

# Definition and types of activities

## COMPANION TOOL 1

### CLPE definition

Country-level policy engagement (CLPE) is a process for IFAD to “collaborate, directly and indirectly, with partner governments and other country-level stakeholders to influence policy priorities or the design, implementation and assessment of formal policies that shape the opportunities for inclusive and sustainable rural transformation.” (*IFAD’s approach to policy engagement*).

CLPE “is a process that may have political dimensions, as it can involve social and economic empowerment of groups that have been excluded or marginalized from policy processes.” (*Country-level policy engagement in IFAD. Guide book.*)

### The rationale for CLPE

#### 10 types of country-level policy activities in IFAD’s current work

(from the *Country-level policy engagement in IFAD. Guide book.*)

##### 1. Creating space for policy dialogue

IFAD’s investment portfolio and other elements of IFAD country programmes can be used to create space for and support policy dialogue among national stakeholders, including particularly rural producer organizations and other actors representing IFAD’s target group.

##### 2. Enhancing stakeholder capacity for policy processes

Programmes and projects can be used to enhance the capacity of national stakeholders, particularly rural producer organizations, by providing them with the skills and analyses they need to ensure that their leaders are able to participate effectively in national policy processes.

##### 3. Analysing policy and supporting policy formulation

Loans, grants or even IFAD’s administrative budget can be used to finance analysis of national policy and/or to provide short-term consultancy support for policy formulation.

##### 4. Operationalizing/piloting national policy at the local level

Programmes and projects may be used to enable a government to operationalize a national policy at the local level (particularly in states where the central government may have limited policy leverage at the local level) or to pilot new models for implementing national policies.

##### 5. Reviewing policy implementation to identify gaps, constraints or blockages

Loan or grant-funded activities can provide vehicles for reviewing relevant current policies; understanding implementation gaps, policy constraints and blockages; and presenting findings to relevant government officials.

##### 6. Drawing out successful models to promote adoption/scaling up

Successful approaches and models piloted or developed under an investment project can be drawn out and analysed to promote their adoption or scaling up by the government under a national strategy or programme. This may be done under the investment project itself, or more broadly within the country programme.

## 7. Participating in policy dialogue forums

Country programme staff (notably the Country Director) can actively participate as IFAD's representative(s) in in-country policy dialogue forums (e.g. sector working groups), bringing on-the-ground experience and lessons learned to the government and its other development partners.

## 8. Strengthening the capacity of government agencies

A project can provide a vehicle to strengthen the capacity of government agencies to formulate, implement and assess national policies and programmes.

## 9. Sharing experience at the regional or global level

A regional or global grant can offer a framework for bringing together policy stakeholders from different countries, promoting peer-to-peer learning and building trust between stakeholders from the same country.

## 10. Promoting dialogue between government agencies

IFAD can support improved and more coherent policymaking and implementation, particularly around cross-cutting issues such as climate change adaptation or nutrition.

## Six key features of IFAD's approach to CLPE

(adapted from *Country Level Policy Engagement in IFAD. Guide book.*)

**Partnerships with governments:** IFAD can support policy processes as a trusted partner.

**Focus:** IFAD targets issues and policies of clear importance to small-scale producers and poor rural people.

**Representation:** IFAD seeks to foster space for and build the capacity of small-scale producers and rural people's organizations to participate in relevant policy processes, paying special attention to inclusion by gender, age, ethnicity, disability and other factors of exclusion.

**Breadth of engagement:** IFAD works across the policy cycle, from identifying policy issues to implementing and assessing policy.

**Integrated approach:** The investment portfolio and CLPE should be closely connected to each other, within a coherent agenda for transformative country programmes.

**Financing mechanisms:** IFAD's policy activities can be funded by resources within projects but also by ad hoc resources as part of the delivery of country programmes.

## To learn more, visit:

[Country-level policy engagement in IFAD. Guide book.](#)

[How to incorporate policy engagement into a project](#)

[How to incorporate policy engagement into a COSOP](#)

[Lessons learned: IFAD's approach to country-level policy engagement](#)

[IFAD's approach to policy engagement](#)

[CLPE review of experience 2016](#)



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