



8th Replenishment

# Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: IFAD VIII

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Gender inequality can hurt the interests of men as well as women... The expansion of women's capabilities not only enhances women's own freedom and well-being, but also has many other effects on the lives of all.

*Amartya Sen*

“Aid is only effective if it achieves good development results and good development results are not possible if gender inequalities persist...”

*Mary Robinson, President  
Realizing Rights:  
The Ethical Globalization Initiative*

# Outline

1. Why is gender equality and women's empowerment important for overcoming rural poverty and increasing food security?
2. How does IFAD contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment?
3. What has IFAD achieved?
4. How can IFAD strengthen its contribution?
5. The way forward: monitoring, reporting and new actions

***Why is gender equality and women's empowerment important for overcoming rural poverty and increasing food security?***

# Why gender equality and women's empowerment?

Women's roles in productive and household activities are central



# Why gender equality and women's empowerment?

**Rural women are generally poorer than men and have less chance of escaping poverty**



# Why gender equality and women's empowerment?

**When women are empowered and gender inequalities addressed, development interventions are more effective**





# Why gender equality and women's empowerment?

**Women can be agents of change**



***How does IFAD contribute  
to gender equality and women's  
empowerment?***

# How does IFAD contribute?

- **Gender mainstreaming:**
  - Institutional transformation process
  - Integrates gender equality considerations into core development activities
- **IFAD's Gender Plan of Action 2003-06**

# How does IFAD contribute?

**Expanding women's access to and control over assets such as capital, land, knowledge and technology**



# How does IFAD contribute?

**Strengthening women's decision-making role in community affairs and representation in higher level decision making**



# How does IFAD contribute?

**Improving women's well-being and easing their workload by facilitating access to basic rural services and infrastructure**



## *What has IFAD achieved?*

# How does IFAD contribute?

**IFAD has integrated gender perspectives throughout its programme and project cycle:**

- Tools and instruments
- Training, capacity-building, knowledge management and project implementation support
- Gender specialists and focal points
- Partnerships, especially with FAO, WFP, and the World Bank



# What has IFAD achieved?

**Integration of gender concerns into business processes for programme and project design and monitoring**



# What has IFAD achieved?

**Two-thirds of programme and project designs are rated as satisfactory or above for gender-sensitive design at the quality enhancement review**



# What has IFAD achieved?

## **Greater attention to gender issues in IFAD-supported projects and programmes:**

- 60% had a gender focal point in their project unit
- 2/3 screen for gender experience
- 80% provided gender training for project beneficiaries

# What has IFAD achieved?

**The clearest impact has been in the area of women's economic empowerment:**

- 2/3 of projects were satisfactory or highly satisfactory in women's empowerment and participation.
- All of those reported improvements in women's income
- 2/3 reported enhanced decision-making roles for women

# What has IFAD achieved?

## Areas for improvement

- More systematic monitoring of responsibilities for gender mainstreaming, including by Senior Management
- Need for
  - clearer communication of policy objectives
  - guidance to staff
  - appropriate resource allocation

# *How can IFAD strengthen its contribution?*

# How can IFAD strengthen its contribution?

- **More intensive information and awareness-building**
- **Expanded training for staff and consultants**
- **Strengthen learning from field experiences**
- **Leadership development for rural women**
- **Policy dialogue and capacity-strengthening of governments**

# How can IFAD strengthen its contribution?

## Address gender dimensions of new challenges:

- rising food prices
- climate change
- value chain development
- market access
- new aid modalities



# How can IFAD strengthen its contribution?

- **Strengthen implementation of Framework for Gender Mainstreaming in Operations**
- **Build on *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook***
- **Promote women's leadership in rural producers' organizations**

***The way forward: monitoring, reporting  
and new actions***

# The way forward

## **Results Measurement Framework:**

- **Gender disaggregated reporting of programme and project outputs and outcomes**
- **Programme and project impact**
- **To be reported in Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness**

# The way forward

**To advance its approach to gender equality and women's empowerment, IFAD will:**

- **Solicit the cooperation of key partners in conducting a peer review of its gender approach**
- **Develop a corporate policy on gender to be submitted to the Executive Board by 2010.**

**Thank you for your attention.**