

profile



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REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA COUNTRY STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Focus on small-scale family farming

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) started operations in Angola with the Malanje Smallholder Sector Rehabilitation Project in 1989, which addressed the needs of small-scale farmers affected by the civil war. The country achieved a long-lasting peace only in 2002, and IFAD had maintained its presence throughout the conflict, keeping projects operational where and when possible. In 2005, IFAD and Angola signed the first Country Strategy and Programme Paper, fully focused on reconstruction needs. Between 1989 and December 2017, IFAD had approved seven loans and six associated grants for Angola, with variable lending terms, for a total value of US\$ 82.1 million, which represented 60.7 per cent of the total estimated cost of the portfolio.

This is the first Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE) by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD covering the period 2005-2017. During this period, the Executive Board of the Fund approved loans for four projects amounting to around US\$ 54.2 million, 57 per cent of total project costs. Between 2007 and 2017 IFAD sponsored a total of four projects:

- **Market-Oriented Smallholder Agriculture Project (MOSAP I)**
Implementation: 2007 to 2016
- **Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project**
Ongoing: to be implemented from 2015 to 2021
- **Smallholder Agriculture Development and Commercialization Project in Cuanza Sul and Huila Provinces**
Ongoing: to be implemented from 2017 to 2024
- **Agriculture Recovery Project**
Approved by the executive board in 2017, not effective yet.

Main evaluation findings

All the projects funded in this period were aligned with the Government's and IFAD's priorities. They focused on small-scale producers who needed technical knowledge, physical inputs and financial support to consolidate food and nutrition security and rebuild productive and household assets to grow out of subsistence agriculture. The current portfolio included: crop production and productivity improvement, and value chain development for beans, cassava, maize and potato; livestock and pastoralism; and freshwater capture fisheries and aquaculture. As of 2018, IFAD will be present in Bengo, Cuanza Norte and Cuanza Sul, Cunene, Huambo, Huila, Luanda, Malanje.

The MOSAP I project effectively contributed to enhancing production and productivity, establishing and strengthening producers' organizations and developing the capacity of both institutions and producers. By the end of the project, the Crop Production Index showed an increase of 66 per cent of productivity over the baseline, although improvements were uneven across crops and provinces. MOSAP I financed 257 investment sub-projects, to support: animal traction (118), mechanization and seeds (109) and grinding mills (30).

The project implemented on a large scale the Farmer Field School methodology, that proved instrumental in facilitating the dialogue between poor small-scale producers and the Ministry of Agriculture and its various subordinate institutes, as the Institute for Agricultural Development. In total, approximately 55,000 small scale producers benefitted of capacity development opportunities, half of whom through the FFS. The positive results achieved led to the adoption of the FFS as the national method of agricultural extension.

All project design reports made adequate provisions for the inclusion of women among beneficiaries, including some references to empowerment. In practice, 43 per cent of the participants of MOSAP I were women, who benefitted from increased production and incomes, the utilization of grinding mills, and from functional literacy. Along the way,

however, efforts towards women's empowerment were few, if any at all, which led to a minimal share of women in leadership roles in farmers' associations.

Main weaknesses are related to project design, which affected sustainability of investments and risks jeopardizing achievements; regarding efficiency, initial delays at start-up increased the project costs; and limited attention was paid to sustainable environment and natural resources management, and climate change adaptation in the context of more frequent droughts affecting the country. The main underlying cause of most of these has been the dearth of experienced professionals at the national level, in development management and in some key technical areas.

Key recommendations

- **IFAD as the champion for sustainable and pro-poor agricultural and rural development.** The Fund's comparative advantage in fostering rural pro-poor approaches and interventions should be sustained and strengthened, by closely collaborating with the Government to create an enabling environment for, and by directly supporting small-scale producers to improve their livelihoods and raise out of poverty, through the market opportunities that progressively will emerge in the country.
- **Reinforce the Fund's capacity for implementation support and policy engagement in the country.** The evidence available showed that a tangible presence of the Fund in the country is necessary to enable efficiency and effectiveness of networking and dialogue on policy. The model of Project Facilitator should be re-vamped, in a full-time modality and with some administrative support.
- **Capacity development as one of the pillars and cross-cutting principles for IFAD's engagement in Angola.** Resources and management provisions should be systematically allocated within the portfolio to provide opportunities for capacity development at the individual and institutional level.
- **Stronger focus on women empowerment and youth inclusion.** This should entail: fully integrate a gender equality perspective, and actively promote the social and economic empowerment of women and aim at creating sustainable and attractive opportunities in the rural areas for youth, both men and women, by enabling their access to capacity development opportunities, rural financial resources, and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Refocus Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project** as a pilot initiative to test models for both fresh-water fisheries and aquaculture development and carry out studies and analysis that can inform as appropriate, the later expansion of the investments to other parts of the country.

ANGOLA AT A GLANCE

Population: **25.8 million** (2014)

Rural population: **9.6 million**; **37.4%** of total population (2014)

Rate of GDP growth: **1.1%** (2016) in real terms

Poverty headcount ratio at national

poverty line (% of population): **36.6%** (2008)

Life expectancy at birth: **63 years** for women, **57.5** for men (2014)

Human development index: **0.533** (2015);

Ranking = **150**, classified as a low level of human development

Total number of loan-funded projects: **7**

IFAD lending approved since 1989: **US\$ 81.1 million**

Sources: IFAD Project and Programme Management System; International Monetary Fund; United Nations Development Programme International Human Development Indicators; World Bank

For further information:

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