

Egypt Country strategy and programme evaluation 2010 - 2016

IFAD-supported project areas



The designations employed in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

91.5 million

Total population
of Egypt



52 million

Rural population



27,8%

Poverty headcount
ratio at national
poverty line

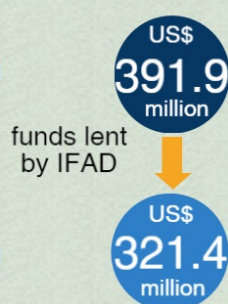


Main objectives

- ✓ Evaluate the results and performance of the IFAD-financed strategy and programme in Egypt
- ✓ Produce recommendations for future partnerships between IFAD and Egypt, to improve development effectiveness and eliminate rural poverty

Main areas

● Overall portfolio since 1980 ● Evaluation period 2010-2016



On-and off-farm
employment



New
settlement
development



Farmers'
organizations
and capacity-
building



Rural finance
and market
support



Irrigation and
drainage



Economic
and social
infrastructure

Egypt country strategy timeline



COSOP = Country strategic opportunities programme

Evaluation storyline



IFAD is working along three major pathways to combat rural poverty: 1) Increased productivity and better land and water usage, 2) Economic diversification and employment through access to credit, and 3) Improved living conditions through new infrastructure in new lands.

The programme has been well focused and aligned with Government strategies on agriculture. The IFAD-supported projects have addressed key poverty issues and achieved some notable impacts.

The partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation was strong; other stakeholders could have been more involved.



Opportunities for learning have been missed. IFAD could have positioned itself more strategically on key themes like rural unemployment, land scarcity and water resources.

IFAD will need to demonstrate its main strengths through an improved strategic focus, innovation and position through a wider range of partnership and broad-based Government ownership.

Main evaluation findings

Areas of strength



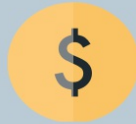
Projects that contributed to raising agricultural productivity were successful through Farmer Field Schools and improved land and water use.

Rural infrastructure helped improve living conditions. 44,621 people benefited directly and indirectly from schools, roads, and rural water supply in the new lands.



Improved access to credit, rural services and increased participation in decision-making has significantly improved the well-being of women.

Positive changes in household income and assets occurred as a result of improved farming systems and access to micro-loans.



Areas for improvement

Outreach was low on credit and training. Targeting was inefficient to ensure that women, landless poor and youth benefitted equally.



Technical support has been insufficient in critical areas and the capacity of country programme management was limited to support networking and learning.

More could have been done to integrate adaptation to climate change into the loan portfolio and opportunities to promote climate-smart practices have been missed.



1,444 community organizations have been established or strengthened, but overall capacity-building has been insufficient to ensure that they are effective and sustainable.

Recommendations

1 Sharpen poverty and geographic focus and refine poverty targeting

IFAD operations should focus on Upper Egypt. There should also be clear strategies for reaching the most marginalized groups (the landless, youth, women). All project strategies will have to be followed up through continuous monitoring.

2 Sharpen thematic focus and improve feasibility of design

IFAD has to focus on thematic areas where it has shown comparative advantage, together with identified partners, and deepen its engagement there. There are also opportunities to better integrate climate-smart practices into the loan portfolio.

3 Establish a structure for effective coordination and support

Better integration of different activities would make it possible to create links between projects that are working in parallel. Coordination would need to happen at a central level and require a degree of independence, neutrality and accountability to be able to act as go-between for different partners.

4 Manage knowledge from loans and grants to support learning and innovation

IFAD should become an honest knowledge broker, supporting learning, partnerships and good practices for policy engagement and scaling up. IFAD should establish clear roles and responsibilities for knowledge management within the country and at regional level.

5 Prepare a strategy for effective capacity-building of community-level institutions

The programme should investigate possible partnerships with rural institutions to create a strategy for effective capacity building and policy engagement. For upcoming projects, IFAD should ensure a sufficient budget for capacity-building purposes.

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