

Republic of the Sudan
Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation
Virtual final workshop
22 June 2019

Speech by Donal Brown, AVP, IFAD

Excellences,

Mr. Makki Marghani, Undersecretary for Planning,
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning;

Mr. Abdel Gader Turkawi, Undersecretary, Ministry of
Agriculture and Natural Resources;

Mr. Adil Farah, Undersecretary, Ministry of Animal
Resources and Fisheries;

Mr. Abdel Wahab Hijazi, Ambassador of the Republic of
the Sudan to Rome;

Esteemed members of the Sudanese delegation;

IFAD Colleagues:

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to today's
special event, which crowns a thorough assessment of
the last ten-year results of the IFAD country
programme performance, entailing the generation of
findings and recommendations to steer the future
partnership between IFAD and the Government of
Sudan.

You are all aware that today's workshop had originally been planned for April 2020, but was indeterminately postponed following the Covid19-related restrictions. Thanks to your persistence and good will, we have been able to gather today, only with a slight delay, to conclude the unfinished task, even despite the continuing restrictions of a yet to-be-eradicated virus.

IFAD has been working hard to stand by its clients during these difficult times. For Sudan, as an example, the President of IFAD has approved the repurposing of \$660,000 of ongoing project funds to provide communities with seeds and agricultural services to make up for likely shortages. Sudan has also been identified as a beneficiary of the RPSF established by IFAD to assist the governments of its member states to respond to the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. The amount approved for Sudan is \$747,605.

Coming back to the outcomes of the evaluation exercise, I appreciate the identification of the agricultural sector as the locomotive for the Sudan's national economy, as well as for rural livelihoods, food security and poverty reduction. This gives us assurances that IFAD is present at the right time and place to support one of its long-standing and major partners. For almost 40 years, IFAD has invested in Sudan, mainly in enhancing food security and reducing poverty in rural households. It has also supported the Government efforts to boost crop production, marketing and capacity building of public and private service providers.

I assure your excellences that the recommendations put forward by the evaluation report, and which have

been jointly agreed by the Government of Sudan and by IFAD, will be the landmarks of IFAD's future interventions in the country. While the said recommendations support and are in line with the new political context in Sudan, they also offer opportunities to consolidate and take the achievements so far to another level.

A key issue raised is the provision of sufficient resources, technical support and leadership to develop a KM strategy. It is important that IFAD, the Government of Sudan and other development partners join forces to promote and benefit from the rich experience of the IFAD portfolio in the country, not only to benefit the decision makers in the capital, but also the farmers at the states level.

Concurrently with IFAD commitment and vision for future partnership with Sudan, we expect the government to continue supporting IFAD's efforts through meeting commitments, such as debt repayment and country contribution payment to projects, which have so far been met, and which we wish to see happening more regularly.

Excellences, dear Colleagues

I firmly believe that IFAD intervention in the Sudan can continue to serve as a model for other countries and I would like to recognize the high level of cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and particularly the Sudan Embassy

in Rome and the continuous support provided to IFAD's investments in the country.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its continued efforts in investing in rural development.

Thank you.