

2019 ARRI learning event – Mentimeter questions

Why does the ARRI say that at the country programme level our performance as a partner is improving but at the project level our performance as a partner is declining?

Technical expertise was mentioned as an issue- is there room for working with FAO? How?

Why did Gender performance decline?

It indeed make sense to change the project during implementation to make it more relevant However, a major change of the project change normally involve the amendment of loan agreement. How to minimize the additional cost caused by restructuring?

How do you account for the variation in guidelines for evaluation? What impact has that had on the trend?

Why is there such a large difference between project performance and overall project achievement - they should be performing at a similar level.

PMUs work better when there is a visible horizon of functioning and stability in their structure. How is IFAD improving relations with the government with reducing such staff members- doesn't this cause uncertainty?

The ARRI database contains ratings but not "data"

Why are ARRI results so different from the results of the impact assessment? And why do you rate on poverty impact if we have data from the impact assessments?

The sample of projects for IFAD performance is aligned every year: in Arri 2018, 58 projects had 94.8% positive ratings, this year 59 projects have 83%

What sorts of discrepancies exist between the definition of the relevance criterion at IFAD vs at IFIs?

Is it possible that a decline in ratings has to do with IFAD "raising the bar" and evaluating projects more thoroughly?

It is almost 2020 and we are discussing the performance of projects from 2017. Shouldn't we be learning and adjusting current performance given the countdown to 2030.

Ratings are data: the database contains more than 6000 data points

Is the ARRI going to change, following the findings of the peer review of the independent evaluation function?
If yes, how?

What tells us more a rating on climate change adaptation or number of hectares of land brought under improved management or CO₂ emissions reduced

The ARRI notes that between 2012-18 there was a 14% reduction in country Programme budget, a decrease of 34% in SIS (although portfolio only shrunk by 13%). How far can we stretch the “smart” approach of supervision till performance starts declining?

Counterpart funding often does not reflect engagement as the implementing agency and project parties are not the ones deciding about the counterpart funding....

Has any work been done to access the much greater visibility that IFAD has today at sub-national level? We have achieved so much, and this is not in the report

I guess design is key in assuring/improving relevance Please, share a few words on the institutional (stakeholder analysis) tool used. Who updates that analysis locally? Do you use any form of social network analysis on projects?

Is a lack of budget mentioned in your evaluations as being a reason for declining performance? Teams always want more money, but does it improve performance?

PMU staffing is fundamental and has been proven key time and time again, but IFAD continues to ignore the need to talk seriously to governments about staff non-performance.

Aren't most of IOEs rating data desk reviews of IFAD's PCRs?

did IOE assess the quality of operations rather than budget? And how will decentralization have an impact?

IOE Rural poverty impact is different from impact assessment. It is based on qualitative assessments from every single evaluation and looks at 4 different sub-domains (human and capital, food security, institutions & policies, HH income & assets)

Project performance is an average of 4 ratings - relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and efficiency. Overall project achievement is a assessment of all 10 criteria showing the strength of IFAD specific indicators

Project performance and overall project achievement should be strongly correlated. Project performance cannot be low if project achievement is high and vice versa

Which could be a positive message around the ARRI19 as we move toward IFAD12 negotiation for more trust and funds to IFAD within a competitive environment?

IOE ratings are NOT only desk reviews. 2019 ARRI projects are 38% Project Performance Evaluation (with field visits)

Maybe we need to rethink the PMU model itself- budget support?

Yes, the ARRI will change based on the peer review

Declines in project performance and GEWE reflect changes in definitions.

Most IFIs only include consistency with country needs, and partner and donor policies. IFAD is more comprehensive

Yes, quality of operations has gone down in projects completed in IFAD10. Budget also went down

Food security & nutrition deficiency data is the elephant in achieving SDG 2, 3, 8, 17

For 2020, we need to improve the current portfolio through supervision and implementation support

evaluation helps explain the why and assesses attribution- other factors may result in reduction in CO2 emissions.

Community driven development has worked well in fragile situations. Let's do more of this.

Government commitment means commitment to pro-poor policies and poverty reduction. Governments in WCA can do that even without counterpart funds.

Let's measure the govt capacity development and number of PMU staff poached. This is commendable.

History has a way of repeating. You can learn from completed projects. Unfortunately, recurring issues are still now happening.

Costs at country level are rising. Doing business is getting more expensive

Don't forget the decline in resources is also staff resources

Are our staff resources better? Do we have more technical capacity?