

Mandate

The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) is responsible for conducting independent evaluations of IFAD-financed policies, strategies and operations to promote accountability and learning. The main purpose is to contribute to improving IFAD's and its partner's performance in supporting rural transformation in recipient countries.

In identifying key insights and recommendations drawn from evaluation findings, IOE is also concerned, in accordance with IFAD's disclosure policy, with communicating and sharing IFAD's knowledge and experience of rural and agricultural development with a wider audience.

Country strategy and programme evaluations

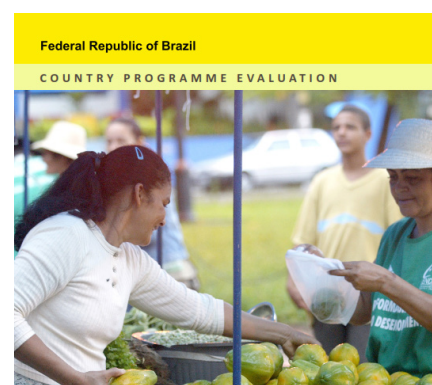
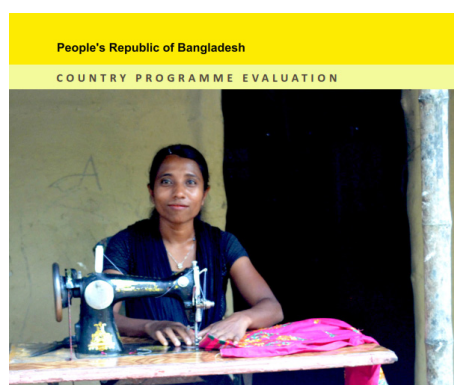
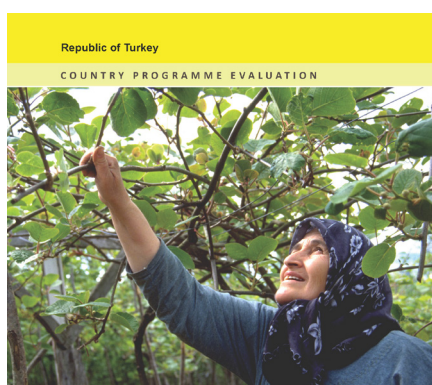
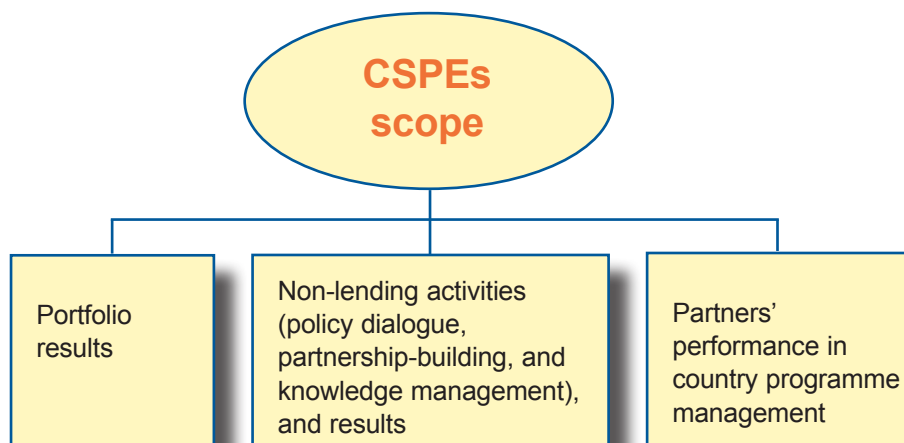
Objectives

The main objectives of the country strategy and programme evaluations (CSPEs) conducted by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD are to:

- Assess the results and performance of the IFAD-financed strategy and programme in a given country; and
- Generate findings and recommendations for the future partnership between IFAD and the concerned country for enhanced development effectiveness and rural poverty eradication.

Methodology

CSPEs are conducted in accordance with the directives of IFAD's Evaluation Policy¹ and follow the core methodology and processes for CSPEs outlined in IOE's Evaluation Manual.² They are undertaken by a team of development experts, following internationally-agreed evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability of benefits and rural poverty impact. A rating is assigned to each evaluation criterion on a scale of 1 to 6 (with 1 being the lowest score, and 6 the highest).



Process

Preparation and desk review phases, which include developing the CSPE approach paper. The paper specifies the evaluation objectives, methodology, process, timelines, and key questions. It is followed by a preparatory mission to the country to discuss the draft paper with key partners. During this stage, a desk review is conducted examining available documentation. Project review notes and a consolidated desk review report are prepared and shared with IFAD's regional division and the government. During this stage both IFAD and the government conduct a self-assessment of the portfolio, non-lending activities and the country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP).



Field mission, data collection and analysis phases.

This stage entails convening a multidisciplinary team of consultants to visit the country, holding meetings in the capital city with the government and other partners and traveling to different regions of the country to review activities of IFAD-funded projects on the

ground and collect evidence from beneficiaries, public authorities, project management staff, non-governmental organizations, and other partners on IFAD performance in the country. At the end of the mission, IOE will deliver a PowerPoint presentation to the government and other key partners summarizing the emerging findings of the field mission. During the analysis phase, facts and evidence drawn from different sources are brought together to answer the overarching evaluation questions. Triangulating this evidence, identifying any weaknesses, and collecting additional evidence where needed are key activities in this phase and an inherent part of a robust analysis.

Report writing, comments and communication phases. During this phase, IOE prepares the draft final CSPE report, shared with IFAD's regional division, the government, and other partners for review and comments. The draft benefits from a peer review process within IOE, including IOE staff as well as

an external senior independent advisor. IOE then distributes the CSPE report to partners to disseminate the results of the CSPE. IOE and the government organize a national round-table workshop that focuses on learning and allows multiple stakeholders to discuss the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. The report is publicly disclosed.

Each CSPE evaluation is concluded with an agreement at completion point (ACP). The ACP is a short document which captures the recommendations contained in the CSPE report that IFAD and the government agree to adopt and implement within a specific timeline.

The results of the CSPE are presented to the Executive Board at the time of discussion of a new results-based COSOP.

Expected results

Generate an overall appreciation of the partnership between IFAD and the concerned government in reducing rural poverty; provide findings and recommendations that will be useful to promote accountability and learning to make IFAD even more effective in terms of fostering rural transformation; provide inputs for the preparation of a new results-based country strategic opportunities programme.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION



¹ www.ifad.org/en/evaluation/policy_and_methodology/tags/2085763.

² www.ifad.org/en/evaluation/policy_and_methodology/tags/5702569.