuals, covering post-harvest handling, grain market structures and strategic marketing. The village agent model, implemented by Grainpulse Limited, facilitated last-mile delivery and market linkages. Notable innovations included “cob aggregation”, which enabled maize to be purchased at the farm gate without drying, reducing labour requirements and post-harvest losses, and the creation of regional fertilizer hubs to improve input access and lower delivery costs. Despite procurement delays and coordination gaps, the CRI demonstrated the value of public-private partnerships and flexible procurement strategies. Radio broadcasts, social media outreach and a dedicated training manual further improved farmer engagement and knowledge dissemination.
16. In **Yemen**, the CRI project was implemented by the Yemen Social Fund for Development under the Rural Livelihood Development Project. With a budget of US\$3.3 million, the project reached 3,260 households across 5 governorates and rehabilitated 18 km of roads and 1,292 irrigation canals, reclaimed 356 hectares of land and protected 260 hectares of farmland from flood risks. A total of 18,773 m³ of water-harvesting capacity were added through the rehabilitation and construction of water systems. Three village-level water-harvesting tanks were built, along with 614 household water tanks. Community committees led planning and oversight. Cash-for-work and community contracting generated 5,538 employment opportunities, including 1,281 for women. Despite insecurity and climate shocks, the community contracting model facilitated flexible, locally driven delivery. The CRI combined integrated watershed management with community contracting, leading to social empowerment and demonstrating how community-led approaches can sustain delivery in fragile contexts.

Results management framework

Overall goal: To protect the development gains and livelihoods of rural households and producers, while reinforcing their resilience to the war in Ukraine in countries most affected and already suffering from shocks

Objective	Indicators	Target	Result
Tier I: Development Results			
Minimize impacts of war in Ukraine on livelihoods, resilience and food security of IFAD's target group, and maintain progress towards IFAD12 impact targets	Number/percentage of households reporting (yes/no) that the following was maintained or improved during the CRI implementation period:		
	Household income		59%
	Value of production		54%
	Value of market sales		61%
	Food security		59%
Tier II: Overall outreach and service delivery			
Overall outreach	Number of people receiving support through CRI-financed activities (total)	487 302	583 886
	Number of women receiving support through CRI-financed activities	187 852	217 931
	Number of youth receiving support through CRI-financed activities	127 013	176 668
Pillar 1: Provision of inputs and technology packages to safeguard current and future food availability	Number of small-scale producers accessing production inputs (including fertilizer) and/or related technology packages funded through the CRI (total)	448 755	511 769
	Number of women small-scale producers accessing production inputs (including fertilizer) and/or related technology packages funded through the CRI	156 081	183 568
	Number of youth small-scale producers accessing production inputs (including fertilizer) and/or related technology packages funded through the CRI	448 755	151 224
Pillar 2. Investment in small-scale production and post-harvest infrastructure to improve food availability and quality and reduce food losses and waste	Number of small-scale rural entrepreneurs (producers or processors) accessing production or post-production infrastructure funded through the CRI (total)	70 429	83 251
	Number of women small-scale rural entrepreneurs (producers or processors) accessing production or post-production infrastructure funded through the CRI	17 226	29 467
	Number of youth small-scale rural entrepreneurs (producers or processors) accessing production or post-production infrastructure funded through the CRI	11 294	23 127
Pillar 3. Facilitating access to financial services to address short-term investment capacity and improve rural resilience in the face of price shocks	US\$ amount of funds provided to rural financial service providers (under conditions of business disruptions or liquidity issues)	528 000	458 000
	Estimated number of small-scale rural entrepreneurs (producers or processors) benefitting from financial services for short-term needs (working capital, remittance-based services, insurance, trade finance) supported by the CRI total	49 615	24 549
	Estimated number of women small-scale rural entrepreneurs (producers or processors) benefitting from financial services for short-term needs (working capital, remittance-based services, insurance, trade finance) supported by the CRI	28 078	11 172
	Estimated number of youth small-scale rural entrepreneurs (producers or processors) benefitting from financial services for short-term needs (working capital, remittance-based services, insurance, trade finance) supported by the CRI	10 068	9 130
Pillar 4. Facilitating access to market related information to empower small-scale producers to respond to changing market opportunities and manage price risks	Number of persons (total): 1) connected to e-platforms for information, 2) sending and receiving money in the context of value chain transactions, or 3) connected to other digital services related to market participation where relevant.	29 300	81 447
	Number of women : 1) connected to e-platforms for information, 2) sending and receiving money in the context of value chain transactions, or 3) connected to other digital services related to market participation where relevant.	10 221	19 738
	Number of youth : 1) connected to e-platforms for information, 2) sending and receiving money in the context of value chain transactions, or 3) connected to other digital services related to market participation where relevant.	5 937	28 398

Tier III: Operational efficiency and effectiveness			
Scale	Amount of funds approved	72 833 776	72 833 776
Speed of IFAD Response	Average time from approval by VP13 to 1 st disbursement (days)	90 days	147 days
Speed of implementation	Disbursement rate at planned completion date	100 %	93%
In country partnerships	Number of CRI-funded activities implemented through government entities	Tracked	12
	Number of CRI-funded activities implemented through UN/RBA collaboration	Tracked	1
	Number of CRI-funded activities implemented in partnership with farmers' organizations, NGOs or private sector entities	Tracked	3
Learning and knowledge-sharing	Number of learning/dissemination events about the CRI and its impact on communities facing impacts of the crisis and other shocks	28	87
	Number of external blogs about the CRI and its impact on communities facing impacts of the crisis and other shocks	13	14

Overview of knowledge and communication products

Overview of the CRI published EB Reports

- **EB report:** Protecting Rural Livelihoods and Resilience - IFAD's Response to the Impacts of the War in Ukraine: A Crisis Response Initiative (CRI) - ([EB 2022/135/R.39](#))
- **EB report:** Update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative ([EB 2023/OR/3](#))
- **EB report:** Second update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative ([EB 2024/OR/12](#))
- **EB report:** Final update on IFAD's Crisis Response Initiative (Available Q4 2025)

Overview of the CRI knowledge and communications products

Global

- CRI webpage: <https://www.ifad.org/en/initiatives/crisis-response-initiative>
- Initial CRI brochure : <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/publications/ifad-response-to-the-impacts-of-the-war-in-ukraine-a-crisis-response-initiative>
- CRI video : Available Q4 2025
- CRI Final Communications Publication : Available Q4 2025
- CRI Final Publication on Implementation : Available Q4 2025

Afghanistan

- Blog from IFAD's Country Director: [Afghanistan shows how times of crisis](#)
- Rural Voices: [Rebuilding Livelihoods in Afghanistan's rural communities](#)
- Lessons Learned: [Rebuilding livelihoods in Afghanistan's rural communities](#)
- IFAD Video: [AFGHANISTAN: Rebuilding livelihoods in rural communities](#)
- DCA Video: [IFAD CRI And RPSF Project Activities](#)

Burundi

- Press release: [IFAD and Burundi sign US\\$3 million grant to help cushion small-scale farmers from continued impacts of Ukraine crisis](#)
- Blog from IFAD's Country Director: [Rural futures in focus Burundi](#)

Chad

- IFAD video: [Chad: responding to crisis](#)
- Blog from IFAD's Country Director: [Rural Futures in Focus: Chad](#)

Eritrea

- CRI Highlights: [Eritrea – Sustainable Smallholder Transformation through Crisis Response](#)
- Video: "[Eritrea: supporting farmers to be resilient to the world's shocks](#)"

Ethiopia: CRI Highlights: [Ethiopia: Agricultural input vouchers and simplified procurement processes help farmers recover from shocks](#)

Malawi

- Blog: [After Cyclone Freddy, investment brings hope to rural Malawi](#)
- Video: [Building resilience in Malawi after Cyclone Freddy](#)
- Publications:
 - [Building smallholder farmers' climate resilience: Lessons learned from IFAD's response to Cyclone Freddy in Malawi](#)
 - [Technical Brief: IFAD's response to tropical cyclone Freddy in Malawi](#)
- Podcast: [Food. Future. Episode 61 – Harnessing diversity for agricultural resilience](#)

Niger: Blog from IFAD's Country Director: [Rural futures in focus: Niger](#)

Uganda: Video: [Uganda: relief for small-scale farmers](#)

Yemen

- Blog from IFAD's Country Director: [Rural futures in focus: Yemen](#)
- Video: [Yemen: Fighting the impacts of war and floods](#)
- Lessons learned publication: [Crisis Response Initiative – Yemen: Community-driven approach to soil and water conservation \(May 2025\)](#)