

# Opening Remarks at IFAD Innovation Talk no. 7 on “Countdown to the SDGs: Employing Results, Evidence and Targeted Investments”.

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**As Prepared for Delivery**

*Estimated delivery time: 5 minutes*

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Thank you for the introduction.

Distinguished guests, on behalf of IFAD it is a pleasure to welcome you again to IFAD’s Innovation Talks.

Today, we reflect on how tracking results and targeted impact investing can drive efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs.

Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2016, great strides have been made towards their achievement; but many goals have remained off track or have even reversed due to climate change, conflicts and COVID-19.

A few statistics reveal the renewed challenges that we face – take hunger and access to nutritious food: in 2020 alone, between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger, which accounts for about 161 million more people than in 2019. In 2020, 2.4 billion people did not have access to sufficient nutritious food – an increase of nearly 320 million people in just one year.

And what about gender equality during the pandemic?

Women make up 39 percent of global employment but have accounted for 54 percent of overall job losses, partially due to the increased burden on women of unpaid care. Gender discrimination has also been exacerbated with women and girls' access to health care and education being reduced.

Yet despite these bleak figures, we have been inspired by global movements demanding us to do more for humanity and our planet.

Unfortunately, good intentions are not enough.

We need to ensure that our decision-making, actions and investments are actively contributing towards human development, and economic growth in a responsible, environmentally friendly manner. For this to happen, we need to accurately monitor and analyse the performance of our interventions, and we need to enhance the quality and availability of data to help us track progress and increase accountability.

At IFAD, we rely on two main instruments to report on our development effectiveness. The annual Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness or RIDE; and the Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations or ARRI.

The RIDE tracks IFAD's performance against the indicators and targets set out in the Results Management Framework for each replenishment cycle – for example on the percentage of women reporting improved quality of their diets, or the effectiveness of IFAD country strategies. The main objective of this report is to strengthen accountability and learning as well as identifying systematic issues that need attention.

ARRI is issued by IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation and examines IFAD's overall programme performance each year. The ARRI is IFAD's principal external accountability tool and allows us to monitor the effectiveness of our work.

Today, I am looking forward to listening to the interventions by our panellists and the closing remarks by Máximo Torero, Chief Economist at FAO on ways that IFAD and other development organizations can improve our performance and reporting in the lead up to 2030.

I would also like to invite you to join IFAD at COP26 where we are hosting a pavilion. We will be emphasising the key role of small-scale producers in climate change adaptation and mitigation and in creating resilient food systems. Among other events, IFAD's Change, Delivery and Innovation Unit will host a ShareFair on how geospatial and remote sensing tools can help IFAD and its partners decide on where adaptation investments are best needed and what impact these interventions will have.

Before giving back the floor to Gladys, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to recognise the great work of Lauren Phillips during the time that she has been with us at IFAD and would like to wish her the best in her new professional endeavours.

I'd like to thank all of you for joining us today and wish you a successful and enriching event.