
President's report on a proposed IFAD contribution grant to the UN-Nutrition Secretariat

Project ID: 2000005612

Document: EB 2025/LOT/G.4

Date: 31 October 2025

Distribution: Public

Original: English

FOR: APPROVAL

Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 12.

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I. Background and compliance with the IFAD Regular Grants Policy

1. Through their country-based membership and governing bodies, United Nations agencies are responsible for contributing to global norms and goals that are agreed upon by the United Nations Member States. These agencies support countries in their advocacy, governance and implementation efforts to prevent and rapidly reduce all forms of malnutrition through normative and operational activities at global, regional and country levels. Building on their respective mandates, the United Nations agencies are strategically positioned to deliver a broad range of support and solutions to meet global and national nutrition goals. UN-Nutrition was created in February 2021 from the convergence of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and the United Nations Network for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. UN-Nutrition is the food and nutrition policy harmonization forum of the United Nations. It also serves as a dedicated platform for open, substantive and constructive dialogue among United Nations agencies on their respective strategies and efforts related to nutrition, and for the formulation of aligned and joint global approaches, positions and actions to address the multiple complex facets of nutrition challenges. The main functions of the UN-Nutrition can be summarized as follows:
 - (a) Align advocacy and policy coherence for nutrition
 - (i) Adopting coherent and unified advocacy and policy actions and messaging, engaging with key stakeholders without conflict of interest and speaking with one voice.
 - (ii) Enabling the formulation of joint global approaches and the alignment of policies, strategies and guidance in response to country needs and requests.
 - (b) Identify and coordinate strategic issues around nutrition through:
 - (i) Ensuring United Nations alignment behind the Sustainable Development Goals, the Second International Conference on Nutrition Framework¹ and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and behind national plans and priorities.
 - (ii) Leveraging partner United Nations agencies' expertise to broker coordinated technical assistance to governments and appropriate in-country stakeholders.
 - (c) Address emerging issues, knowledge management and innovation
 - (i) Promoting and supporting knowledge-sharing across the United Nations and beyond;
 - (ii) Identifying, tracking and addressing emerging issues on nutrition.
 - (d) Translate global guidance into country-level actions, guidelines and impact
 - (i) Disseminating relevant global guidance developed by United Nations agencies as well as relevant knowledge and technologies across stakeholders at country level;

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2014. [The Second International Conference on Nutrition](#).

- (ii) Working with resident coordinators in a coordinated, proactive and relevant manner to elevate and integrate nutrition into national plans.
- 2. The proposed grant is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Regular Grants Policy (2021).² This grant supports strategic partnerships to leverage better impact and foster a more conducive policy environment. It will contribute to strengthening IFAD's positioning in global and country-level nutrition coordination through its membership in UN-Nutrition.
- 3. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been directly selected as grant recipient. The United Nations agencies (FAO, IFAD, United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], World Food Programme [WFP], World Health Organization [WHO], International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UNDESA]) have committed through their principals to cover the costs of the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, which became fully operational on 29 February 2020. FAO is hosting the UN-Nutrition Secretariat at its headquarters in Rome until such time as the Steering Committee agrees on alternative arrangements that best suit the operations of UN-Nutrition. As the host of the secretariat, FAO would receive the contribution grant for the specific purpose of supporting UN-Nutrition.

II. The proposed contribution

- 4. The overall goal of the contribution is to strengthen sustainable strategic partnerships that support global and national nutrition priorities. The present contribution grant will support the UN-Nutrition Secretariat whose core functions are fully consistent with IFAD's Strategic Framework and the IFAD Nutrition Action Plan. The objectives are to:
 - (a) Translate global guidance into country-level guidelines, action and impact;
 - (b) Support country-level coordination among United Nations agencies on nutrition;
 - (c) Enhance global advocacy, policy coherence and programmatic alignment on nutrition-sensitive agriculture;
 - (d) Strengthen IFAD's engagement in joint actions through the UN-Nutrition platform;
 - (e) Identify emerging issues, promote and support knowledge management and innovation.
- 5. The target group will include IFAD-supported countries and country teams engaging in multisectoral coordination for nutrition, and stakeholders participating in global and regional policy spaces.
- 6. The contribution grant will support a three-year programme (2025–2027), which will include the following three components:
 - (i) Active participation in UN-Nutrition governance and technical platforms;
 - (ii) Contribution to the development of strategies, knowledge products and joint advocacy;
 - (iii) Support to IFAD's visibility and country-level engagement and operations through UN-Nutrition mechanisms.

² See EB 2021/132/R.3.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

7. The programme is expected to enhance IFAD's global and country-level engagement with UN-Nutrition, making it a key player in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and in food systems transformation. Outputs under each component are the following:
 - (i) Contributions made to UN-Nutrition Steering Committee and technical working groups documented and reflected in meeting outcomes; inputs provided and integrated into UN-Nutrition strategies and workplans; strategic partnerships established and joint initiatives undertaken with United Nations agencies and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement to advance multisectoral nutrition actions.
 - (ii) IFAD inputs integrated into UN-Nutrition knowledge products and advocacy materials; joint advocacy messages and technically aligned positions developed and disseminated in collaboration with United Nations agencies through UN-Nutrition; UN-Nutrition repository input by agencies utilized to inform IFAD programming and policy dialogue.
 - (iii) IFAD's contributions to nutrition-sensitive agriculture featured in reports of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; IFAD's field experiences and knowledge products published in United Nations newsletters and websites; linkages established between IFAD country programmes and UN-Nutrition coordination platforms and partners.

IV. Implementation arrangements

8. The programme will be implemented by the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, which is hosted by FAO, with IFAD providing a financial contribution of US\$600,000 over three years (US\$200,000 per year). The secretariat will coordinate planning, monitoring and reporting of activities. As one of the constituent members, IFAD will actively participate in the Steering Committee and relevant technical working groups.
9. For this grant, FAO will sign a contribution agreement with IFAD for programme implementation. The recipient will act as the sole counterpart to IFAD, bearing all contractual and operational liabilities as defined in the contribution agreement.
10. The annual core budget of the secretariat will cover staffing costs and fund the running of the secretariat, as well as field support activities (e.g. travel). The budget is covered by the constituent member agencies, including IFAD. IFAD's contribution for 2025–2027 amounts to US\$600,000 and it was determined on a pro rata basis by each member organization.
11. Tables 1 and 2 below are based on confirmed contributions from members such as FAO and WFP and on estimates based on previous years' contributions, which will be negotiated with each agency by the end of 2025.

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

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Estimated contributions from FAO, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNDESA and IAEA</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Active participation in UN-Nutrition governance and technical platforms	120 000	604 860	724 860
2. Contribution to the development of strategies, knowledge products, and joint advocacy	240 000	1 209 720	1 449 720
3. Support to IFAD's visibility and country-level engagement and operations through UN-Nutrition mechanisms	240 000	1 209 720	1 449 720
Total	600 000	3 024 300	3 624 300

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

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Estimated contributions from FAO, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNDESA and IAEA</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Consultants	385 000	1 943 300	2 328 837
2. Travel and allowances	55 000	278 840	334 160
3. Training	10 000	58 060	69 579
4. Salaries and allowances	40 000	189 337	226 900
5. Operating costs	70 000	356 912	427 721
6. Overheads and management fees	40 000	197 851	237 104
Total	600 000	3 024 300	3 624 300

V. Recommendation

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

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the UN-Nutrition Secretariat, shall provide a grant of six hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$600,000) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for 2025–2027 upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Alvaro Lario
 President

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Strengthening sustainable strategic partnerships that support global and national nutrition priorities.	- Number of strategic nutrition partnerships maintained or initiated by IFAD through UN-Nutrition.	UN-Nutrition Steering Committee minutes	UN-Nutrition continues to serve as a platform for multi-agency collaboration and IFAD remains an active member and contributor <i>UN-Nutrition continues to provide a functional platform for multi-agency collaboration, and IFAD maintains active engagement and contributions throughout the implementation period.</i>
Objectives	Leverage better impact on the ground for IFAD's programme of work, including through strategic partnerships and improvement of in-country coordination and capacity for greater sustainability of benefits	- Number of IFAD-supported countries benefiting from UN-Nutrition coordination support or joint actions.	UN-Nutrition Secretariat updates and support tracker	IFAD country teams engage with UN-Nutrition mechanisms and partners, and coordination platforms
Outcomes/ outputs	Enhanced global and country-level engagement of IFAD in UN-Nutrition as a key player in nutrition-sensitive agriculture in food systems transformation.	- % of countries supported by UN-Nutrition in which IFAD contributes to national-level nutrition coordination mechanisms or participates in key nutrition-related partnerships and initiatives.	Country programme reports and/or meeting minutes	IFAD country teams engage with UN-Nutrition mechanisms and coordination platforms
		- Number of IFAD contributions visible in global nutrition platforms.	UN-Nutrition publications, technical briefs, advocacy materials, contribution records	UN-Nutrition continues to produce joint outputs
Key activities by component	<p>Component 1: Active participation in UN-Nutrition governance, partnerships and technical platforms</p> <p>1.1. Participate actively in the UN-Nutrition Steering Committee and technical working groups.</p> <p>1.2. Contribute to the development and review of UN-Nutrition strategies and workplan</p> <p>1.3. Engage in strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies and SUN Movement to support multisectoral nutrition action</p> <p>Component 2: <i>Contribution to the development of strategies, knowledge products, and joint advocacy</i></p> <p>2.1. Contribute to the development and review of UN-Nutrition knowledge products and advocacy</p>	<p>- Number of UN-Nutrition Steering Committee and technical meetings attended by IFAD.</p> <p>- Number of strategies, workplans and reviews contributed by IFAD</p> <p>- Number and type of IFAD contributions to UN-Nutrition knowledge products, advocacy materials, or strategic processes.</p> <p>- Number of IFAD's features or mentions in UN-Nutrition documents and platforms</p> <p>-Number of IFAD's country teams engaged within UN-Nutrition coordination mechanisms</p> <p>-Number of joint messages or policy briefs co-endorsed</p> <p>-Number of collaborative initiatives</p>	<p>Meeting minutes and/or IFAD internal reporting</p> <p>Steering Committee documentation including minutes</p> <p>UN-Nutrition website, ECOSOC and HLPF reports, global events and social media posts</p> <p>UN-Nutrition website, newsletters, social media,</p> <p>Country programme reports and/or meeting minutes</p> <p>Advocacy materials, policy briefs, joint statements</p>	<p>IFAD maintains its financial commitment and active participation in UN-Nutrition governance and technical processes throughout the grant period.</p> <p>IFAD country teams are resourced and supported to engage in national-level nutrition coordination mechanisms and joint initiatives.</p> <p>Opportunities for joint advocacy, technical collaboration, and knowledge-sharing remain accessible and relevant to IFAD's strategic priorities.</p>

Objectives hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
<p>materials.</p> <p>2.2. Promote joint advocacy and technical alignment with other UN agencies through UN-Nutrition.</p> <p>2.3. Contribute to UN-Nutrition common repository of knowledge products and leverage it for IFAD's operations</p> <p>Component 3: <i>Support to IFAD's visibility and country-level engagement and operations through UN-Nutrition mechanisms</i></p> <p>3.1. Highlight IFAD's work on nutrition-sensitive agriculture in ECOSOC and HLPF reports.</p> <p>3.2. Disseminate IFAD's knowledge and experience from the ground in UN newsletters/websites</p> <p>3.3. Facilitate linkages between IFAD country programmes and UN-Nutrition coordination mechanisms and partners</p>		<p>Project documents, joint activity outputs or reports</p>	