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Investing in rural people

President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional grants window to the Center for Development Data (C4D2) through the World Bank for Improving the Availability and Quality of Individual-level Data on Women and Youth in Living Standards Measurement Study Surveys through Methodological Research and Capacity-Building

Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: Approval

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed grant as contained in paragraph 19.

### President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional grants window to the Center for Development Data (C4D2) through the World Bank for Improving the Availability and Quality of Individual-level Data on Women and Youth in Living Standards Measurement Study Surveys through Methodological Research and Capacity Building

#### I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy on Grant Financing

1. As the world prepares to address the challenges posed by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, there is widespread recognition that concerted efforts are needed to improve the data on which progress and impact monitoring are based. The rural dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is crucial for addressing hunger, poverty and environmental concerns.
2. Despite the crucial role played by the agricultural sector in reducing poverty and enhancing food security, weaknesses persist in the measurement of agricultural outcomes and the identification of factors hampering growth for poor smallholder households. Many statistical systems fall short in capturing the real conditions of rural women and youth since they lack data disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location.
3. Given the strong focus on data collection in agriculture and rural development, and recognizing the synergies that can be achieved through closer coordination between the World Bank and the Rome-based agencies (RBAs), a new Centre for Development Data (C4D2) was established in Rome in November 2015. This report recommends the provision of an IFAD grant in the amount of US\$2.3 million under the global/regional grants window to C4D2, through the World Bank. This grant will provide C4D2 with complementary resources to expand its capacity for collecting relevant data on the economic activities of smallholder farmers, rural women and rural youth. In line with paragraph 15(iii) of IFAD's Grant Policy, the World Bank is eligible for direct selection since the initiative involves elements of the wider C4D2 programme.
4. The grant is directly aligned with the first and second objectives of the IFAD Grant Policy to: (i) promote innovative, pro-poor approaches and technologies with the potential to be scaled up for greater impact; and (ii) strengthen partners' institutional and policy capacities. In line with IFAD's prioritization of improved data collection and better results measurement, the grant will generate data on gender and youth that will enhance advocacy and policy engagement in these areas.
5. The grant also fits squarely within IFAD's strategic objectives as outlined in the Strategic Framework 2016-2025. By increasing the knowledge base on women and rural employment, the grant will be instrumental in furthering all the outcomes of the Strategic Framework, enabling the development of policy frameworks, increasing investments and improving country capacity for policymaking and programming.

## II. The proposed programme

6. The goal of the grant-funded programme is to improve: (i) the availability of individual-level data on women and youth; and (ii) the quality of disaggregated data through improved data collection on the economic activities of rural women and youth to achieve a deeper understanding of the constraints they face. The main objectives are to inform policy and programme design, and facilitate the implementation of projects that improve the well-being of rural women and youth, and thereby help achieve the SDGs.
7. Direct target groups will include:
  - (i) National statistical offices and government ministries in low- and middle-income countries with a mandate to produce integrated household survey data for official statistics, including SDG indicators;
  - (ii) Domestic policymakers and stakeholders;
  - (iii) International development agencies, including IFAD, that both generate knowledge and use that knowledge for country programming; and
  - (iv) Academic institutions that rely on integrated household survey data for research and advocacy.
8. The grant will be implemented over four years, starting in the last quarter of 2016 and ending in 2020. Grant activities will be managed by C4D2 and the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) implemented by the World Bank Development Data Group. A steering committee/technical advisory board is being created to oversee all agricultural and rural development data activities being undertaken at C4D2. IFAD will designate a staff member to serve on this body.

## III. Expected outcomes/outputs

9. The main outcomes of the grant will be:
  - (i) Improved methodologies and guidelines for collecting household survey data on women and youth employed in agriculture in low-income countries; and
  - (ii) Policies and programmes designed by IFAD and development partners informed by data that provide new insights into the constraints faced by rural women and youth in improving their well-being.
10. Expected outputs include:
  - (i) Improved survey data on the economic activities of rural women in at least eight countries;
  - (ii) Improved survey data on rural youth employment in agricultural and off-farm activities in at least eight countries; and
  - (iii) Enhanced data access and analysis of new data sets in at least eight countries based on improved data on women and youth.
11. Since these activities will be implemented in parallel with the development and dissemination of improved survey-design approaches, it is expected that there will be a significant spillover effect beyond the countries of implementation. The learning generated via the development and use of new methodologies will contribute to expanding the survey design tools and capacity-development activities disseminated by LSMS and C4D2. Therefore, the outcomes of this grant will have the potential to reach research practitioners well beyond those directly involved in this initiative.

## IV. Implementation arrangements

12. The recipient will be the World Bank; C4D2 will be responsible for executing the grant. Upon the establishment of C4D2 in 2015, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IFAD to define the principles of collaboration.
13. Implementation of the programme at the country level will build on the existing partnerships of LSMS and the countries selected for implementation.
14. Close and ongoing contact with the grant recipient will be ensured by IFAD's collaboration with C4D2 via the memorandum of understanding and the meetings of the steering committee/technical advisory board. IFAD's Research and Impact Assessment Division will be responsible for reviewing progress, discussing implementation issues with the recipient and consolidating the outputs of the collaboration. The World Bank will submit an annual report to IFAD on the programme's main activities, outputs and financial status. The World Bank will prepare a detailed programme report within six months of programme completion.
15. The programme's timeline includes: a review of existing modules; questionnaire design and validation; and preparation of the practical guidelines. The process of survey implementation and capacity-building is continuous since these are recurring activities in which C4D2 and the LSMS team are involved on a permanent basis. There will be a constant feedback loop involving: (i) survey implementation, which will inform the design of the questionnaires to be validated; (ii) validation; and (iii) the incorporation of the lessons learned into the new surveys conducted by national statistical offices. A similar process will be established with IFAD's impact assessment and country teams to ensure that projects are informed by the survey validation exercise and subsequent implementation of the survey instruments at scale.

## V. Indicative programme costs and financing

16. The total cost of the programme is estimated at US\$42.3 million. IFAD will contribute US\$2.3 million and cofinancing will total US\$40 million. As seen in table 1, the primary costs will include the development of new methods for collecting data on gender and youth (component 1) and the integration of those methods into national surveys (component 2). Additional funds will be used for outreach to disseminate lessons learned through the development of new methodologies (component 3).
17. The programme budget will cover C4D2 staff involvement in the validation, survey analysis and dissemination activities. Consultants will be employed to support C4D2 staff and national statistical offices in reviewing survey modules, implementing validation experiments in countries, analysing data and conducting knowledge management activities. The budget for goods, services and inputs will cover the contracting of survey firms to implement validation exercises when they cannot be undertaken directly by national statistical offices.
18. Cofinancing will be provided by other donors supporting LSMS in data collection, methodological development, analysis and dissemination (see table 2). The programme will benefit from this cofinancing, which will support LSMS data collection, analysis and dissemination in several countries. In addition, the grant activities will complement planned survey implementation and methodological development to better capture issues related to employment of women and youth through more relevant methods. All cofinancing is already available from the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donors. The LSMS, on which this programme will build, is already operational in many countries around the world; this will allow

grant-funded activities to start immediately. Additional mobilization of funds is ongoing and it is likely that cofinancing will increase over the next four years. The World Bank will report to IFAD on all requests for complementary funding. Since a portion of the funding for survey activities will be generated at the national level by governments and bilateral donors, the exact composition of cofinancing will vary by country.

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

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Methodological development	737 900	-	737 900
2. Integration of methods into national surveys	1 318 000	40 000 000	41 318 000
3. Outreach	244 100	-	244 100
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 300 000</b>	<b>40 000 000</b>	<b>42 300 000</b>

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

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing (World Bank, Gates Foundation, USAID, DFID and other donors)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries and allowances	690 000	6 000 000	6 690 000
2. Consultancies	511 000	5 000 000	5 511 000
3. Travel	180 000	1 000 000	1 180 000
4. Regional/global workshops	60 000	500 000	560 000
5. Goods, services and inputs	650 000	25 500 000	26 150 000
6. Overhead/management	209 000	2 000 000	2 209 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 300 000</b>	<b>40 000 000</b>	<b>42 300 000</b>

## VI. Recommendation

19. 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, Improving the Availability and Quality of Individual-level Data on Women and Youth in Living Standards Measurement Study Surveys through Methodological Research and Capacity-Building, shall provide a grant of two million three hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$2,300,000) to C4D2 through the World Bank for a four-year period 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

# Results-based logical framework

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Goal: To improve the availability and quality of household survey individual-level data on women and youth through capacity building and improvements in methods of collecting data on the economic activities of rural women and youth in a manner that allows a deeper understanding of the constraints faced by these groups.	Target countries improve their capacity to collect individual-level data on women and youth as part of their household survey program.	Micro-data library LSMS website NSO websites Progress and final reports to IFAD	
Objectives	Development Objective: To inform policy and programme design and implementation that lead to enhanced prospects for improving the well-being of smallholder farmers, with special emphasis on rural women and youth, and help to achieve the related targets under the SDGs.	<p>Target countries' policy makers and researchers use the newly generated to inform policy decisions in their respective country, and include individually disaggregated data in their diagnostic and policy documents.</p> <p>IFAD programmes use data and data collection methods to inform the design and implementation of programmes aimed at improving the well-being of smallholders, rural women and youth.</p>	IFAD's RIMS IFAD's SKD LSMS website Progress and final report to IFAD National policy documents	<p>The achievement of the objective is conditional on countries taking full ownership of the improved practices and data generated through the programme. It also depends on IFAD's operational and impact evaluation staff being persuaded of the value added of incorporating the data collection guidelines in their operations.</p> <p>To mitigate this risk the programme will work closely with government institutions like NSOs with the proper mandate and standing to be a conduit to policy makers and data users of the work to be carried out under the programme. The programme will</p>

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		IFAD contributes to the monitoring of and achievement of relevant SDGs targets through improved data disaggregation by gender and age groups.		also involve IFAD's staff in a dialogue from the programme inception phase, and incorporate their concerns in the final recommendations to ensure ownership and relevance of the programme's outputs.
Outcomes/ Outputs	<p>Outcome 1: improved methodologies and guidelines for the collection of household survey data on women and youth employment in agriculture in low income countries.</p> <p>Outcome 2: policies and programs designed by IFAD and development partners informed by data, analysis and reports that provide new insights into the constraints faced by women and youth in improving their well-being in rural areas.</p>	<p>Methodological guidelines on the collection of individual-level household survey data published.</p> <p>At least 10 IFAD projects and impact assessments use methodologies developed by the LSMS.</p> <p>At least 8 LSMS or similar surveys adopt new guidelines on individual-level data.</p> <p>The microdata, properly documented, of at least 8 LSMS-type surveys are made publicly available through different outlets.</p>	<p>Progress and final reports to IFAD</p> <p>LSMS website</p> <p>SKD</p> <p>Micro-data library</p>	<p>As above, to maximize the chances that IFAD's impact assessments take on the methodologies developed by the programmes, these will be tested and developed in constant consultation with IFAD's staff to ensure ownership and relevance.</p>
	<p>Output 1: improved survey data on the economic activities of rural women and youth.</p> <p>Output 2: enhanced data access and analysis of new data sets based on the resulting improved data on women and youth.</p> <p>Output 3: improved methodological guidelines and practices.</p>			