

Document: EB 2015/LOT/G.26
Date: 30 November 2015
Distribution: Public
Original: English

E



Investing in rural people

President's report on a proposed grant under
the country-specific grants window to the
Republic of Cabo Verde for
Strengthening the National Monitoring and
Evaluation System in Cabo Verde

Note to Executive Board representatives

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Luyaku Nsimpasi
Country Programme Manager
West and Central Africa Division
Tel.: +221 77740 5911
e-mail: l.nsimpasi@ifad.org

Steven Jonchkeere
Knowledge Management and
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2144
e-mail: j.jonchkeere@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Alessandra Zusi Bergés
Officer-in-Charge
Governing Bodies Office
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2092
e-mail: gb_office@ifad.org

For: Approval

Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms	i
Recommendation for approval	1
Part I – Introduction	1
Part II – Recommendation	1
Annex	
Strengthening the National Monitoring and Evaluation System in Cabo Verde	2
Appendix	
Results-based logical framework	

Abbreviations and acronyms

INS	National Institute for Statistics
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MDR	Ministry of Rural Development

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for a proposed grant under the country-specific grants window to the Republic of Cabo Verde for Strengthening the National Monitoring and Evaluation System in Cabo Verde, as contained in paragraph 5.

President's report on a proposed grant under the country-specific grants window to the Republic of Cabo Verde for Strengthening the National Monitoring and Evaluation System in Cabo Verde

Part I – Introduction

1. This report recommends the provision of an IFAD grant in the amount of US\$800,000 under the country-specific grants window to the Republic of Cabo Verde for Strengthening the National Monitoring and Evaluation System in Cabo Verde. The grant proposal document is contained in the annex to this report.
2. The goal of IFAD grants is to significantly broaden and add value to the support provided to smallholder farming and rural transformation, thereby contributing to rural poverty eradication, sustainable agricultural development, and global food security and nutrition. In order to achieve this goal, IFAD grants should adhere to three basic principles: (i) make a significant contribution to a global, regional or national public good related to IFAD's mandate; (ii) focus on interventions where grant financing has clear added value and a comparative advantage over regular loans; and (iii) not be used as a substitute for resources from IFAD's administrative budget.
3. The objectives of IFAD grant financing are to: (i) promote innovative, pro-poor approaches and technologies with the potential to be scaled up for greater impact; (ii) strengthen partners' institutional and policy capacities; (iii) enhance advocacy and policy engagement; and (iv) generate and share knowledge for development impact. Rural poor people and their organizations should constitute the centre of each grant submission to fulfill IFAD's mandate to enable poor rural people to improve their food security and nutrition, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience.
4. The proposed programme is in line with the goal and objectives of IFAD grant financing, as stated in the IFAD grant policy. The grant will focus on addressing the persistent challenge of the weak monitoring-and-evaluation performance of government and implementing partners by strengthening institutional, implementation and policy capacities, while creating a public good for Cabo Verde.

Part II – Recommendation

5. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, Strengthening the National Monitoring and Evaluation System in Cabo Verde, shall provide a grant not exceeding eight hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$800,000) to the Republic of Cabo Verde for four years, and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Kanayo F. Nwanze
President

Strengthening the National Monitoring and Evaluation System in Cabo Verde

I. Background

1. In Cabo Verde, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity of government and project staff is very weak, especially in quantifying results, as pointed out in the draft implementation report of the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme and the latest supervision report of the Rural Socio-Economic Opportunities Programme (POSER).
2. IFAD is committed to strengthening national M&E systems by enhancing the capacity of key national line-ministry staff, project management staff and implementing partners, particularly at start-up and during early project implementation. Such capacity is decisive in improving documentation, dissemination and reporting on the results and impact of IFAD-supported projects in the country.
3. The Government of Cabo Verde, through its Ministry of Rural Development (MDR), has undertaken a broadly supported initiative to establish a national level M&E system. It has requested IFAD assistance, particularly in capacity-building and leadership in support of the effort. The present grant proposal dedicates US\$600,000 to this important task.
4. The Government has also begun a national poverty survey to monitor poverty trends and the impact of various interventions, and to establish a benchmark for key poverty indicators in the country. Agricultural indicator trends, which will be monitored through the M&E system of MDR, will be measured against these benchmarks. The survey exercise will last one year and will cost some US\$3.1 million. The Government has requested that IFAD contribute to this exercise in the amount of US\$200,000.
5. The total cost of these two exercises is estimated at US\$3,785,000. Of this amount, African Development Bank financing amounts to US\$1,270,000, United Nations Development Programme financing to US\$430,000, Luxembourg Cooperation financing to US\$120,000, and the IFAD contribution to US\$800,000. The Government will contribute US\$1,165,000.

II. Rationale and relevance to IFAD

6. The initiative is in compliance with the President's Memo on Strategic Guidance for IFAD Grants 2015, as it will contribute significantly to a national public good (knowledge) and will focus on addressing the persistent challenge of the weak M&E performance of government and implementing partners by strengthening institutional, implementation and policy capacities.
7. The grant is also in line with the focus of the West and Central Africa Division on strengthening the M&E systems of IFAD projects and programmes. Indeed, system weaknesses have been identified in most recent portfolio review reports as a main impediment to the capture, documentation and dissemination of results, outcomes and impact. The weakness of M&E systems also limits country and project efforts to scale up the best practices and innovations generated.
8. In addition, the grant reflects IFAD strategic directions for 2015. As a PBAS country-specific grant, it focuses on addressing the persistent challenge of the weak M&E performance of government and implementing partners by building public institution and project capacities for documenting, disseminating and scaling up best practices and innovations.
9. Moreover, IFAD's ongoing POSER will greatly benefit from both the output of the planned baseline survey and ongoing support of the M&E system.

10. Finally, this is a real opportunity for IFAD to support the Government through leadership in establishing a national framework for M&E. IFAD will seek coordination with other development partners and will provide strategic guidance to ensure that M&E is a shared objective channeled through a single entity to bring greater efficiency and accountability and to reduce redundancy.

III. Proposed programme

11. The goal of the programme is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable rural development. Its objectives are to increase the use of evidence in policy-making and project management and to understand what works, where, why and under what conditions in rural poverty reduction. It will do this by improving government M&E capacity to generate strong evidence of project outcomes and impact.
12. The target group is composed of agents of MDR, particularly staff of the Directorate of Planning and Management both within and outside of headquarters, and the agents of the National Institute for Statistics (INS).
13. Indirect beneficiaries include 85,000 poor rural people (men, women and youth), who will benefit from improved service delivery.
14. The programme will have a four-year duration to allow for possible delays, while actual implementation is scheduled for three years. It will comprise two components: (i) development of a national agriculture- and rural-sector M&E system; and (ii) national poverty-survey execution. The first component will encompass the following activities: (a) development of an operational manual; (b) capacity-building; and (c) studies and technical assistance. The second component will comprise the following activities: (a) conducting the survey; and (b) sharing results.

IV. Expected outputs and benefits

15. Grant support is expected to produce the following outcomes:
 - (a) Establishment of a national M&E system for the agriculture and rural sectors:
 - (i) This system will provide a single channel for government and multiple development partners to create a public good delivering efficient and actionable data underpinning Cabo Verde's rural development; and
 - (b) Realization of a national poverty survey:
 - (i) Currently, no comprehensive baseline data exist that appropriately document the scope and nature of poverty among Cabo Verde's seven islands.
 - (ii) IFAD, itself, will benefit greatly from collecting and analysing this data, as it is currently rolling out a rural development programme.

V. Implementation arrangements

16. The grant recipient will be the Republic of Cabo Verde, through MDR, which is responsible for the development, coordination, monitoring and implementation of national government policies related to agriculture, livestock and food security. To receive grant disbursements, MDR will open a designated account managed independently of non-grant funds, as is standard with IFAD grants.
17. With respect to the national poverty survey, INS will take the technical lead under the administrative supervision of MDR. This arrangement will be codified in a separate written agreement between the two parties, subject to IFAD's no objection.

18. Supervision of the grant will be conducted under regular supervision of the country programme. As such, supervision costs will be financed through the regular operational budget allocation for Cabo Verde. No additional resources for the supervision of this specific grant are required. At least two meetings per year will be organized for IFAD, MDR, the Ministry of Youth, Employment and Human Resource Capacity-Building and INS to review progress and define the work programme for the following year.
19. The recipient will submit semi-annual reports outlining progress against the grant's logical framework and annual workplan and focusing on emerging results and lessons. Progress will be discussed at semi-annual meetings of the main partners cited above. MDR will also provide an annual detailed description and analysis of progress in rolling out the M&E system, and of the results and impact captured and documented through the system. At the end of the implementation period, a grant completion report and final audit report will be produced to assess the results of the grant.

VI. Indicative programme costs and financing

20. IFAD will provide grant funding of US\$800,000. The grant will finance development of a national agriculture- and rural-sector M&E system in the amount of US\$600,000 and will support the national poverty survey in the amount of US\$200,000. Other development partners and the Government have pledged an additional US\$2,985,000 to support these two undertakings.

Table 1
Costs by component and financier
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancier</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Development of a national agriculture- and rural-sector M&E system	600	85	685
2. National poverty-survey execution	200	2 900	3 100
Total	800	2 985	3 785

Table 2
Costs by expenditure category and financier
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancier</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries	60	20	80
2. Training and capacity-building	100	10	110
3. Technical assistance	170		170
4. Workshops and travel	130	55	185
5. Capital equipment	140		140
6. Services – poverty survey	200	2 900	3 100
Total	800	2 985	3 785

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions/Risks
Goal	Contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable rural development.	Frequency of Poverty Severity of Poverty	INS reports	A: Economic Development continues at pace and is inclusive of the rural poor; R: Climate change, budget constraints
Objectives	Increase the use of evidence in policy making and project management and understand what works, where, why and under what conditions in rural poverty reduction by improving the monitoring and evaluation capacity of the government to generate strong evidence of project outcomes and impact	Evidence from Government Policy Documents Evidence of piloting of sectoral policies based on data	Specific surveys Periodical report on policy	A: Robust implementation; R: disagreements among ministries and development partners to use this system; and, weak rollout by personnel.
Outputs	(a) The establishment of a national M&E system for the agricultural and rural sector established; and (b) The realization of a national Poverty Survey	M&E manual in place Reports produced Budget for Survey Disbursed	Supervision Reports Grant Completion Report	R: Delays
Key Activities	Finalization of M&E manual Capacity building of personnel Procurement of equipment and material Technical assistance Realization of National Poverty Survey	M&E manual in place Reports produced Survey report	Supervision Reports Grant Completion Report	R: Delays