PRESENT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF IOE’S EVALUATION ACTIVITIES TO IFAD GOVERNING BODIES

FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TO LEARNING BY EXTRACTING FINDINGS AND LESSONS FROM EVALUATIONS

IT ANALYSES TIME SERIES OF RATINGS TO IDENTIFY PERFORMANCE TRENDS OF IFAD-SUPPORTED OPERATIONS AS PART OF ITS ACCOUNTABILITY FUNCTION

ANALYSIS:

RECENT PROJECT PERFORMANCE

71
Project-level evaluations completed 2019-2021

LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE TRENDS

288
Project-level evaluations completed 2012-2021

45
Country strategy and programme evaluations (CSPEs) conducted 2013-2022

2023
Corporate-level evaluation of IFAD’s decentralization experience

OVERVIEW OF KEY PERFORMANCE CRITERIA USING IOE RATINGS

PERCENTAGE OF PROJECTS RATED "MODERATELY SATISFACTORY OR BETTER" (2019-2021)

PERFORMANCE OF RATING TRENDS 2012-2021

Increasing:
- relevance; sustainability; environment and natural resource management (ENRM); climate change adaptation (CCA).

Overall constant:
- innovation; overall project achievement.

Declining:
- efficiency; effectiveness; rural poverty impact; gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE); scaling up; government performance; IFAD performance.

Performance of non-lending activities (knowledge management, partnership-building, country-level policy engagement): improved since 2018, but with considerable room for improvement.
In line with past ARIE’s observations, the majority of recently completed projects (2019-2021) were performing well, with a rating of moderately satisfactory or better.

Efficiency continued to be the lowest performing area, while relevance, ENRM, CCA and innovation were again the top performers, similarly to 2022 ARIE’s findings.

A cause for concern was the decline in the performance of rural poverty impact and effectiveness since 2018, particularly in projects operating under conditions of fragility and conflict. This deterioration calls for further analysis.

Rural enterprise development was successful when:
- enterprises had well defined target groups;
- intervention strategies and financial & non-financial instruments were aligned with beneficiary enterprise needs and capacities;
- it was linked to agricultural value chains, market opportunities and clear analysis of opportunities and risks for enterprises;
- it focused on a specific theme, contributing to demonstrate effective enterprise support and facilitating the testing of enterprise development strategy to adaptively improve it.

IFAD could have better leveraged the expertise of relevant ministries linked to enterprise development, agriculture commercialization and trade promotion.

Extension and advisory services:
- were successful when they involved integrated approaches (agricultural production, NRM, non-agricultural marketing, etc.);
- were demand-driven and inclusive when they involved community-driven approaches, complemented by support to strengthen the capacities of benefiting organizations as well as facilitators, and the adoption of training-of-trainers;
- continue to be inadequately financed and resourced in many countries. Strengthening government reforms is critical to have successful examples of lasting, alternative and innovative extension and advisory service models.

Institutional efficiency
Recent gains in IFAD’s institutional efficiency have been observed. However, the sustained reduction of resources allocated to IFAD’s core client services during 2017-2022, along with other organizational changes, may have adversely affected the fit-for-purpose nature of IFAD’s presence in client countries, warranting closer scrutiny of the long-term implications.