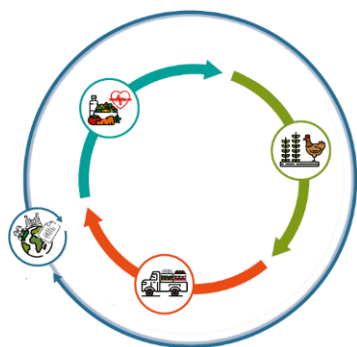


International Fund for Agricultural Development



Region

Global; Rural Areas

Target Groups

Farmers, public sector organisations, private sector partners

Budget

SDC: 47'000'000 CHF

Total: 1'550'000'000 CHF

Financing Type

Core Contribution

Duration

Phase 13: 2022-2024

Contact

Food Systems Section
 gpfs@eda.admin.ch

IFAD aims at transforming rural economies and food systems by making them more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable. During 2022-2024, IFAD plans to lift 68 million poor rural women and men out of hunger and poverty, en route to doubling its impact by 2030. IFAD is one of the 15 priority multilateral organizations of the Swiss international cooperation and shares its priorities of leaving no one behind; addressing issues of climate change, nutrition, gender and youth; and engaging more with the private sector and promoting innovation.

Mandate

IFAD is the only multilateral organization with a universal mandate focused on reducing poverty and food insecurity in rural areas through agricultural development. It seeks to enable poor women and men in rural areas to improve their food security and nutrition, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience to climate change. As a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) and international finance institution, IFAD has a dual mandate: it provides grants and loans on favorable terms to developing countries, as well as to middle-income countries affected by wide-spread rural poverty, while also engaging in policy processes at both global and national levels.

Its grants and loan-financed programmes seek to improve access to financial services, markets, technology, land and natural resources. They are implemented by national authorities, while IFAD supervises their implementation and provides advisory services on both technical and policy matters. IFAD also provides expertise in the agricultural sector and supports innovation to help small-scale agriculture become more market-oriented, sustainable and climate resilient, and benefit from functioning agricultural value-chains.

IFAD has 178 Member States, and counting. More countries join because of IFAD's unique role and value proposition as a development partner that is both a UN agency and an International Financial Institution, focused exclusively on reducing rural poverty and hunger. A unique feature of IFAD is that while only developing Member States are eligible for IFAD's support, all Member States can contribute — and most do.

On average over 100 countries contribute to each replenishment of the Fund, which takes place every three years. Contributions range from just a few thousand dollars from the smallest and poorest Member States to tens of millions from others, including both traditional and emerging donors.

Medium-Term Objectives

With its focus on promoting rural transformation and empowering extremely poor and food-insecure rural people, IFAD focusses on contributions to SDGs 1 (eradicate extreme poverty), 2 (end food insecurity), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and inclusive economic growth) and 10 (reducing inequalities), 13 (climate), 14 + 15 (natural resources) and 17 (effective partnerships). To achieve an inclusive and sustainable rural transformation, IFAD focuses on the following areas:

- Increased social, human and financial capital of poor rural people;
- Strengthened institutions of and for poor rural people;
- Enhanced productivity, profitability, resilience, and diversification of poor rural people's economic activities;
- Greater, and more gainful participation of poor rural people in rural, national or international economies;
- Sufficient and affordable nutritious food and other agricultural products for a growing population; and
- Enhanced environmental goods and services.

Institution

Head of Organisation:

President: Alvaro Lario (Spain)

Headquarters: Rome

Members: 178 States

Number of effective programmes: 207 (2021)

Established in: 1977

Board:

The Governing Council is the highest decision-making body and comprises all member states. The Executive Board consisting of 18 members and 18 alternate members is the operational and administrative decision-making body.

Strategic Coherence

IFAD’s mission to transform rural economies and food systems is reflected in the organization’s approach to reach the most remote areas and support millions of rural people in increasing their productivity and incomes, accessing markets, finding jobs and building resilience to climate and other shocks. These objectives and areas of work are all central to the mandate of the Swiss development cooperation and are well aligned with the four main objectives of Switzerland’s International Cooperation Strategy 2021-2024. In addition, IFAD12’s specific foci on increasing the engagement with the private sector and promoting innovation (including digitalization) resonate well with specific priorities of Switzerland’s International Cooperation Strategy 2021-2024.

In order to strengthen the collaboration with the private sector, Switzerland supported the expansion of the 4P (public-private-producers-partnerships) approach. In 2021, eleven new projects had a full-fledged 4P approach, which corresponds to 58% of all new value chain projects, and 44% of all new projects. Due to Swiss advocacy, these projects consider the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land (VGGT) and the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI), the development of which Switzerland assisted in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

In support of IFAD’s work in fragile context, Switzerland advocated for the strengthening of Conflict sensitive programme management (CSPM) knowledge and the mainstreaming in IFAD operations. The Implementation of the IFAD strategy on fragility throughout IFAD11 has raised awareness and equipped country teams with the necessary skillsets to develop more fragility-sensitive and realistic programming. This has resulted in higher ratings for programme effectiveness.

Switzerland and IFAD

Switzerland has been an IFAD member since 1977 and has contributed nearly USD 356m to the institution. It has also provided significant supplementary funding that contributed to improving IFAD’s development effectiveness and addressing particular challenges.

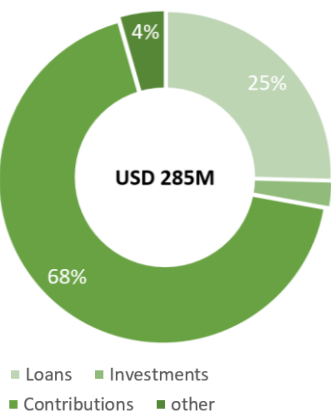
Further, Switzerland is a member of the Executive Board representing the constituency composed with Germany, Luxembourg and Russia. While Germany holds the constituency member seat, Switzerland has been the alternate member on a rotating basis with Luxembourg. Switzerland is also a member of the Audit and Evaluation Committee in 2023. Thanks to a 22 year long partnership of SDC with the Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), Switzerland’s contribution to the improvement of the whole evaluation system of IFAD is well recognized.

Switzerland’s Medium-Term Objectives

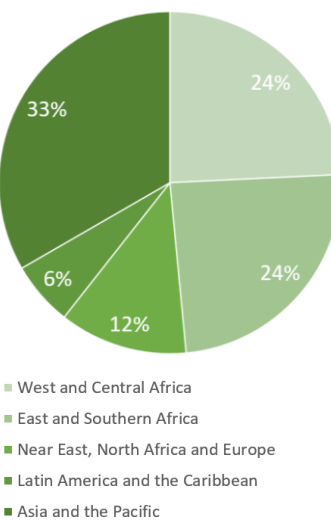
As a member of and contributor to IFAD, Switzerland focuses in particular on the following issues in IFAD12:

- The IFAD portfolio reflects and takes the post-Covid agricultural and economic realities well into account.
- IFAD operationalizes its new financial architecture, i.e. the new borrowing framework and graduation policy is linked to financial sustainability, and initiates programmes and projects entirely in that logic.
- IFAD substantially enhances its engagement with the private sector and leverages the Swiss contribution to the Private Sector Financing Programme for additional private sector investments in IFAD’s portfolio.
- IFAD includes agroecology – including nutrition and gender – in its new projects and is ready to give it bespoke programmatic discussion and application.

Revenues (2021)



Expenditure by Region (2021)



Results of Swiss cooperation with IFAD

During IFAD11, the Fund delivered its highest-ever Programme of loans and grants, worth US\$3.46 billion, or 99% of its Results Management Framework target of US\$3.5 billion. This translated into 78 investment projects, including two regional lending operations, across 74 countries, and 71 grants. The average project size was US\$38.3 million, slightly below the RMF11 target of US\$40 million but well above the 2016 baseline value of US\$28.6 million.

Additional information:

