



Investing in rural people
Investir dans les populations rurales
Invertir en la población rural
الاستثمار في السكان الريفيين

Check against delivery

**First session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth
International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)**

Statement By

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Delivered by

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Thank you (Madam/Mister Chair) for giving me the floor.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

1. Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), for their work and commend UN-DESA for laying the groundwork for this pivotal conference, which will take place next year in Spain.
2. Yesterday, the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report was launched by FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF and WHO, and this year's edition is particularly relevant to our meeting as it focuses on financing for food security and nutrition and mobilizing innovative ways of financing the gap.
3. The findings in this year's report show that hunger remains at unacceptable high levels. Up to 757 million people (or one in eleven people) are undernourished. And more than 2.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. We are very far from where we want to be in our efforts to achieve the SDGs and a world without hunger.
4. We are seeing progress particularly in Latin America, but there is a lot more work to be done in West and Central Africa. And we are continuing to close the gender gap on food insecurity: little by little, year by year. This incremental progress shows what is possible when we make smart and tailored investments where they are needed most. But we need to scale up - and fast.
5. However, we must move from measuring the gaps to filling them. We need more financing and immediate action. It is well established that agricultural growth is at least twice to three times as effective in reducing poverty compared to growth in other sectors.

Colleagues,

6. We have just six years to reach our global targets of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2030. This means intensifying our actions and investments, focusing particularly where poverty and hunger are most concentrated – in rural areas of developing countries.

7. Rural transformation is the key and required to achieve these agendas and the SDGs by 2030, especially for low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable futures, and it must be prioritized.
8. We recognize that the global financing architecture is highly fragmented and in need of reform. This week we heard that the debt crisis is forcing too many countries to prioritise repayments over basic needs and infrastructure.
9. We must also bridge the technological and digital divide to ensure that advancements are put at the service of everyone, everywhere. Progress in technology should help us eliminate poverty, hunger, and inequality, rather than exacerbating them. This means developing and deploying context-appropriate technologies and knowledge that can enhance agricultural productivity, improve access to finance and markets, and foster sustainable practices. Innovation should be tailored to the needs of those who need them, leveraging both traditional knowledge and cutting-edge developments.
10. The FfD4 next year marks a pivotal moment to leave no one behind and support the reform of the international financial architecture. To safeguard our progress, we must invest in building resilience against future shocks. This involves investing in enhancing the adaptive capacity of small-holder farmers and rural communities crucial for maintaining food security and reducing poverty in the long term.

Colleagues,

11. Our mandate is very clear from the IFAD side to tackle poverty and food insecurity, investing in rural people, and investing in bringing decent jobs, nutritious food, and human dignity to all of those millions of people that are poor and hungry in the developed areas.
12. By mobilizing and scaling up diverse sources of finance, the Fund will continue to strengthen small-scale farmers and vulnerable communities in collaboration with UN partners and other stakeholders, while supporting countries in implementing methodologies to track Food Systems Financing (3FS).
13. At IFAD, we are producing the Rural Development Report 2025 that will focus on financing for rural transformation specifically looking at the type of investment and policy that would make a change and catalyse efforts. The RDR will contribute to the FfD4 by

providing insights on financing contributions and potential gaps for rural transformation.

14. IFAD is fully committed to the FfD process and the preparation of the Conference as a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on FfD and the Fund stands ready to support Member States, and partners, on the road ahead to FfD4, and turning commitments into impactful actions to accelerate progress toward sustainable development.

Thank you