



How to reach the rural poor and leave no one behind: Findings from a meta-analysis on poverty targeting

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TC15: Meta-analysis and synthesis

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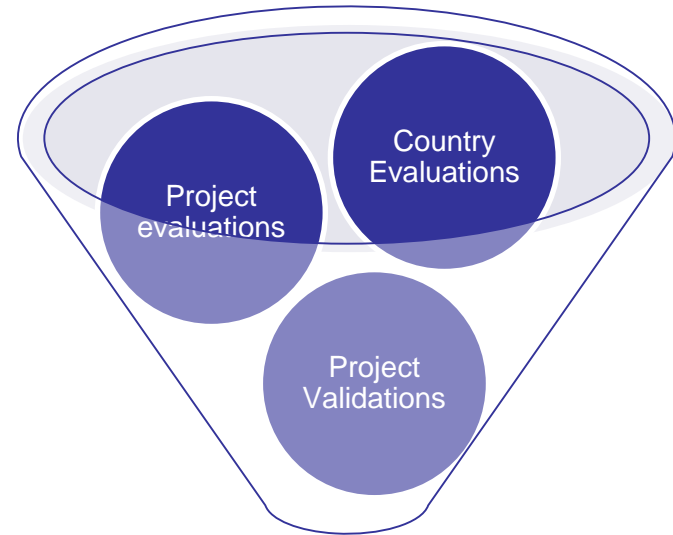
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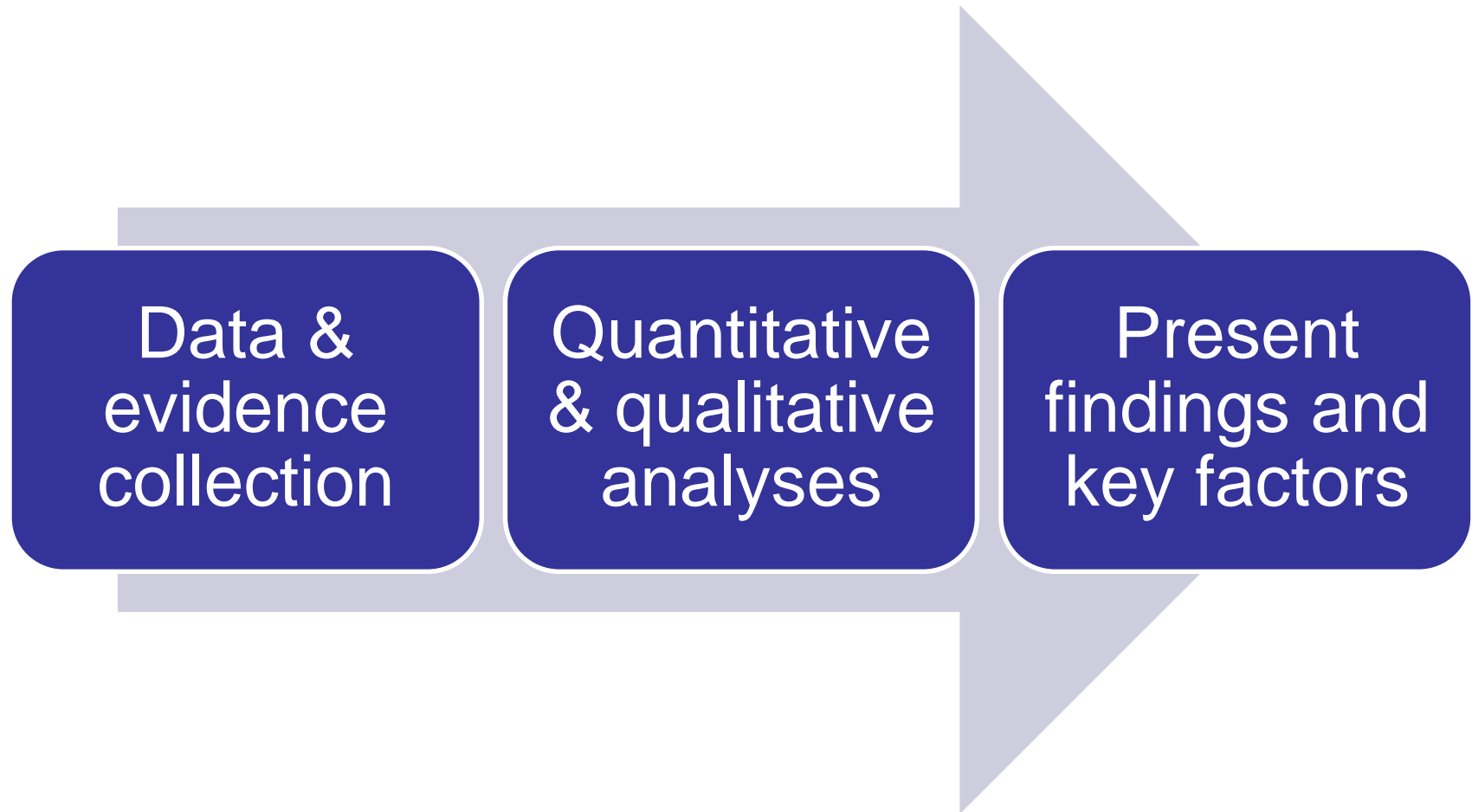
Investing in rural people

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.



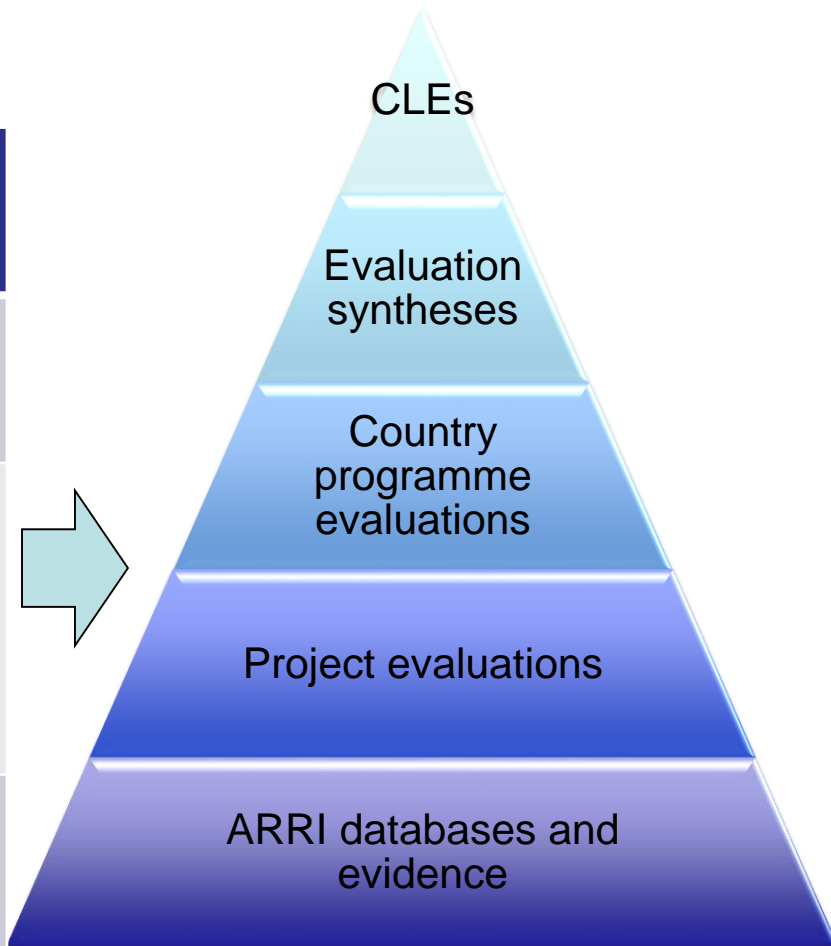
ARRI preparation process is a starting point for IOE knowledge management



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

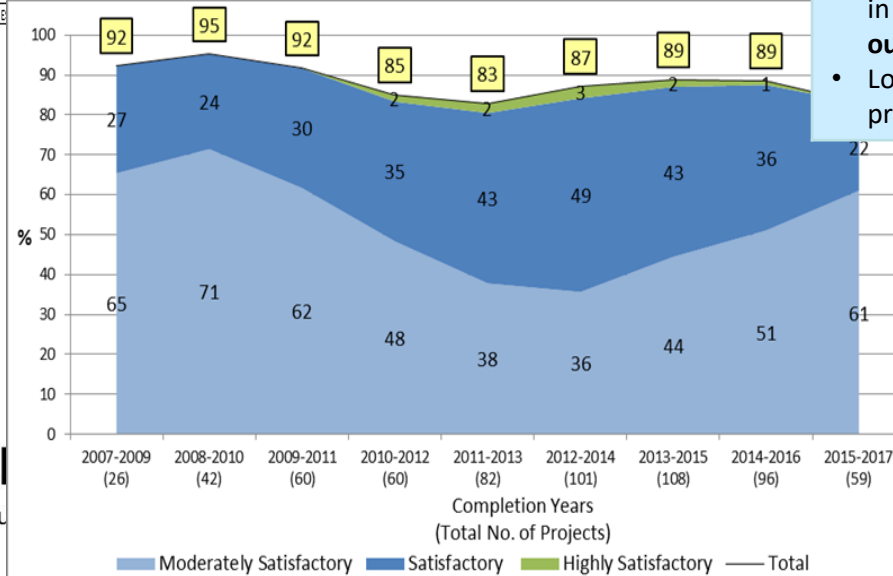
ARRI Data Series

Data Series	Sources	Time Period	Sample
PCRV/PPE	PCRV, PPE, IE	2007-2017	288 projects
Country Strategy & Programme (CSPE)	CSPE	2006-2018	45 CSPEs
All evaluations	PCRV, PPE, IE, CSPE portfolio, PEs	2002-2017	344 projects



Meta-analysis of ratings and qualitative evidence indicates important topics

ARRI DATABASE (2000-2016)

[illegible]

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

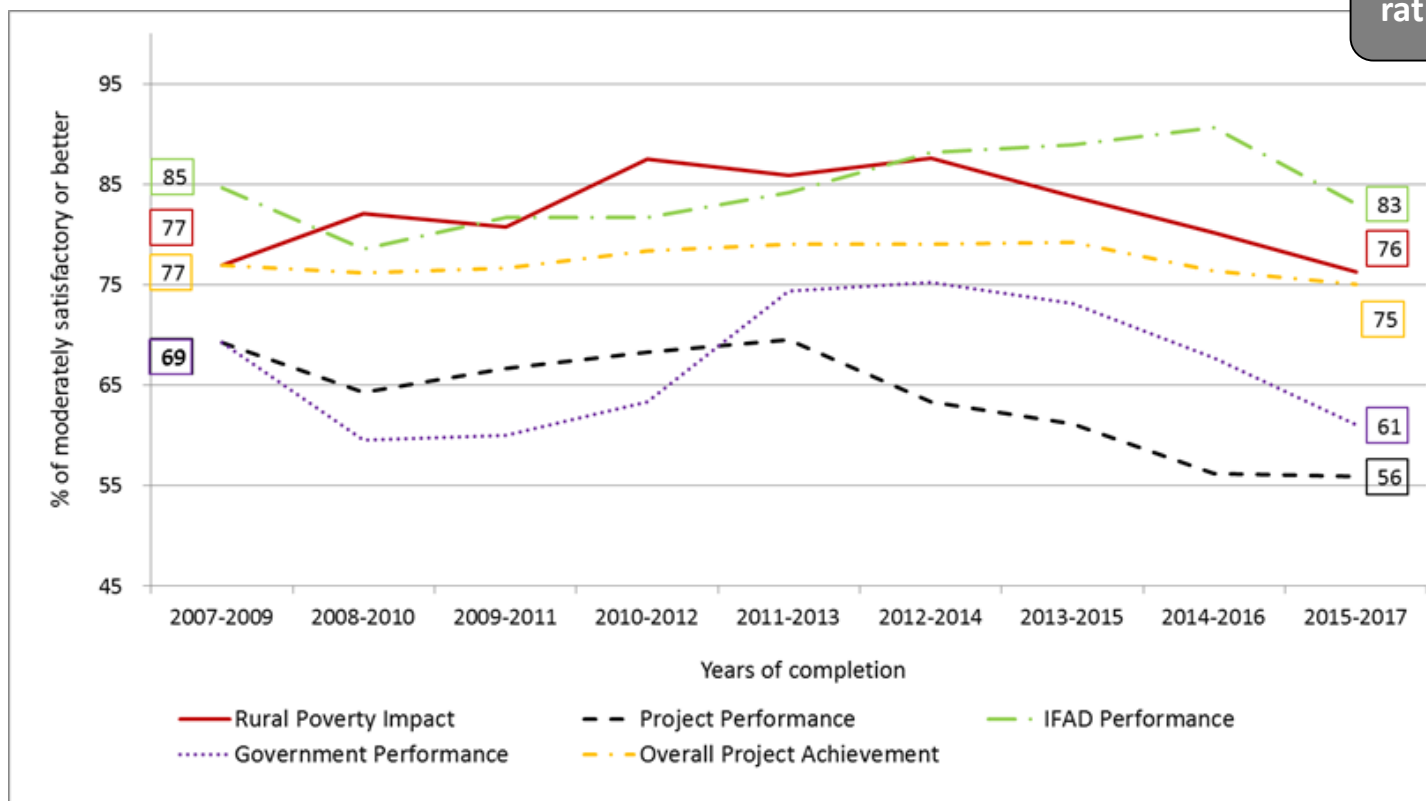
- Non-alignment with **project's operational strategy** on gender
- Absence of a specific project issue in the **design phase and of outcome data**.
- Low women's participation in project staff **capacity building**

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

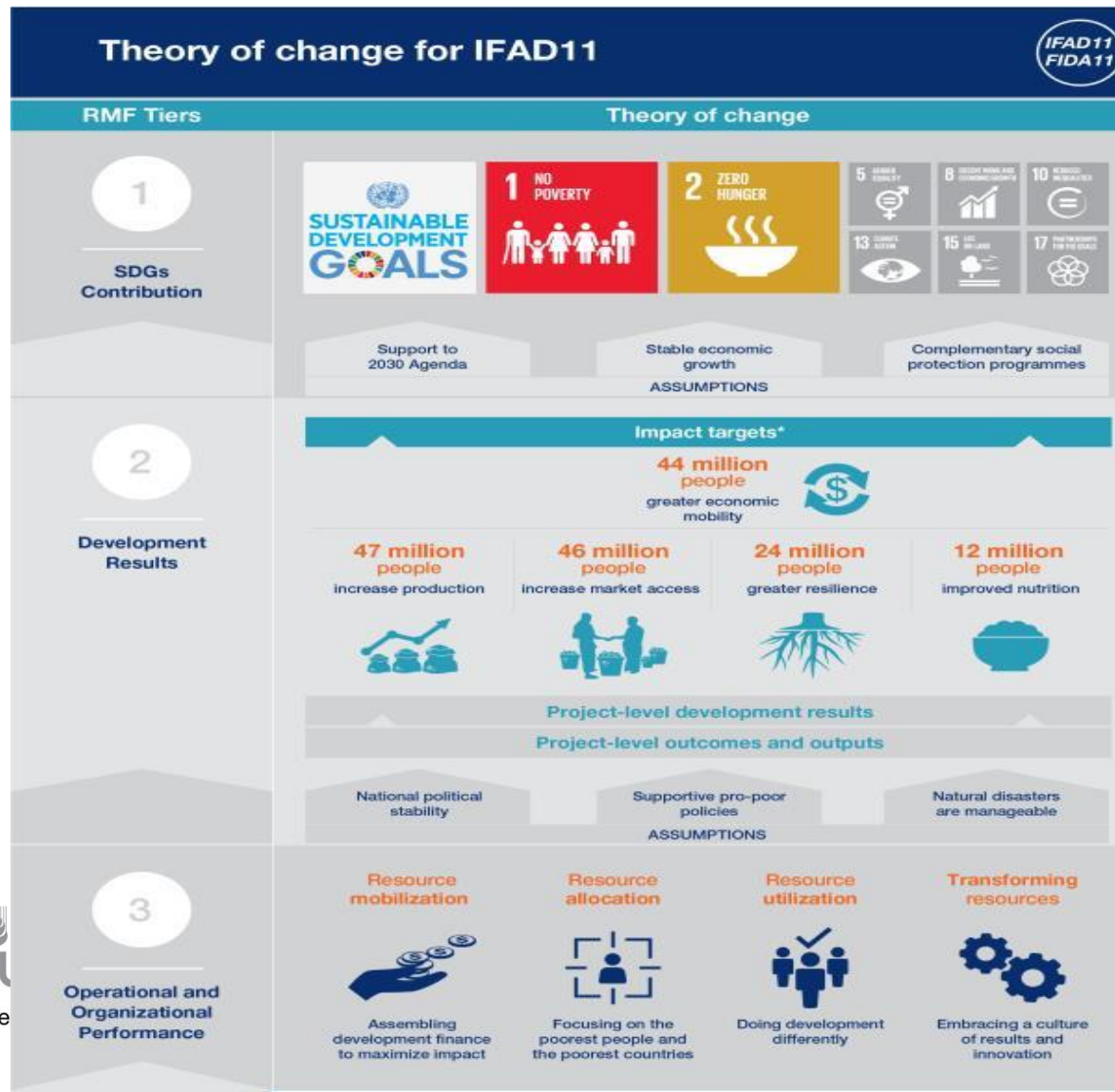
Overview of main evaluation criteria

% projects rated moderately satisfactory or better

75% of all ratings MS+



Targeting topic salient and timely to IFAD11 and SDGs – “Leave no one Behind”



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 **poverty** 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

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
3. 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?

Awareness Raising

- Advisory Panel
- Rural Inequalities Conference
- IFAD blog
- ARRI Event

Discussion & Dialogue

- Conference session on Targeting rural poor
- ARRI Event
- Dialogue with IFAD Social Inclusion team

Recommendation Follow-up

- Targeting issues paper guiding IFAD revision of guidelines and policy as recommended

Decision-making

- IFAD Executive Board approved revised targeting policy



Thank you!

Questions & Answers

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

