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Investing in rural people

IFAD12: Deepening Impact and Building Resilience through Mainstreaming

Note to Consultation members

This Rev.2 replaces the first version posted on 3 June 2020, which was revised following the first meeting of the second session held on 16-17 June.

For ease of reference, deletions are shown in strikethrough and insertions are underlined.

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Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources —
Second Session

Virtual meeting, 16-17 June 2020

For: Review

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AF	Adaptation Fund
ARRI	Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations
ASAP+	Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme +
COSOP	country strategic opportunities programme
ECG	Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division
ENRM	Environment and Natural Resource management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPIC	free, prior and informed consent
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOE	Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IFAD11	Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
KM	knowledge management
LLRP	Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project
MDB	multilateral development bank
NDC	nationally determined contribution
PADFA-II	Commodity Value Chain Development Support Project - Phase II
PoLG	programme of loans and grants
PSFP	Private Sector Financing Programme
PwD	persons with disabilities
RMF	Results Measurement Framework
SARP	Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SECAP	Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
WFP	World Food Programme

Executive summary

1. **In mainstreaming environment and climate change, gender, youth and nutrition, IFAD deepens its own impact and helps achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.** Making a deeper impact means reaching further down into pockets of poverty to improve the lives of households and individuals more effectively and in new ways. Mainstreaming provides a sharp lens allowing IFAD to focus on the specific needs of beneficiary groups and to capitalize on their different capacities. The inclusion of women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities (PwD) and other vulnerable groups in IFAD interventions ensures that they are engaged and empowered, and that none are left behind. Overcoming individual barriers and managing key risk factors is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Addressing environmental issues, climate change and nutrition increases IFAD's development effectiveness beyond its existing strategic objectives of increased production, incomes and resilience. Ultimately, mainstreaming enables IFAD to do more to transform the lives and livelihoods of the rural people it supports.
2. **A strong emphasis on mainstreaming is critical in order to prevent the COVID-19 crisis from eroding existing gains.** The COVID-19 pandemic is turning into an economic crisis that risks sparking a food system and food security crisis whose impact would disproportionately fall on vulnerable groups such as women and youth. As small-scale producers struggle to survive, they usually prioritize short-term solutions over longer-term management strategies. This adds pressure on the natural resource base, possibly reversing previous gains in building resilience to climate change and protecting biodiversity. Disruptions in agricultural value chains and food markets would also constrain the marketability and availability of nutritious foods and lead to income losses, malnutrition and hunger.
3. **Historically, and particularly in the last decade, IFAD has kept a close focus on its mainstreaming themes, thus raising its ambition and delivering enhanced results.** Corporate policies and strategies together with effective resource mobilization have helped guide and support a broader range of actions. At the same time, IFAD has built stronger partnerships, enhanced global engagement and improved knowledge generation and dissemination in support of its priority themes, embedding them at the country and operational levels. At present, all country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) consider environment and climate change, gender, nutrition and youth in their planning. All projects that form part of the programme of loans and grants (PoLG) have mainstreamed environment and climate and gender, and at least 50 per cent of projects are designed to be nutrition- and youth-sensitive. Furthermore, at least 25 per cent of the PoLG interventions of the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11) are being invested in climate-focused activities, and at least 25 per cent of projects approved in IFAD11 are designed to be more than gender-sensitive and instead to become fully gender transformative.
4. **A key element of IFAD12 is to expand ambition around the mainstreaming themes of environment and climate change, gender, youth and nutrition.** IFAD will continue to build partnerships, engage in policy discussions and generate knowledge, but in keeping with IFAD12's focus on decentralization and proximity, will further emphasize the regional and country dimensions. Additionally, IFAD will systematize mainstreaming commitments and integrate the mainstreaming themes not only in the PoLG, but also into the proposed Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme + (ASAP+) and the Private Sector Financing Programme (PSFP). These efforts will be enhanced through South-South and Triangular Cooperation and through differentiated, context-appropriate approaches, especially in fragile situations. IFAD12 will also expand its efforts to build internal capacity and improve measurement of the mainstreaming themes.

5. **Further, as part of IFAD12, IFAD will ramp up its approach to biodiversity, expand its engagement with indigenous peoples, and operationalize the inclusion of PwD.** Biodiversity is already considered within the theme of environment and climate change, but there is room for improvement. Focus on biodiversity will remain part of overall environmental and climate change activities, but efforts will be enhanced. Although indigenous peoples have long been an integral part of IFAD's activities, updated approaches are needed given the changes currently taking place in the global context. IFAD11 included assessment of the potential to expand engagement with PwD and this will be further integrated into IFAD12 activities.

Proposed IFAD12 commitments

Raising ambitions in the core mainstreaming areas

- I. IFAD's Targeting Policy will be updated as will the Operational Guidelines on Targeting with a focus on gender, youth, indigenous peoples and PwD.
- II. All COSOPs will continue to factor in environment and climate change, gender, nutrition and youth in their analyses. Further, the biodiversity analyses undertaken as part of environmental and climate change assessments will be strengthened. A new strategy on biodiversity will be developed and adopted.
- III. The four mainstreaming themes – environment and climate change, gender, nutrition and youth – will be assessed using a consistent set of measurements rating project quality at design, supervision and completion respectively. Commitments and targets will be based on a realistic level of ambition following the historical progression of each mainstreaming theme.
- IV. Climate finance in the PoLG will continue to be calculated using the multilateral development banks' methodologies for tracking climate finance, and ambitions will be increased to 35 per cent of total funding.
- V. Gender-transformative approaches that drive higher standards of gender engagement will continue to be promoted and ambitions increased.
- VI. The project quality ratings for environment and climate change will incorporate biodiversity considerations in line with the recommendations of the upcoming biodiversity strategy.
- VII. The proposed ASAP+ will monitor the incorporation of gender, youth and nutrition in projects while the proposed PSFP will monitor all mainstreaming themes in private sector operations emphasizing youth and women's employment.
- VIII. An updated Development Effectiveness Framework will be produced focusing on the measurement of mainstreaming themes, improved consistency across themes and clarity in the criteria defined for quality assessment.

Deepening the focus on indigenous peoples and PwD

- IX. IFAD's strategy for indigenous peoples will be updated and a new strategy will be developed and adopted for PwD.
- X. All COSOPs will include an analysis of indigenous peoples (where these are recognized by the government) and incorporate PwD.
- XI. All projects will continue to be informed by the Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures, which are currently being strengthened, including a more systematic incorporation of PwD.
- XII. Support to indigenous peoples and PwD will be incorporated into select projects and monitored through data collection following the

recommendations set out in the updated Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the new PwD strategy.

Strengthening IFAD's ability to deliver in these areas

- XIII. Partnership-building, policy engagement and knowledge management will remain critical aspects of the mainstreaming agenda but will focus more on the regional and country dimensions, reflecting IFAD's increasing decentralization.
- XIV. A new South-South and Triangular Cooperation strategy will be developed and adopted, and include added emphasis on mainstreaming themes.
- XV. Capacity-building will be expanded to include updated elements (biodiversity, indigenous people and PwD) as well as new measurement approaches included in the Development Effectiveness Framework with a strong focus on training at the regional and country levels.
- XVI. The proposed approach to addressing fragile situations highlighted in the IFAD12 business model and financial framework paper will be developed, incorporating mainstreaming themes.

I. Strategic importance of mainstreaming themes

1. **IFAD's mainstreaming of environment and climate change, gender, youth and nutrition deepens IFAD's impact and works towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** Making a deeper impact means reaching further down into pockets of poverty to improve the lives of households and individuals more effectively and in new ways. Mainstreaming provides a sharp lens allowing IFAD to target the specific needs of different beneficiary groups and capitalize on their particular capacities. The inclusion in IFAD interventions of women, youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities (PwD) and other vulnerable groups ensures that they are engaged and empowered, and that none are left behind. Addressing environmental issues and climate change, together with biodiversity and nutrition, ensures that IFAD's interventions have deeper and more lasting impact. Focusing on these themes enhances IFAD's ability to help achieve the SDGs and create inclusive, sustainable, nutritious and resilient food systems.
2. **But the COVID-19 crisis threatens the gains made so far.** What started as a health crisis has turned into an economic crisis that risks creating a food system and food security disaster. Historically, global recessions and crises have tended to inflict the greatest hurt on the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society.¹ Measures adopted to curtail the spread of the virus, including movement restrictions, interfere with key value chain activities including planting, cultivation, harvesting and sales. Such disruptions in food markets have huge ramifications in terms of income generation, employment and nutrition. Women, youth and other vulnerable populations are those most at risk. In times of crisis, vulnerable small-scale producers and the rural poor resort to coping strategies such as the sale of productive assets like livestock. This makes it more difficult for them to emerge from poverty at the end of the crisis, and undermines their ability to cope with future shocks. Resilience to climate change may also deteriorate as people prioritize short-term needs over long-term sustainability, putting greater pressure on the natural resource base. Market disruptions can also limit the marketability and availability of nutritious foods and induce farmers to shift back to staples. A focus on the mainstreaming themes during the crisis is critical to avoid backsliding.
3. **The purpose of this paper is to outline IFAD's ambition for the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12) with respect to the mainstreaming themes.** The paper complements the IFAD12 Business Model and Financial Framework paper, which includes an initial result management framework. In section II, the document considers the implications of the COVID-19 crisis for each of the mainstreaming areas. To articulate IFAD12 ambitions requires providing an adequate baseline of where IFAD stands, which is done in section III. Section IV addresses the potential to enhance mainstreaming in fragile situations, through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and as part of a broader strategy to transform food systems and achieve the SDGs. Section V then shows how the mainstreaming themes fit the overall IFAD12 business model as well as each element of the model. Section VI notes the actions needed to ensure IFAD has the capacity and internal systems to carry out these ambitions.

II. Mainstreaming in the COVID-19 context

4. **COVID-19 presents a challenge to SDG 1 because global poverty could increase for the first time since 1990, reversing a decade of progress.**² The full effect of the COVID-19-induced global economic slowdown is hard to predict since the extent of the global recession expected is unclear. But estimates all

¹ The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) estimates a 1 percentage point slowdown in the global economy would increase poverty by 14 million people.

² Sumner, A., Hoy, C. and Ortiz-Juarez, E., 2020. *Estimates of the Impact of Covid-19 on Global Poverty*. WIDER Working Paper 2020/43. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

suggest rising poverty, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, together with rural areas, being most severely affected.³ The World Bank is projecting around 50 million more in poverty in 2020⁴ due to the impact of lockdowns and restrictions on the economy.

5. **While they are needed to control the spread of the virus, lockdowns and restrictions are disrupting markets and supply chains, and creating aggregate demand and supply shocks.** These are being strongly felt within food systems and across rural economies.⁵ Eighty per cent of food in Africa and Asia is now purchased in markets, indicating the importance of food supply chains both to rural producers and urban and rural consumers.⁶ With falling incomes, rising food prices, or both, people find it harder to buy food, lowering demand in the short run and potentially impairing dietary patterns. Diminished demand threatens the food supply chains that increasingly connect rural areas to towns and cities and create employment all the way down the line, from production and processing, to packaging, transportation and distribution. A breakdown in any one of these segments disrupts the whole system, just as a broken link severs a chain. In rural areas, where farming and the food sector are a vital part of the economy, the impact of COVID-19 on demand and supply is now impacting the livelihoods of small-scale producers and rural workers, with a consequent increase in rural poverty. A dramatic video shared by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development shows farmers dumping the crops they could not sell.⁷ In the absence of a resolute and comprehensive policy response leading to a strong and speedy recovery, the present global economic decline will have dire effects on rural poverty.
6. **Employment in rural areas is primarily informal so that even if some social protection exists rural workers are often excluded.** Many of the rural poor depend on seasonal and mobile or migrant work and remittance flows, which are all restricted by lockdowns.⁸ Informal working arrangements, the digital divide and the lack of safety nets make it harder for rural workers to obey containment measures and cope with unemployment. The rural poor have little margin to weather this crisis. They typically face failures in multiple markets without the protection of formal insurance or credit and risk management instruments.⁹ This forces them to sell off assets, incur often high-interest debt, skip meals, and shift to safer but unremunerative crop production. Any progress made in improving their livelihoods and escaping poverty is quickly lost.
7. **The consequences of COVID-19 are felt most strongly among vulnerable members of society, significantly affecting their resilience and undermining their well-being.** This means that IFAD's broader mandate to transform rural economies and food systems by making them more inclusive, sustainable, nutritious and resilient remains critical. IFAD's mainstreaming agenda – which prioritizes the inclusion and empowerment of women and youth,

³ Estimated impacts on extreme poverty range from 40 million to 140 million new poor. See for example, Laborde, D., Martin, W. and Vos, R.. 2020. Poverty and food insecurity could grow dramatically as COVID-19 spreads. *IFPRI Blog: Research Post*. Retrieved 1 May 2020; and Sumner, A., Hoy, C. and Ortiz-Juarez, E., 2020, *Estimates of the Impact Of Covid-19 On Global Poverty*. WIDER Working Paper 2020/43. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

⁴ Gerszon, D. et al., 2020. The impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on global poverty: Why Sub-Saharan Africa might be the region hardest hit, *World Bank Blogs*. Retrieved 1 May 2020. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/impact-covid-19-coronavirus-global-poverty-why-sub-saharan-africa-might-be-region-hardest>

⁵ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2020. COVID-19 and the Food and Agriculture Sector: Issues and Policy Responses. Manuscript.

⁶ Reardon, T. et al., Rapid transformation of food systems in developing regions: highlighting the role of agricultural research & innovations. *Agricultural Systems*, 172, pp.47-59.

⁷ An appeal to IFAD President Gilbert F. Houngbo from Asia-Pacific farmers: Accessed 1 May 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOWBkwUb0PA>

⁸ Ratha, D. et al., 2020. *COVID-19 crisis through a migration lens*. Migration and Development Brief, 32.

⁹ FAO, 2020. *COVID-19 and rural poverty: supporting and protecting the rural poor in times of pandemic*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8824en>.

emphasizes resilience to environmental and climate change shocks, promotes improved nutrition, and seeks synergies and co-benefits across themes – is central to this task. The nature of the COVID-19 crisis makes it more urgent to address these themes through increased, continued efforts. How the crisis is affecting IFAD’s mainstreaming themes is briefly described below.

Environment and climate change

8. **Prior to COVID-19, agriculture had become central in climate change discussions.** The World Bank has estimated that climate change could push more than 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, with half of this increase due to the impact on agriculture.¹⁰ More intense and frequent weather events are expected to affect yields, raising the possibility of significant global food price fluctuations, with potentially dramatic consequences on vulnerable rural populations. Fostering environmental sustainability and climate adaptation, and building resilience among small-scale producers and the extreme poor in rural areas was widely viewed as critical to achieving the SDGs.
 9. **Environmental and climate change concerns are heightened as a result of COVID-19.** As noted previously, COVID-19 is damaging food systems through demand shocks due to reduced incomes, and supply shocks due to market disruptions. Entire food value chains are being stressed, as are those whose livelihoods depend on them. If vulnerable populations resort to liquidating assets and borrowing on harsh terms, among other coping strategies, their resilience to future shocks will diminish. At the same time, greater pressure may be exerted on the natural resource base to meet immediate needs, undermining biodiversity and sustainability. While the economic downturn has lowered greenhouse gas emissions in the short term, this will not make much difference in the long term, whereas the consequences of diminished resilience are lasting. Indeed, climate change is a risk multiplier since distressed systems tend to be affected by climatic shocks more severely.¹¹ Actions aimed at promoting sustainability, supporting adaptation and building resilience to climatic events and other forms of shocks thus become crucial.
- ### **Gender and women’s empowerment**
10. **COVID-19 affects women and men differently.** Evidence suggests that, for biological and social reasons, more men than women are dying from the virus. But it is women who are predominantly tasked with caregiving and, due to household power dynamics, their health needs tend to go unmet. The time they use to care for family members reduces their ability to earn an income. Women can be severely affected economically by their husband’s death, depending on inheritance patterns and practices upon marital dissolution.¹² Pandemic lockdowns and the accompanying financial stress can lead to greater violence against women and girls due to increased tension and proximity with potential perpetrators.¹³ Lastly, in times of crises women’s assets are often sold first, reducing their resilience and bargaining power in the household.¹⁴ As in other crises, the food security, well-being and livelihoods of women are more severely affected than men’s.

¹⁰ Hallegatte, S. et al, 2016. *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Extreme poverty* (Washington, D.C.: World Bank).

¹¹ Challinor, A. et al, 2020. How we can use the COVID-19 disruption to improve food systems and address the climate emergency. *CCAFS News Blog*. Retrieved 1 May 2020. <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/how-we-can-use-covid-19-disruption-improve-food-systems-and-address-climate-emergency#.XrGBpS4zY2w>.

¹² Quisumbing, A. et al, 2020. Why gender matters in COVID-19 responses – now and in the future. *IFPRI Blog: Research Post*. Retrieved 1 May 2020. <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/why-gender-matters-covid-19-responses-%E2%80%93-now-and-future>.

¹³ Peterman, A. et al, 2020. *Pandemics and Violence Against Women and Children*. CGD Working Paper 528. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development. <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/pandemics-and-violence-against-women-and-children>.

¹⁴ Quisumbing, A.R., Kumar, N. and Behrman, J.A., 2018. Do shocks affect men's and women's assets differently? Evidence from Bangladesh and Uganda. *Development Policy Review*, 36(1), pp.3-34.

11. **Addressing COVID-19 requires recognizing emerging challenges while simultaneously considering known gender gaps.** Female agricultural producers have significantly less access to agricultural inputs, which contributes to a 20-30 per cent gender productivity gap.¹⁵ When markets are disrupted, this gap may widen without a proactive push for equal access to input and output markets. Also, fewer women than men are using digital technology, which limits their ability to obtain information on COVID-19 as well as on agricultural production and markets. Fifty-four per cent of women in low- and middle-income countries now use mobile internet but they are 20 per cent less likely to have mobile internet than men (a difference of 300 million between men and women).¹⁶ Finally, when women are not empowered, household spending is diverted from children's schooling, health and nutrition. If the COVID-19 crisis leads to a deterioration in women's empowerment, there will be significant consequences on long-term development goals, especially those linked to children.
12. **Including and empowering women must continue as part of the COVID-19 response and the "tyranny of the urgent" must be avoided.** Evidence from previous health crises suggests that the failure to integrate gender into disease outbreak preparedness and response had national and local implications as regards final impacts.¹⁷ The reason is that structural issues, such as gender relations, seem to be put aside to meet immediate needs. Not only does this potentially worsen the impact on women: it can also exacerbate inequalities. Gender mainstreaming must be maintained in both short- and long-term responses.
- Improving nutrition**
13. **COVID-19 will affect malnutrition through multiple mechanisms.** Dietary quality is expected to decrease due to income losses related to government-mandated shutdowns and broken supply chains. In lower-income countries, calories from nutrient-rich, non-staple foods like eggs, fruits, and vegetables are often as much as 10 times more expensive than calories from rice, maize, wheat, or cassava.¹⁸ When incomes decline, vulnerable households quickly give up nutrient-rich foods in order to preserve their caloric intake. Further, food transfer schemes such as school feeding programmes and micronutrient-targeted programmes for mothers and children may be frozen or scaled back as a result of government shutdowns or reallocation.¹⁹ Combined with the direct effects of COVID-19 on health care systems, which are already weak in many countries, malnutrition is likely to increase as other priorities command immediate attention.
14. **Malnutrition, including undernutrition and micronutrient deficiency, remains higher in rural than in urban areas, and the rate of increase in overweight/obesity is also higher in rural areas than in urban areas.** As both consumers and producers of food, rural inhabitants, particularly those targeted by IFAD, are likely to suffer most. The short- and long-term response to COVID-19 must factor in the possibility of increased malnutrition in all its forms in rural areas. Build-back-better strategies need to include the strengthening of local food systems in rural areas, including increased availability and access for vulnerable populations to a diversity of healthy foods.

¹⁵ O'Sullivan, M., et al. *Levelling the Field: Improving Opportunities for Women Farmers in Africa*. (Washington, DC: World Bank Group, 2014).

¹⁶ GSMA., 2019. *Connected Women: The mobile gender gap report 2018*. GSMA, London. Retrieved 1 May 2020 https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/GSMA_The_Mobile_Gender_Gap_Report_2018_32pp_WEBv7.pdf.

¹⁷ Smith, J. 2019. Overcoming the 'tyranny of the urgent': Integrating gender into disease outbreak preparedness and response, *Gender & Development*, 27:2, 355-369, DOI: 10.1080/13552074.2019.1615288.

¹⁸ Headey, D.D. and Alderman, H.H., 2019. The relative caloric prices of healthy and unhealthy foods differ systematically across income levels and continents. *The Journal of nutrition*, 149(11), pp.2020-2033.

¹⁹ Headey, D.D. and Ruel, M., 2020). The COVID-19 nutrition crisis: What to expect and how to protect. *IFPRI Blog: Research Post*. Retrieved 1 May 2020. <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/covid-19-nutrition-crisis-what-expect-and-how-protect>.

Youth, jobs and migration

15. **Even though their health is generally less threatened by COVID-19, youth are expected to be disproportionately affected economically.** In low-income, lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries, there are 778 million youth living in rural, semi-rural and peri-urban areas where agriculture and related value chains are key employers.²⁰ Youth face barriers in access to land, natural resources, finance, technology, knowledge, information and education so that finding opportunities in agricultural production is challenging for them even in normal times. With markets disrupted, these challenges become that much greater. Youth are twice as likely to be in temporary employment as adults, with almost 80 per cent of working youth employed in informal jobs. In rural areas, young people are 40 per cent more likely to be working without a contract.²¹ Opportunities off-farm are also limited as a result of the aggregate demand and supply shock. If the crisis is protracted, large numbers of youth may migrate in search of employment – and even more if COVID-19 constrains educational opportunities.

Indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities

16. **Along with women and youth, the vulnerability of indigenous peoples and PwD makes them particularly susceptible to COVID-19 and its economic consequences.** Indigenous peoples represent 5 per cent of the global population (370 million people in about 90 countries) but account for some 15 per cent of the extreme poor. Custodians of an estimated 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity,²² they are, precisely because of their reliance on natural systems, one of the population groups most vulnerable to climate change. Along with heightened concern over the health risks posed to indigenous peoples by COVID-19, economic pressure may drive an increase in illegal activities such as logging and mining in indigenous areas. The consequent threat to biodiversity and ecosystems is clear. Dealing with COVID-19 among indigenous peoples means not only providing equal access to health care, but also equal access to economic support and opportunities in a manner that maintains the natural resource base.
17. **PwD need more health care than others and are therefore more vulnerable to COVID-19, especially when faced with low-quality or inaccessible health services.**²³ Of the one billion PwD in the world, four out of five live in developing countries, where there is a strong relationship between extreme poverty and disability. To improve performance on disability inclusion and to support efforts to leave no one behind, in 2018, the United Nations Secretary-General's Executive Committee established a system-wide policy, action plan and accountability framework on PwD.²⁴ The framework is a call to action to move from combating discrimination to integrating the rights of PwD into all aspects of United Nations operations. A recent IFAD study shows that rural PwD are economically active and have the capacity to earn an income and escape extreme poverty, suggesting that there is potential for including PwD more systematically in IFAD operations.²⁵ However, together with the health threat it poses, COVID-19 jeopardizes the economic well-being of PwD and their families. The greater the health risks and associated costs, the higher the likelihood of PwD falling back into poverty. This points to an even greater need for engagement with PwD.

²⁰ See IFAD's *2019 Rural Development Report: Creating Opportunities for Rural Youth* (Rome: IFAD) for a detailed analysis of rural youth.

²¹ International Labour Organization (ILO). 2017. *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017. Paths to a better working future*. ILO: Geneva.

²² World Bank. *Indigenous Peoples*. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/indigenouspeoples>. Accessed 1 May 2020.

²³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2020. *COVID-19 Outbreak and Persons with Disabilities*. Retrieved 24 May 2020.

²⁴ United Nations, *United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy* (United Nations: New York, 2019): https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/03/UNDIS_20-March-2019_for-HLCM.P.pdf.

²⁵ See IFAD, *The economic activities of persons with disabilities in rural areas: New evidence and opportunities for IFAD engagement* (Rome: IFAD, 2019) for a review of the evidence on PwD.

III. The progression of mainstreaming at IFAD

18. **The mainstreaming of environmental and climate change considerations, gender, youth and nutrition is all the more critical in the face of the global challenges posed by COVID-19.** Of course, the hope is that by the start of IFAD12 (2022), the recovery phase of the COVID-19 response will have been completed and the focus will have shifted to reactivating rural areas and building resilience. Whether or not this proves to be the case, however, the need to build resilience is likely to be even greater, and IFAD will need to continue to work to increase its level of ambition in the mainstreaming of these issues in country strategies and operations and in the areas of policy engagement, partnership-building, SSTC and knowledge management. To do this effectively, IFAD must build upon existing efforts.
19. **Historically, IFAD has maintained a strong focus on its mainstreaming themes and has been progressively raising its level of ambition in this respect.** Starting with commitments regarding the environment, climate change and gender in IFAD8 (2010-2012), IFAD then added the issues of nutrition in IFAD10 (2016-2018) and youth in IFAD11 (2019-2021) as key mainstreaming areas. Over time, IFAD has raised the bar in terms of its corporate and strategic commitments and its country-based and operational undertakings. A detailed overview is provided in appendix I.
20. **Corporate efforts in the form of policies, strategies and resource mobilization are designed to provide guidance and support for further action.** For example, in IFAD8, the Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM) Policy, the IFAD Strategy and Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2019-2025 and the corporate Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment laid the foundation for expanding the scope of mainstreaming efforts in IFAD9 and beyond. Similarly, the Nutrition Action Plan and the Rural Youth Action Plan developed in IFAD10 and IFAD11, respectively, prepared the ground for further action. In formulating these documents, IFAD drew on internal discussions, consultations with Member States, lessons from evaluations conducted by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), self-evaluation reports, and analyses of external data and approaches.
21. **Policies, strategies and action plans in these areas have been coupled with a strong knowledge generation and dissemination agenda.** IFAD uses the knowledge and learnings it has gained to improve the design of its operations and to increase its capacity to influence the global development agenda through the use of evidence-based and experiential knowledge. One example is the *Advantage* series that IFAD began producing in 2012, which showcases IFAD's work on its mainstreaming themes. IFAD has also developed a number of practical tools (such as toolkits, "how to do" notes and guides for project design and implementation) for improving the quality of project design and implementation as they relate to its mainstreaming themes. All thematic action plans set out priorities in the areas of policy engagement, partnerships and knowledge.
22. **While raising the visibility of these critical issues, these corporate efforts are primarily designed to embed mainstreaming at the country and operational levels and to ensure that related actions reflect best practice.** Mirroring IFAD's increasing emphasis on a country-level programmatic approach, the mainstreaming themes have been integrated into country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs). Nutrition was the first area to be formally incorporated into all COSOPs, in IFAD10, and this approach was expanded to include climate change and youth in IFAD11. With regard to climate change, IFAD also made a commitment that "all new COSOPs during IFAD11 analyse nationally determined contribution (NDC) targets and commitments to inform IFAD

interventions.”²⁶ Although gender equality does not figure as an IFAD11 commitment as such, gender mainstreaming is mandatory under the COSOP guidelines. Today, all COSOPs incorporate the mainstreaming themes.

23. **At the operational level, there is a clear intention to ensure that the mainstreaming themes are incorporated effectively.** This is done by carefully defining what it means for a theme to be mainstreamed and then verifying its inclusion at the project design stage, during project supervision and at the completion point. A check is made at the design stage to ensure that the project is taking the theme into consideration at the outset; an assessment is made during project supervision to ensure systematic follow-up on the theme during implementation; and during the review at completion, steps are taken to verify that the project met its mainstreaming objectives.
24. **One approach used for replenishment commitments has been to check for the inclusion of themes at design and completion.** This approach was first used in connection with the replenishment commitments made in IFAD9. For example, gender targets for projects receiving a quality rating of 4+ (moderately satisfactory or higher) at design and completion were included in the IFAD9 commitments. This approach was then expanded upon in IFAD11 to include targets for gender ratings for projects with a rating of 5+ (satisfactory or higher) and for projects defined as being gender transformative. For the themes of nutrition and youth, which were first mainstreamed in IFAD10 and IFAD11, respectively, rather than using project ratings, the focus has been on ensuring at design that projects are nutrition-sensitive and youth-sensitive based on predefined criteria. As shown in appendix I, IFAD has generally succeeded in fulfilling these commitments and achieving its targets.
25. **Because of the need to define and measure success in mainstreaming, IFAD’s results and mainstreaming agendas have evolved in parallel and have strengthened one another.** The adoption of IFAD’s first Results Measurement Framework (RMF) at IFAD8 (2010-2012) was the turning point for IFAD in terms of expanding its capacity to measure results. Having the capacity to monitor and report on progress enabled IFAD to expand the breadth and depth of its commitments in subsequent replenishment periods and to build a more solid knowledge base. For example, the IFAD9 project quality ratings were included in the RMFs, targets were added and means of verification were defined for environmental and climate change considerations and for gender. Since IFAD9, the RMF mainstreaming indicators have been expanded to include project targets at design and completion and a greater emphasis on COSOPs. Along with project quality measures, project-level output and outcome indicators (tier II: development results) linked to mainstreaming themes have also been included in the RMFs. For example, IFAD11 included the indicators “percentage of women reporting improved quality of their diets” and “number of persons/households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices”. A systematic means of measurement is required for each indicator, and this has led IFAD not only to raise its level of ambition, but also to enhance its measurement capacity. The current definitions of project quality measures for the mainstreaming areas are summarized in appendix III. The IFAD11 RMF includes the current set of project-level output and outcome indicators linked to mainstreaming.
26. **This strategic and operational progression has been accompanied by substantial changes in IFAD’s organizational structure aimed at ensuring that it has the capacity to deliver on each theme.** Originally, the management of work on the mainstreaming themes was the responsibility of individual desks, but the expansion of the mainstreaming agenda led to the creation of a single dedicated division, the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

²⁶ See document GC 41/L.3/Rev.1.

(ECG). This is a recognition not only of the centrality of the mainstreaming themes to IFAD's mandate, but also of IFAD's role in generating knowledge and building partnerships in these areas, of inter-theme synergies and reciprocal benefits, and of the need for a comprehensive approach. Additionally, dedicated technical experts have been decentralized to ensure that the mainstreaming themes are embedded in all IFAD COSOPs and operations. Finally, systematic efforts to build staff capacity are provided for in the action plans for each mainstreaming theme. All of these efforts have been focused on integrating the mainstreaming areas and enhancing IFAD's ability to deepen its impact in those areas. For example, in 2019, capacity-building efforts for staff focused on integrating the themes identified in the ambitious mainstreaming commitments for IFAD11. This was undertaken through the three regional Operations Academies, the mainstreaming lab and e-learning modules on integrated approaches. Approximately 800 participants (IFAD staff and project implementation partners) attended 12 structured training courses across all five regions and at headquarters on the mainstreaming themes, targeting, household methodologies, NDCs, climate finance and the Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP). While this is a reasonable start, as described more fully in section V, clearly more needs to be done to strengthen IFAD's capacity around its mainstreaming areas in general, and in the field, in particular.

Box 1

The integration of mainstreaming themes in recently designed projects

Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP) in Sri Lanka (2019 – 2026)

The SARP project in Sri Lanka will contribute to small-scale producer poverty reduction and food security in what is known as the "dry zone" of the country. SARP's gender strategy for setting out development and graduation pathways for women is sound and realistic. SARP also has a solid youth strategy which covers such important aspects as access to and ownership of land for young people. The context analysis covers national nutrition-related policies and strategies. Lastly, the project is largely climate-focused and has been formally validated as such. The project design demonstrates an awareness of climate risks in the target area and sets out credible and realistic measures for reducing vulnerability to climate change.

Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) in Ethiopia (2019 – 2025)

The development objective of the LLRP project is to improve the livelihood resilience of pastoral and agropastoral communities in Ethiopia. The design is a good example of the integration of several mainstreaming themes with a partnership angle, since the LLRP design was initiated by the World Bank. The design includes a gender context analysis that covers national policies and strategies for mainstreaming gender in all walks of life. The project will mobilize young people to participate in key strategic planning processes. Meanwhile, for young people interested in pursuing alternative livelihood opportunities or starting a business, the project will help them to develop skills in key segments of the relevant value chains, from production to value added and service delivery. The project design makes appropriate references to government policy and strategy documents on nutrition and includes an analysis of nutrition problems and their underlying causes which clearly identifies nutritionally vulnerable groups. All the project's components and subcomponents have been designed to address climate change adaptation and mitigation issues in the Ethiopian lowlands.

Commodity Value Chain Development Support Project - Phase II (PADFA-II) in Cameroon (2019 – 2025)

The second phase of PADFA builds on the results and lessons of the PADFA project completed in December 2017. PADFA-II will contribute to poverty reduction and to food and nutrition security by sustainably increasing the incomes and resilience of family farmers engaged in the production of rice and onions. The mainstreaming themes are fully integrated into the project's theory of change. The project will specifically target women (who will make up 50 per cent of the target population), young people (30 per cent) and PwD. The cooperatives and producers' organizations supported by the project will be required to include regulations in their by-laws concerning minimum quotas for women and young members. The project provides for several measures that address fundamental barriers to women's participation, such as an emphasis on in-person training and the utilization of picture-based training materials in response to women's higher illiteracy rates. The project has identified specific opportunities for the greater involvement of youth upstream and downstream of the supported value chains. One subcomponent is devoted entirely to nutrition. The three main components of the project's nutrition strategies synergistically operate along different impact pathways: production diversification, dietary awareness and knowledge-raising activities, and food supplementation at the local level within the relevant cooperatives. The design highlights the interplay between the nutrition and gender dimensions.

27. **Finally, the increasing integration of these themes is demonstrating how they add value to each other and to the portfolio.** In 2014, building on earlier efforts, IFAD developed SECAP for every project, which outline the steps taken by IFAD to address the social, environmental and climate impacts associated with its projects and programmes. The SECAP are thus a key part of IFAD's overall

approach to these themes. The procedures set out the priorities for adopting guiding values and principles for the promotion of social, environmental and climate adaptation benefits, define the process and entry points in the project cycle for checking mainstreaming in all project activities and ensure effective stakeholder engagement; they also include a procedure for responding to complaints from project-affected individuals or communities. The SECAP were revised in 2017 during IFAD10 and are currently being strengthened further with the incorporation of issues of importance to PwD, additional labour standards, and new and reinforced standards and safeguards.

28. Closer operational linkages among mainstreaming themes are also being established in line with the new Integrated Framework for Implementing Transformational Approaches to the Mainstreaming Themes reviewed by the Executive Board in December 2019.²⁷ The framework highlights the interlinkages among the mainstreaming themes. For example, it shows how climate change can affect the suitability of specific crops in a location, which in turn influences food availability and nutrition, how women's empowerment affects children's nutritional status, and how young people's adoption of technology can facilitate climate resilience. As noted in the framework, support for an integrated and transformational approach to these mainstreaming areas contributes to sustainable food systems transformation and inclusive solutions to rural poverty and food insecurity. Project examples of approaches to integrating mainstreaming areas are provided in box 1.

29. Beyond these broader trends, each mainstreaming area includes specific elements worth highlighting. Details of the approaches for the four mainstreaming areas and some background material are provided in appendix V. In addition, while the focus in the last decade has been on the four themes of environment and climate change, gender, nutrition and youth, issues relating to biodiversity have been addressed under the heading of environment and climate change, and IFAD has historically focused on indigenous peoples. It has also recently begun to look more closely at PwD-related issues.

Environment and climate change

30. IFAD's flagship programme for channelling climate finance to small-scale producers, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), was a major step towards a much broader climate-related agenda. ASAP was established under IFAD9 with the goal of building the resilience of poor smallholders to the impacts of climate change (see appendix IV). ASAP also has the specific knowledge-generation objective of producing best practice lessons concerning scalable forms of climate change adaptation with a view to enabling IFAD to make substantial progress in integrating environmental and climate change considerations into its investments. Building upon these lessons has also helped to embed this theme more deeply in IFAD's portfolio (see box 2).

²⁷ See document EB/2019/128/R.6 Framework for Implementing Transformational Approaches to Mainstreaming Themes (2019). The document provides detailed options for integration, especially in annex I: Understanding interactions among mainstreaming theme.

Box 2

The role of IFAD's SECAP

Since 2016, climate risk screening has been an obligatory element of the SECAP for all project designs. This has ensured that all projects from IFAD10 onward are climate-sensitive. The climate risk screening procedure makes it possible to determine the exposure and sensitivity of project objectives to climate-related risks based on available information about historical climate hazard occurrences, current climate trends and future climate change scenarios. All IFAD projects are assigned one of three climate risk classifications: high, moderate or low. Information requirements and risk management measures commensurate with these ratings are applied. For instance, projects taking place in contexts rated as entailing a high level of climate risk must: (i) undertake a deeper risk assessment at the design stage; and (ii) demonstrate a better understanding of interconnections between climate, people and wider landscapes.

SECAP implementation measures and monitoring requirements also ensure that climate, environmental and social concerns are thoroughly incorporated into IFAD's COSOPs and project designs. In other words, the SECAP is also a system for ensuring that all mainstreaming dimensions are duly taken into account. Under IFAD11, the Fund committed to further enhancing the SECAP in order to better incorporate environmental, nutritional and social dimensions and to make these procedures more effective in supporting country strategy plans, project design and project implementation. This process is now ongoing.

31. **In addition to embedding environmental and climate change considerations in COSOPs and IFAD operations, under IFAD11 IFAD has begun to analyse all COSOPs with a view to supporting countries in achieving their stated climate objectives, and climate finance is being tracked.** By systematically analysing climate-related objectives – including NDCs stemming from the Paris Agreement – in developing COSOPs and aligning IFAD operations with climate priorities, IFAD supports its client countries' efforts to meet their national and international climate commitments while at the same time building the climate resilience of its target beneficiaries. For example, the Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project in Burkina Faso includes investments aimed at addressing climate vulnerabilities and associated national priorities, including lowland hedgerow development, reforestation of the periphery of developed areas (agroforestry), erosion protection works, financing of water-efficient solar irrigation systems and the construction of ponds to enhance water storage capacity.
32. **Moving from climate mainstreaming to tracking climate finance represented a significant step forward in terms of IFAD's environmental and climate change commitments.** IFAD has made a commitment to invest at least 25 per cent of its programme of loans and grants (PoLG) – approximately US\$875 million – in climate-focused activities. In 2019, 34 per cent of approved financing (equivalent to US\$568 million, of which US\$507 million was adaptation finance and US\$61 million mitigation finance) was validated as climate finance. IFAD therefore appears to be on track to achieve the target for IFAD11 as a whole. In addition to climate finance within the PoLG, US\$43 million was mobilized from the Adaptation Fund (AF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF). In 2019, through ASAP, AF, GCF and GEF, IFAD oversaw more than 90 ongoing environment and climate projects funded by supplementary funds.

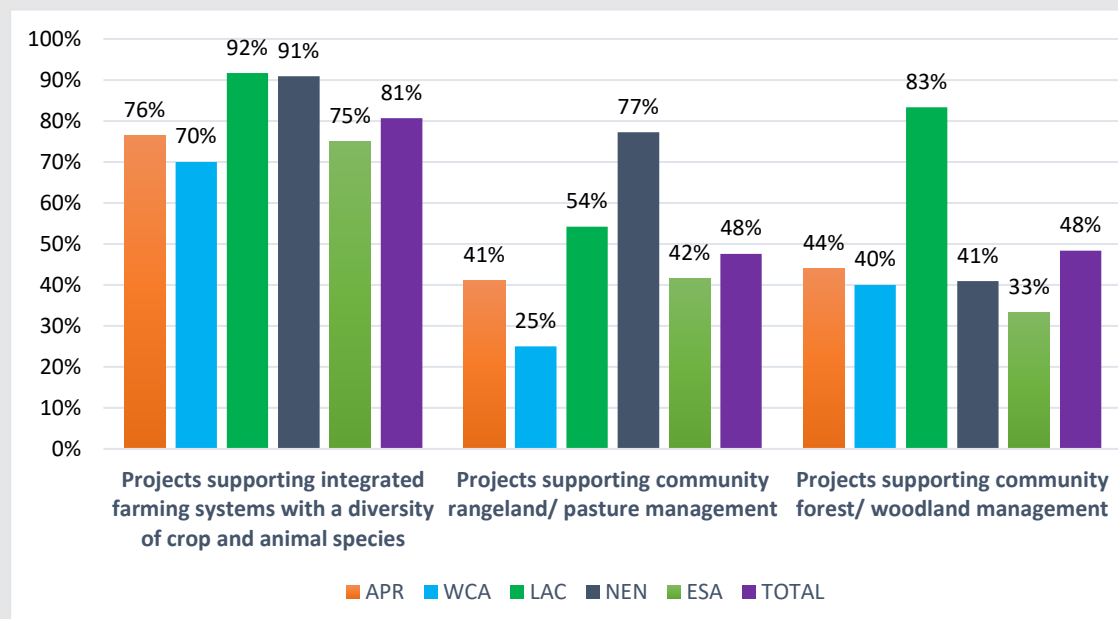
Box 3

Addressing biodiversity in IFAD's portfolio

The conservation, sustainable use and management of biodiversity are of fundamental importance in IFAD's work. While protected areas and buffer zones help maintain biodiversity, many of them also play an essential role in maintaining the livelihoods of local people. Reconciling conservation efforts with human needs is a major challenge that demands innovation and solutions tailored to local circumstances. This duality is reflected in IFAD's first guidance statement on the SECAP, which frames the relationship between IFAD operations and biodiversity. This approach is being further consolidated as a biodiversity standard in the 2020 revision of the SECAP.

IFAD projects support the establishment of co-management arrangements with indigenous and other local communities for conservation areas and buffer zones. An analysis of 124 IFAD projects shows biodiversity to be solidly embedded across the five regions covered by that study.

Figure 1

Biodiversity-related project activities, by region

IFAD adheres to the highest biodiversity standards set by the international community. IFAD's work with small-scale producers is consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Over the years, IFAD investments have contributed to efforts to achieve most of the 20 Aichi Targets, often in partnership with the GEF.

IFAD has engaged less with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (more commonly known as the Plant Treaty). This treaty is of the utmost importance in supporting the exchange of genetic resources, without which breeding would be nearly impossible in the long run.

In any discussion on biodiversity, IFAD has an important advocacy role to play in support of small-scale producers and their sustainable development.

- 33. Biodiversity has been a key component of environmental and climate change considerations in COSOPs and projects** (see box 3). Globally, agriculture is the most significant driver of biodiversity loss through land conversion, monoculture and pesticide use.²⁸ Small-scale producers depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Land is a critical asset, and rights to land and sustainable land management are fundamental components of IFAD operations. At the same time, productive and sustainable agricultural systems depend on the availability of clean water, healthy soil and a variety of genetic resources and ecological processes; these are also factored into IFAD operations. Recognizing this need in its operations IFAD has employed agroecological and other sustainable approaches as appropriate for the context.

²⁸ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors), (Bonn, Germany: IPBES secretariat, 2019).

34. As may be seen from the figure in box 3, IFAD has focused on biodiversity on a broader scale as well as on agrobiodiversity. Agricultural ecosystems can contribute to the in situ conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and provide habitats for many wild plant and animal species. Agrobiodiversity facilitates the adaptation of food crops to, for example, higher temperatures and higher soil salinity and contributes to their ability to fight off new pests and diseases. Agrobiodiversity also holds out a tremendous potential for improving nutrition, as illustrated by the recent development of a number of more vitamin- and micronutrient-rich crops (e.g. sweet potatoes that are high vitamin A). With this in mind, as part of IFAD12, IFAD will need to continue to broaden its view of biodiversity to ensure the explicit inclusion of agrobiodiversity and its links to other themes, such as gender and nutrition.

35. In addition to supporting developing countries' efforts to attain their climate-related objectives, IFAD has developed strategic partnerships to leverage and make effective use of environmental and climate-related funds. One of the longest-standing partnerships of this sort has been with the GEF, with which IFAD has been developing a close and productive partnership since 2002. In 2019, IFAD made a concerted effort to increase its collaboration with the AF and to enter into a partnership and build a programme with the GCF. The results of that effort have included the growth of its portfolio of AF projects and the approval of two GCF projects in 2019. Working with these funding mechanisms entails meeting their requirements and quality standards, but IFAD also ensures it stays within its mandate meeting its own targeting and mainstreaming objectives. New partnerships with bilateral funds and innovative climate finance mechanisms have also been explored.²⁹ IFAD's climate-related cooperation initiatives also include long-standing partnerships in the implementation of activities relating to the environment and climate change with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and CGIAR.³⁰

Gender and women's empowerment

36. Gender equality and women's empowerment have traditionally been a focus of IFAD's efforts, and work in this area has been further expanded through the use of gender-transformative approaches. While projects have incorporated gender considerations for some time and the SECAP cover gender issues, gender-transformative approaches go beyond the traditional approach to gender mainstreaming by addressing the underlying power relations within households as viewed through the lens of shared prosperity. As an example, the Economic, Social and Solidarity Project 2019-2025 in Tunisia has identified several complementary pathways for women's empowerment. Schools will be established to alleviate the workload of mothers and girls by providing childcare. The project will help women use the time that they have available for productive activities to strengthen rural families' food and nutrition security through the promotion of micro-gardens and the marketing of prickly pears and their by-products, which are naturally available in the project's water-scarce landscapes. For those seeking to diversify their incomes beyond farming, two telecentres will be created to support job-seekers' efforts to access learning, vocational training and employment opportunities. Establishing such centres in the vicinity of vulnerable rural populations is an essential step, especially in the case of women, who tend to travel less far from home and who might otherwise not have access to such opportunities.

37. The commitment made under IFAD10 to include a target of having gender-transformative projects make up 15 per cent of its project portfolio has

²⁹ These include, among others, the International Climate Initiative funding mechanism (<https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/about-the-iki/iki-funding-instrument/>) and the private sector window of the GCF and, more recently, private sector collaboration in the context of GEF investments.

³⁰ Notably the Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, the Climate Finance Lab of the Climate Policy Initiative and the United Kingdom's government-funded Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters programme.

consolidated IFAD’s gender mainstreaming agenda by building on successful experiences in such areas as household methodologies, functional literacy, financial competency, leadership skills and engagement with men, thereby formalizing gender-transformative approaches. The purpose of all of these approaches is to enhance women’s empowerment, increase their bargaining power and promote shared prosperity within households. This is the main criterion for gender transformation. In fact, under IFAD11, criteria for gender-transformative projects have been further refined with an emphasis on empowerment and its measurement. The design target for gender transformation has been increased to 25 per cent of the project portfolio.

- 38. Beyond its efforts at the project level, IFAD is recognized for its partnership-building and advocacy on behalf of poor rural women within the United Nations system, among international financial institutions and within the donor community.** Partnerships have been formed with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the Development Assistance Committee Network on Gender Equality of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, FAO, WFP and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). IFAD is working together with the last three of these organizations to implement the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (see box 4). IFAD is also a lead member of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its Working Group on Rural Women and Girls, and it has actively contributed to international and regional forums such as the forty-sixth session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 46), celebrations around International Rural Women’s Day and International Women’s Day, the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +25).

Box 4

The Rome-based agencies Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Guatemala

Collaborative efforts on the part of the Rome-based agencies in Guatemala have directly benefited more than 350,000 rural people, of whom half are women, and have had many positive spillover effects. In 2015-2020, IFAD, FAO and WFP joined UN Women in implementing the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in three extremely poor and climate-vulnerable municipalities in Alta Verapaz.

The work done by the programme has reached 5,832 indigenous rural women, who have received technical assistance and approximately US\$2.5 million in funding for direct investments. The activities provided for in their development investment plans include: negotiation strategies, support in commercial exchanges, entrepreneurship, strategic planning, organizational strengthening, marketing and sales, accounting and financial administration, and value chains. In addition, this programme has become a joint platform for the Rome-based agencies and UN Women that has served as a basis for the formulation and approval of the gender policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food – the Rome-based agencies’ main counterpart in the country – at both the programme and strategic levels.

Improving nutrition

- 39. IFAD’s approach to nutrition is based on an understanding of how agriculture can help shape food systems in ways that improve nutrition and diet quality, particularly when gender-related aspects are considered and integrated.** Building on the findings presented in the 2017 Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI), this broadened intervention approach goes beyond a compartmentalized focus on nutrition to encompass a transformative change at the household level. IFAD promotes nutrition-sensitive agriculture in order to maximize the agriculture sector’s contribution to nutrition. IFAD ensures that project beneficiaries receive support to enhance the production, access and consumption of diverse nutritious foods for their health and well-being. This approach takes into consideration the interlinkages with the other cross-cutting themes of climate and environment, gender and youth and pays special

attention to vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples. Sudan's Butana Integrated Rural Development Project (2006-2019) provides a good example of the potential synergies between nutrition and women's empowerment that IFAD has been working to harness. The project provided nutrition training with a focus on helping to increase the availability of food through the promotion of both home production in *jubrakas* (home vegetable gardens) and purchases made possible by income-generating activities, thereby ensuring a minimum daily dietary intake for household members. Alongside training, the project's improvement of the community's nutritional status is attributed to its interventions in the areas of water supply, animal health, household *jubrakas* (94 per cent of women grow vegetables in their backyards) and *jubraka* farms run by women's groups, and improved fodder production and storage. The relevant communities stressed that improved nutrition had contributed to the elimination of night blindness among their members.

- 40. The improvement of the nutritional status of rural populations is a crucial component of IFAD11 and is being measured by a new indicator of dietary diversity.** IFAD has committed to reporting on an additional impact indicator of improved nutrition; progress towards the target of improving the nutritional status of 12 million people is being measured as part of the IFAD11 impact assessments. Further, the IFAD11 RMF now also focuses on nutrition thanks to the inclusion of two nutrition-related indicators (output and outcome level) which cascade into individual project logframes. Moreover, IFAD is playing a leadership role in the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition and in building additional partnerships so that it can learn from other organizations and share lessons learned from IFAD's projects and technical assistance activities. IFAD will also remain active in other platforms, such as the United Nations Network for Scaling Up Nutrition, the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition Partnership and the Committee on World Food Security. In terms of knowledge management, IFAD regularly contributes to global reports and knowledge-building processes regarding nutrition. These include key publications such as the annual State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World report. IFAD was the first United Nations agency to make a commitment within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and shared related progress that fed into the Decade's midterm review. To strengthen the link between agrobiodiversity and nutrition, an operational framework for supporting nutrition-sensitive agriculture through neglected and underutilized species has been developed in partnership with Bioversity International. As part of this joint effort, Bioversity International and IFAD have recently released a policy brief on nutrition, a "how to do" note on mainstreaming nutrition (design and implementation) and guidelines on the costing of nutrition-sensitive actions. A compendium of best practices and case studies in nutrition mainstreaming is under preparation.

Youth, jobs and migration

- 41. While IFAD has highlighted the importance of youth-sensitive development in its last three strategic frameworks, the formalization of these efforts under IFAD11 has marked a turning point in IFAD's engagement with rural youth.** IFAD's Rural Youth Action Plan for 2019-2021 – the first of its kind – puts IFAD in a position to scale up successes and build on learning. Developed through an inclusive process, the Rural Youth Action Plan commits IFAD to effective and efficient contributions to SDGs 1, 2 and 8, and the broader 2030 Agenda by increasing youth employment. Among other initiatives, youth entrepreneurial activities are being supported through business development and enhanced innovation, and youth prospects are being enhanced by vocational training. As an example of these efforts, SARP in Sri Lanka (approved in 2019) includes a solid youth strategy for overcoming the constraints that young men and women face. It covers land access and ownership for young people, the incubation of youth-led ideas, support for youth-led entrepreneurship and development schemes and

pathways for the socio-economic empowerment and inclusion of young people. It is also specifically designed to create employment opportunities for youth.

- 42. As in the case of other mainstreaming themes, these project-level efforts have been complemented by broader efforts to promote youth-related innovation and to enhance knowledge management and partnership-building.** An innovative, integrated agribusiness hub model with a focus on creating jobs for rural youth is being designed and will be tested under IFAD11. The objective is to create 21,000 jobs for young people in Africa. In an effort to promote an understanding of the opportunities and challenges for youth, the 2019 Rural Development Report focuses on the creation of such opportunities for rural youth.³¹ It discusses the importance of different policies and investments across diverse contexts and highlights a number of youth-specific constraints that must be overcome to generate youth employment. Capacity-building in the area of youth mainstreaming is ongoing through the Operations Academy, and an e-learning module on social inclusion themes has been developed by IFAD in partnership with ILO and FAO. IFAD further collaborates with ILO in the area of decent employment, while it is also focusing on the issue of child labour under the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture. IFAD's Private Sector Engagement Strategy 2019-2024 (approved under IFAD11) and the Agribusiness Capital Fund, whose creation IFAD facilitated, both explicitly focus on creating jobs for rural youth and women.³² Following the principle of "nothing about youth without youth", IFAD is exploring options for the development of a mechanism for dialogue with rural youth in the form of a council, network or platform that could inform IFAD decision-making processes. This youth engagement approach will be rolled out in a selected number of countries on a pilot basis and then gradually expanded to include other countries once it has been proven to be effective in connecting up young voices with grass-roots action.

Indigenous peoples

- 43. IFAD has been a global pioneer in securing indigenous peoples' rights and in promoting indigenous peoples' participation in policy development.** IFAD started focusing on indigenous peoples more than 30 years ago, placing a high priority on this vulnerable group in a number of country strategies, and indigenous peoples remain an important target group in IFAD operations. In 2009, IFAD approved its Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The policy clarifies IFAD's approach to working with indigenous peoples including addressing the need for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples, which IFAD has maintained since that time.³³ FPIC is also an important part of and promoted within SECAP. The IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples also created two key instruments: (i) the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility; and (ii) the Indigenous Peoples' Forum. The Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility has provided a total of US\$5 million in funding for 162 projects in 48 countries. In conjunction with the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, IFAD has created a global institutionalized mechanism for consultations with indigenous peoples and for the promotion of their participation in dialogues with IFAD staff and Member States. The Fourth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, held in February 2019, focused on the importance of engaging with indigenous peoples regarding climate change policies and initiatives. In addition to these efforts, IFAD's portfolio currently provides support to more than 6 million indigenous beneficiaries in 37 countries, with a total direct investment of about US\$930 million. At the country level, the specificities of engaging with individual groups of indigenous peoples are

³¹ https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/41190221/RDR2019_Overview_e_W.pdf/699560f2-d02e-16b8-4281-596d4c9be25a.

³² See document IFAD12/1/R.6.

³³ See: <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/39432502>; annex II addresses FPIC.

considered in the COSOPs for countries in which indigenous groups maintain a significant presence.

44. **IFAD's work with indigenous peoples is linked with all four mainstreaming themes.** The perspectives of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women and youth, on how best to support their traditional food systems to improve nutrition and promote biodiversity for sustainable agriculture are included and supported in project design. After all, indigenous peoples are nature's caretakers, and their territories hold 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity.

Persons with disabilities

45. **Under IFAD11, IFAD committed to considering how best to ensure the inclusion of PwD and to address their needs in its operations.** The Revised Operational Guidelines on Targeting recognize that PwD face numerous barriers to their full inclusion and participation in the life of their communities. These barriers include discrimination and stigma; the inaccessibility of many physical and virtual environments; a lack of access to assistive technology; a lack of access to essential services and rehabilitation; and a lack of support for an independent life and limited access to the labour market and sources of earned income.

46. **IFAD has been moving forward with an agenda to support PwD maintaining an approach consistent with the 2019 United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.**³⁴ As part of this, IFAD is beginning to work more proactively with organizations linked to PwD, and has recently joined the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is also seeking to work more with PwD organizations in the field. As an example, IFAD has successfully entered into a partnership with the China Disabled Persons' Federation with the objective of enhancing the employment and income-generation skills of rural women and economically capable disabled persons. This partnership has been developed in the context of the Qinghai Liupan Mountain Area Poverty Reduction Project, which has a specific component on off-farm livelihood support for women and PwD. This has allowed strong partnerships to be formed among the implementing agencies, training institutions, government agencies, employment enhancement bureau and hiring companies. IFAD is also currently working on a grant initiative with Light for the World International to support PwD in Burkina Faso, India, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique and Niger in an effort to provide them with the tailored development support they need to engage in economic activities.

47. **Completed and ongoing assessments under IFAD11 will lay the groundwork for the expansion of IFAD's engagement with PwD.** The starting point is the attainment of an understanding of the different needs and capacities of PwD and the different barriers that they face, as well as those that are specific to persons with different kinds of disabilities, since PwD are a highly heterogeneous group. Being aware of this heterogeneity is critical for effective targeting.³⁵

Assessing mainstreaming efforts

48. **Efforts to assess the mainstreaming of environmental and climate change considerations, gender, nutrition and youth have been ongoing throughout the past decade.** With each new strategy, policy and action plan, a new analysis is completed which then drives the emerging agenda for that theme. The Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness and ARRI regularly provide data on the themes along with in-depth discussions on thematic areas. IOE has done a number of corporate-level evaluations which have led to important shifts in direction in recent replenishments. To provide a picture of the current status of mainstreaming at

³⁴ United Nations, *United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy* (United Nations: New York, 2019): https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/03/UNDIS_20-March-2019_for-HLCM.P.pdf.

³⁵ See document EB 2019/127/R.6/Rev.1.

IFAD, an analysis is provided in appendix II of recent efforts to raise ambition in these areas.

49. This analysis and discussion indicate that IFAD's efforts around its mainstreaming themes could be consolidated and strengthened in the following areas.

- (i) **Ensuring that partnerships, global engagement and knowledge management facilitate mainstreaming.** Active engagement with partners at the global, regional and national levels and knowledge management activities are critical elements in promoting an overall mainstreaming agenda and agendas for specific thematic areas.
- (ii) **Maintaining its focus on each theme.** While a text mining exercise appears to indicate that IFAD's mainstreaming approach does, in fact, facilitate a focus on its mainstreaming themes, there are situations in which IFAD's performance with regard to a specific theme is not at the level that it should be in terms of either knowledge management or operational aspects. It is critical for IFAD to maintain its focus on each individual theme, to seek out innovative approaches to each theme, to remain vigilant through the use of regularly collected and assessed metrics, and to continuously respond to emerging issues.
- (iii) **Ensuring consistency in indicators.** As is shown in appendix III, the indicators used for measuring the success of mainstreaming within projects are not directly comparable across all themes. While in all cases definitions of mainstreaming and sensitivity have been developed, project ratings are used in commitments in only some cases. In view of the need to systematize the use of indicators, it is proposed that project quality ratings be used for this purpose. This will require clarity as to what is meant if, for example, a project is said to be moderately satisfactory in nutrition as opposed to satisfactory or highly satisfactory. IFAD12 policy commitments will include an approach for harmonizing these indicators.
- (iv) **Ensuring consistency in the measurement approach.** Beyond issues related to the definition of indicators, there are also inconsistencies in the definition and timing of ratings. At design, environmental and climate change considerations are merged but they are treated separately at supervision and completion points. Youth is not assessed during supervision, nor are nutrition or youth at completion. While this makes sense given the timing of these mainstreaming efforts, plans will be put in place under IFAD12 to address these issues by ensuring that all themes are adequately and consistently assessed at design, at supervision and at completion.
- (v) **Maintaining and furthering the integration of mainstreaming themes.** As shown in the above-mentioned analysis, the inclusion of a mainstreaming theme does not come at the cost of other thematic areas. In fact, the overall quality of projects is positively associated with mainstreaming. Mainstreaming appears to be an integral part of project quality at design, and as the implementation of these projects moves forward, further analyses could be done to assess whether this correlation is maintained throughout the project life cycle. There is also an opportunity to further enhance mainstreaming efforts through greater cross-theme integration.

IV. Enhancing mainstreaming at IFAD

50. Mainstreaming objectives are enhanced through recognition of the diversity of contexts, the use of key instruments and recognition of global issues. Given recent estimates that by 2030 up to two thirds of the world's

extreme poor will be living in fragile situations,³⁶ the challenge to mainstreaming is clear. Additionally, while SSTC has been a critical part of IFAD's agenda, it has only been used to a limited degree in mainstreaming. Finally, IFAD action needs to be cognizant of ongoing discussions around transforming food systems and the role of food systems in achieving the SDGs. Mainstreaming is a key part of food system discussions. Each of these issues is considered here.

Fragile situations

- 51. Fragile situations are expected to increase and intensify due to civil and economic conflicts, climate change, demographic trends, and extremism.** While hard to quantify, the disruptions created by COVID-19 could increase the risk of conflict and resulting poverty. This would make it that much harder to achieve SDGs 1 and 2.
- 52. Fragility is a driver of mainstreaming theme dynamics and at the same time is affected by them.** The underlying factors in conflict and fragility include exclusion, poverty, poor management of natural resources, and environmental and climate-related shocks. The latter can aggravate existing fragile situations and increase vulnerabilities. Conflicts and fragile situations have severe impacts on natural resources, the environment and biodiversity, exacerbating tensions between groups, compounding vulnerabilities and increasing hardship among the poorest people.³⁷ Women are more exposed to the consequences of fragility, which increases the risk of gender-based violence, crime or abuse. Young people are vulnerable too because fragility reduces employment opportunities for them, often forcing them to move or migrate. Young women, on their side, are often taken out of school and, due to family concerns over their safety, prevented from working outside of the house.³⁸ Indigenous people can be caught up in conflicts, particularly over land use and rights. PwD can be forgotten or excluded from support. Safe and nutritious food may become unavailable and access to food may be jeopardized amid disruption of food supplies and trade. Conflicts and fragile situations contribute to food crises and malnutrition.
- 53. IFAD recognizes the nexus between fragility and IFAD's mandate and its mainstreaming themes.** IFAD has increased its funding to countries with fragile situations to 25-30 per cent of total allocations and adopted apposite policies, strategies and instruments. Under IFAD11, IFAD has committed to conducting fragility assessments as part of COSOPs in at-risk countries. The aim is to identify the specific reasons for fragility, and how IFAD can respond to the challenge, with a specific focus on: (i) drivers and consequences of fragility, (ii) institutional capacity, and (iii) gender and targeting in fragile contexts. Given the link between fragility and environmental/climate aspects, as well as with problems relating to women, youth and nutrition, fragility assessment takes all these themes into account.
- 54. IFAD is a trusted facilitator in the transition from conflict/disaster to recovery and resilience.** IFAD's comparative advantage lies in its experience of working with poor and vulnerable rural people, and of building capacities at grass-roots level. IFAD complements relief efforts with interventions focused on job creation, livelihood recovery, resilience-building and development. As regards women and youth, this involves fostering institutional development, creating social cohesion and building sustainable livelihoods in partnership with rural communities, governments and development partners. IFAD's reach into remote areas in fragile or post-conflict environments allows it to empower women and youth with inclusive solutions.

³⁶ Corral, P., Irwin, A., Krishnan, N. and Mahler, D.G., 2020. *Fragility and Conflict: On the Front Lines of the Fight against Poverty*. World Bank Publications.

³⁷ World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence 2020–2025.

³⁸ IFAD Rural Development Report, 2019.

55. Climate shocks together with economic and political instability have resulted in some of the world's most enduring poverty challenges. In fragile and post-conflict contexts, IFAD partners with governments, development agencies and NGOs to design and implement poverty reduction strategies adapted to environmental and climatic concerns. For example, in Somalia decades of instability and civil war have degraded the agricultural sector and disrupted pastoralists' migratory patterns. Shrinking natural resources and repeated droughts and floods are further increasing vulnerability. IFAD projects are focusing on making water available for irrigation and livestock, as well as strengthening rural finance and other institutions. Local communities — and elders and leaders in particular — have helped to create effective, grass-roots links between people and local authorities. This has helped fill the void created by the absence of the state, thereby creating a more peaceful environment for project implementation, and more effective targeting of people's needs.

56. Food security and nutrition also act as the main entry point for addressing vulnerability to shocks in fragile situations. During a crisis or in its aftermath, IFAD will focus on relaunching agricultural production and productivity, and restoring access to markets. IFAD also endorses the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises of the Committee on World Food Security. This includes a principle for addressing food insecurity and undernutrition in a conflict-sensitive manner, and for helping restore peace through food security and nutrition interventions.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

57. SSTC is emerging as a major element in the mainstreaming agenda. Since 2019, all COSOPs have featured enhanced opportunities for SSTC in project design and implementation. Important recent initiatives include the China-IFAD SSTC Facility, the Rural Solutions Portal, dedicated partnerships with southern countries, participation in global and regional SSTC events, and business-to-business linkages between the private sector and small-scale farmers. In 2018–2019 IFAD established three regional SSTC and Knowledge Management (KM) Centres in Brazil (Brasilia), China (Beijing) and Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) to help advance the SSTC agenda. From an operational perspective, SSTC has proven to be a useful instrument in mainstreaming environment and climate issues, gender, youth and nutrition at the country and project levels.

58. For example, SSTC is being used as a vehicle to champion the adoption of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) in several countries in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Through various SSTC activities (such as workshops and learning routes), GALS has been taken up by several stakeholders and countries. Rural communities, civil society organizations, IFAD staff, IFAD-funded project beneficiaries, NGOs, bilateral donors and international agencies have participated in several initiatives that have led to the adoption of GALS in IFAD projects in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia, among others. In the process, IFAD has promoted a conceptual shift from focusing on women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming at the community level, to addressing gender equality within individual households. Enabling family members to work together, this improves joint decision-making and achieves more gender-equitable workloads.

59. The SSTC and KM Centres in Addis Ababa, Brasilia and Beijing have also been active in using SSTC for mainstreaming. The Rural Youth Innovation Award in Latin America and the Caribbean is an example of one of the first initiatives of the Brazil SSTC and KM Centre. Drawing on past lessons, the project focuses on creating a platform for conceptualizing, presenting and sharing knowledge around innovative youth-led initiatives that offer highly effective solutions to challenges faced by small-scale producers. The project also aims at establishing a contest mechanism in collaboration with the private sector, academia

and like-minded partners, for financing the most innovative, implementable and scalable solutions involving rural youth. It then ensures follow-up and regional dissemination of winning solutions in collaboration with development project staff, private partners and development institutions.

60. Funding through the China-IFAD SSTC Facility can also be used as a means of promoting mainstreaming. In West Africa, for example, the Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture grant aims to improve nutrition for the families of small-scale producers by offering knowledge, sustainable technologies and expertise in the field of cage aquaculture. To this end, the project will collaborate with, and leverage the proven expertise of, private companies dealing with cage aquaculture. By fostering knowledge-sharing between Ghana and Nigeria, as well as technology transfers from China to West Africa, the project will, among other outcomes, enhance the employment and incomes of rural households, thus improving their nutritional status.

Food system transformation and the SDGs

61. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has stated that transforming food systems is crucial for achieving all the SDGs.³⁹ In 2021, a Food Systems Summit will therefore be convened as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs. The Summit seeks to ensure safe and nutritious food for all, bring about a shift to sustainable consumption patterns, boost nature-positive production at sufficient scale, advance equitable livelihoods, and build resilience to shocks and stress. These objectives clearly extend beyond SDG 2, linking food systems to SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (climate action).

62. Food system transformation is closely linked to IFAD's mandate, particularly the mainstreaming themes. Ensuring safe and nutritious food requires nutrition-sensitive interventions at the production stage. Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns and boosting nature-positive production requires value chains that incorporate environmental sustainability and climate action and reach consumers directly. Advancing equitable livelihoods and building resilience require incorporating and empowering women, youth, indigenous peoples and PwD within interventions. As the mainstreaming agenda evolves, further consideration will need to be given to the implications of interventions for the broader food system.

V. IFAD12 mainstreaming agenda

63. Building on the last decade of advancing the mainstreaming agenda, IFAD12 will consolidate previous efforts by raising ambitions in the mainstreaming areas to deepen IFAD's impact. A clear objective of IFAD12 is to systematize mainstreaming actions to ensure coherence across all activities and facilitate integration.

A. Partnerships, policy engagement and knowledge management

64. The mainstreaming agenda will be consolidated and strengthened through a continued push for proximity and adaptability under IFAD12. As noted in the IFAD12 business model and financial framework paper, the proportion of staff working outside of Rome headquarters rose from 16 per cent to 33 per cent during IFAD11, with the intention to reach 45 per cent during IFAD12. Newly outposted staff are located primarily in regional hubs, including the three SSTC and KM Centres. These centres will help advance the SSTC and knowledge agenda in the respective regions, in coordination with headquarters and the subregional hubs. The overarching objectives of the SSTC and KM Centres are to: (i) support the

³⁹ António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General Message on World Food Day 2019. <https://www.un.org/en/exhibits/page/un-remarks>.

implementation of the main provisions in IFAD's corporate SSTC and knowledge management strategies; and (ii) contribute to strengthening the linkages between country, regional and global knowledge activities.

65. A more present, responsive and agile IFAD will transform its relationships with governments and development partners within regions and countries.

IFAD's enhanced proximity allows for deeper policy engagement, partnership-building and knowledge management on environment and climate, biodiversity, gender, youth, nutrition, indigenous peoples and PwD themes at the regional and country levels. Integration of discussions around these themes at the regional and country level will be emphasized. IFAD's leadership and participation in sector dialogues on rural development enable it to steer discussions around the mainstreaming themes and seek to ensure that they are being fully addressed. This is facilitated by working with like-minded partners, including the multilateral development banks (MDBs), Rome-based agencies, other United Nations entities and civil society, especially farmers' organizations, indigenous peoples' groups, women and youth representatives and PwD organizations.

66. Leveraging the past decade of building global partnerships, policy engagement, and generating and disseminating knowledge on the mainstreaming themes, IFAD12 will bring an enhanced focus at the regional and country levels.

Building on the priorities in policy engagement, partnerships and knowledge set in the mainstreaming theme action plans and framework for integration, IFAD will continue to pursue its mainstreaming themes through its research agenda and disseminate evidence-based knowledge, with products tailored to a varied target audience and an emphasis on considering the relationship between multiple themes. It will also continue to work with key partners in each thematic area, expanding partnerships as relevant for operational, knowledge generation, resource mobilization and advocacy purposes. By focusing more closely on a regional and country-level audience, the mainstreaming themes can take centre stage in the related activities.

67. As part of these efforts, IFAD will seek to expand the use of SSTC to pursue the mainstreaming themes agenda under IFAD12, including through the SSTC and mainstreaming themes analysis during COSOP design.

The first corporate strategy on SSTC was presented in December 2016. As a result of the evolving global landscape since then, Member States have requested that IFAD continue to strengthen its efforts in leveraging SSTC as a cooperation modality. Maintaining the current objectives, which remain relevant, IFAD will update the strategy for IFAD12 in light of the changing context. Among a number of focus areas, the new strategy will explicitly explore how SSTC can be used to facilitate knowledge exchange, piloting and scaling up, and partnerships in areas linked to environment and climate change (including biodiversity), gender, youth, nutrition, indigenous peoples and PwD, as well as develop approaches that integrate these themes. Although there have been some successes in these areas, much remains to be done. This will be a key component of an expanded mainstreaming focus at the country and regional levels.

B. Mainstreaming within transformational country programmes

68. The proximity created by decentralization has opened up new opportunities for IFAD to take leadership in country-level policy engagement.

This is already the case under IFAD11 – in West and Central Africa alone, IFAD is leading sector working groups on rural development in eight countries. This increased presence, combined with an enhanced focus on results, improved accountability and monitoring and evaluation put in place by the Development Effectiveness Framework, facilitates the use of adaptive management to respond appropriately to any emerging concerns. The anticipated end result is a sharper focus among rural policies and interventions on poor and food-insecure households, in addition to addressing environmental and climate change challenges

(incorporating biodiversity), including and empowering women, youth and, where appropriate, indigenous peoples and PwD, and working to reduce malnutrition.

69. Overall, the IFAD12 business model then facilitates the advancement of the mainstreaming agenda. Greater adaptability allows for mid-course corrections so that the mainstreaming themes are kept as national priorities throughout the project cycle and progress is maintained. IFAD will continue to strengthen the consideration of mainstreaming themes in COSOPs and project designs. In addition, continued engagement and adaptive management will provide regular feedback on the success of approaches in achieving the related objectives. This increases the chances that at project completion the mainstreaming objectives are met and these issues remain at the centre of any policy engagement.

70. Building on policy engagement and partnerships, the COSOPs will then provide the starting point for conducting analysis around the mainstreaming themes to seek appropriate solutions to emerging issues. COSOPs will include an integrated analysis of the mainstreaming themes in order to understand the challenges faced by rural areas within the country in terms of environment and climate change, the inclusion and empowerment of women and youth, and malnutrition in all its forms. With IFAD12, the analysis of biodiversity will be expanded. A new strategy for biodiversity will be developed which improves on current practice, including by a more careful consideration of agrobiodiversity and links between biodiversity and other themes, particularly nutrition. The biodiversity strategy will define objectives and relevant indicators to measure success. Social analysis will incorporate indigenous peoples, where they are recognized by governments, and PwD. New strategies for incorporating indigenous peoples and PwD will be developed. The new indigenous peoples' strategy will update the previous policy and draw on lessons from past successes. The PwD strategy will build on recent actions in IFAD11. Both strategies will draw on frameworks produced within the United Nations and relevant bodies and will be developed in consultation with indigenous peoples' groups and PwD representative organizations, respectively. Further, as highlighted in the IFAD12 business model and financial framework paper, new approaches to fragile situations are envisioned to incorporate mainstreaming themes.

71. Specifically, under IFAD12 all COSOPs will – in addition to an analysis of environment and climate, gender, youth and nutrition – incorporate biodiversity, indigenous people and PwD. COSOPs will provide clear direction on how underlying issues linked to the mainstreaming agenda will be addressed in IFAD's country-level activities and how these actions fit into a broader country strategic approach. COSOPs will also highlight existing interlinkages and interdependencies across themes, as well as areas where there may be win-win opportunities for intervention.

72. A new targeting policy will be put in place for IFAD12 to clarify the analysis needed at the COSOP and project design stages to ensure adequate targeting. IOE has recommended updating IFAD's Targeting Policy,⁴⁰ and Management agreed to do so during discussions of the recently approved Operational Guidelines on Targeting. The policy will update thinking on targeting while ensuring consistency with IFAD's mandate and mainstreaming agenda. The Operational Guidelines on Targeting will be updated as necessary to mirror changes in the policy. Both documents will highlight the need to tackle multiple types of discrimination simultaneously.

Table 1

IFAD12 ambition: Corporate and country level

<i>Corporate commitment</i>	<i>Country-level commitment</i>
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⁴⁰ This recommendation was included in IOE's 2018 Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations under the learning theme on targeting.

Biodiversity strategy developed	All COSOPs include environment and climate change assessments
Indigenous peoples strategy updated	All COSOPs analyse national climate strategies and commitments
PwD strategy developed	All COSOPs analyse biodiversity
Targeting Policy and Guidelines updated	All COSOPs include gender assessments
SSTC strategy updated to enhance focus on mainstreaming	All COSOPs include nutrition assessments
Updated development effectiveness matrix including measurement of mainstreaming themes	All COSOPs include youth assessments
Updated approach to fragile situations incorporates mainstreaming themes	COSOPs incorporate indigenous peoples where government-recognized
	All COSOPs incorporate PwD

73. As highlighted in the IFAD12 business model and financial framework paper, a key element of IFAD12 will be a strong focus on designing for expanded and deeper impact and a corresponding increase in learning and accountability. As noted, this will be extended to the mainstreaming agenda, particularly at the regional and country levels. While significant learning has been undertaken on mainstreaming topics, greater emphasis and systematization of metrics on mainstreaming commitments within projects and enhanced learning at completion will take these efforts to another level. This will be facilitated by updating the Development Effectiveness Framework, which will now incorporate mainstreaming commitments made in IFAD11 and envisioned for IFAD12. Table 1 summarizes the commitments noted in this section.

C. Elements of the IFAD12 business model

74. The IFAD12 business model will consolidate the significant changes that have occurred in recent years and provide for new innovations. The mainstreaming agenda, particularly in IFAD11, has changed and grown considerably and needs to be consolidated to deepen impact. The innovations envisioned in IFAD12, including ASAP+ and the Private Sector Financing Programme (PSFP), must also reflect the mainstreaming agenda. This section outlines specific actions to be taken in connection with the PoLG, ASAP+ and PSFP.

PoLG

75. The specific mainstreaming objective is to incorporate the themes at project design, and to continue to focus on them during implementation through to completion. As indicated in section III, different approaches have been taken for each of the mainstreaming themes. Under IFAD12, the same approach will be taken for all themes, with consistent commitments and targets (see table 2 for details).

Table 2
IFAD12 ambition – PoLG

	<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Environment and climate change	Projects rated 4+ on ENRM at design	90%	IFAD10 ENRM and climate change joint target 80%, and 97% achieved; no IFAD11 target
	Projects rated 4+ on climate change at design	90%	
	Projects rated 5+ on ENRM at design	60%	IFAD10 ENRM and climate change jointly monitored and reached 57%; no IFAD11 target
	Projects rated 5+ on climate change at design	60%	
	<i>Climate finance</i> (MDB method)	35%	IFAD11 target 25%
	Projects rated 4+ on ENRM at completion	90%	IFAD11 target 90%
	Projects rated 4+ on climate change at completion	90%	IFAD11 target 85%
	Projects rated 5+ on ENRM at completion	30%	New indicator
	Projects rated 5+ on climate change at completion	30%	New indicator
Gender	Projects rated 4+ on gender at design	90%	IFAD11 target 90%
	Projects rated 5+ on gender at design	60%	IFAD11 target 50%
	Projects rated <i>gender transformative</i> at design	35%	IFAD11 target 25%
	Projects rated 4+ on gender at completion	90%	IFAD11 target 90%
	Projects rated 5+ on gender at completion	60%	IFAD11 target 60%
Nutrition	Projects rated 4+ on nutrition at design	50%	New indicator: IFAD11 nutrition-sensitive target 50%
	Projects rated 5+ on nutrition at design	20%	New indicator
	Projects rated 4+ on nutrition at supervision	40%	New indicator
	Projects rated 5+ on nutrition at supervision	15%	New indicator
Youth	Projects rated 4+ on youth at design	50%	New indicator: IFAD11 50% youth-sensitive
	Projects rated 5+ on youth at design	20%	New indicator
	Projects rated 4+ on youth at supervision	40%	New indicator
	Projects rated 5+ on youth at supervision	15%	New indicator
Integration	3+ mainstreaming themes at design with 4+ rating in each theme	60%	New indicator
	3+ mainstreaming themes at supervision with 4+ rating in each theme	50%	New indicator
	Support to indigenous people monitored and data reported at completion	100%	New indicator
	Support to PwD monitored and data reported at completion	100%	New indicator

Note: Assessment "at completion" depends on when the theme was first mainstreamed with significant design commitments. For gender, it was IFAD9, for environment and climate change IFAD10, and for nutrition and youth IFAD11. For indigenous peoples and PwD, it will be IFAD12. Completion ratings become available only once the first cohort of projects designed to respond to them are complete. Gender, environment and climate change therefore already report at completion. For nutrition and youth, completion ratings can be expected from IFAD13 onwards. For indigenous peoples and PwD, results at completion can be expected as of IFAD14.

76. For design, targets will focus on the percentage of projects receiving a moderately satisfactory rating or above (4+) for each theme and the percentage receiving a satisfactory rating or above (5+) for each theme. A moderately satisfactory rating will be deemed the minimum standard for a theme and satisfactory the standard expectation. These will need to be carefully defined prior to IFAD12. Because there are circumstances in which mainstreaming a theme is not possible due to the type of project or context, in rare cases they are not included – hence the need to set targets no higher than 90 per cent. It also takes time to expand a theme throughout the portfolio so, as in the past, targets are raised incrementally. The targets at design can be summarized as follows:

- (i) **Environment and climate change.** ENRM and climate change ratings will be provided separately based on previous IOE recommendations. Targets are set at 90 per cent 4+ and 60 per cent 5+, which is an increase from previous targets. Further, the ambition for climate finance will be increased to 35 per cent from 25 per cent of all funding within IFAD projects approved under IFAD12. This level has been previously agreed to in the results management framework for the Strategy and Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2019-2025. It is higher than most international financial institutions,

which are generally at about 30 per cent.⁴¹ Following the new biodiversity strategy, relevant biodiversity considerations will be included in projects and the criteria laid out in the strategy will be incorporated into quality ratings.

- (ii) **Gender.** Targets are set at 90 per cent 4+ and 60 per cent 5+, which is an increase from IFAD11. With respect to gender, 35 per cent of projects will be gender transformative, explicitly seeking to empower women, up from the 25 per cent target set for IFAD11.
- (iii) **Nutrition.** Nutrition will be measured through ratings at design rather than by designating projects as nutrition-sensitive. As a quality rating, this will raise the overall standard. Since nutrition is still being rolled out as a theme, and nutrition ratings are being used for the first time, targets are set at 50 per cent 4+ and 20 per cent 5+.
- (iv) **Youth.** Youth will also be measured using design ratings for the first time, again raising the measurement standard. Although only mainstreamed in IFAD11, targets are set at 50 per cent 4+ and 20 per cent 5+.

77. Consistent with these commitments, 60 per cent of projects will incorporate at least three mainstreaming themes with a 4+ rating at design. This is a further check to ensure that each project approved under IFAD12 incorporates at least three of the mainstreaming themes. It also reflects the link between incorporating mainstreaming themes and the overall quality rating of a project.

78. To ensure continued success in mainstreaming themes throughout the project cycle, it is important to assess projects at supervision or completion. Such an ambition shows IFAD's desire to follow through on commitments made at the design stage. However, projects cannot be expected to gain a high rating on the mainstreaming themes at completion if design did not adequately include the themes as an objective. Since projects cannot be retrofitted, these commitments relate only to those projects designed after the theme was first mainstreamed with significant design commitments (see appendix I) and having included the theme as an objective. The situation varies significantly across the themes and is reflected in the proposed targets. For gender, the targets will apply to projects designed as of IFAD9, for environment and climate change as of IFAD10, and for nutrition and youth as of IFAD11. In addition, IFAD will begin collecting data on indigenous people and PwD for projects designed in IFAD12.

79. The IFAD12 targets at supervision and completion can be summarized as follows:

- (i) **Environment and climate change.** As noted, ENRM and climate change ratings will be provided separately. Commitments at design for ENRM and climate change were first included in IFAD10. Targets at completion are set at 90 per cent 4+ and 30 per cent 5+ for both. The 5+ commitments at completion for ENRM and climate change are new commitments in IFAD12.
- (ii) **Gender.** During IFAD9, gender was the first theme to have a commitment linked to quality at design and is thus most advanced. Targets at completion are set at 90 per cent 4+ and 60 per cent 5+.
- (iii) **Nutrition.** Nutrition will be measured by ratings at supervision rather than at completion since it was mainstreamed too recently to apply to projects being completed during IFAD12. Since this is the first time targets for ratings at supervision are being set for nutrition, targets for IFAD12 are set at

⁴¹ Based on the latest available data (2019 data from the 2018 portfolio), MDBs dedicated on average 29 per cent of their financing to climate-related activities, ranging from 18 per cent by the Asian Development Bank to 32 per cent by the World Bank Group. See Joint Report on Multilateral Development Banks' Climate Finance, table 3. https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/2018_Joint_Report_on_Multilateral_Development_Banks_Climate_Finance_en_en.pdf.

40 per cent of projects under implementation rated 4+ and 15 per cent 5+. The expectation is that targets at completion could be included in IFAD13.

- (iv) **Youth.** Performance on youth will also be measured using supervision ratings since youth was introduced as a mainstreaming theme only in IFAD11. Targets for this new IFAD12 commitment are set at 40 per cent of projects under implementation rated 4+ and 15 per cent 5+. The expectation is that targets at completion could be included in IFAD13.

80. To facilitate the continuous integration of mainstreaming themes, starting in IFAD12, 50 per cent of projects will have at least three mainstreaming themes receiving a 4+ rating at supervision. The four mainstreaming themes are highly interrelated, offering synergies and potential co-benefits. IFAD investments increasingly integrate the themes in their theories of change to achieve transformative outcomes. In this regard, an analysis of the cohort of 38 projects approved in 2019 indicates that 21 per cent of new approvals mainstreamed all four themes; 45 per cent mainstreamed three themes; and 24 per cent mainstreamed two. Only 10 per cent mainstreamed only one theme. Further, all projects started in IFAD12 will, when appropriate, monitor and report data on indigenous people and PwD as defined in the updated indigenous peoples strategy and new strategy for PwD. This means that by IFAD14 a significant amount of data on indigenous people and PwD will be available from IFAD projects.

81. Ensuring that these commitments are met calls for careful and consistent definitions of moderately satisfactory and satisfactory ratings in a given thematic area at design, supervision and completion, and communicating them adequately. In preparation for IFAD12, a new Development Effectiveness Framework will be developed reflecting the conclusions of these decisions (see section E for further information).

ASAP+

82. To tackle climate change as one of the key underlying causes of food insecurity, it is proposed that ASAP+ be established to provide climate finance primarily to lower-income countries. As seen with ASAP, ASAP+ is expected to provide direct support to addressing climate issues but also to serve as a vehicle to demonstrate the value of climate change adaptation and mitigation to lower-income countries. It therefore forms part of broader efforts to mainstream climate change action.

83. The mainstreaming themes of gender, nutrition and youth will play a central role in ASAP+. There is a clear interconnectedness between climate change and these other mainstreaming themes. Women are most vulnerable when natural disasters occur, and gender equality and women's empowerment are key building blocks of resilience to climate change and other shocks. Young people are more likely than adults to be poor and face significant constraints to entering productive activities, making them vulnerable to climate shocks. They are also among the most likely to seek work elsewhere when climate-related events such as intensifying droughts place untenable pressure on households. Lastly, healthy diets and nutrition knowledge for all household members, especially for women making food choices for children, are a prerequisite to achieving food security for all. ASAP+ will establish approaches and processes that enable projects to harness and maximize the co-benefits for these themes that result from climate-resilient agriculture. ASAP+ thus responds to growing concerns that increasing climate finance is not aligned with extreme poverty reduction and food security targets or providing support to those who are most vulnerable.⁴²

84. To assess whether ASAP+ adequately incorporates gender, youth and nutrition, they will be monitored and tracked in all projects. Since ASAP+ is

⁴² See Oxfam Climate Finance Shadow Report 2018. Assessing progress towards the US\$100 billion commitment.

designed to complement ongoing efforts, the expectation is that they will mirror the efforts made in operations funded through the PoLG. To ensure that this is the case, an assessment will be done at design, mirroring those done for operations for the PoLG. Although no specific targets will be included during the initial phase of learning how to incorporate these three mainstreaming themes, such efforts will be reported on in tandem with reporting on the PoLG.

PSFP

85. The purpose of the PSFP is to crowd in additional private investment for rural small-scale producers and small and medium-sized enterprises to generate employment and economic opportunities, particularly for youth and women. The PSFP projects are expected to have development impact, be financially sound, adhere to strict environmental and climate standards, facilitate social inclusion, and promote good governance and coordination of public and private sector efforts. The programme will seek to catalyse investments to promote climate-smart agriculture and will invest in producers and small and medium-sized enterprises that facilitate the creation of nutrition-sensitive food systems.

86. While the PSFP will be consistent with and support the mainstreaming agenda, at present the emphasis will be on monitoring and tracking projects as the programme develops. The private sector strategy was approved quite recently, and the PSFP institutionalizes a key component of that strategy. As the initial piloting takes place, the links to mainstreaming areas will be monitored and tracked, and the results reported on. This will serve as the basis for further discussions on the links between the PSFP and the areas of environment and climate change, gender, youth and nutrition.

Delivering the IFAD12 mainstreaming agenda

87. Building on the foundations laid by IFAD11, IFAD12 will sharpen the regional and country focus of the mainstreaming themes and introduce more ambitious targets for environment and climate change, gender, nutrition and youth. Further, in IFAD12, greater emphasis will be placed on biodiversity, indigenous peoples and PwD based on new and updated strategies. These strategies will clarify the way forward for the three areas. They will be developed in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations working in these areas and will draw on relevant international conventions. To ensure that IFAD is fit for purpose to deliver this ambitious mainstreaming agenda, its dedicated technical and interdisciplinary capacities are being reinforced, field presence strengthened, and monitoring and reporting capabilities refined.

D. Strengthening capacity

88. During the IFAD11 period, staff in ECG, which includes the technical staff covering environment and climate change, gender, youth, nutrition, indigenous peoples and PwD, have become increasingly present at the regional hubs, reflecting IFAD's commitment to deepen regional and country-level engagement on mainstreaming priorities. Currently, around 40 per cent of ECG's technical staff are located outside headquarters, with the expectation of reaching at least 50 per cent in IFAD12 (approximately 20 staff or 3-5 per region). A stronger technical staff presence at the regional hubs facilitates discussions on mainstreaming at the regional and country levels and the inclusion of themes in operations. Of course, it should be clear that the mainstreaming agenda is the responsibility of all staff, including Senior Management as well as staff at headquarters and in the field.

89. Further, to support delivery of the IFAD11 mainstreaming agenda, corporate guidance, templates, processes and systems have been adjusted to facilitate the systematic incorporation of IFAD11 mainstreaming requirements, from design through implementation to completion. As noted, numerous capacity development opportunities were provided to IFAD staff

and project management units throughout 2019, when IFAD11's new mainstreaming commitments came into force: gender clinics addressed gender mainstreaming and gender transformation; dedicated training on the MDB climate finance tracking methodologies took place in all regions for specialist staff; and selected regional workshops were held on nutrition. A one-day mainstreaming lab incorporating issues related to youth and indigenous peoples guided all IFAD staff through hands-on practical exercises during the 2019 IFAD global staff retreat. IFAD Change Lectures continue to take place regularly and explore the intersections between the themes.

- 90. Training modules covering all new mainstreaming requirements were embedded in the Operations Academy and were first delivered in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2019, with roll-out in other regions to follow.** Mainstreaming modules have also been embedded in the Operations Academy's online training packages and a more specialized, in-depth e-learning course on mainstreaming is being finalized for publication in the online Learning Management System. Both sets of digital materials will be particularly useful in 2020, in light of the unexpected worldwide travel restrictions due to COVID-19 containment measures.
- 91. Capacity-building and development of training modules will continue and be expanded to enhance the focus on the regional and country levels, paying special attention to training government counterparts in these areas during IFAD12.** For example, project management units and national counterparts will receive theme-specific packages at project start-up. This is fundamental, as these partners in turn deliver project activities informed by key mainstreaming principles and priorities. IFAD's capacity development offering on the mainstreaming themes for its own staff, national project teams and other country and institutional partners continues to grow, and this support will evolve further as IFAD's mainstreaming agenda advances under IFAD12. On the horizon, for example, is an IFAD, ILO and FAO collaboration to develop an Indigenous Peoples Rural Academy; a regional training programme covering environment and climate change throughout a project's life cycle; and a set of regional training modules focusing on social inclusion that will promote learning and sharing of good practices among projects and countries.

E. Measuring results

- 92. Considerable strides were made on mainstreaming results measurement under IFAD11, with new requirements and methodologies introduced across the portfolio** (see appendix III). Further opportunities to harmonize and systematize the consistency of results measurement across mainstreaming themes will be pursued under IFAD12. For example, the kind of long-standing and broad-based monitoring frameworks in existence for environment and climate is needed for gender, and two new results methodologies have now been introduced at corporate level under IFAD11 for nutrition. Results data for youth are comparatively less granular than for the other themes, and will be strengthened under IFAD12.
- 93. Unified approaches to measurement and review across different IFAD units will be promoted.** A key entry point is the Development Effectiveness Framework, into which mainstreaming priorities will be more deeply embedded under IFAD12. IFAD's first Development Effectiveness Framework focused on systematizing corporate measurement across the portfolio, including defining how outputs and outcomes would be measured, how they would be monitored through the Operational Results Management System and how impact would be measured through the impact assessment efforts.
- 94. Building on this, in preparation for IFAD12 a new Development Effectiveness Framework will systematically incorporate metrics for mainstreaming themes, as follows:**

- (i) **Quality at entry.** Performance ratings linked to mainstreaming themes provided at design stage will be systematized to provide consistent agreed definitions for moderately satisfactory (4), satisfactory (5) and highly satisfactory (6) ratings for each mainstreaming theme. A moderately satisfactory rating will be deemed the **minimum standard** for a theme, satisfactory the **standard expectation** and highly satisfactory **above standard expectations**. These definitions will be used by internal and external reviewers for all assessments, will be reflected in the project design guidelines, and will be made available to all project delivery teams in advance.
 - (ii) **Supervision and completion.** These project quality at entry performance ratings will be seamlessly aligned with the performance ratings monitored during implementation by supervision missions as well as at project completion. The necessary adjustments will be made to the relevant operational guidelines and the Operational Results Management System in order to ensure that performance can be closely monitored and adequately reported.
 - (iii) **Data collection on mainstreaming.** In addition to performance ratings, the new Development Effectiveness Framework will stipulate all data to be reported on mainstreaming themes, including indigenous peoples and PwD, outlining methods for data collection and aggregate reporting.
 - (iv) **Reporting.** IFAD will continue reporting on corporate results, including mainstreaming results, on a yearly basis through the Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness, presented at the Executive Board session each September.
95. **IFAD remains committed to honing its capacities, processes and systems as necessary, to guarantee the efficient delivery of a technically robust and results-oriented mainstreaming agenda.** It will continue to work on this agenda going forward towards and during IFAD12.

Mainstreaming at IFAD in the last decade

1. This annex examines how IFAD and its Member States have increasingly stepped up efforts to tackle critical issues at the root of rural extreme poverty and food insecurity such as environmental degradation, climate change, nutrition, gender inequality, and youth employment in IFAD's investments over the last decade (IFAD8 through IFAD11).
2. Table 1 and 2 summarize the commitments at the corporate and country and operational level, respectively. Starting with commitments linked to environment and climate change as well as gender in IFAD8 (2010-2012), IFAD added nutrition in IFAD10 (2016-2018) and youth in IFAD11 (2019-2021) as key mainstreaming areas. Over time IFAD has raised the bar in terms of commitments including those that are more global and strategic in nature (Table 1) and those that are country based and operational (Table2). Table 2 only covers IFAD9 through IFAD11 since IFAD9 is when country and operational commitments were first initiated.
3. As seen in Table 1 and 2, IFAD has generally met commitments and achieved targets. All noted commitments at the global level have been met as have inclusion of mainstreaming themes in COSOPs. While generally targets have been met, at the operational level there have been challenges. In IFAD10, the share of projects being moderately satisfactory or higher (4+) for Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM) at completion were only 84 percent compared to a target of 90 percent. There have been issues with achieving gender targets in IFAD10 and IFAD11 with shortfalls at design (44 percent rate 5+ compared to 50 percent target) and at completion (88 percent rated 4+ compared to 90 percent target).

Table 1. IFAD8-11 Corporate commitments and achievement

	IFAD8 (2010 - 2012)		IFAD9 (2013-2015)		IFAD10 (2016-2018)		IFAD11 (2019-2021)	
	Commitment	Result	Commitment	Result	Commitment	Result	Commitment	Status 2019
Environment and Climate Change	Procedures Env. Manage. and Sust. Dev.	√	Strengthen analysis of E+CC issues in IFAD's operations	√	Implement a 10-point plan for climate mainstreaming	√	New CC and env. strategy/action plan	√
	ENRM policy	√	Assist smallholders with climate finance	ASAP	Expand the resource base for climate finance	\$370m.	Increase env. sust. and CC win-win solutions	On going
	Develop CC strategy	√	Complementary contributions to ASAP	√	Conduct a review of IFAD's work on climate change	√	Increase resource mobilization-- GCF, GEF, UCC	\$ 90m
			Enhance KM, advocacy and partnerships on CC and Env.	√			Establish ASAP2	√
Gender	Corporate policy on gender	√	GEWE analysis to improve performance	√	Commit to meeting 15 UN-SWAP1.0 indicators	√	Gender Action Plan Revised	√
	Join MDB gender working group	√	Enhance indicators in GEWE (RIMS, IOE, RMF)	√	MTR of Gender Policy	√	Operational Guidelines on Targeting Revised	√

	Report annually to EB on gender performance in RIDE	√	Enhance documentation of gender field experience	√				
Nutrition					Nutrition action plan developed	√	Revision of Nutrition Action Plan	√
							Mobilize UCCs for nutrition	√
Youth							Youth action plan developed	√
							Targeting guidelines incorporating youth	√
							Promote youth employment--private sector	On going
							Youth advocacy and council	On going
							Rural Development Report 2019 on youth	√
Integration							Transformational framework for mainstreaming	√
							Report on progress in RIDE	Ongoing

Table 2. IFAD9-11: Country and operational commitments and achievement

	IFAD9 (2013-2015)		IFAD10 (2016-2018)		IFAD11 (2019-2021)	
	Commitment	Result	Commitment	Result	Commitment	Status 2019
Environment and Climate Change	Projects rate 4+ on CC at completion	90%	100% project design reports mainstream climate	100%	100% COSOPs analyse NDC targets/commitments	100%
	90% projects rated 4+ on ENRM at completion	89%	80% quality project 4+ for env. and CC at design	97%	25% <i>climate finance</i> (MDB methodologies)	34% (\$568m.)
			Quality project 5+ for env. and CC at design	58%	85% projects rate 4+ on CC at completion	91%
			50% projects rate 4+ CC at completion	83%	90% projects rated 4+ on ENRM at completion	87%
			90% projects rated 4+ on ENRM at completion	84%		
Gender	90% projects rated 4+ on gender equality at design	89%	90% projects rated 4+ on gender equality at design	92%	90% projects rated 4+ on gender at design	94%

	90% projects rated 4+ on gender at completion	91%	50% projects rated 5+ on gender at design	44%	50% projects rated 5+ on gender equality at design	53%
			15% projects rated <i>gender transformative</i> at design	21%	25% projects rated <i>gender transformative</i> at design	32%
			90% projects rated 4+ on gender at completion	88%	90% projects rated 4+ on gender at completion	87%
					60% projects rated 5+ on gender at completion	52%
Nutrition			100% COSOPs nutrition situation assessment	100%	100% COSOPs nutrition situation assessment	100%
			33% project nutrition-sensitive at design	48%	50% project nutrition-sensitive at design	63%
					12 million people with improved nutrition	IAs ongoing
Youth					100% COSOPs youth situation assessment	100%
					50% projects youth-sensitive at design	84%

I. IFAD8 (2010-2012)

4. Taking place after IFAD's first profound reform process responding to the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE)⁴³, one of the key features of IFAD8 was its targeted focus on resilience, economic empowerment, gender, food security, land rights and natural resource management. It also included particular targeting to vulnerable populations including displaced female-headed households, youth, and Indigenous Peoples - for which the EB approved the Indigenous Peoples Strategy in 2009.
5. IFAD8 Consultations concluded that IFAD needed to further strengthen its engagement in **climate change** issues, as a key means to enabling poor rural women and men to overcome poverty. A corporate strategy on climate change was approved by the Executive Board in 2010. The increased engagement was also facilitated by IFAD's new operating model, providing a range of new instruments and processes to ensure that systematic attention was given to climate change issues in country strategies, project design and implementation and national policy dialogue. These included IFAD's safeguard procedures for environmental management and sustainable development.
6. IFAD activities at the country level consistently and systematically assessed the potential effects of climate change, and wherever appropriate climate change adaptation was incorporated into project designs. At the same time, greater emphasis in project designs was given to capacity development in areas such as risk preparedness, diversification of livelihoods, and natural resources management.
7. Additional funding was mobilized to enable scaling up engagement in climate change issues and to meet the additional costs that climate-related challenges impose on investments in development;

⁴³ An External Independent Evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2005. Its main conclusions included recommendations to improve IFAD's efficiency to become a more relevant, clear and distinctive international player in reducing rural poverty.

8. IFAD8 also recognized that addressing **gender** inequalities, particularly by targeting and empowering rural women and girls was critical to the effectiveness of IFAD's operations and a key aspect of IFAD's targeting strategy.
9. In 2009 IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation undertook a Corporate Level Evaluation (CLE) of IFAD's performance with regard to gender equality. The evaluation considered IFAD's performance to have been moderately satisfactory in terms of achieving economic empowerment and promoting women's decision-making in local institutions; but, moderately unsatisfactory in improving women's well-being and easing their workloads. The evaluation's principle recommendation was to 'Develop an evidence and results-based corporate policy on gender equality and women's empowerment', making it part of IFAD's strategic objective and priorities.
10. The new Gender Policy was designed in April 2012 based on the findings of the CLE to ensure that close attention was paid to gender equality. The policy aimed to systematically build a gender perspective into IFAD's business projects, processes, policies – including human resource policies – and monitoring instruments. In fact, at the end of IFAD8 gender specialists and/or representatives of women's organizations systematically participated in projects and COSOPs designs; capacity to gather sex-disaggregated data at project level was strengthened; performance on gender in operations is annually reported through the Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE).
11. With IFAD8 **nutrition** also became a strategic commitment. IFAD finalized its Strategic Framework 2011-2015, whose overarching goal was "Enabling poor rural people to improve their food security and nutrition, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience". However, food production and agriculture investments were still viewed as automatically leading to improved nutrition. It was mainly after the price spike of 2007-2010, that IFAD start, progressively, launching a number of initiatives supporting nutrition and food security. Building on the 2009 reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), IFAD worked with FAO and the WFP to enable the CFS to take on a central role in global coordination for food security and nutrition.
12. Data from the Results Measurement Framework (RMF) showed that the high expectations for the Eighth Replenishment in terms of mainstreaming had been met: the quality of IFAD's work had improved as measured by outcomes and impact. Both country programming and project implementation have improved.

II. IFAD9 (2013-2015)

13. IFAD9 was guided by the remarkable results of IFAD8 with a focus to expand further and scale up its impact. In its strategic vision for the Ninth Replenishment period, IFAD committed to act as a "global catalyst of investments to enable small-scale producers to drive progress towards food security and improved nutrition, poverty reduction and more resilient ecosystems".
14. Environmental threats such as **climate change** continued to require increased attention in IFAD9. Analysis of climate change and environmental issues were further strengthened in IFAD's operations to support innovative approaches to climate resilience and sustainable use of natural resources. Given the key women's role as managers and users of natural resources, fulfilment of their critical contribution to biodiversity and environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, were a top priority in IFAD9.
15. The recently launched Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) further strengthened IFAD's resources and capacity to support climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. It supported a farther integration of climate resilience into

- project cycle procedures and practices. ASAP also helped boost capacity and knowledge on climate adaptation.
16. The Results Measurement Framework (RMF) for the IFAD9 period introduced a series of important improvements to strengthen and better demonstrate the outcomes achieved by IFAD in climate change and gender.
 17. In IFAD9, IFAD's focus on **gender** equality was consolidated and enhanced. The mid-term review (MTR) of the implementation of the gender policy carried out in 2015 stressed the clarity and focus of IFAD's gender policy, well integrated into the strategic framework and programming systems. IFAD's contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment was assessed as remarkable as compared to its United Nations and international financial institution peers. Recommendations for the way forward referred to establishing a more systematic approach for tracking project performance and impact from a gender perspective. In this regard, during IFAD9 indicators were introduced to measure impact and results in gender equality and women's empowerment in the RIMS, IOE evaluation and RMF.
 18. **Nutrition.** Lack of enough advances on undernourishment, child malnutrition and underweight, made IFAD countries to be more determined to include nutrition response in IFAD's investments. In the Nutrition for Growth summit in London 2013, IFAD joined the international community by making concrete commitments on nutrition: 20% of all new IFAD-funded project designs should be nutrition-sensitive; 30% of all new COSOPs integrate nutrition-sensitive analysis, indicators, and activities, while 100% of newly approved COSOPs are nutrition-sensitive. At this time IFAD focused on both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities, working with a number of partners to accelerate its efforts in this vital area.
 19. In 2013, IFAD supported different nutrition related events, and actions including: the CFS Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring, the Policy Roundtable on Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition, a special event during the CFS sessions on natural resource management for food security in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and the development of an agenda for action to address food insecurity in protracted crises.
 20. In 2013, IFAD signed an agreement with Canada for supplementary funding to support mainstreaming of nutrition – 5.0 million Canadian Dollars.
 21. Although IFAD's mandate during IFAD9 did not have a prioritized focus on **youth**, much work was already carried out in terms of youth-related activities in project design and implementation. A recently analysis of a sample of IFAD9 projects, found-out that: most regional divisions, particularly LAC, ESA and WCA, implemented a significant number of youth-sensitive projects. Close to 30% of the IFAD9 PDRs reviewed indicate support for institutions and policies that promote rural youth.
 22. Summarizing, in IFAD9 climate and gender mainstreaming were consolidated and strengthened, nutrition was gaining momentum, while youth targeting, even if not yet mainstreamed per se, was included in a significant part of project designs and activities. This was particularly the period in which ASAP became the largest and most relevant climate change adaptation programme. Yet, while climate change was well integrated into corporate policies such as IFAD's Strategic Framework, further integration and synergies with other thematic areas, such as value chains, economic analysis and nutrition, was still required.

III. IFAD10 (2016-2018)

23. The IFAD10 consultations took place within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Along with the main focus on ending extreme poverty and

- hunger by 2030, mainstreaming topics were going to be at the core of the development agenda.
24. IFAD10 priorities were focused on innovating, learning and scaling up across three cross-cutting themes critical to enhancing development outcomes and impact: adaptation to climate change, gender equality and women's empowerment, and improved nutritional impact. In IFAD10 these themes were featured for the first time as the "mainstreaming cross-cutting themes".
 25. The commitments set forth and met in IFAD10 included achieving 100 per cent **climate** mainstreaming by 2016, and several correlated goals, including: further integration of climate risk screening into the review process for all IFAD projects and COSOPs; designation of a Senior Management "climate champion" to help guide and promote the mainstreaming agenda; expanded use of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other cofinancing resources; use of IFAD grants as a tool for climate mainstreaming at the country level; exploration of the scope for including a climate vulnerability index in the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) formula; expansion of IFAD's role in managing climate finance.
 26. IFAD expanded its commitment to make climate finance work for poor small-scale farmers and diversify the financial instruments for pro-poor, low-carbon and climate-resilient development. This included broadening the financial base for climate mainstreaming through complementary contributions from its Members which are not restricted in their use by IFAD as loans or grants, or in terms of their geographic allocation. In parallel, IFAD was ready to receive further contributions to ASAP, and other multilateral funding sources in order to expand its role in managing climate finance.
 27. The environment and climate mainstreaming model benefited greatly from knowledge generated by the first phase of the ASAP programme. External evaluations of ASAP have confirmed its outstanding performance, with all numerical targets exceeded in terms of number of countries and projects supported, land area brought under climate-smart management, investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, or building human capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change. The review by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development gave the programme an A+ score, while the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), in its 2015 review, rated ASAP as the gold standard.
 28. The second phase - ASAP2 - aimed to mobilize supplementary funds to continue supporting technical assistance, innovation, capacity-building, policy dialogue, advocacy and regional or national public goods to create enabling environments for climate-sensitive investments. These activities continue to leverage investments from IFAD's PoLG as well as cofinancing from government, private sector, bilateral and multilateral sources such as the Global Environment Facility.
 29. IFAD was accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in October 2016 and started to work with its member countries on the scoping of project ideas. The GCF would serve as an additional source of supplementary funds for climate-related activities in IFAD projects.
 30. Under IFAD10, IFAD set out to consolidate its position as a leading agency on innovative measures to promote rural **women's empowerment**. It developed the action plan "Gender Mainstreaming in IFAD10" following a five-point pathway based on the five action areas of the gender policy, and committed to meeting or exceeding all 15 UN-SWAP indicators by 2017.
 31. The principal thrust of IFAD-supported projects were to promote economic empowerment that enables rural women and men to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, profitable economic activities. This would be flanked by efforts to reduce the labour burden of rural women and increase their voice in decision-making at all levels. IFAD already used a system of markers to

reflect the maturity of projects at design, implementation and completion stages from a gender perspective. Under IFAD10 it was set out (and achieved) the goals of having at least 15 per cent of project designs gender-transformative, at least 50 per cent achieving full gender mainstreaming. It was also strengthened the gender perspective of the RIMS by drawing on key elements of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index.

32. In 2016, IFAD, Oxfam and Hivos jointly organized a "Forum on Empowerment through Household Methodologies for practitioners and key players, with a special focus on the Gender Action Learning System (GALS). With this event IFAD marked itself as one of the leading development organizations innovating with HHM as a key strategy to advance its gender and broader development agenda.
33. **Increased impact on nutrition.** Since 2013 efforts had been undertaken to introduce a nutrition-sensitive approach into project design through funding from the Government of Canada. The approval of IFAD's Nutrition Action Plan 2016-2018, renewed and deepened IFAD's commitment to designing and implementing nutrition-sensitive projects that shape agriculture and food systems in ways that contribute to nutritious diets.
34. To leverage the contribution of agriculture to improve nutrition during IFAD10, IFAD committed to applying a nutrition lens at each stage of the project cycle, from design through implementation. A criteria for categorising projects and COSOPs as nutrition sensitive was defined. Projects would increase support for nutrition-sensitive country strategies and project design, and for country-level policy dialogue around improvements in nutrition.
35. The supplementary funds from the Governments of Canada and Germany played a key role in setting up a systematic process for mainstreaming nutrition, building the capacities of staff and implementing partners, and carrying out innovative research to position IFAD as one of the leading agencies in nutrition-sensitive agriculture. IFAD was among first UN agencies to develop an action plan in support of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) aiming at accelerating the implementation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) commitments, achieving the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025, and contributing to the realization of the SDGs by 2030.
36. IFAD Strengthened its institutional partnerships and advocacy in promoting nutrition, first and foremost with Member governments, but also with relevant agencies and networks, such as FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), members of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), academic institutions (McGill University), and UNICEF, among others.
37. Considerable efforts were also made at strengthening capacity building and production of guidance such as the Nutrition Sensitive Value Chains (NSVC), the development of an important number of knowledge products, resources and evidence to support project design and implementation.
38. In IFAD10 the efforts on measuring nutrition results were also redoubled. Mandatory output- and outcome-level nutrition indicators were incorporated in the Results and Impact Management System (RIMS) for nutrition-sensitive projects. A nutrition rating was incorporated into project supervision and mid-term review guidelines to systematically monitor progress during implementation.
39. **Youth.** In IFAD10, the emphasis on youth was dramatically increased. Based on an ongoing baseline analysis, there was a substantial increase in the number of youth-sensitive projects from 29% in IFAD9 to 42% in IFAD10. Nutrition related activities, consequently did also boost. For example youth employment activities raised from 17% in IFAD9 to 39% in IFAD10. The results of the data also indicate a dramatic focus on youth-sensitive projects addressing nutrition and/or wellbeing issues, showing synergies and co-benefits among these two mainstreamed themes.

40. IFAD also stepped up its efforts and prioritized youth in its grant windows. Innovative grants such as the win-win partnership were launched to engage students with IFAD-supported projects and partners. A grant on engaging diaspora communities to support youth employment was also put in place to take advantage of the opportunities of remittances to Morocco and Senegal to spur rural youth employment. Likewise, a grant focused on indigenous youth in Latin America and Africa, focused at empowering rural communities through the promotion of their food heritage.
41. Youth mainstreaming reached also M&E systems and LogFrames. For example, RIMS data included age disaggregation. Finally, a Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP) was developed and approved by the board in 2018.
42. With a consolidating organizational capacity, in IFAD10 IFAD succeeded in achieving 100% mainstreaming of climate adaptation in all country strategies and project designs. Climate change and environment were anchored to IFAD's agenda through the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025. IFAD10 added nutrition to the mainstreaming themes. IFAD's first Nutrition Action Plan (2016-2018) shifted the focus of IFAD interventions to go beyond increasing agricultural productivity and raising incomes to ensure that production changes result in changes in consumption. The results achieved in IFAD10 paved the way to further mainstreaming consolidation in IFAD11.

IV. IFAD11 (2019-2021)

43. In IFAD 11 IFAD has embarked on an ambitious agenda to maximize its contribution to the SDGs, boost resilience, and support long-term sustainable development. Members of the IFAD11 Consultation underlined that IFAD has a unique contribution to make to the achievement of the SDGs, and a key role to play in ending rural poverty and hunger, addressing climate change, improving nutrition, empowering rural women and girls, creating opportunities for rural youth, and addressing the challenges of fragility and migration in rural areas.
44. During this period IFAD, will move forward to consolidate its position as a leading agency across the mainstreaming themes. Mainstreaming action plans have either updated (for gender and nutrition) or developed (for youth and environmental sustainability and climate) and new targets and actions are being agreed with members to consolidate this position (table 1). The paragraphs below provide highlights of the process made so far.

Environment and climate

45. IFAD is closely tracking its climate investments during IFAD11. Project design budgets are categorized to ensure that at least 25 per cent of IFAD's PoLG is specifically climate-focused, including investments in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and in environmental sustainability. This is being measured using the MDBs' methodology and reported upfront in project design reports. Furthermore, IFAD is expanding the analysis of the mitigation co-benefits of IFAD's overall portfolio. Specifically IFAD is moving towards systematically using the EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT), a system developed by FAO and used in a number of projects, which enables ex-ante estimation of the net impact of IFAD-financed projects on greenhouse gas emissions.
46. IFAD is also supporting countries' efforts to achieve their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Up to the end of 2019, all country strategies (COSOPs and CSNs) have included a detailed analysis of agriculture-related adaptation commitments to achieve the NDCs, ensuring that IFAD interventions are aligned and support these commitments. IFAD is in the process of undertaking the same analysis for mitigation commitments. Likewise, in the

framework of the NDC Partnership⁴⁴ and its new Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), eight IFAD countries will be supported in raising the ambitions of their nationally determined contribution to the Paris Agreement.

47. IFAD is further strengthening climate related monitoring systems and tools. For example, IFAD has developed the Climate Adaptation in Rural Development (CARD), a specific tool to explore the potential yields of different crops under the effects of climate change in a given agroecology. The tool also supports the quantitative integration of climate-related risks in agricultural and rural development investments and strategies, including economic and financial analyses. Since March 2019, the CARD tool has been used in six IFAD project designs and four country strategy developments. In addition, this IFAD's developed tool is being used by a wide range of users outside IFAD, including government representatives, business leaders, and large international NGOs.
48. An Adaptation Framework has been prepared to synthesize good practices and lessons learned from adaptation actions, including from ASAP1. The framework provides a clear approach and steps to follow to assist project design teams in ensuring the adoption of effective adaptation practices. It further facilitates and standardizes the process of assessing and selecting adaptation options in IFAD projects to respond to climate risks and impacts identified through the SECAP.
49. IFAD's approach to environmental sustainability and climate resilience seeks to reach policy and decision makers, market actors, resource-user groups and institutions shaping the context in which rural people pursue their livelihoods. At the country level, 17 policy dialogues have been supported so far to mainstream climate change into national policies regarding food security and agriculture, through the projects co-funded by the ASAP programme. IFAD has strengthened partnerships with dedicated environment and climate institutions, including private initiatives aiming at engaging the private sector in the fight against climate change (as the Global Innovation Lab on Climate Finance). It also plays a role in raising awareness within global policy dialogue regarding the shaping of sustainable food systems (e.g. participation in major international fora such as UNCCD, UNFCCC, Global Climate Summit, and the Committee on Food Security).

Gender

50. IFAD11 gender targeting efforts are particularly focused on gender transformation looking to address the gender productivity gap and accelerate gender empowerment. IFAD recently revised its Gender Action Plan for 2019-2025 to address the underlying power relations within households through the perspective of shared prosperity. Considerable progress has been made to date in implementing the Action Plan, and the target at design (25 per cent of projects approved classified as gender transformative) has so far been exceeded, with 32 per cent of projects approved in 2019 being assessed as gender transformative.
51. Indicators and impact assessment studies have been strengthened to include key elements of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). This has been done with the inclusion of core indicators related to access to productive capital and financial services and group membership.
52. IFAD actively contributes to a number of international fora and global campaigns. IFAD is recognized at the global level for its advocacy for poor rural women at the United Nations level, among international financial institutions and within the donor community. Numerous partnerships have been reached including with the United Nations (Commission on the Status of Women - CSW); the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Development Assistance Committee Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET); United Nations Educational, Scientific

⁴⁴ IFAD joined the in 2019 the NDC Partnership, a network of countries and major international institutions and non-state actors that allows developing countries to request support in priority areas regarding their NDCs.

and Cultural Organization; FAO; WFP; and, UN Women. Since 2012 IFAD is working together with FAO, WFP and UN Women to implement the joint programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE). IFAD is also a lead member of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and its Working Group on Rural Women and girls.

Nutrition

53. In IFAD11, IFAD aims at consolidating the gains made on mainstreaming nutrition during IFAD10. The main focus is in strengthening investments in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems, to improve the quality of the diet of rural populations. Yet, IFAD also aims to optimize the contribution to nutrition of its broader investments in rural development. It also looks at strengthening rural people's capacities in nutrition, as to enable making informed choices in terms of food production, purchases and consumption.
54. Nutrition is firmly embedded in IFAD's corporate strategies and commitments, and a second Nutrition Action Plan (NAP) 2019-2025 was approved in 2019. This revised NAP sets out the framework that guides IFAD's actions to accelerate nutrition mainstreaming and achieve its ambitious commitments on nutrition. All COSOPs reviewed in 2019 include nutrition considerations.
55. During IFAD11, IFAD has committed to reporting on an additional impact indicator – improved nutrition – given the centrality of nutrition to IFAD's work on SDG 2. It is expected that 12 million people will improve their nutrition. This target will be measured through impact assessments of selected projects in terms of improved diets. Moreover, IFAD will continue to play a leadership role in the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, and to build partnerships to learn from other organizations and to share lessons generated from IFAD's projects and technical assistance activities.
56. Nutrition is systematically integrated in IFAD's processes and monitoring systems. A new criteria for nutrition sensitive projects has been developed, including nutrition situation analysis, clear impact pathway, indicators, clear budget and implementation arrangements. Nutrition core indicators were integrated among IFAD11 RMF indicators. Guidelines for their operationalization were produced and technical support is being provided to ensure that these indicators are systematically reported. New commitments for nutrition were made, including an IFAD11 target of having 50 per cent of project designs classified as nutrition-sensitive. As of December 2019, 63 per cent of newly designed projects were nutrition sensitive, while 100 per cent of COSOPs took into account nutrition considerations. This has been made possible through strengthened technical assistance and capacity at design through training, guidance and tools.
57. The on-going integration of these indicators and guidelines will contribute to improve the tracking of progress and impact of nutrition sensitive projects. Costing guidelines on nutrition sensitive actions have been developed to guide project designers on how to accurately budget nutrition actions, an important criteria for a project to be nutrition sensitive.
58. At the global level, IFAD is increasingly active in advocating for the role of small-scale producers in food security and nutrition. IFAD contributes to high-level international initiatives related to nutrition such as: Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue Summit (AFSLD) in Rwanda, UNGA in New York, EAT forum in Sweden, Terra Madre. IFAD has also played an important role to facilitate discussions and improve UN coordination and harmonisation in nutrition and alignment with the UN reform. Finally, IFAD is working collaboratively with the RBAs, and other UN partners in several fronts, which include various knowledge products on nutrition, as the SOFI report, the MDDW workforce, commitment to the UN Decade of nutrition action and preparation of its first report that was included in the UNSCN report to ECOSOC.

Youth

59. IFAD11 has been a turning point in IFAD's engagement with rural youth. In IFAD11 efforts were stepped up to tackle rural youth poverty, shifting from a targeting to a mainstreaming approach, adding youth as a new thematic area of mainstreaming. This renovated commitment to youth mainstreaming include a particular focus at addressing challenges as rural youth unemployment, providing alternatives to youth migration, and, new approaches to engaging with the private sector on addressing youth related challenges in rural areas.
60. So far the target of 50 per cent youth-sensitive projects at design has been exceeded with 84 per cent of the projects designed in 2019 validated as youth-sensitive and all project indicators on outreach being disaggregated by gender and age.
61. IFAD has also being very active in promoting youth related international partnerships. IFAD collaborates with the ILO in decent employment, while is also focusing on the issue of child labour under the International Partnership for Cooperation in Child Labour in Agriculture.
62. In 2019 a mapping exercise, including the activities of other UN agencies, NGOs, governments, and other development partner institutions was carried out to see how best to strengthen IFAD's operations and collaborative partnerships in working with young people. IFAD is also exploring options to develop a mechanism for dialogue with rural youth which could take the form of a council, network, or platform. It is expected to launch this new arrangement for dialogue with rural youth in 2020.
63. IFAD's global visibility has been augmented by the campaign 'Our Future is Here' spearheaded by IFAD's advocate Sherrie Silver and Mr. Eazi, reaching millions of viewers worldwide. Youth was also represented as a key theme during the 2020 Governing Council in the special event titled Creating jobs for rural youth: Opportunities in agribusiness.

Integrating the mainstreaming themes

64. In pursuit of achieving IFAD11 mainstreaming commitments, IFAD has revised business and planning processes and is building the necessary capacities, tools and approaches. Corporate design and implementation templates (including the Development Effectiveness Matrix (DEM) have been revised. Consensus on definitions and criteria has been reached for all themes and integrated into the Operational Results Management System (ORMS) and a rigorous validation process established. A general framework for mainstreaming in COSOPs and designs was elaborated and agreed. A complete list of IFAD11 commitments and progress to date is provided in Table 1 below.
65. SECAP Procedures are being enhanced as a vehicle for mainstreaming themes in IFAD-financed programmes. The process is being revised to allow IFAD to fill a few critical safeguards gaps which are necessary to fully embrace new emerging issues and continue accessing environment/climate finance, and facilitate co-financing with IFIs and on lend sovereign funds. This process will become increasingly important and specific as IFAD moves towards larger projects, and – in particular – in the context of enlarged private sector engagement. Whilst focusing on the safeguards functions, the scope of this revision includes also improvements to ensure coherence across the entire SECAP process.
66. Processes are increasingly integrating the mainstreaming themes within a comprehensive approach. It is recognized that the different mainstreaming themes are highly interrelated, giving way to synergies and potential co-benefits among them. In this regard, there is on-going enhancement of operational linkages among mainstreaming themes to achieve household transformation, while theories of change in project designs, are integrating the four themes, looking at how they add

value to each other and to the whole portfolio promoting more transformational outcomes.

Table 3. IFAD11 commitments and progress to date

Mainstreaming theme	Action and commitments for IFAD11	Current status (2019)
Nutrition	Update of Nutrition Action Plan 2016-201	Revised Nutrition Action Plan 2019-2025 include 3 key performance indicators tracked annually and mobilised supplementary funds to support its implementation (2019 -Funds from Norway)
	Mainstream nutrition in 100% of COSOPs	100% COSOPs approved in 2019 are nutrition sensitive
	Increase percentage of nutrition-sensitive projects from 33 to 50 per cent	Percentage increased and per cent of projects approved in 2019 validated as nutrition sensitive
	12 million people with improved nutrition	Indicator included in the RMF and the impact assessments ongoing
	Mobilize unrestricted complementary contributions for nutrition	Contribution from Norway this is supplementary resources- Funds from Luxembourg
	50 per cent new project designs are nutrition-sensitive [OPR validations]	63 per cent of projects designed in 2019 were validated as nutrition-sensitive
Gender	Updated Gender Action Plan	EB reviewed May 2019
	More transformative approaches address root causes of gender inequality, ensure supportive national policies	Report in Q2 2020
	New human resource plan to reach gender and diversity targets	Ongoing
	90 per cent projects rated 4 or better on Gender equality at design[OPR validations]	92 per cent of projects approved in 2019 rated 4 or better
	50 per cent projects rated 5 or better on Gender equality at design [full gender mainstreaming] [OPR validations]	44 per cent of projects approved in 2019 rated 5 or better
	[OPR validations] 25 per cent of new project designs are gender transformative	32 per cent of projects approved in 2019 validated as gender transformative
	[RMF] 90 per cent projects rated 4 or better on Gender equality at completion	87 per cent of Project Completion Reports (PCRs) rate gender as moderately satisfactory (4) or better
	[RMF] 60 per cent projects rated 5 or better on Gender equality at completion	52 per cent of Project Completion Reports (PCRs) rate gender as satisfactory (5) or better
Youth	New Youth action plan, including consideration of migration issues	EB reviewed December 2018
	Youth mainstreamed in 100 per cent of COSOPs and CSNs	Youth considerations in all new COSOPs and CSNs
	50 per cent new project designs are youth-sensitive [OPR validations]	84 per cent of projects designed in 2019 validated as youth-sensitive
	Update targeting guidelines with differentiated approaches for young women and young men	Approved by EB in September 2019. A HTD mainstreaming youth guidance note has been prepared and is currently being published
	Promote youth entrepreneurship and employment, develop financing mechanisms for youth through the ABC Fund, and leveraging remittances	A key criteria to all youth sensitive projects is job creation. Key investments have been towards business development and promotion of financial services. Many projects are in the process of identifying SMEs for linkages with the ABC fund. Projects are also looking at opportunities to leverage on remittances. a grant-financed project to test an innovative approach to agribusiness incubation for rural youth employment. This adopts a context-specific

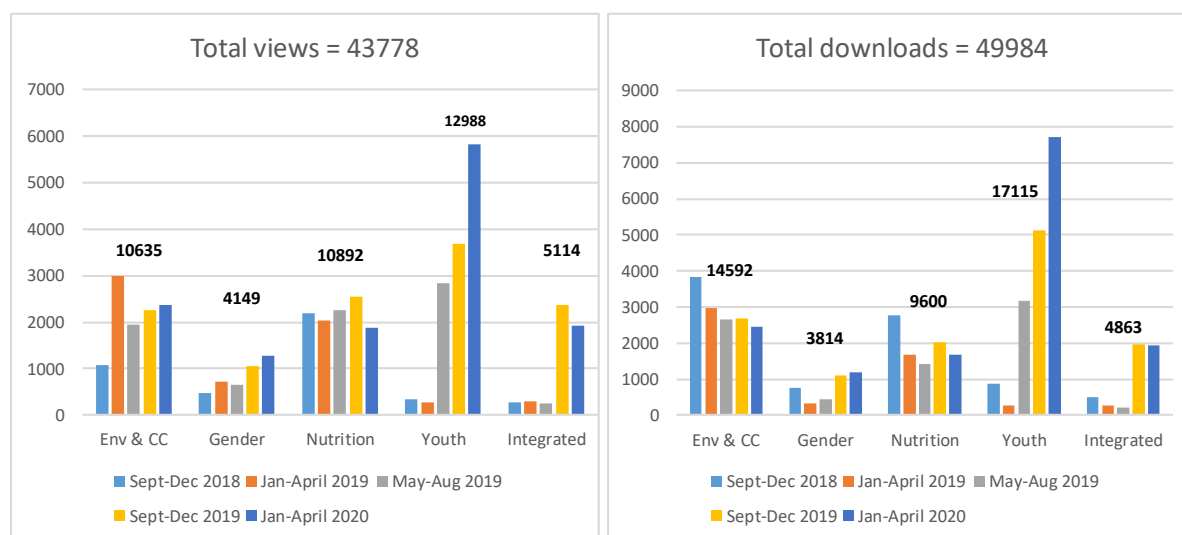
		approach focusing on diversified pathways to youth employment in the on-farm and off-farm sectors with the aim of creating 21,000 jobs for young people in the next five years in Africa. Accordingly, IFAD has opened a global/regional grant window of US\$3.5 million and secured EUR 10 million from bilateral donors (BMZ). An additional US\$3.5 million in cofinancing is being pursued with the Visa Foundation.
	Establish IFAD as an influential advocate for rural youth, using a participatory approach and establishing a youth advisory council	In progress. A position paper has been prepared and will be presented in May during an informal seminar with the Executive Board
	Focus in the Rural Development Report 2019 on youth and rural employment	Complete
Environment and climate	New climate and environment strategy and action plan with focus on SDGs and Paris Agreement	EB reviewed Dec 2018
	Increase focus on environmental sustainability and win-win solutions for adaptation and mitigation*, with more systematic use of tools to estimate net greenhouse gas emissions of IFAD-financed projects	Strategy for Renewable Energy drafted 30% projects use RETs by 2021 60 projects use EX-ACT by 2021 54% projects include one E+CC indicator
	Increase resource mobilization through GCF, GEF, and UCC climate window [US\$200 million]	Pipeline projects from GEF, GCF and Adaptation Fund amount to USD 412 million
	All COSOPs analyse NDC targets and commitments to inform IFAD interventions	All new COSOPs (10) and CSNs (1) integrate NDCs analysis
	Systematic tracking of climate finance using MDB methodology to ensure 25 per cent of IFAD11 PoLG is "climate-focused" and use of Rio markers (climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, desertification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDB methodologies adopted and adapted for IFAD's purposes • 34% of IFAD financing approved in 2019 "climate focused"
	Establish the ASAP2 technical assistance facility	Initiatives under ASAP2 in progress and/or completed
	[RMF] 80 per cent projects rate 4 or better for Environment and climate change at design	97 per cent project rate 4 or better at entry as reported in the RIDE
	[RMF] 85 per cent projects rate 4 or better for Adaptation to climate change at completion	91 per cent of project completion reports rate 4 or better on Adaptation to climate change
	[RMF] 90 per cent projects rate 4 or better for Environment and climate change at design	87 per cent of project completion reports rate 4 or better on Environment and climate change
Integration of the mainstreaming themes	Develop an integrated mainstreaming framework and better hands-on guidance for project teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised operational guidelines on targeting to better incorporate the mainstreaming themes – Approved EB September 2019 • Framework for Implementing Transformational Approaches to Mainstreaming Themes: Environment and Climate, Gender, Nutrition and Youth was reviewed by the EB in December 2019 • On-going implementation of an integrated approach to mainstreaming e.g. in the support to operations, the revision of the SECAP, application of the HH
	Update targeting guidelines	

		<p>methodologies, capacity development, knowledge management, resource mobilisation etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new design guidelines incorporate guidance on how integrate the mainstreaming themes• Progress on implementation to be presented in an EB seminar in Q4 of 2020
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Assessing mainstreaming efforts

1. Efforts to assess the mainstreaming of environment and climate, gender, nutrition and youth has been ongoing throughout the last decade. With each new strategy, policy and action plan a new analysis is completed and this drives the emerging agenda for that theme. The RIDE and ARRI regularly provide data on the themes as well as in-depth discussions on thematic areas. IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation have done a number of corporate level evaluations, which have led to shifts in direction in recent replenishments. To consider the current status of mainstreaming at IFAD, in this section, some additional analysis and discussion is provided with a focus on recent efforts to raise ambition in these areas.
2. A key part of the mainstreaming at IFAD has been the expansion of the knowledge agenda around the themes. Knowledge management includes knowledge generation, capacity building initiatives, strengthening communities of practice, and awareness-raising campaigns. To illustrate IFAD's recent activities Figure 1 presents views and downloads linked to the four mainstreaming themes and the integration of those themes. The data is from September 2018, when IFAD's website was updated and Google analytics became available to assess publications, through April 2020. In these last 20 months, there have been over 40,000 views as well as downloads of IFAD publications. The substantial increase in the youth category is linked to the *2019 Rural Development Report: Creating Opportunities for Rural Youth* that was released in summer 2019.⁴⁵ Among the themes, environment and climate change, nutrition and youth all have over 10,000 views in recent times, but gender has less than half that amount. This may partially be explained by the fact that much of the analytical work on gender was done previously and that an emphasis has been placed on integrating gender with other themes. In fact, knowledge products that integrate themes have been increasing recently, including one on gender and climate change. It does suggest, however, the need to ensure engagement in the generation of knowledge linked to gender.

Figure 1: Recent publications trend by mainstreaming theme



Source: IFAD data using Google Analytics

⁴⁵ https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/41190221/RDR2019_Overview_e_W.pdf/699560f2-d02e-16b8-4281-596d4c9be25a

3. In addition to publications, specific actions are being undertaken to disseminate knowledge on mainstreaming theme to internal and external audiences. For example, in 2019 approximately 800 participants (IFAD staff and project implementation partners) attended 12 structured trainings at HQ and in the regions on mainstreaming themes, targeting, NDCs, climate finance, household methodologies and SECAP. Further, from 2014 to 2020 a series of 17 videos featuring celebrity chefs learning about and preparing typical meals that IFAD target groups prepare with the people themselves have been created. The idea is to show practical ways IFAD and its partners are working with smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change and achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The videos create a point of contact between the viewer in a donor country and the people living in IFAD project areas. And they naturally show the linkages between climate, gender and nutrition. The use of celebrity chefs in the video storyline has enhanced the media, web and social media coverage. As of May 2020, there have been 23,100 views to date of the videos on IFAD's Youtube channel.⁴⁶
4. To assess if mainstreaming makes a difference in what is emphasised in projects, a text mining analysis was conducted to measure the extent of reporting against mainstreaming themes by examining the incidence of words linked to the themes in IFAD project documents (Project Design Reports, Project Supervision Reports and Project Completion Reports).⁴⁷ The analyses were global in their nature and undertaken using textual data from 2282 documents linked to 856 projects. The expectation is that once mainstreaming of a theme occurs the percent of words linked to that theme in the documents should increase. Figure 1 presents the results of the analysis. The mainstreaming of gender (IFAD9-panel A), environment and climate change (IFAD8-panel B) and nutrition (IFAD10-panel C) all led to a positive and statistically significant shift in the reference to each theme in IFAD documents, compared to the references made before they were mainstreamed. The result indicates a 16 percent increase in environment and climate change, a 23 percent increase for gender and a 28 percent increase in nutrition after being mainstreamed. While positive, the difference in youth (panel D) was not statistically significant potentially due to limited data availability (the introduction was only in IFAD11) or the fact that youth was already emphasised prior to IFAD11. In general, the results suggest that the process of mainstreaming does bring out the issue more clearly in project documents.
5. The text mining data can also determine the link between the four mainstreaming themes. It could be the case that the introduction of a new theme might shift the focus to that theme at the expense of another theme—the new theme “crowds out” a previous theme. For example, a new emphasis on youth could come at the expense of gender. Alternatively, themes may be complementary and the introduction of new themes may reinforce the overall mainstreaming of other themes. Nutrition, for example, could be positively associated with gender given the important role of women in achieving positive nutritional outcomes. The correlation between the themes are presented in Figure 3. Blue ovals indicate a positive correlation with darker colours suggesting a stronger link. All results are positive indicating that the introduction of a new theme is positively associated with each theme. The strongest effects are between environment/climate change and youth, followed by environment/climate change and gender and environment/climate change and nutrition. The strong relationship between environment and climate change and other mainstreaming themes is most likely due to SECAP and the emphasis in ASAP on integrating the climate change theme

⁴⁶ These are available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/IFADTV/videos>

⁴⁷ The analysis presented in these figures is part of a broader text mining exercise done in the context of the Innovation challenge titled *Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Big Data for IFAD2.0*, which builds on the methodological approaches used under the [CERES2030](#) project.

with other themes. While other themes do seem to be positively related greater efforts might be made to strengthen the link.

Figure 2: Text analysis of mainstreaming themes

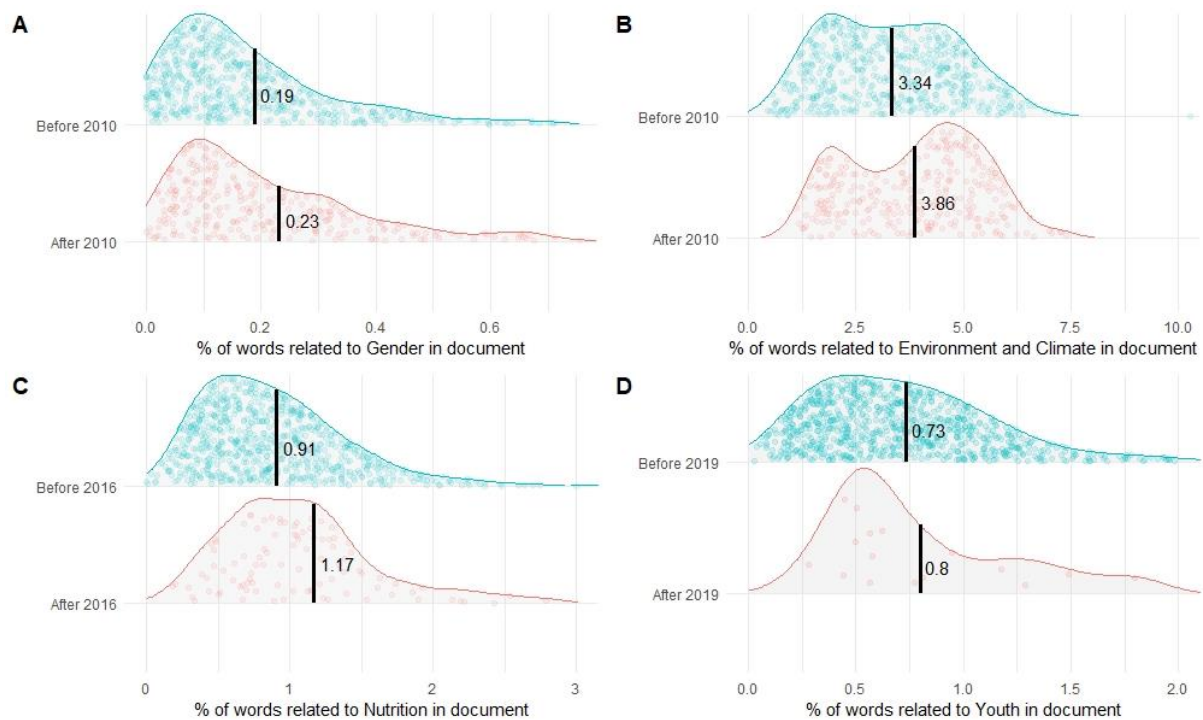
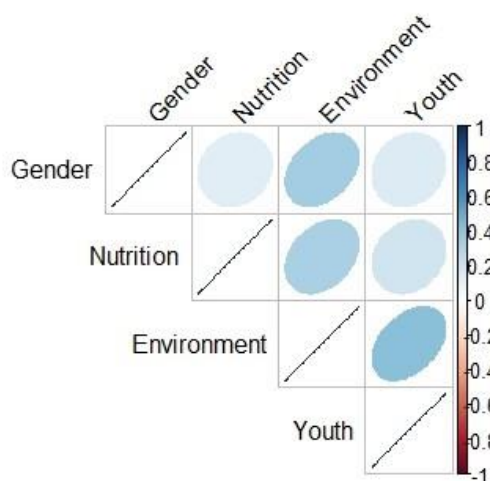


Figure 3: Links between mainstreaming themes using text mining



- Another means of assessing projects success in mainstreaming is through projects ratings. Table 4 presents, for the 34 projects designed in 2019: i) the ratings at project design for each theme; ii) the total number of themes included in the design; and iii) the overall project quality rating for these projects. Overall project quality is a comprehensive assessment of the project design, which takes into account various aspects of project design such as implementation readiness and likelihood that the project will achieve its development objective. Ratings are only

provided for the overall project and each individual theme when the theme is included in the project, and go from moderately unsatisfactory (3) to moderately satisfactory (4), satisfactory (5) and highly satisfactory (6). Environment and climate change are generally found to have the highest quality in projects followed by nutrition, gender and youth. While the overall ratings include a number of factors other than the mainstreaming themes, there is a strong relationship between the overall quality of projects at design and each theme, as seen in the positive correlations between the individual themes and overall rating. Although there is less of a relationship to nutrition and overall quality. The results indicate that mainstreaming is an integral part of project quality.

Table 4: Project Design Reports Quality Ratings 2019

	Overall	Env. & CC	Gender	Nutrition	Youth	<i>Number of themes</i>	Theme count	
Average	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.5		2.7	
<i>Rating</i>			<i>Percent</i>					
3	3%	0%	6%	7%	14%	1	12%	
4	18%	12%	35%	28%	31%	2	26%	
5	79%	76%	50%	55%	48%	3	44%	
6	0%	12%	9%	10%	7%	4	18%	
<i>Correlation</i>								
Overall	-	0.50	0.49	0.22	0.40			

7. Project ratings are useful to assess performance related to the mainstreaming themes also during project implementation. During implementation, the operational performance of IFAD financed investment projects is assessed through project supervision, and is quantified through ratings. Similarly to what happens at design, ratings are assigned to each performance indicator on a 1-6 scale. Table 5 shows the share of projects supervised in 2019 (around 200) which were rated 1 to 6 (highly unsatisfactory to highly satisfactory) for the mainstreaming themes and for overall performance. At the supervision stage, environment and natural resource management is assessed separately from climate change. Performance on youth is not currently assessed during supervision since it was only recently mainstreamed. SECAP is assessed to ensure that environmental, climate and social standards are applied during the entire project life cycle. Note that the sample used in this analysis is different from the one used at design since these are project in implementation, hence a direct comparison cannot be made.
8. The average performance for all mainstreaming themes is around 4, with gender performing slightly better and nutrition slightly below 4. This is in line with the average overall project performance assessment, which stands at 4.1. In general terms, lower ratings during projects implementation might be expected since implementation often brings about factors that could not have been predicted at the time of design or are simply out of the project's control. Moreover, the projects included were conceptualised as far back as 2003, when the thinking around the mainstreaming themes was rather different. Nevertheless, there is clearly room for improvement in the mainstreaming areas during implementation to push beyond moderately satisfactory. Finally, the positive correlation between the overall rating and mainstreaming themes again suggests their importance in overall quality.

Table 5: Project Supervision Reports: operational performance 2019

	Overall	ENRM	CC	Gender	Nutrition	SECAP
Average	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.3	3.9	4.1
<i>Rating</i>			<i>Percent</i>			
1	1%	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	1%	1%	1%	3%	-
3	11%	13%	11%	9%	22%	13%
4	69%	58%	71%	54%	66%	67%
5	19%	29%	17%	34%	9%	21%
6	1%	-	-	2%	-	-
<i>Correlation</i>						
Overall	-	0.41	0.40	0.58	0.59	0.20

9. Projects' performance at closure provides an assessment of the extent to which projects achieved the objective they set to at design. To do this, IFAD has adopted a series of performance indicators that are used to rate performance in different areas on a 1-6 scale, similarly to what is done during supervision. As regards the performance indicators assessed, these are aligned with those used by IOE and set in the Evaluation Policy and Manual. Project performance overall is a relative assessment of all performance indicators. Only environment, climate change, and gender are assessed since nutrition and youth are only recently mainstreamed. Table 6 shows the performance of the 23 projects that closed in 2019 against available mainstreaming themes and overall. It is therefore not the same set of projects shown for design and supervision. Similarly to supervision, performance is generally positive with all ratings above 4, but room for improvement remains. While the data in Table 6 refers to a small cohort of projects, the performance of projects that completed in IFAD10 is rather similar. The high correlation between the gender rating and overall project performance is in line with the fact that IFAD has a long history of mainstreaming gender in the projects it finances, while the mainstreaming of ENRM and CC is more recent.

Table 6: Project Completion Reports: performance of projects closing in 2019

	Overall	ENRM	CC	Gender
Average	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.4
<i>Rating</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
3	4%	13%	9%	13%
4	61%	65%	59%	35%
5	35%	22%	32%	48%
6	-	-	-	4%
<i>Correlation</i>				
Overall	-	0.19	0.19	0.51

Monitoring and reporting on the mainstreaming themes

1. Ensuring that the mainstreaming themes are adequately incorporated into COSOPs and operations requires effective monitoring systems. This annex provides an overview of IFAD's efforts to report on results and monitor the performance of mainstreaming themes.
2. IFAD has reports on its mainstreaming progress in various ways, including annual portfolio performance reviews, the annual Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE), projects' annual supervision reports and project completion reports, ad-hoc reports to individual donor governments, or thematic communications materials, such as the annual Climate Action Report (CAR).
3. Over time, IFAD's monitoring systems have become more streamlined and sophisticated, leading first to the creation of the Results and Impact Management System (RIMS) in 2003, and, in 2018, to the launch of the currently used Operational Results Management System (ORMS).
4. As the mainstreaming themes gained prominence, more ambitious and far-reaching monitoring tools and corporate reporting systems were developed. Since IFAD became an executing agency of the Global Environment Facility in 2001, it has been monitoring its projects' impact on environment and natural resource management. Also, as early as 2004, gender specific targets were included in IFAD's portfolio.
5. IFAD8 (2010-2012) was the turning point for IFAD in terms of expanding its capacity to measure results achieved. IFAD adopted its first results measurement framework (RMF), which came with specific targets on the mainstreaming themes, particularly on gender and environment and climate change. Having the capacity to monitor and report on progress in a comprehensive way enabled IFAD to expand its commitments in following Replenishment periods, building on a more solid evidence base.

I. Mainstreaming projects at design

6. The foundation of IFAD11's mainstreaming commitments are the commitments at design (Table 1). These commitments ensure quality in how IFAD operations are set up to deliver on these themes of cross-cutting importance.

Table 1. IFAD11 corporate mainstreaming targets at design

Gender mainstreamed	Gender transformative	Nutrition sensitive	Youth sensitive	Climate sensitive	Climate finance
At least 90 per cent of projects	At least 25 per cent of projects	At least 50 per cent of projects	At least 50 per cent of projects	100 per cent of IFAD projects	At least 25 per cent of IFAD11 PoLG (US\$)

Definitions

7. Table 2 provides a summary of the current definitions of the mainstreaming areas and clarifies distinctions where relevant (e.g. between climate sensitive and climate finance or gender sensitive and gender transformative).

Table 2: Summary of definitions

Climate sensitive	Climate finance
Ensuring that IFAD investment programmes are climate sensitive (or climate mainstreamed) for	Projects that include climate finance feature a clear climate rationale based on a robust, location-specific

<p>IFAD means integrating into them consideration of climate-related risks and opportunities by establishing the necessary institutional mindset, expertise, tools and processes.⁴⁸</p>	<p>climate vulnerability context, and must designate clear budget allocations for adaptation and mitigation, in line with the <i>Multilateral development Banks' methodologies for tracking climate change finance</i> (MDB methodologies).</p>
<p>Gender sensitive</p> <p>Gender-sensitive operations reduce the gaps in development opportunities between women and men, and work towards equality between them become as an integral part of an organization's strategy, policies and operations. At IFAD, gender-sensitive approaches are reflected in the mind-sets of Management and staff, and in IFAD's values, resource allocations, operational norms and procedures, performance measurement, accountabilities, competencies and learning processes.</p> <p>In IFAD's development activities, gender sensitive projects assess the implications of any planned action on women and men, and ensuring that both women's and men's concerns and experiences are taken into account in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all development activities.</p>	<p>Gender transformative</p> <p>Gender transformative projects actively seek to transform gender power dynamics by addressing social norms, practices, attitudes, beliefs and value systems that represent structural barriers to women's and girls' inclusion and empowerment.</p> <p>They seek to ensure equal access for women to productive assets and services, employment and market opportunities, as well as supportive national policies and laws.</p>
<p>Nutrition Sensitive</p> <p>A nutrition-sensitive project addresses the underlying causes of malnutrition related to inadequate household food security, maternal and child care and environmental health. It has explicit nutrition objectives, activities (such as empowerment of women; production diversification; production of nutrient-dense crops; improvements in processing, storage and preservation; and nutrition education) and indicators to monitor and measure results achievement.</p>	<p>Youth sensitive</p> <p>A youth-sensitive project generates long term youth employment opportunities and/or entrepreneurship by addressing context-specific challenges and potentials of rural youth.</p> <p>A youth-sensitive project is one that (i) describes youth and its context-based challenges and opportunities in the project design analysis; (ii) informs a targeting strategy that explicitly targets youth with concrete objectives and activities to achieve impact in priority areas, expressed as part of the project's theory of change, approach and results framework; and (iii) allocates resources to deliver activities targeting youth. This working definition of "youth-sensitive" will be refined on the basis of IFAD's experience in youth-sensitive programming and backed up by practical guidance.</p>

Criteria and methodologies

8. IFAD developed theme-specific criteria to define gender transformative, nutrition sensitive and youth sensitive designs (collectively: the social inclusion themes), drawing on international methodologies where appropriate. To ensure consistency across themes despite differences in approach, four common principles structure all IFAD's mainstreaming requirements: i) mainstreamed designs must have a theme-specific situation analysis; ii) interventions related to the theme must be well-integrated into the project's theory of change; iii) logframe indicators and/or multipliers⁴⁹ appropriate to the theme must be adopted; and, iv) human and financial resources for activities related to the theme must be allocated (Table 3). All criteria related to a given theme must be met for a project to qualify. Meanwhile, IFAD

⁴⁸ EB 2016/118/R.16. Climate mainstreaming in IFAD-funded programmes.

⁴⁹ The themes of gender, nutrition and environment and climate change have dedicated core indicators, while youth sensitive projects rely on multipliers disaggregating young/not young project beneficiaries. The other themes also draw on multipliers such as sex and indigenous peoples, as appropriate.

estimates its climate finance investments at design in line with the *MDB Methodologies*, which also stipulate key design requirements (Table 3).

Table 3. Detailed criteria for all mainstreaming themes at design

	Gender transformative⁵⁰	Nutrition sensitive	Youth sensitive	Climate finance⁵¹
Theme-specific SITUATION ANALYSIS	<p>Describe national policies, strategies and actors addressing gender.</p> <p>Identify the different roles, interests and priorities of women and men and the underlying structures and norms of exclusion and discrimination.</p> <p>Identify the most important livelihood problems and opportunities faced by the community, as seen by women and men.</p> <p>*In the M&E section of the design document, include an explicit commitment to undertake the IFAD gender empowerment⁵² assessment when undertaking the project baseline study as well as at completion, as proxy outcome indicator on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).</p>	<p>Describe national policies, strategies and actors addressing nutrition.</p> <p>Identify the main nutrition problems and underlying causes of malnutrition by affected group (e.g. by sex, youth, indigenous peoples) in the project area.</p> <p>Identify nutritionally vulnerable beneficiaries by group (e.g. by sex, youth, (if applicable) indigenous peoples).</p>	<p>Describe national policies, strategies and actors on youth.</p> <p>Describe main youth groupings (e.g. by age, gender, ethnicity)</p> <p>Analyse the context-based challenges and opportunities for each youth grouping.</p>	<p>Clearly set out the climate vulnerability context of the project (<i>=MDB Adaptation Methodology Step 1</i>)</p> <p>To the extent possible, support IFAD clients in meeting their NDC priorities and commitments, building on the integration of the NDC analysis in IFAD country strategies.</p> <p>For eligible mitigation activities, an ex-ante estimate of GHG emissions reduction potential is provided (<i>=MDB Mitigation Methodology</i>)</p>
Integration in THEORY OF CHANGE	<p>Address all three gender policy objectives in ToC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic empowerment 2. Equal voice 3. Balanced workloads <p>*Showcase gender transformative pathways. Plan for policy engagement on GEWE.</p>	<p>Identify nutrition pathways (e.g. nutritious food production; income generating activities; nutrition education; WASH; engagement in multi-sectoral platforms).</p> <p>Present the casual linkage between problems identified, desired outcomes and expected nutrition impacts.</p>	<p>Showcase pathways to youth socio/economic empowerment.</p> <p>Include youth employment among the project objectives and activities (e.g. access to assets, skills, and services for employment opportunities).</p>	<p>Include a statement of intent to address specific climate vulnerabilities (<i>=MDB Adaptation Methodology Step 2</i>)</p> <p>Demonstrate a clear and direct link between climate vulnerability and project activities (<i>=MDB Adaptation Methodology Step 3</i>)</p>

⁵⁰ Criteria without an asterisk refer to criteria also applicable to gender mainstreamed projects. Criteria with an asterisk refer to additional criteria to qualify a project as gender transformative.

⁵¹ For ease of comparison, the main principles of the MDB methodologies have been simplified to fit the four overarching areas. The MDB methodologies in full can be reviewed in the latest MDB joint report and the latest Climate Action Report (see references).

⁵² Integrating key elements of the project-level **Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI)**.

	Gender transformative⁵⁰	Nutrition sensitive	Youth sensitive	Climate finance⁵¹
Mandatory LOGFRAME INDICATORS (outreach & outcome)	<p>Disaggregate Outreach indicator (C.I. 1) by sex. At least 40% of project beneficiaries are women (specify number as part of C.I. 1 on Outreach⁵³).</p> <p>*Include the IFAD empowerment index⁵⁴ as an additional impact indicator to measure change in women's empowerment.</p>	<p>Disaggregate nutrition Outreach indicator (C.I.1.1.8) by sex, youth and (if applicable) indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Specify number of households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition (C.I.1.1.8 on Outreach⁵⁵).</p> <p>Include either of both of these logframe indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Core outcome indicator 1.2.8: Percentage of women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)⁵⁶ Core outcome indicator 1.2.9: Percentage of the targeted people who have improved nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP). 	<p>Disaggregate Outreach indicator (C.I.1) by sex and youth.</p>	<p>Appropriate IFAD core climate and environment indicators are adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects with adaptation finance: Suitable selection from core indicators 1.1.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4, 3.2.2 or 3.2.3.⁵⁷ Projects with mitigation finance: Must include core indicator 3.2.1 (tCo2e avoided/sequestered) and should include 3.1.3 (technologies that sequester), if appropriate.
Dedicated HUMAN & FINANCIAL RESOURCES	<p>Include staff with gender-specific TORs.</p> <p>Allocate funds to deliver gender-related activities.</p> <p>*Allocate funds in the M&E budget to undertake the IFAD empowerment survey at baseline and completion.</p>	<p>Include staff with nutrition-specific TORs OR a suitable implementation partner is on board.</p> <p>Allocate funds to deliver nutrition-related activities.</p> <p>*Allocate funds in the M&E budget to undertake the MDDW and/or KAP measurements at baseline, midline and completion.</p>	<p>Include staff with youth-specific TORs.</p> <p>Allocate funds to deliver youth-related activities.</p>	<p>Include staff with TORs appropriate to climate-related activities.</p> <p>Allocate funds to deliver climate-related activities.</p> <p>If all above requirements are met, apply the <i>MDB methodologies</i> in a granular and conservative manner (i.e. ensuring that only climate-focused activities, or appropriate shares, are counted) to estimate IFAD climate change adaptation and/or mitigation finance in the project.</p>

⁵³ Core Indicator 1 (Outreach): Number of persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project.

⁵⁴ Integrating key elements of the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI).

⁵⁵ Core Indicator 1.1.8 (Outreach): Persons provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition.

⁵⁶ MDD-W is Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women. It assesses whether or not women 15–49 years of age have consumed at least five out of ten defined food groups the previous day or night.

⁵⁷ See section on "Reporting climate results in projects including IFAD climate finance" for full descriptions of climate and environment indicators.

Validation

9. Corporate processes and systems have been adjusted to facilitate the systematic incorporation of requirements described in Table 3 into IFAD11 designs.
10. The project design team, based on client government needs and priorities identified in country strategies, determines which mainstreaming themes the project intends to emphasize and embeds relevant criteria in its design. Prior to the design's submission for AVP PMD approval, a thorough review of all relevant project documents is undertaken by a small team in the OPR Division. This validation ensures that mainstreaming requirements are consistently and rigorously applied across the organization.

II. Reporting during implementation

11. Several of the criteria set out in Table 3 relate to operational aspects that ensure theme-specific activities are duly supported during implementation: dedicated human and financial resources, for example. Theme-specific indicators and reporting methodologies are also integral to IFAD's mainstreaming requirements, as these allow for results monitoring during implementation.
12. Results monitoring data received from project teams is consolidated through IFAD's Operational Results Management System (ORMS). Corporate reporting instruments include: baseline surveys conducted at project inception; IFAD supervision missions, which are conducted 1-2 times a year; mid-term reviews, which take place once at midline; and, project completion missions, which take place at the end of a project's lifetime. IFAD's project Implementation Guidelines govern these reviews.

Reporting on environment and climate results in projects including IFAD climate finance

13. In order to monitor climate-related results and outcomes during implementation, six adaptation and two mitigation indicators were introduced as core environment and climate change indicators under IFAD11. Under previous IFAD cycles, climate results reporting was almost exclusive to projects receiving ASAP1 finance. Guidance and dedicated survey questions to measure outcome indicators have been integrated into IFAD's new Core Outcome Indicator Guidelines.⁵⁸
14. Projects including adaptation finance are required to report on at least one of the following core indicators:
 - Output Indicator 1.1.1: *Number of persons whose ownership or user rights over natural resources have been registered in national cadasters and/or geographic information management systems*
 - Output Indicator 3.1.1: *Number of groups supported to sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks*
 - Output Indicator 3.1.2: *Number of persons provided with climate information services*
 - Output Indicator 3.1.4: *Number of hectares of land brought under climate-resilient management*
 - Outcome Indicator 3.2.2: *(Number) Percentage of persons/households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices*
 - Outcome Indicator 3.2.3: *(Number) Percentage of persons/households reporting a significant reduction in the time spent for collecting water or fuel*

⁵⁸ The *Core Outcome Indicator Guidelines* are an internal document detailing methodological guidance on how results at the outcome level should be gathered at project baseline, mid-term and completion. The use of a common methodology across IFAD-financed projects will enable data aggregation for corporate reporting.

15. Appropriate indicator selection is screened for as part of the climate finance validation process; the higher a project's adaptation finance share, the more intervention-appropriate indicators and/or the more substantial targets it should include.
16. Projects including mitigation finance are required to report on outcome indicator 3.2.1 (*Number of tons of greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂e*)⁵⁹ avoided and/or sequestered) and, if appropriate, on output indicator 3.1.3 (*Number of persons accessing technologies that sequester carbon or reduce greenhouse gas emissions*). Measurement of the outcome indicator on greenhouse gas emissions reductions is supported by an ongoing FAO-IFAD collaboration to produce GHG assessments using FAO's Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool (EX-ACT) in selected IFAD operations.

Reporting on gender transformative projects

17. Gender mainstreamed projects require sex-disaggregated reporting for core outreach indicator 1 (*Number of persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project*) and for at least 40 per cent of the project's target beneficiaries to be women.
18. Gender transformative projects, more ambitiously, need to measure change in women's empowerment through a IFAD empowerment index that draws on key elements of the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI).⁶⁰ While a limited number of ongoing IFAD projects already have experience measuring this, introducing it for all gender transformative projects (i.e. at least 25 per cent of operations approved during IFAD11) represents a substantial new commitment to results reporting on women's empowerment. Guidance and dedicated survey questions to measure IFAD's empowerment index have been integrated into IFAD's new Core Outcome Indicator Guidelines.
19. IFAD's empowerment index is an adaptation of the Pro-WEAI index, which was designed to evaluate the impact of agricultural development projects. The index will be measured at project baseline and completion.²⁰ The full pro-WEAI is composed of 12 dimensions, and the IFAD empowerment index is based on 10 of these, focusing on dimensions that IFAD can influence through its supported activities. These dimensions are mapped against three domains of empowerment: intrinsic agency (power within), instrumental agency (power to), and collective agency (power with).

Reporting on nutrition sensitive projects

21. In addition to requiring core indicator 1.1.8 (*Number of households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition*)⁶¹ to be disaggregated by beneficiary type, nutrition sensitive projects also need to report on one or both of the following new core indicators:
 - CI 1.2.8 *Percentage of women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)*
 - CI 1.2.9 *Percentage of the targeted people who have improved nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP)*.
22. MDDW is a proxy indicator that measures the adequacy of micronutrient (e.g. vitamins, minerals) consumption by women. It is also a proxy to gauge the adequacy of nutrition intake of the household members. MDDW is expected to provide a broader picture of a household's nutrient intake, taking into consideration that in most societies women are more likely to be nutritionally vulnerable because of their disadvantaged position.

⁵⁹ CO₂e = carbon dioxide equivalent.

⁶⁰ The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) was developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and USAID to monitor progress on women's inclusion in the agricultural sector (Alkire et al. 2013; Malapit et al. 2017).

⁶¹ With figures disaggregated by gender, youth and, where appropriate, indigenous peoples.

23. A limited number of ongoing IFAD projects already have experience measuring MDDW. To facilitate its wider uptake, guidance and dedicated survey questions to measure MDDW have been integrated into IFAD's new Core Outcome Indicator Guidelines.
24. When project activities include nutrition education, counselling, behaviour change communication or mass media message transmission on nutrition, the outcomes of such activities are measured through knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) surveys. KAP is a new indicator for IFAD, and guidance and dedicated survey questions to measure it have been integrated in IFAD's Core Outcome Indicator Guidelines.
25. The nutrition core indicators CI 1.1.8 and CI 1.2.8 are among IFAD11 RMF indicators and technical guidance and support are being provided to ensure that these indicators are systematically reported. Introducing the core indicators for nutrition sensitive projects represents a substantial new commitment to results reporting on nutrition.

Reporting on youth sensitive projects

26. Youth sensitive projects need to disaggregate their results reporting on core outreach indicator 1 (*Number of persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project*) by sex and youth, to demonstrate that project interventions have been inclusive of young people. The 'youth' multiplier consists of persons who are considered 'young' or 'not young', as appropriate in the cultural context of the project.

Reporting on indigenous people

27. In addition to the IFAD requirement of disaggregating data by indigenous peoples where appropriate, project M&E systems should include indicators relevant to the socio-cultural specificities of indigenous peoples. Indicators on how to measure well-being, poverty and sustainability in a way that is relevant to indigenous peoples can be identified based on ongoing work in other organizations to complement conventional project outcome and impact indicators.⁶² M&E mechanisms should be participatory and adapted to capture indigenous peoples' perceptions and perspectives. Participatory M&E should be part of normal project operations and should serve as a steering mechanism to identify problems and appropriate adaptive measures. Special care must be taken to facilitate easy and timely access to M&E results by communities themselves. Successes will be documented, applying rigorous and appropriate evaluation methods, including participatory methods, and will be disseminated in-country and to IFAD's partners.

Reporting on persons with disabilities

28. IFAD is also conducting, within and beyond the impact assessment initiative, an effort to collect data of IFAD funded projects on Person with Disabilities (PwD).⁶³ IFAD has committed to analysing if and how to include PwD in its interventions. In this regard, RIA has carried out an assessment of the link between PwD and IFAD interventions and has thereafter committed to pilot data collection to measure impacts and links between PwD and IFAD's intervention in at least five projects using the short set of

⁶² Indicators of well-being, poverty and sustainability relevant to indigenous peoples. Summary Report to the UNPFII, seventh session, May 2008. The Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity, with their proposed indicators and monitoring frameworks, are the two global processes of immediate relevance for proposing indicators that address the well-being and sustainability of indigenous peoples. See also Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples: A Resource Book, Tebtebba Foundation.

⁶³ The Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol recognize that persons with disabilities (PwD) are not objects of charity, medical treatment and social protection but subjects who are capable of exercising their rights, making decisions based on their free and informed consent and being active members of society. United Nations, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol (Document A/RES/61/106, United Nations, 2007)

questions of the United Nations Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WGDS). Targeted questions on PwD have also been included in the IFAD11 Impact Assessment. The purpose is to generate evidence to establish a base for a decision on whether and how to include PwD in IFAD operations.

29. The effort addresses the gap represented by lack of high-quality data and enhances IFAD's readiness to respond to the potential of PwD to generate income and realising a productive pathway out of poverty.⁶⁴

III. From implementation to completion: Performance quality monitoring in mainstreamed operations

30. In addition to project-level results reporting, project performance quality is assessed on the basis of project supervision and completion ratings. IFAD supervision missions are conducted 1-2 times a year; mid-term reviews (MTRs) take place once at midline; and project completion missions take place once, at the end of a project's lifetime. Different mainstreaming themes have different targets as regards performance ratings, at different points in time, including ambitious commitments related to project completion report ratings for climate change adaptation and gender (Table 4).

Table 4: IFAD11 rating commitments by mainstreaming theme

	Climate change adaptation	Environment and natural resources management	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Nutrition	Youth
Basic descriptor and frequency	This rating assesses the progress and quality of implementation of a project's climate change adaptation interventions, and is a mandatory annual rating for all projects.	The rating measures the positive or negative changes that take place in the natural resources base as a result of project interventions. This rating is mandatory on an annual basis following the projects MTR.	This rating measures progress made by the project on promoting GEWE, and is a mandatory annual rating for all projects.	This rating assesses the progress and quality of implementation of a project's nutrition-sensitive interventions. If project is nutrition-sensitive, the rating is mandatory on an annual basis. The rating is mandatory for all projects at MTR.	Performance on youth is measured through the rating on <i>Targeting and Outreach</i> , which measures the extent to which the project benefits and reaches out to its intended target groups. This is a mandatory annual rating for all projects.

⁶⁴ The few studies available, indicate a positive correlation between poverty and disability, at both the individual and the household level. They also indicate that disability is generally associated with multidimensional poverty, with greater barriers in accessing education, health services and jobs. Based on these studies, PwD are de facto more likely to be poor, more vulnerable to health shocks and have fewer resources to cope with those shocks. Yet, the existing evidence and the literature also indicate that rural PwD are economically active, have the potential to generate income and therefore have the possibility of a productive pathway out of poverty. The effort IFAD is making is specifically trying to provide answers to these questions.

Targets at supervision/MTR	n/a	n/a	n/a	50% of nutrition sensitive projects rate 4+ for nutrition at supervision 50% of nutrition sensitive projects rate 4+ for nutrition at MTR	n/a
Targets at completion	85% of project completion reports (PCRs) conducted in IFAD11 rated 4+ for CCA	90% of PCRs conducted in IFAD11 rated 4+ for ENRM	90% of PCRs conducted in IFAD11 rated 4+ 60% of PCRs conducted in IFAD11 rated 5+	n/a	n/a
Basic guide to scoring	<p>(6) Highly satisfactory. The theme is a core project objective and related thematic interventions are well-implemented and exceed planned targets. All of the thematic interventions identified in the project documents to address the theme have been implemented and are delivering the anticipated positive impacts.</p> <p>(5) Satisfactory. The theme is a core project objective and its related thematic interventions are well-implemented, with appropriate use of resources (human and financial) and reporting. More than 75% of interventions identified in the project documents have delivered the anticipated positive impacts.</p> <p>(4) Moderately satisfactory. Interventions related to the theme are well-implemented overall. Between 50-75% of thematic interventions identified in the project documents are implemented as planned though with some operational shortcomings. However, there is reasonable justification for shortcomings.</p> <p>(3) Moderately unsatisfactory. Thematic interventions are not very well-implemented, with less than 50% of planned interventions identified in the project documents encountering shortcomings without a reasonable justification.</p> <p>(2) Unsatisfactory. Thematic interventions are not well-implemented and are not achieving the planned results.</p> <p>(1) Highly unsatisfactory. Recommended thematic interventions are not implemented at all, or are at a risk of resulting in negative effects.</p>				

Upon completion: Assessing the impact of mainstreamed operations

31. IFAD undertakes impact assessments on 15 per cent of its portfolio during each replenishment cycle, following up on an effort that began with the introduction of the Development Effectiveness Framework (DEF) in IFAD10. The DEF provides a structure for using evidence to inform decisions during project design and implementation.
32. To comply with the effort, IFAD assesses the impact of its projects using scientifically sound approaches that entail creating a counterfactual to determine attribution. This is achieved by comparing a representative sample of project beneficiaries (treatment group) with a similar group of individuals not exposed to the project intervention (control group). The outcomes of the individuals in the control group provide, on average, a good approximation of the outcomes that beneficiaries would have obtained had they not received the intervention. Therefore, by comparing the outcomes of the two groups, it is possible to assess the changes (impacts) that are attributable to a project.

33. During IFAD11, 24 projects will undergo rigorous impact assessment in order to assess and report on the corporate impacts of IFAD operations. Along with measuring impacts, the assessments are designed to allow IFAD to draw significant lessons from individual projects and aggregate results at the corporate level. Together, the impact assessments and core indicators allow IFAD to present a comprehensive picture of its results.
34. Corporate impact reporting uses the key indicators linked to the corporate strategic goal and objectives. The latter are in turn linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably to SDG 1 (no poverty) and to SDG 2 (zero hunger) (specifically SDG 2.3 [double agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers by 2030] and SDG 2.4 [ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices by 2030]). IFAD's corporate strategic goal is to increase economic mobility, while its strategic objectives (SOs) are: improved production (SO1), improved market access (SO2), and greater resilience (SO3). These indicators complement specific impact indicators identified for each project based on its theory of change.
35. In addition, as indicated above, during IFAD11 gender empowerment using I-WEAI will be used in many of the projects undergoing Impact assessment. Nutrition is also measured using Minimum Household Dietary Diversity (MHDD)⁶⁵(FAO, 2013), whereas food security is measured using Food Insecurity Experience scale (FIES⁶⁶) (FAO, 2014). For two nutrition focussed projects, deeper analysis is undertaken to measure nutrition with richer and broader indicators, including the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDDW), in collaboration with Bioversity International.
36. Resilience measurement will be conducted in all IFAD11 Impact Assessments and will be particularly informative for projects with a strong adaptation focus. Five of the 24 projects under Impact Assessments during IFAD11 have a specific focus on adaptation to climate change and as such, RIA is developing dedicated indicators specifically designed for the ad hoc adaptation measures identified, promoted and supported in each of the projects. These key indicators of adaptation will be used to assess whether adopting beneficiaries have obtained higher impacts than the non-adopters in the control group on the key outcome indicators. Finally, household level data collected to assess projects impacts are disaggregated by gender and age group of household members for specific type of indicators including employment, labour and small-micro business enterprises.

IV. Monitoring mainstreaming under IFAD12

37. As IFAD continues to scale up its ambition in terms of mainstreaming, it remains committed to further enhancing its capacities and systems to monitor and report. Under IFAD12, the achievement of the mainstreaming targets outlined in Tables 1 and 2 of the main document will be monitored, alongside the results delivered by an even higher proportion of gender transformative, youth sensitive and nutrition sensitive projects that include higher shares of climate finance. The reporting requirements that have been newly introduced in IFAD11 will start to yield results throughout IFAD12 and beyond, with IFAD11 approvals starting to reach mid-term in the IFAD12 period.

⁶⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i1983e.pdf>

⁶⁶ <http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/background/en/>

Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme

1. The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) is IFAD's flagship programme on climate change, channelling climate finance to smallholder farmers to help them access the information, tools and technologies needed to build their resilience to climate change. Launched in 2012, ASAP has become one of the largest global financing sources dedicated to supporting the adaptation of poor smallholder farmers to climate change. To date, ASAP has committed over US\$300 million funding for 42 ASAP-supported projects aiming to help smallholder farmers adapt to the impacts of climate change.
2. To date, ASAP has reached over 3 million smallholder farmers, ensuring that investments towards achieving development goals are sustainable, manage changing climatic patterns and adapt to the effects of climate change. By 2025, at least 3 million more smallholders will benefit from ASAP grant financing. Currently, IFAD-financed projects have led to over 400,000 hectares of land under improved management practices, and over 10,000 community groups engaged in natural resource and climate risk management. Multiple international and country dialogues on climate change have taken place with governments. ASAP maintains a strong focus on gender equality and youth sensitivity in its designs, providing concrete examples of job diversification and creation.
3. ASAP has also allowed IFAD to mobilise supplementary funding for climate action, and to begin mainstreaming climate thinking into its programming. Many IFAD partner governments have also realised the value of investing on climate change adaptation even though loan investments. Cambodia, Gambia, Mali, and Mozambique are among the countries currently beginning second phases or new projects that are scaling up adaptation activities first tested in their original ASAP projects.

Mainstreaming at operational level

Mainstreaming Gender in IFAD Projects

The approach

1. IFAD is committed to enhancing the impact of its programming on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). The promotion of (GEWE) entails a focus in three domains:
 - a) Economic empowerment, to enable rural women and men to participate in and benefit from profitable economic activities.
 - b) Enabling women and men to have equal voice and influence in rural institutions and organizations.
 - c) Achieving a more equitable balance in workloads and in the sharing of economic and social benefits between women and men.
2. Ensuring coherence and increasing effectiveness through the integration of gender with other mainstreaming priorities is a requirement. Rural women and girls are on the front line of climate change and are often more deeply impacted than men and boys by poverty, hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity, global economic crises and conflicts.

What is a gender mainstreamed project/programme?

3. A gender mainstreamed project includes activities specifically designed to broaden and deepen the inclusion and empowerment of women and girls by taking into account (while not seeking to change) structural barriers. These projects vary by context but a set of common conditions and criteria are required:
 - a) A rural livelihood gender analysis is conducted to identify: the different roles, opportunities and priorities of women and men; and underlying structures and norms of exclusion and discrimination.
 - b) The project's Theory of Change (ToC) includes GEWE outcomes such as economic empowerment or increased participation in member based organizations and pathways linked to at least two of the strategic objectives (SO) of the Gender Policy: economic empowerment, decision-making, equitable workload/share of benefits to reach the desired outcomes.
 - c) Specific strategies are developed to address the identified gender issues.
 - d) Implementing arrangements with staff, partners and service providers for the delivery of gendered-activities are defined.
 - e) Financial resources for gendered activities are available. However, human resources may not be available.
 - f) The project logframe has a significant target outreach for women.
4. **Project example:** Gender inequality in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world. The extent of gender discrimination is pervasive and gender gaps are widespread in health, education, access to and control over resources, economic opportunities, and power and political voice. Under the Arghandab Integrated Water Resources Development Project, interventions have been developed that overcome barriers preventing men and women's equal opportunity to access – and benefit from – the resources and services they need to improve their livelihoods. These include ensuring women's participation in community-based forums, ensuring 30% of

matching grant recipients are women, ensuring women benefit from trainings, including extension services, training women to become local resource persons, ease women's access to water for their home gardens and cleaning needs, and hiring gender specialists. The Project does not aim to actively challenge gender norms, promote women's social and political influence in communities, and address power inequities between persons of different genders. However, the combination of multiple and complementary activities promoting gender equality and women's empowerment might lead to change in gender roles and relations.

What is a gender transformative project/programme?

5. A **gender transformative project** seeks to transform gendered power dynamics by addressing social norms, practices, attitudes, beliefs and value systems that represent structural barriers to women's and girls' inclusion and empowerment. Gender transformative projects have the same features as gender mainstreamed projects but further deepen them through the inclusion of:
 - a) A ToC with transformative GEWE outcomes such as ownership of resources or shared workloads and clear pathways linked to all three SO of the Gender Policy.
 - b) Specific strategies developed to address the gender issues and challenge the social norms.
 - c) Financial and human resources are available for gendered activities.
 - d) The project target group is made of 40% women as a minimum and the IFAD empowerment indicator⁶⁷ is used to systematically report on improvement as the gender transformative portfolio matures.
 - e) Policy engagement on GEWE is foreseen.
6. **Project example:** In Tunisia the enduring character of social norms, continue to impede women's voice and gender equality. Activities have been specifically designed in the Economic, Social and Solidarity Project (IESS-Kairouan) to transform gendered power dynamics by addressing the social norms and structural barriers to women's inclusion and empowerment. Interventions include: the use of the gender action and learning system to challenge power dynamics within the household, literacy courses and leadership trainings for women, involving men and religious leaders, awareness raising on gender-based violence, providing child care opportunities, etc. Special focus is given to women from the poorest households so they can move out of extreme poverty into sustainable livelihoods.

Implementing a gender mainstreamed or transformative project

7. Gender mainstreamed and transformative projects are closely followed up on during implementation. At project start up, specific attention is given to creating awareness on GEWE and the other mainstreaming themes, and to the development of a gender action plan to ensure gender focused activities are fully integrated into operations.
8. Similarly, during supervision, project activities are monitored to assess whether project's interventions are reaching the intended target group(s), as well as the quality and progress of gender related activities. The project annual workplan and budget is assessed to ensure it assigns adequate resources for gendered activities. The gender sensitivity of project M&E is reviewed to warrant the inclusion of gender-differentiated participation, outcomes and benefits, and use this information to improve performance. Supervision is also an opportunity for following up on gender recommendations from previous missions, identifying implementation challenges and

⁶⁷ The IFAD empowerment indicator is a simplified version of the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEIA).

provide technical support, and identify opportunities and make recommendations on how to improve project performance.

9. At project completion, the focus is on what type of contribution the project has made in addressing gender needs and achieving GEWE. It is also when the assessment of the sustainability of gender-related impacts is carried out.

Mainstreaming Youth in IFAD Projects

The approach

10. IFAD's operational approach to youth mainstreaming seeks to facilitate youth self and wage employment. The focus is on three areas: improve their access to (i) critical productive factors and especially to assets (such as land and water), (ii) services (including financial services), and (iii) skills from financial literacy to entrepreneurship. A key cross-cutting factor is access to affordable and readily available renewable energy and new technologies and ICTs. Promoting youth employment leverages other mainstreaming themes. Promoting youth employment ensures horizontal integration of all the technical and mainstreaming themes to encouraging synergies across the whole portfolio.

What is a Youth-sensitive project?

11. A youth-sensitive project generates long term youth employment opportunities and/or entrepreneurship by addressing context-specific challenges and potentials of rural youth. To be classified as youth-sensitive, projects need to include:
 - a) A youth-specific situational analysis of challenges and opportunities for each youth grouping that are identified and captured in the SECAP.
 - b) A targeting strategy that explicitly targets youth with concrete objectives and activities.
 - c) A pathway that clearly showcases how intended outcomes will be achieved and that is embedded in the Theory of Change.
 - d) Youth-sensitive outcome(s) and age-disaggregated indicators that are articulated and incorporated into the project logical framework.
 - e) Adequate financial and human resources allocated to deliver activities targeting youth in distinct budget lines.
 - f) Defined implementing arrangements for the delivery of youth-sensitive activities.
12. **Project example:** The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project in Sri Lanka (2020-2026) includes a solid youth strategy, which seeks to address the various challenges of youth participation in agriculture/agri-business focusing on three main pillars: capacity building, value-chain participation, and policy engagement. It adopts the Farm Business Schools methodology, supports youth agribusiness incubation systems as well as ensuring youth led groups or SMEs are linked to loans to finance product upgrades, volume increases and new product development. By facilitating access to rural finance, knowledge, skills and markets employment opportunities for young people across the entire value chain will be generated.

Implementing a youth sensitive project

13. Youth sensitive projects are supported from start up to facilitate implementation readiness and the definition of implementing arrangements for the delivery of youth-

sensitive activities in projects' implementation manual (PIM). Youth dimensions are included in project baseline, and during supervision the adequacy of monitoring and reporting on youth-related indicators is assessed, together with progress against youth-related commitments and the effective knowledge management of youth-related experiences. Moreover, advice to overcome implementation barriers and improve project performance is provided. Upon completion, progress against commitments as well as unintended results are assessed, also to ensure that an adequate Exit Strategy is in place to allow for sustainability of jobs creation for youth.

Mainstreaming Nutrition in IFAD Projects

The approach

14. Rather than investing in stand-alone nutrition actions, IFAD applies a nutrition lens to the design and implementation of investments in agriculture, food systems and rural development, to optimize their contribution to improving nutrition. Special attention is given to countries that have made reducing malnutrition a political and investment priority and to countries where malnutrition is a significant problem. In doing this, IFAD seeks to ensure coherence and increase effectiveness through integration of nutrition with other mainstreaming priorities and stakeholders, through a socially inclusive and integrated approach that optimizes synergies and complementarities whenever possible, to improve nutrition, increase resilience and mitigate risks. Moreover, IFAD aims to improve the nutrition of all household members, primarily through improvements in dietary quality. However, to make sure that no one is left behind, attention is given to the most nutritionally vulnerable groups in the household (women and children) thus tailoring interventions to address their specific nutrition needs.

What is a nutrition-sensitive project?

15. A nutrition-sensitive project addresses the underlying causes of malnutrition related to inadequate household food security, maternal and child care and environmental health. It has explicit nutrition objectives, activities (such as empowerment of women; production diversification; production of nutrient-dense crops; improvements in processing, storage and preservation; and nutrition education) and indicators to monitor and measure results achievement. Specifically, projects that are classified as nutrition sensitive include the following features:

- a) The nutrition situation is analyzed in the project area and nutrition problems are identified.
- b) The project identifies specific strategies to address the nutrition problem.
- c) Nutrition outcome(s) are clearly articulated and the pathway to reach the desired nutrition outcome(s) defined, embedded in the project Theory of Change.
- d) Outcome and output level nutrition-relevant indicators are incorporated into the project logical framework.
- e) Nutrition-oriented activities are included and financial resources allocated in distinct budget lines.
- f) Implementing arrangements for the delivery of nutrition-sensitive activities are defined.

16. **Project example:** Approved in 2019, the Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project in Burkina Faso aims to sustainably improve food security and income of the farmers (40,000 HH) involved in food production and value-addition through targeted value chains (rice, horticulture, cowpea and sesame, non-timber forest

products and aquaculture). The project aims to address gender inequalities, youth unemployment and high child undernutrition due to food insecurity and poor nutritional practices. Nutrition interventions are aligned with the National Food Security Policy and include homestead gardens and nutrition education to promote healthy diets, mainly targeting women. Impact pathways are to increase production of nutritious foods for household consumption and access in local markets. A dedicated budget on nutrition is included and results will be measured through two indicators # of HHs with targeted support to improve their nutrition and the % of women reporting minimum diet diversity (MDD-W). The project will include a nutrition expert.

Implementing a nutrition-sensitive project

17. Supervision missions are essential to review and report progress and quality of implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions. They are also an opportunity to provide technical support to implementation and make design adjustments as needed to improve effectiveness. During start up, missions help to create awareness on nutrition, highlight the implementation arrangements needed to undertake nutrition-related actions, and develop the Annual workplan to ensure that nutrition is fully integrated into operations and adequate resources allocated. This is also monitored during supervision, when the focus is also on assessing quality and progress of nutrition activities, that nutrition indicators are integrated into the project M&E system and reported, and the extent to which recommendations from previous missions related to nutrition were followed up. Supervision is also an opportunity to verify how the nutrition-related activities are coordinated with relevant stakeholders, assess if the project's interventions are reaching the intended target group(s), identify implementation challenges and provide technical support. At project completion, the focus is on ensuring sustainability of the nutrition interventions and benefits.

Mainstreaming environment and climate at IFAD

The approach

18. Environment and Climate mainstreaming for IFAD means integrating consideration of environmental and climate-related risks and opportunities into IFAD investment programmes by establishing the necessary institutional mindset, expertise, tools and processes. Environment and climate mainstreaming results in:

- a) More systematic analysis of climate-related risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities. Climate change is a threat to development. The analysis of climate-related vulnerabilities is a key element of risk-informed programming and a mandatory step in any climate mainstreaming endeavour.
- b) More climate risk management innovation in agricultural investment programmes. Certain instruments for climate risk management are not in the traditional arsenal of agriculture sector institutions such as frameworks for adaptation programming.
- c) Scaling up sustainable farming and sustainable land and water management techniques. In many programmes, the sustainable management of natural resources at landscape level constitutes an excellent entry point for ecosystem-based adaptation- and resilience-building.

What is a climate sensitive project?

19. Ensuring that investment programmes are climate sensitive (or climate mainstreamed) for IFAD means integrating into them consideration of climate-related

risks and opportunities by establishing the necessary institutional mindset, expertise, tools and processes.⁶⁸

20. The entry point for this is the Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP), which outline how IFAD addresses the social, environmental and climate impacts associated with its projects and programmes by identifying both risks and opportunities that these impacts provide, and altering project designs to account for them. The SECAP ensures IFAD projects i) do not further deteriorate the climate and environment context / increase the vulnerability (do no harm) and ii) do more good, by promoting resilience and sustainability. Projects' theories of change must reflect key environmental trends and the current and predicted future climatic patterns of the country, and activities that are responsive to current and future climatic conditions.
21. IFAD has also committed to ensure that at least 25 per cent of the IFAD11 Program of Loans and Grants (PoLG) are invested in "climate-focused" activities. This is being measured using the *MDB Methodologies for Tracking Adaptation and Mitigation Finance*. Adaptation interventions and their outcomes are context- and location-specific by nature. Therefore, adaptation finance is tracked only if there is a clear climate change rationale and link between the climate vulnerability analysis, the objective of the project and the specific activities. Unlike adaptation, mitigation finance is identified based on a list of eligible mitigation activities. Nevertheless, to count mitigation finance, IFAD projects must quantify the greenhouse gas emissions reduction potential of their eligible activities to ensure emissions will really be reduced/sequestered.
22. **Project examples:** In 2019, IFAD approved two new investments in Indonesia: the Integrated Village Economic Transformation Project (TEKAD) and the Uplands Agriculture Productivity and Markets Project (UPLANDS). Indonesia is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change. Prolonged droughts and extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall leading to large-scale flooding are both becoming more likely. As an archipelago with more than 17,000 islands, Indonesia is also highly vulnerable to sea level rise. These climatic threats are already impacting the agricultural sectors, reducing food security and damaging livelihoods, particularly of the rural poor. Although both investments share a similar climate risk context, which, through the projects' SECAP is appropriately taken into account in each design, their core aims are very different extent. This reflects in their shares of IFAD climate finance: only 2 per cent in the case of TEKAD compared to a substantial 83 per cent for UPLANDS.
23. TEKAD sets out to strengthen village-based economic development. The project promotes economic initiatives for the production, processing and marketing of targeted commodities at village level and, at district level, facilitates market linkages and expands the capacities of Financial Service Providers to meet the financial needs of village households. While climate concerns are mainstreamed in broader capacity building activities (e.g. by reinforcing community awareness on the threats of climatic hazards on the agricultural sectors and exploring some adaptive measures), these are not the main driver of the project's theory of change. This translates into only select activities that explicitly focus on climate change adaptation, and is reflected in the project's low share of IFAD climate finance (2 per cent). While building economically sustainable rural livelihoods is a foundational element of achieving wider resilience objectives, climate finance is only attributed where activities demonstrate a clear and direct link to reducing climate vulnerabilities.
24. UPLANDS, on the other hand, embeds a climate response in its theory of change. The project focuses on restoring and maintaining upland ecosystems, while building the adaptive capacities of upland communities by promoting climate-smart agricultural practices in the face of the growing climatic threats of drought and flooding, with

⁶⁸ EB 2016/118/R.16. Climate mainstreaming in IFAD-funded programmes.

their knock-on consequences of soil erosion and increased incidence of pest outbreaks. Its response emphasizes quality crop genetics, soil management including low-tillage approaches to reduce the risk of soil erosion, crop nutrition, water management, Integrated Pest Management, and canopy management for tree crops (whose roots can in turn help stabilize vulnerable soils). This clear intent to address climate vulnerabilities through targeted activities accounts for UPLANDS' significant share (83 per cent) of IFAD climate finance.

Implementing a climate sensitive project

25. Awareness on ECC issues is created during start up, also through ensuring that the Project Implementation Manual includes sufficient guidance to apply and track the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). At start-up, the TORs of ECC staff and studies to be developed (e.g. climate vulnerability studies) are finalised. Guidance on ECC tools to be utilized is provided, also guiding M&E officers to include ECC specific logframe indicators to enable monitoring and tracking of progress.
26. Supervision is an opportunity to ensure that the project is adequately implementing the investment and is compliant with the SECAP, and monitoring that the necessary ECC actions and interventions are included in the annual workplan and budget and they are properly financed. It serves also to ensure that there is no maladaptation or environmental degradation, and to providing follow-up recommendations for course-correction in case issues are identified. When ECC supplementary financing is available, whether its disbursing is in-line with IFAD components is assessed, and reporting produced as needed. Supervision also monitors that the projects is building and ensuring sustainability beyond project-end and an adequate exit strategy. At completion, project achievements as assessed against its initial commitments and how it developed, and lessons learned are collected, initiating plans for new operations/scale up if possible.