

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



Eval4Earth
Webinar,
23 Feb 2026

IFAD's Support to Resilience Building in Small Islands Developing States: Key Evaluation Findings and Lessons

By Kouessi Maximin Kodjo and Massiel Jimenez

SIDS Contexts

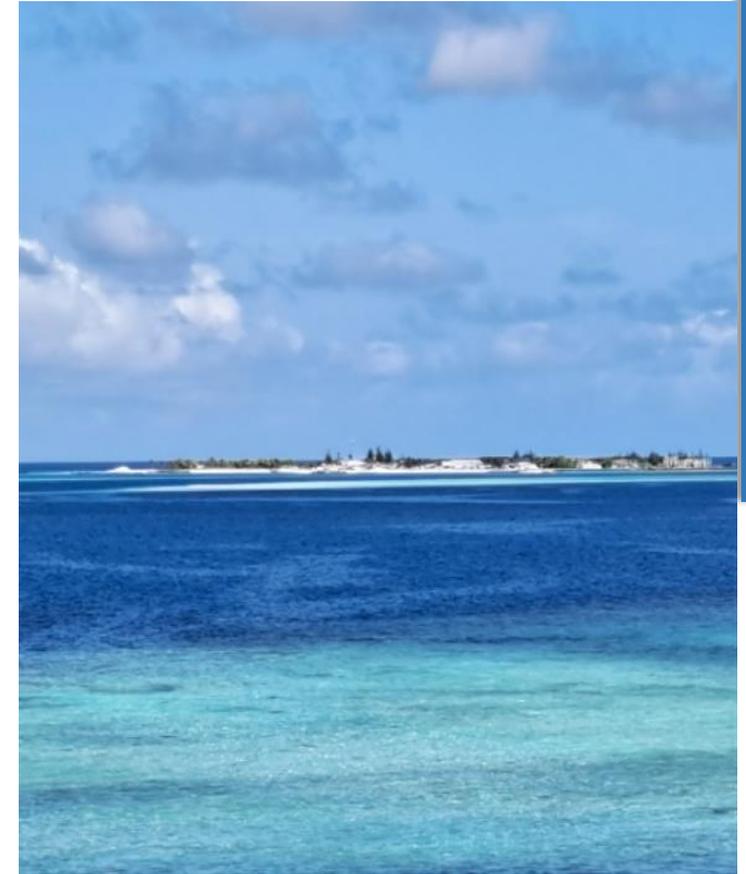
- **Highly diverse geographies: APR, ESA, LAC, WCA**
- **Multi dimensional vulnerabilities**
- **Institutional fragility**

IFAD's engagement architecture

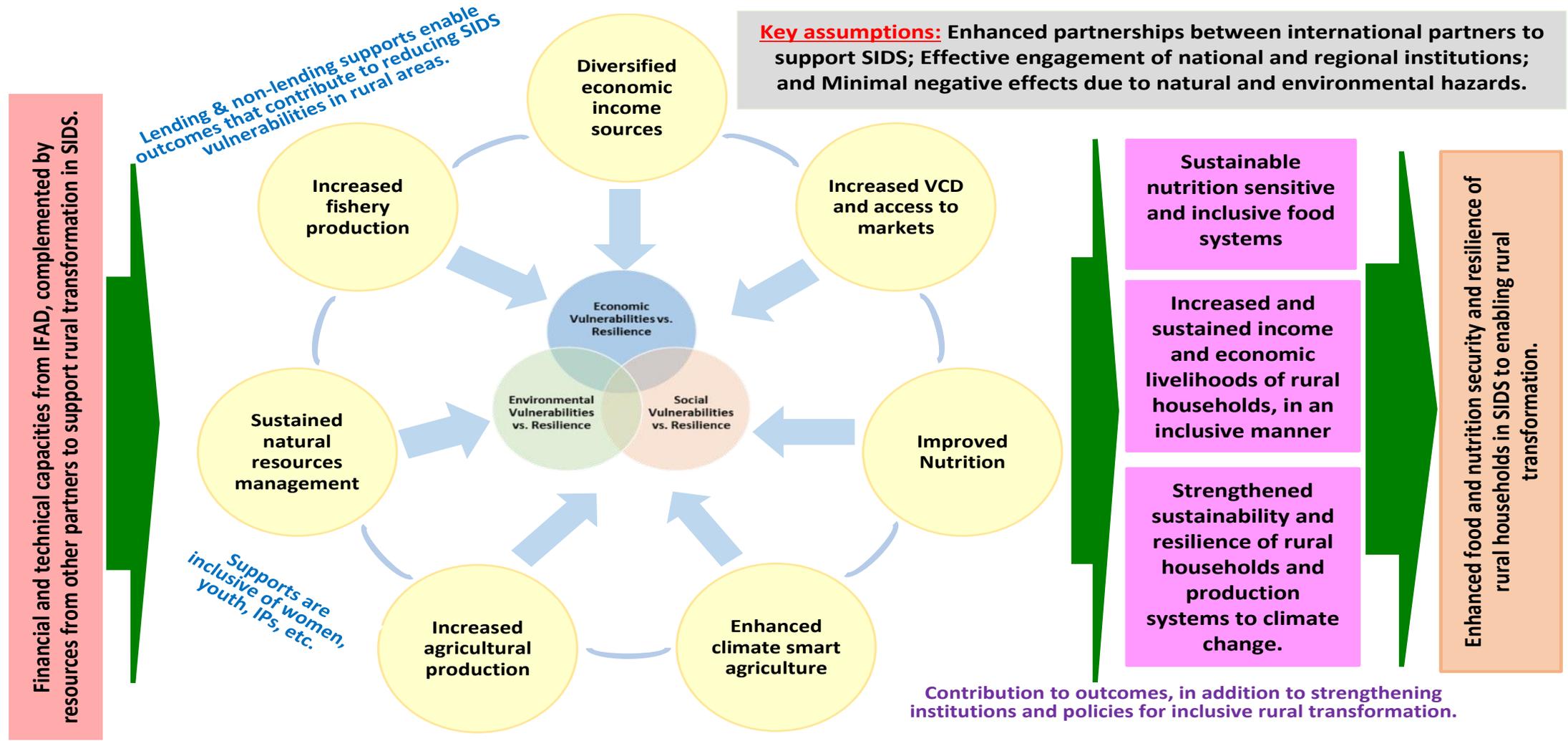
- **Two global strategies (2014, 2025) and 18 SIDS country strategies**
- **30 loans supported projects + grants financed program**
- **Non-lending engagement**

Theory-based analytical framework

- **Unpack the complexity considering all those points**
- **Provided a framework to engage with key stakeholders**



Theory-based analytical framework



Key challenges: Smallholder farmers in SIDS are affected by limited economic opportunities, and environmental and vulnerability challenges, which constrain their ability to achieve food and nutrition security, and resilient livelihoods. Women, youths, and other marginalised groups are furthermore affected by vulnerability issues.

Mixed-methods approach

- In depth desk review and analysis
- Virtual interviews complemented
- Cases studies missions in 6 SIDS
- Online stakeholders' survey

Challenges

- Limited M&E data availability
- Limited availability of technical expertise
- High travel costs
- Weather disruption
- Complexity to reach outer islands



Economic vulnerability

What Worked

In **Tonga, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe**, rural infrastructure, transportation means and processing improved market access and value addition.

What Limited Impact

Papua New Guinea, Productivity increased — market access remained below target- physical isolation;

In **Comoros**, limited animal genetic diversity constrained productivity



Social vulnerability

What Worked

In **Belize** and **Grenada**, outreach to Indigenous communities and youth engagement in fisheries strengthened social inclusion

What Limited Impact

In **Guinea-Bissau**, **Comoros**, **Haiti** and **Grenada**, participation and youth training did not translate into sustained income gains.



Environmental Vulnerability

What Worked

Grenada, Kiribati, Maldives:
Water harvesting structures
linked to small scale irrigation
systems

What Limited Impact

In **Maldives** and **Grenada**,
marine resource management
support remained limited in scale
and sustainability.



Climate Vulnerability

What Worked

In **Seychelles and Maldives**, protected agriculture (shade houses, hydroponics), improved climate-resilient vegetable production

What Limited Impact

In **Cabo Verde and Comoros**, weak seed systems and disaster risk management integration constrained adaptation



Financing models

- **IFAD financing is catalytic but Insufficient in magnitude**
- **Good mobilization of supplementary resources**
- **Institutional fragility and capacities constrained results**

Implementation models

- **Operational processes often ill-suited to SIDS contexts**
- **Implementation delays reduce effectiveness**
- **Procurement challenges – hindering performance**



Factoring structural SIDS constraints in designing operations



- Internalize SIDS structural constraints, with institutional fragility and climate change burden
- Applying multidimensional vulnerability analysis to develop SIDS resilience building strategies
- Need to tailor operational approaches aligned with each specific SIDS

Multiple financing and non financing models are critical



- Leveraging partnerships with all relevant stakeholders from the design
- Blended and co-financing are critical, but leveraging grant financing is key
- Non-lending supports are not only complementary, but fundamental

Thank you for your attention

