IOE | IFAD Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation

# Geospatial tools for evaluation



**Eval for Earth Webinar**

**14 Oct 2026**

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# Overview

- IOE background
- IOE journey in using geospatial tools for evaluation
- Key lessons
- Way forward

# Background to IOE

- Fully independent evaluation function – conducts assessments of operations and strategies to improve IFAD performance
- 43 evaluation products completed in 2025 (3 corporate, 1 sub regional, 17 country, 10 project level, 12 validations)
- Recommendation tracking system – operated by IFAD management with IOE oversight
- Guided by Evaluation Manual and assigning project performance ratings on 11 evaluation criteria.



# IOE's geospatial journey

## 2017-2020: early exploration

ICT4Eval conference hosted by IOE

Book publication by IOE staff on ICT4Eval

## 2020-2022: capacity building and knowledge sharing

Internal seminars, knowledge sessions provided to IOE staff

## 2023: proof of concept

IOE internal stocktakes collect examples, identify success factors and provide guidance

## 2024-2026: IOE expansion and systematic monitoring of GIS use

Launch of internal tracking of GIS use in evaluations

## 2027+ aiming for standardization and institutionalization

# Recent figures on GIS in IOE




Out of 36 recent evaluations, almost all (35) all have considered the use of GIS at the approach paper stage (evaluability)

GIS has been used in about half evaluations (49%). More in country-level evaluations than project level (59% of CSPEs vs 33% of PPEs)

Among the reasons for not using GIS, the most prominent was lack of georeferenced data (78%), followed by lack of spatial results (17%) and lack of budget (6%)

When used GIS has informed multiple evaluation criteria, including relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability



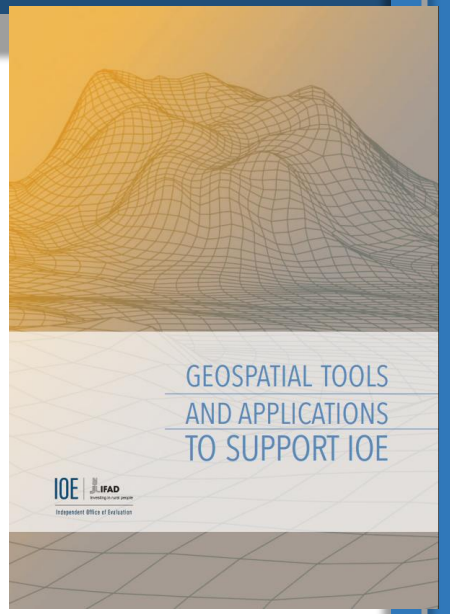
# Key lessons

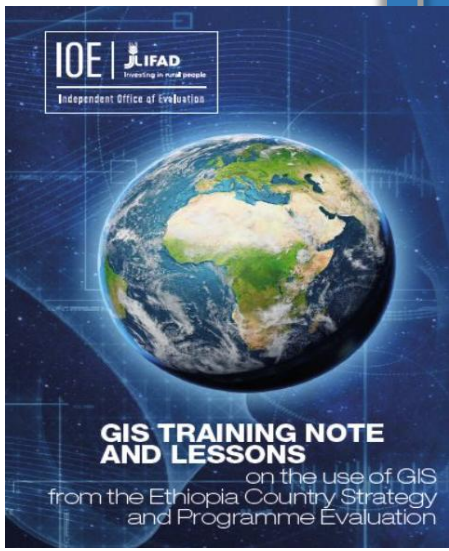
1. Valuable tool to expand evaluative evidence and strengthen findings when results have a spatial dimension

2. In order to add value GIS needs to be complemented by ground-truthing and triangulated with other evaluation methods

3. GIS provides findings on several evaluation criteria (e.g. relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability) as well as verification and visualization

4. Major constraints are georeferencing of project data and to a lesser extent evaluation budgets



# Way forward

1. Continuous internal reflection, experimentation and external engagement

2. Engagement with IFAD management, contributing IOE experiences in forming IFAD's geospatial strategy

3. Exploration of 'geo-AI' applications with IOE's Artificial Intelligence (AI) group