New focus and structure of the report

The 2020 ARRI introduces changes to the structure of the report and the analysis. It retains some features of past ARRIs, i.e. performance ratings of IFAD operations, and at the same time it offers insights into factors that enhance or constrain the development effectiveness of IFAD's operations and strategies.

Portfolio performance

The most recent performance of projects (ones completed in 2016-18) shows that the ratings for the majority of criteria lie in the moderately satisfactory or above zone.

The long-term performance of IFAD’s operations demonstrates four distinct patterns (see overleaf): (i) a flat or slightly declining trend (relevance, effectiveness and IFAD’s performance); (ii) a more pronounced declining trend (rural poverty impact, innovation, scaling up, gender equality and women’s empowerment, and government performance); (iii) an uptick in the most recent period (sustainability and efficiency); and (iv) a long-term positive trend (environment and natural resources management and adaptation to climate change). The long-term performance of non-lending activities has oscillated between periods of peaks and troughs.
The majority of ratings remain in the moderately satisfactory or above zone. However, the overall trend has been declining, albeit with some variations and exceptions.

The strategic focus of IFAD’s country programmes has adapted well to the changing context, but synergies between lending and non-lending need to be better exploited.

The performance of IFAD-supported projects can be linked to four areas at the time of design: (i) addressing the specific context; (ii) differentiated targeting strategies; (iii) partnerships for results; and (iv) learning from past experience.

Key implementation challenges relate to: (i) ensuring that targets in terms of time and quality are met; and (ii) adapting to changes in the social, political, natural and developmental landscape, especially in countries with fragile situations.

IFAD’s efforts related to gender and climate have important lessons to offer for mainstreaming youth and nutrition.

Moving forward, the ARRI calls for an examination of the recurring factors, and internal self-reflection and learning within different parts of IFAD to craft solutions contextualized to their own areas and situations. The findings will also assist IOE in identifying topics for other evaluation products.