

Concluding remarks for learning event on SRE of countries with fragile situations

Policy and operational perspectives by Nigel Brett, Director OPR – talking points

- This sub-regional evaluation provides valuable lessons to help IFAD sharpen its tools to work in fragility, not only in WCA but also in other regions.
- For IFAD12, the Fund devoted 35% of financing in fragile situations; 27% of overall ongoing programme is in fragile situations. Given this substantial share of investments in countries with fragile situations, it is key for us to make sure that we design and implement effective operations in these contexts. So far, performance in countries with fragile situations has been overall positive, thanks to the implementation of the IFAD strategy on fragility, robust risk assessments, direct involvement of governments, flexibility in design and implementation, and use of partnerships as a development driver. However we need to do more to address challenges, as also highlighted in this evaluation.
- Over the next months and under IFAD13, our intention is to gain an in-depth understanding of fragility and tackle the specificities in each context where we operate, as suggested by the evaluation. We aim at making our processes more "fit for purpose" through the necessary adaptability and flexibility within the project process.
- IFAD is preparing an approach paper on its Engagement in Countries with Fragile Situations, to be shared with Member States in April and submitted to the EB in May. Key points in the paper (which is still work in progress):
 - IFAD will work in fragile situations with a strict focus on its mandate to **build resilient rural livelihoods and institutions** (particularly local institutions), leveraging lessons learned about its comparative advantage and about what works best in fragile contexts, **without branching out into humanitarian work**.
 - Specific entry points will continue to be **gender equality** and women's empowerment, strengthening **local governance**, improving **food and nutrition security**, and sustainable **natural resource management and climate adaptation**. This is very much in line with the evaluation's findings.
 - Given what we have learned from the recent crises, we will also pay closer attention to how to **strengthen local markets** - particularly local food markets.
 - As suggested by the evaluation, **IFAD's specific offering will be increasingly tailored** to the specific local drivers and dimensions

of fragility. Wherever different factors of fragility - social, institutional, environmental, or other factors - intersect and reinforce each other, we will pursue solutions that build local resilience across these different factors (for instance, stronger or more inclusive local institutions and climate adaptation).

- Thank you, and back to you Chair.