



In 2021, the world needed to chart a new path. It was time to come together and fix systems that were not working.

MAJOR MILESTONES DURING THE YEAR WERE:

- The United Nations Food Systems Summit [🔗](#)
- The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) [🔗](#)
- The Finance in Common Summit [🔗](#)

The urgent need to transform food systems and to address the climate emergency cuts across IFAD's work. We had much to contribute in shaping consensus on the actions needed and how to finance them.

TO SHAPE DEBATES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE WE:

- Brought the voices of rural people to the global stage [🔗](#)
- Provided thought leadership on "Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity" [🔗](#)
- Shared lessons on how to address the challenges we are facing from our work
- Collated concise and digestible key messages [🔗](#)
- Advocated for positive change through global media [🔗](#)

Solutions from our work that we brought to the world at the Food Systems Summit and at COP26 included:

- Investing in climate adaptation for small-scale farmers [🔗](#)
- Prioritizing nature-based solutions [🔗](#)
- Building the resilience of rural people's livelihoods to COVID-19 and other threats [🔗](#)
- Focusing on including traditionally marginalized groups, such as women and youth [🔗](#)

There was strong media interest in our work and our messages. At COP26 our advocacy for more investments in climate adaptation received global attention – generating more than 1,200 stories in major media. The rural people whose voices we took to COP26 and the Food Systems Summit told world leaders in a clear and compelling way what they – and we – need for a better future.



"We need financial assistance schemes, like loans, so we can afford wheat grains."

Shabana Bibi [🔗](#)
Farmer and tailor, Pakistan



"What helps us is having access to technology and machinery so we can experiment and work in a productive way."

Shirley Casachagua [🔗](#)
Pottery maker, Peru



"Climate change has caused drought and reduced our capacity to access water. This has affected the wheat crop."

Temesgen Tchane [🔗](#)
Wheat farmer, Ethiopia

We know what we want to do and how. But we also know that to achieve the scale of impact needed, we have to be in a position to do even more, to reach even more people, to achieve even deeper impact.

THAT'S WHY IFAD HAS:

EXPANDED THE NUMBER OF RURAL PEOPLE WE REACH

The Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness 2021 [🔗](#) revealed that IFAD is exceeding promises on the number of people we are reaching. The latest data indicates that, in 2020, IFAD reached 128 million people, above the target of 120 million.

PLAYED A THOUGHT LEADERSHIP ROLE ON MAJOR GLOBAL TOPICS AFFECTING RURAL PEOPLE

We devoted much effort to bringing the knowledge we have gained from our work to the world's attention. Major initiatives included our flagship Rural Development Report [🔗](#) on "Transforming Food Systems for Rural Prosperity" and a study on "What can smallholders grow in a warmer world?". [🔗](#)

SET A RECORD TARGET FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION WITH OUR MEMBER STATES

On 16 February 2021, IFAD Member States joined the final meeting of the IFAD12 Consultation, pledging a record level of financial contributions for the programme period 2022-2024. [🔗](#) The outcome at the end of the Consultations was around US\$1.1 billion in core contributions.

STRENGTHENED OUR ROLE AS AN ASSEMBLER OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Building on a strong AA+ credit rating, we are complementing our core replenishment contributions with borrowed resources through the recently introduced Integrated Borrowing Framework.

WALKED THE WALK ON SUSTAINABILITY

We need to lead by example and in 2021 we went even further in implementing environmentally friendly initiatives across our business. This has enabled us to maintain our platinum certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental design (LEED), [🔗](#) the highest green building certification available worldwide.

