

### How to reach the rural poor and leave no one behind: Findings from a metaanalysis on poverty targeting

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TC15: Meta-analysis and synthesis

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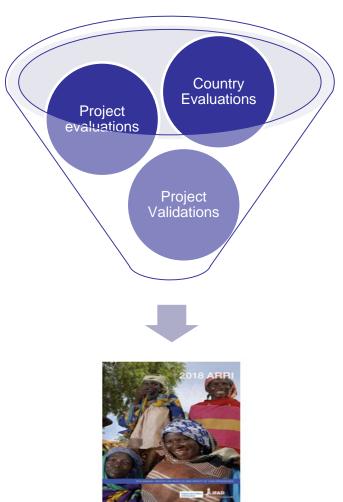




### Annual Report on Results & Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI)

- Annual synthesis report based on a meta-analysis of past evaluations and their ratings.
- Provides a "systematic overview of the results and impact of IFAD's operations, based on the evaluations undertaken each year."
- The ARRI has two objectives:
  - (i) report on results and impacts;
  - (ii) identify lessons and systemic issues.





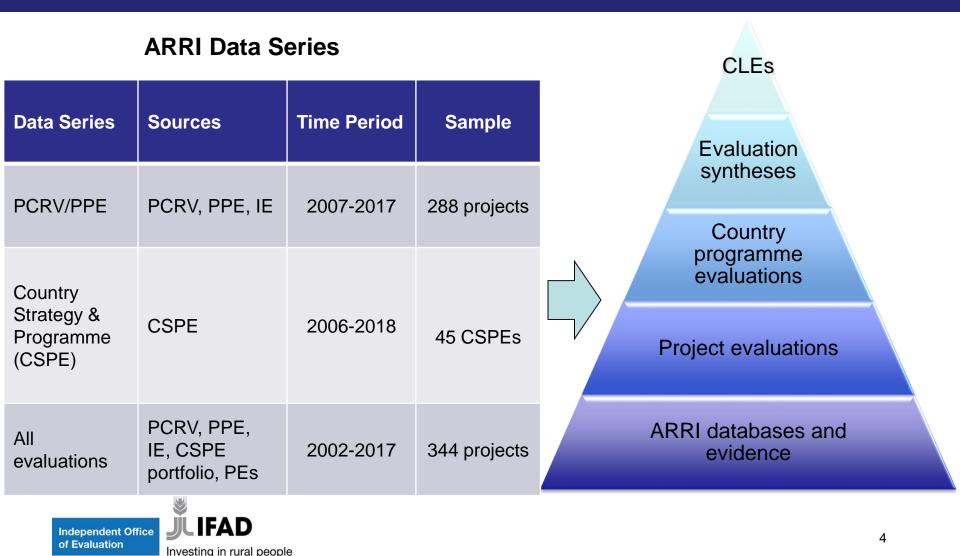
### ARRI preparation process is a starting point for IOE knowledge management

### Data & evidence collection

Quantitative & qualitative analyses Present findings and key factors



## ARRI data (2002-2017) serve as a fundamental building block for all new evaluations



## Meta-analysis of ratings and qualitative evidence indicates important topics

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#### **Key Facilitating Factors**

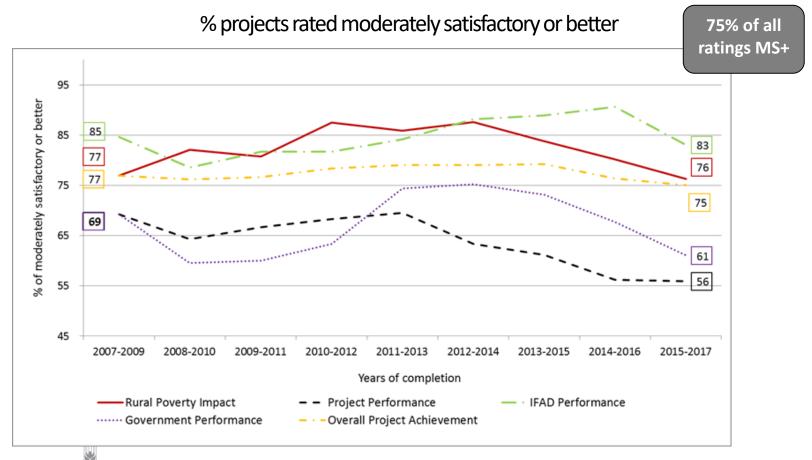
- Gender-sensitive project design
- Awareness campaigns and trainings on gender equality, women's rights and domestic violence
- Promotion of women's leadership in groups and management positions

#### **Key Constraining Factors**

- Non-alignment with project's operational strategy on gender
- Absence of a specific project issue in the design phase and of outcome data.
- Low women's participation in project staff capacity building

### Declines in rural poverty impact indicated the need to focus on targeting to "leave no one behind"

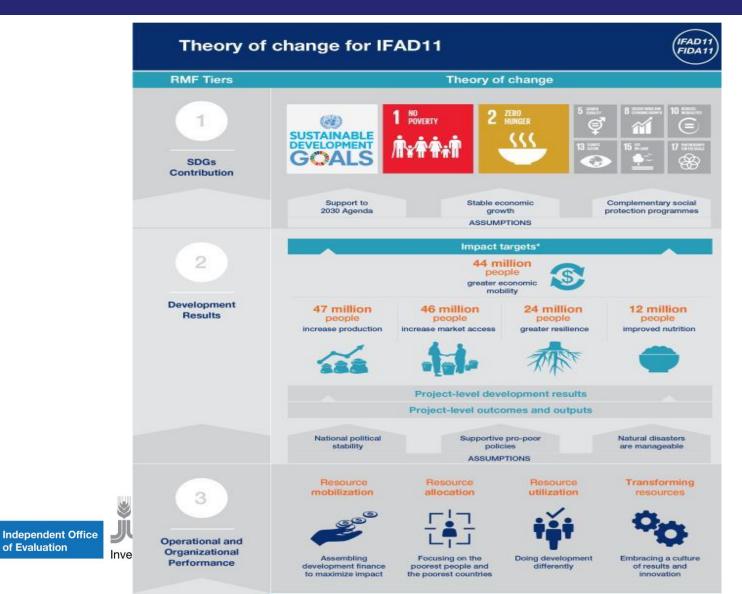
#### **Overview of main evaluation criteria**



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### **Targeting topic salient and timely to IFAD11** and SDGs - "Leave no one Behind"



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## Holistic approach engaged many stakeholders through Rural Inequalities conference

#### **Mixed Methods**

- Quantitative data analysis (ratings, costs, project duration)
- Qualitative analysis (review of projects, evaluations, key informant interviews and focus groups by region, benchmarking, case studies).

#### Rural Inequalities Conference

- Concept note
- Expert Advisory Panel on rural inequalities
- Inclusion of key stakeholders and experts in IFAD and externally (academics, government, NGOs, etc.)
- Targeting Issues paper presented.

#### ARRI

- Targeting Issues Paper finalized
- Targeting chapter included in ARRI
- Presentation to the Executive Board
- ARRI Learning workshop on Targeting – with EB and staff.

## IFAD Policy on Targeting – leaves room for interpretation

- Defines <u>poverty</u> as context-specific and multidimensional – economic but also a condition of vulnerability and exclusion – and based on national poverty lines.
- Defines target groups a "rural people living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity in developing countries."
- Adds IFAD "proactively strives to reach extremely poor people who have the potential to take advantage of assets and opportunities for agricultural production and rural income-generating activities."



## Finding 1 - Lack of agreement on IFAD target group and strategies needed

- IFAD's commercialization work tended towards better-off small farmers – the economically active poor – rather than poorer households.
- In Georgia, program leases went to medium and large agro-processing companies including biggest wine companies – none went to farmer groups
- Need to strike balance between market-oriented and poverty-focused projects/components (e.g., GALS in value chain projects).



### Finding 2 – Effective targeting strategies are informed by robust poverty analysis

- Differentiated analysis of marginalized groups (e.g., women, youth, indigenous peoples) supported by strong capacity and resources;
- Strong contextual analysis for realistic, clear, and practical targeting strategies;
- **Flexible** to allow for adjustments in a changing world, particularly countries and regions in fragile situations.
  - IFAD design guidelines lack specificity on addressing fragility
  - Need to include conflict analysis or risk assessment of affects of IFAD intervention

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## Finding 3 – Robust data, monitoring and supervision crucial for implementation

- A lack of credible poverty data challenges targeting
  - Insufficient disaggregation of national data
  - Lack multidimensional poverty data
- Some countries have addressed lack of poverty data by incorporating **participatory data collection** approaches
- Monitoring targeting during supervision allows for adjusting targeting strategies to changing context
- Therefore, **investment in related systems** and capacity development is needed.



## Finding 4 – Reaching the poorest and "last mile" is costly but essential in SDG context

- Remote and fragile areas where most vulnerable people live post cost-associated challenges (i.e., logistics, travel, capacity)
- More time and resources are needed to design and implement projects targeting people on the "last mile"
- Pursuing efficiency can push targeting away from poorest and most vulnerable people, towards those with the resources and capacity to leverage investments.



## Finding 5 – Government commitment and partnership important to reach poorest

- Importance of government commitment to prioritizing rural poverty, poverty reduction and follow-up actions e.g. systematizing poverty targeting data;
- IFAD experience points to value of engaging in policy dialogue with governments to ensure most vulnerable are a priority;
- Partnering with other organizations may be best way to meet (basic) needs of the most vulnerable, e.g. Belgian Survival Fund.



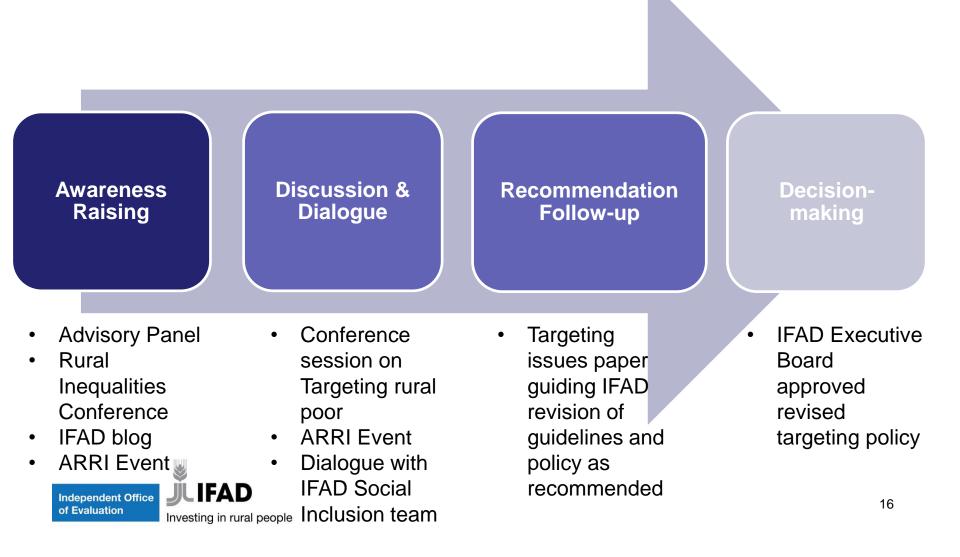
### 2018 ARRI Recommendations "Targeting the Rural Poor"

### **ARRI Recommendations**

- 1. Revise IFAD's Targeting Policy and related guidelines
- 2. Develop appropriate targeting strategies based on robust and differentiated poverty and context analysis that are flexibly implemented
- Establish strong M&E systems that tap into local knowledge through country-level partnerships and pursue policy engagement in favour of IFAD's target groups
- 4. Ensure sustainability of rural poverty impacts through exit strategies that are inclusive of targeted beneficiaries and through sufficient project duration.



# How was the "Targeting the rural poor" learning theme influential?

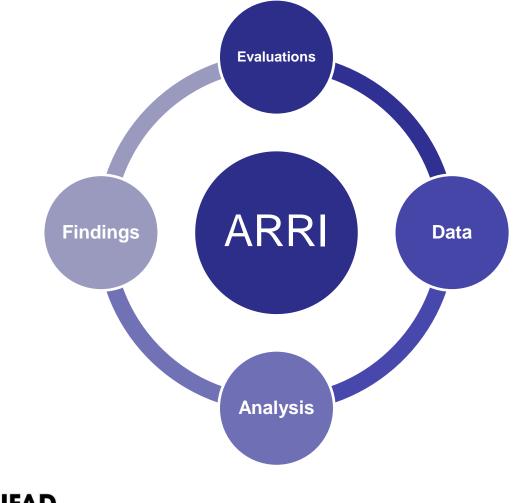


### Thank you!

### Questions & Answers

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# ARRI process is the basis of IOE's knowledge management system



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