



## **IFAD's 2024 Gender Awards Ceremony and interactive session: Champions of Change: Celebrating transformative pathways to a nourished future**

**Date and time: 14 February 2024, 12.00 noon to 1.30 p.m.**

### **Context**

Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is a cornerstone of IFAD's corporate mission and one of the five principles of engagement of the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016–2025.

IFAD's Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and the Action Plan 2019–2025 set the framework for increasing the impact of IFAD-supported development operations on gender equality and on strengthening women's empowerment in poor rural areas, with a focus on transformative and long-lasting results. However, driving such changes is not easy; it demands innovative approaches that address the root causes of gender inequality (including prevailing social norms, attitudes and behaviours, discrimination and social systems) while also building institutional capacity to deliver at scale.

In recognition of the efforts of IFAD-supported projects to deliver on this ambitious agenda, the Gender Awards will be given to projects (one per region) with outstanding and innovative performance in addressing gender inequality and empowering women through transformative change across all three objectives of IFAD's gender policy: (i) promoting economic empowerment to enable rural women and men to have equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, profitable economic activities; (ii) enabling women and men to have equal voice and influence in rural institutions and organizations; and (iii) achieving a more equitable balance in workloads and in the sharing of economic and social benefits between women and men.

The Gender Awards were initiated in 2013 by IFAD Management and the selection and award process is currently led by the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division. The awards provide recipients with visibility and recognition throughout IFAD and its network of partners. Integrating the Gender Awards into the Governing Council programme will: (i) increase the value of the initiative; (ii) heighten visibility of the award recipients and IFAD as a partner organization; and (iii) incentivize investments and actions on gender-responsive practices and innovative approaches.



## Event format

The event will be organized in two parts: (i) the Gender Awards Ceremony; and (ii) an interactive session with a panel of practitioners representing the awarded projects (i.e. project gender and social inclusion experts).

At the **award ceremony**, after a brief round of introductions, each awardee will be presented with a metal plaque by the IFAD President.

The **interactive session** will follow, during which a panel of representatives from the five awarded projects will share concrete examples of innovative approaches and promising models that can remove root causes of gender inequality, leverage women's empowerment and achieve impact at scale.

### Interactive session

**Keynote Speaker:** Kristin Engvig, CEO & Founder of WIN and WINConference

**Project Representatives:**

Five practitioners, one per region, representing the winning projects.

- Plurinational State of Bolivia – Roberto Bonifacio, Project Director
- Cambodia – Lim Sereyath, Project Gender Focal Point
- Ghana – Letitia Apam, Project Gender Focal Point
- Madagascar – Mickaëlle Andriamahefa, Project Gender Focal Point
- Montenegro – Bojana Perunovic, Project Gender Focal Point

**Organizer**

- Ndaya Beltchika - Lead Technical Specialist - Gender and Social Inclusion

**Moderator:**

- Redi Tlhabi, Senior Anchor and Executive Producer

**Guiding questions:**

- What partnerships are being leveraged by your country to remove the root causes that perpetuate gender inequities and prevent women's empowerment?
- How is your country prioritizing gender equality and women's empowerment in agrifood systems? Can you share some good practices and lessons learned?
- Would you support a call for action and resource mobilization to strengthen IFAD's work and commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment?