

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation
National Workshop 06 June 2023

Reflections by Mawira Chitima, IFAD Country Director for Ethiopia on the future directions for the Ethiopia country strategy

Time slot: 5 minutes

Reflections on the CSPE and future direction for Ethiopia

1. Honorable State Ministers, Head of Agencies, ladies and gentlemen.
2. I would extend my appreciation to the IOE for the thorough and informative Country Strategy and Evaluation report. The findings will enhance our ongoing work in the preparation of a new country strategy.
3. I would also like to recognize the partnership that IFAD has had with the government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia over the last 40 years. The effectiveness of this partnership has been well reflected in the findings of the evaluation presented to us today.
4. I want to also recognize the strong partnership with have with other international financial institutions such as the World Bank, European Union, and European Investment Bank that co-finance the country programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. The demands for development finance in Ethiopia is still very big, requiring collaboration and partnerships among development partners. IFAD is committed to continue to extend its support to the people of Ethiopia, aligning to identify priority investment areas by the government in the 10-year development plan.
6. IFAD will continue to leverage its financing to development stakeholders such as the UN, other partners, and beneficiaries to promote innovations, shared visions of goals and approaches and to continuously improve delivery of the country programme for the benefit of the rural people.
7. The IFAD programming aims to mainstream gender transformation, youth empowerment, people living with disabilities.
8. Some brief reactions for the recommendations of the report we are discussing here today:
9. **The first recommendation** calls for the explicit inclusion of aspects of pro-poor value chain development in the next country's strategy. I am happy to say that we agree with this recommendation.
10. The country strategy, currently under preparation, will take a programmatic approach that seeks to:

- a. Enhance management of natural resources as the bedrock of resilient pro-poor value chain development.
 - b. Explicitly strengthen the productive capacity of food insecure woredas;
 - c. Develop pro-poor value chain development in food insecure woredas, once surplus production has been achieved.
 - d. Build farmer's cooperatives will be facilitated to link better with offtake markets and financial services.
 - e. Develop or scale-up innovative models for business-to-business linkages between cooperatives and other private sectors, learning from the on-going work in other parts of the country.
11. The **second recommendation**, to enhance resilience building, in remote fragile rural areas, by focusing on absorptive and adaptive capacities is timely and topical in Ethiopia. The need to strengthen food system to be more resilient to multiple shocks has never greater, after the persistent droughts that overlapped with the pandemic, locust outbreaks and floods.
12. IFAD will seek to leverage resources from other development partners in contributing to building resilient food systems through:
- a. Building early warning systems of impending shocks and disruptions to the production and or supply of food.
 - b. Enhancing the capacity of government and communities to be better prepared for the shocks before they happen, to reduce the impact of the shock. The work done by the Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Programme in preparing for increased pace of borehole drilling and fodder production ahead of a drought is exemplary.
 - c. Work with humanitarian partners to enhance early recovery of communities after a shock. Improving resource use efficiency, particularly for soil, water, forests/rangelands and energy. The work done by the government and FAO in facilitating food production at smallholder irrigation schemes, as soon as possible after conflict led to early recovery of communities from the impacts of the conflict.
 - d. Building strong local institutions that can make risk informed plans at woreda, regional and federal level.
 - e. Taking a landscape approach as an entry point for holistic investments in developing a rural green economy for sustainable growth.
13. **Recommendation 3** calls attention for IFAD and the Government of FDRE to consolidate and sustain results achieved in relation to financial inclusion by identifying innovative solutions in digital finance, customer protection and micro-insurance. The on-going work on the portfolio has initiated work on these three areas through the Rural Financial and Intermediation Project III. Technical assistance will be extended to

the financial sector to develop new products and models to deepen rural financial inclusion. Monitoring and evaluation systems will be digitized for ease of data collection and evaluation. In addition, monitoring and evaluation will seek to see how the rural finance programmes are impacting women. The RUFIP III project is developing ways to expand Islamic finance in all rural financial institutions they work with.

Ladies and gentlemen

14. Upscaling gender transformative mechanisms, as indicated in **recommendation 4**, is embed in the on-going work and in future country strategies. As we know, women and girls face the brunt of shocks and stresses experienced in the rural areas.
15. To improve Programme design and implementation effectiveness, monitoring and evaluation will focus on measuring:
 - a. How the gender transformation is happening and how it is contributing to the resilience of women to the various shocks they experience.
 - b. How women are reducing their workload from household and farm chores,
 - c. How women can build their assets, make decisions about them and enhance resilience against shocks.
 - d. How households are making decisions with regard to the nutrition of children to enhance their health.
16. **The fifth recommendation** puts emphasis Knowledge sharing within the country programme and with other partners working in the rural development sector in Ethiopia and beyond. We find it easy to agree to this recommendation as it is an area that government has put a lot of emphasis on, with a key interest for cross project/programmes learning, facilitating learning events through the Rural Economic Development and Food Security working group. The following activities will be undertaken:
 - a. Federal and Regional learning events will be organized, through workshops and prepared national learning routes to share lessons across various stakeholders. This has started happening with cross learning in gender transformation between the Ministry Agriculture (PASIDP II) and Development Bank of Ethiopia (RUFIP III). Field days have been organized by the government on the green legacy initiative and on the wheat programme. And a joint humanitarian country team and development partners field visit was undertaken in the Borena areas to share experiences on responses to the on-going drought
 - b. South-South and triangular technical cooperation will be facilitated to enhance learning with other countries, especially in innovative technologies. The visits will enhance linkages for skills development.
17. In conclusion, we welcome the findings of the CSPE report and its findings. The recommendations of this evaluation will enhance the quality of the new country's

programme strategy, under preparation, and any new investment in the coming period.

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19. Thank you all.