**UNEG EPE 206**

**No one left behind: equity, equality and non-discrimination.**

The commitments to "leave no one behind" has been a priority in IFAD and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE).

Three examples of how IOE has contributed to this objective through evaluations in relation to the gender equity, and in relation to IFAD's engagement with two particular target groups among the poorest, most vulnerable and most disadvantaged populations in developing countries (indigenous peoples and pastoralists).

Highly influential evaluations; brought attention of the organization, to lessons, opportunities and challenges in these areas and made important recommendations to improve IFAD effectiveness in promoting gender equality and engaging with IPs and pastoralists.

1. **GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

IFAD undertook a -**Corporate Level Evaluation** on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment in IFAD in 2010 ( this is a type of evaluation that cuts across individual operations to cover corporate policies, strategies, business processes and organizational aspects)

The evaluation aimed at:

Assessing the relevance of IFAD’s corporate strategy about gender equality and women’s empowerment and how effectively has it been reflected in country strategies and projects

Assessing results achieved on the ground in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment

Generating a series of findings and recommendations for IFAD’s future activities related to gender equality and women’s empowerment

Main findings/ conclusions

* IFAD’s corporate strategy on paper was broadly relevant and consistent- though fragmented across several documents (which resulted in some strategic gaps)
* The strategic guidance was limited only to operational areas and did not cover corporate business processes (human resources, results framework, budget, knowledge management, governance), essential to ensure mainstreaming and effective implementation of the strategy effective

Recommendations-

* Develop a corporate policy
* More actively report and monitor progress
* Assess gender equality and women’s empowerment systematically in evaluations

Two major actions as consequence of this recommendations were:

**First**, A corporate policy on gender equality and women's empowerment was presented to, and approved by the EB in April 2012.

**Second**. The assessment of gender strategy was strengthened in evaluations by: i) IOE developed specific indicators and key questions for asseing gender equality; ii) Gender was introduced as an additional criterion in the Evaluation Manual (under “other performance criteria”, alongside sustainability, and innovation/scaling up); iii) each evaluation report would include a dedicated section, where a consolidated rating and lessons on gender can be presented – aimed at providing an overall account of performance and understand the proximate causes of such perfromance

**Gender Questions**

1. What is the **relevance** of design in terms of gender equality and women’s

empowerment? Is there a results results-framework in strategies and

projects to assess whether IFAD’s corporate objectives on gender are adequately

integrated therein.

2. How **effective** have projects being in promoting gender equality and women’s

empowerment?

3. Were gender dimensions adequately included in the project’s **annual work plans** and budgets?

4. What was the **impact** of the project in terms of promoting gender equality and

women’s empowerment? (Among other issues, this would include assessing

whether: there are changes to household members including women’s workload,

women’s health, skills, income and nutritional levels; women have greater

influence in decision-making; women have been empowered to gain better access

to resources and assets; there are changes in gender relations within the

households and communities in the project area; etc.

Overall, this can be considered a success story of mainstreaming gender in the culture of the organization, catalysed by a timely, comprehensive and highly influential evaluation. There is no room for complacency and still a long way to go, but efforts on promoting gender equality and women's empowerments are moving in the right direction and evaluation is contribution to it

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***IOE's experience with two other evaluation products EVALAUTION SYNTHESIS focused on two specific target groups.***

1. **IFADs ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**
2. **FAO & IFADS ENGAGEMENT ON PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT**

EVALAUTION SYNTHESIS is a recent evaluation product added to IOEs catalogue in order to further strengthen the use of evaluation findings

Their main objective is learning and feedback loop- ultimately improving effectiveness by feeding into corporate or strategic processes

ES take stock of findings from previous IOE evaluations on the subject

1. **IFADs ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, conducted in 2014**

The Synthesis started first by estimating the level of effort- investment in support of IPs. It found that in the last ten years between 20 and 40% of projects approved in a single year had included IPs among expected beneficiaries, and it was estimated that 14% of total IFAD investment over 10 years was went to support , close to USD 1 billion invested in last 10 years.

This is a significant amount invested, what have we learned?

The ES looked at (among other issues)

* Level of Participation of IPs in strategy and projects development
* Empowerment of IPs, and
* IFAD's Contribution to policy engagement and advocacy on IPs issues

It found strong and weak areas:

**Strengths**

* IFADs policy on indigenous peoples (2009) was in line with UN Declaration on rights of Indigenous peoples(strong alignment with international standards).
* That there was a substantial contribution to international processes and Advocacy (indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, the support to the Indigenous Peoples Forum)
* Some notable achievements in relation to empowerment, institutions and policies

**Weaknesses.**

Need for more tailored approaches (better understanding of distinct cultures, social, economic and governance systems, and values)

* Weak monitoring and limited disaggregated data
* lack of clarity on how to operationalize the **principle of free, prior and informed consent** , and essential right of [local communities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_communities), particularly [indigenous peoples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples), to [participate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participation_(decision_making)) in [decision making](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decision_making) about issues affecting them

**Conclusion:**

IFAD is in a **unique position to support indigenous peoples'** social and economic empowerment because of: Its size and nature of projects ; IFADs mandate ; recognition as trusted partner. The ES acknowledged achievements made and underlined IFAD's potential and responsibility to do more. It also identified areas for improvement such as :

* Revisit strategies and objectives of IPAF (Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility)
* Greater attention to implementation- ensuring effective participation
* Better guidance on how to operationalize the Free prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principle
* Enhance staff understanding of IP issues
* Strengthen Knowledge management

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1. **EVALUATION SYNTHESIS ON FAO & IFADS ENGAGEMENT ON PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT**

A third important contribution of evaluation to ensuring equity, equality an non-discrimination was through the FAO and IFAD JOINT EVALUATION SYNTHESIS ON FAO & IFADS ENGAGEMENT ON PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

**Background**

* Pastoralists are **amongst the poorest and most vulnerable populations** in developing countries. Most of the pastoralists live in Africa and Asia, and some in Latin America
* It is important to understand Pastoral development and livestock development are **two different concepts**; Pastoralism IS an animal production system which takes advantage of the characteristic instability of rangeland environments
* The Specific number of pastoralist is unknown, but it is estimated to be **more than 100 million worldwide.**
* It is also important to keep in mind that a new understanding of pastoralism emerged 20 years ago, from what it was considered as "irrational way of life" to a of adaptation to of an environment dominated by variability (mobility as a preferred strategy to increase productivity

Scale of engagement, not negligible (In IFAD: 31 projects, (380 million) in 10 years between 2003 and 2013, equivalent to 11% of IFAD investment ; and in FAO 163 Pastoral oriented activities (380 million), equivalent to 5% of FAOs investment

Overall findings of the ES :

* First of all, pastoral development is relevant to both IFAD’s and FAO’s mandate of promoting food and nutrition security, and improved to livelihoods. **Pastoral systems produce substantial wealth at low opportunity cost**,
* However**, neither FAD nor FAO has a policy on engagement**
* AND There has been and still there is lack of clarity between pastoral development and livestock development, and limited understanding of pastoral systems,
* Lack of well thought risk management strategy distinguishing risk reduction and risk management as mobility involves taking and managing high levels of risk
* **Advocacy is particularly important** to correct misleading assumptions about pastoral systems that remain entrenched in many government policies (e.g meat inspection and control acts)
* There are **opportunities to strengthen knowledge management**

**The ES recommended :**

* **Develop a policy of engagement** in pastoral development. Ensure a coherence conceptual framework and systematic direction
* **Build and adapt capacity in IFAD and FAO for systemic engagement** in pastoral development
* **Prepare a risk management and resilience strategy** for every pastoral programme (risk management rather than avoidance of risk).
* **Support advocacy** by pastoralists and on behalf of pastoralists and people whose livelihoods depend on pastoral systems