

IFAD at a glance

40 YEARS
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What is IFAD?

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) works where poverty and hunger are deepest: in remote regions of developing countries and fragile situations, where few aid agencies or international financial institutions (IFIs) venture.

IFAD acts as a catalyst for increasing public and private investments in agriculture and the development of rural enterprises. Our work reduces poverty and hunger and increases the resilience of rural people.

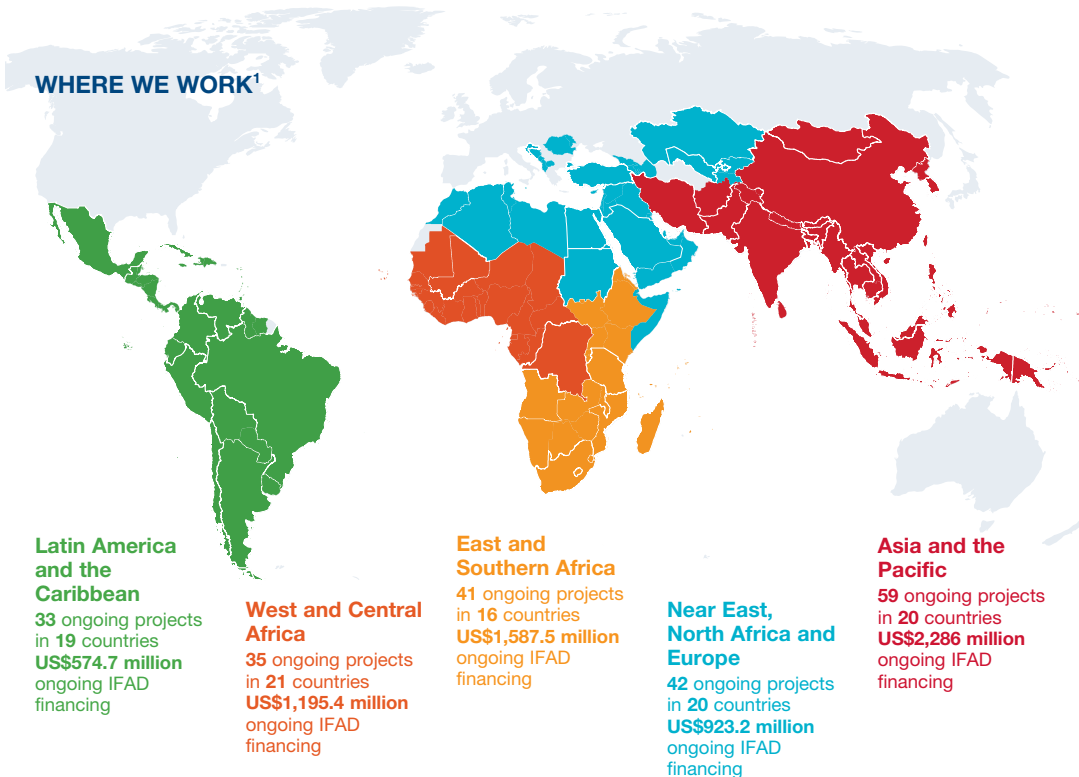
IFAD is the world's second largest multilateral investor in food and nutrition security, and is one of the top multilateral institutions working in agriculture in Africa.

IFAD places poor rural women and men at the centre of its activities and investments and involves them as participants in design and implementation.

IFAD's model

IFAD provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries. It also mobilizes cofinancing from Member States, developing countries and project participants themselves.

To date, we have contributed US\$19.7 billion in loans and grants and mobilized an additional US\$27.1 billion in cofinancing and domestic sources. In 2017, around half of approved funds went to Africa and 35 per cent was designated for countries with fragile situations.



¹ As of 31 December 2017.

Research shows that IFAD's investments reduce poverty by 5.6-9.9 per cent (compared with 3-7 per cent for cash transfer programmes).

How do we achieve results?

Transforming agriculture and rural communities

Around 2.5 billion people depend on small farms. IFAD-supported projects connect small-scale producers to markets and services so they can grow more and earn more.

Results reported in 2017 include:

2.5 million people trained in crop production practices and technologies

3 million hectares of common-property-resource land under improved management

14,000 kilometres of roads constructed or repaired

91,000 microenterprises gained access to business promotion services

1.9 million people trained in community management

50 per cent of people receiving services from IFAD-supported projects were women

Climate and environment

Smallholder farmers and other rural people bear the brunt of climate change. Rising sea levels and more intense droughts, storms and floods are putting pressure on the ecosystems farmers depend on. IFAD promotes food production that is environmentally sustainable. We are mainstreaming climate and environment across our portfolio. IFAD created the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) and is the world's largest channel for smallholder agriculture adaptation resources.

Finance and markets

Financial services are essential for growth and resilience. But these services rarely

reach rural communities where the world's poorest people live. IFAD is one of the largest lenders supporting inclusive rural financial services and access to innovative technologies, insurance and markets.

Results reported in 2017 include:

16.1 million voluntary savers;
61 per cent were women

7.7 million active borrowers from IFAD-assisted microfinance institutions;
65 per cent were women

13 per cent of IFAD's portfolio is dedicated to rural finance

Women and nutrition

Women are major contributors to agriculture and rural economies, yet they are among the most marginalized members of rural societies – too often lacking direct access to assets, or authority in their homes, organizations and communities. We help rural women achieve greater equality with men and more control over their lives and assets.

Empowering women also helps reduce chronic child malnutrition. Women are more likely than men to spend their earnings on food and education. IFAD is increasing its efforts to improve the diets and nutritional status of poor rural people through education and nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Working with young people

There are around 1.2 billion young people in the world. Most live in rural areas. They are two to three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and more likely to be poor. Rural areas need to offer decent employment opportunities for young people so that they are not forced to migrate in search of work.

IFAD's participatory approach and extensive in-country experience give the Fund a comparative advantage in working with vulnerable populations, especially in remote rural areas and fragile situations.

Building institutions

We work to strengthen national and local institutional capacity to improve the design, delivery and impact of development projects. IFAD is also increasing its presence on the ground to build stronger partnerships that deliver greater results.

The projects we finance reinforce and amplify national policies. We work closely with finance and agriculture ministries to ensure that their support extends to smallholder farmers, and public spending reaches the poorest people.

A unique mandate

IFAD is the international community's most direct conduit for channelling investment to smallholder family farmers and financing rural development.

Created in 1977, IFAD is an innovative partnership between members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other developing countries. Today, 176 countries are IFAD Member States.

Through partnership, we spur greater investment in rural development and broker mutually beneficial relationships between the diverse parties working in development and poor rural people themselves. We work closely with other United Nations agencies, especially those based at the United Nations' food and agriculture hub in Rome. We also partner with the private sector, agricultural research centres, NGOs, and civil society organizations – particularly those representing smallholder farmers and rural people.

IFAD brings the perspective of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs to bear on international policy deliberations. We also help them build their capacity to participate in and influence policy processes.



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