

Republic of the Sudan
Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation
Virtual final workshop
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Speech by Dina Saleh, NEN Regional Director, 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:

I am pleased to be with you today in the virtual event for the Sudan Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE), which is jointly organized by the Government of Sudan and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), in collaboration with IFAD's Near East, North Africa and Europe Division. The speakers before me acknowledged the long standing

and fruitful partnership which I fully attest to. As you know, today's event constitutes the final step in the portfolio evaluation process, which took place during 2019 and in early 2020.

The IFAD portfolio in Sudan includes 21 investment projects for a total cost of US\$815 million. Admitting that the CSPE covered only nine investment projects (for a total cost of US\$375 million) over the period from 2009 to 2019, the evaluation outcomes demonstrate an overall coherence and relevance to the context and the needs of the rural poor deriving livelihoods primarily from natural resources.

Remarkable results have been achieved for human and social capital and empowerment, including the strengthening of 900 community-level institutions. Also six conflict resolutions have been established as a contribution towards strengthening NRM governance and reducing NRM conflicts between settled farmers and pastoralists. The Gash project in Kassala ensured access to micro-finance for more than 2,000 women for the first time to improve the families' livelihoods.

Supporting rural women ranked high in the IFAD portfolio, as indicated by the CSPE evaluation. Several interventions to support women in the implementation of productive activities have been noted. These included the creation of groups running home gardens (gabareek), nurseries, small animal husbandry, food preservation and processing, mostly operated by women. The portfolio also supported the creation of about 3,000 savings and credit groups, with about 48,000 members, of which women constitute about 95 percent.

Currently, IFAD is running two significant projects in Sudan; 1) The Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme (LMRP), and (2) Integrated Agricultural and Marketing Development Project (IAMDP); and is awaiting the ratification (by GoS) of the 3rd project "Sustainable Natural Resources and Livelihood Programme (SNRLP)". This will increase the magnitude of IFAD support to Sudan to more than \$250 million. The source of this amount mainly emanates from, in addition to the IFAD regular budget and the government of Sudan's local contribution, the GEF, ASAP, EU and bilateral funds. We are hoping to start soon considering new projects in Sudan using the IFAD's newly established Private Sector window.

Finally, I would like to stress the evaluation recommendations, which are fundamentally in line with the political change that occurred in the country in 2019. IFAD would therefore expect (i) an improved performance in KM and M&E to pave the way for an optimal policy engagement; (ii) a stronger partnership building with development partners and non-state actors to consolidate project gains; (iii) a greater focus on institutional development and government engagement to foster scaling-up and sustainability; and (iv) greater attention to reducing food security and malnutrition.

Last but not least, I would like to thank 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, for their continuous support to the IFAD-financed activities in the country; and hope that we, together, will be able to take this cooperation to further horizons.

Thank you.