



Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

Independent Office of Evaluation

## New evaluation products just released

### Project performance assessments in Moldova and The Philippines

## Moldova

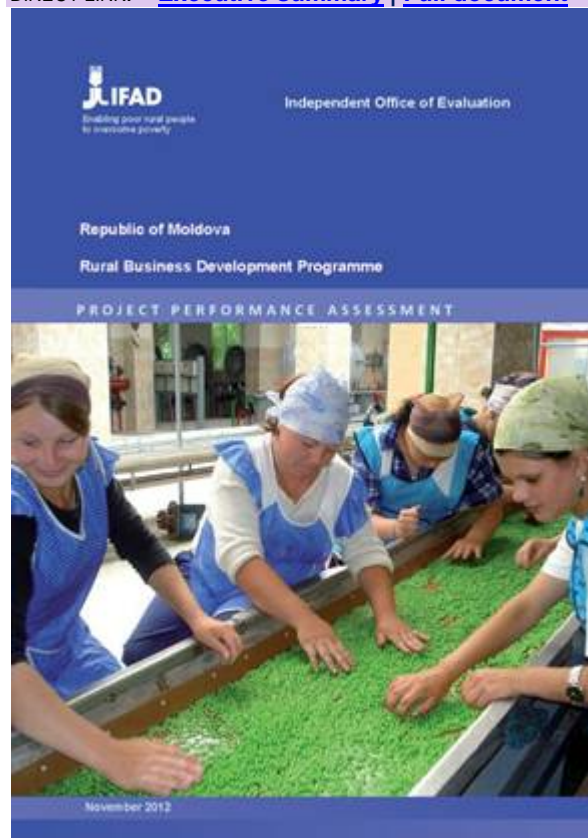
BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROJECT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

### Republic of Moldova Rural Business Development Programme

In the process of facilitating post-independence economic transition in Moldova, IFAD provided relevant and timely interventions in identified bottleneck areas of rural business development. The programme increased the access of rural entrepreneurs to finance, facilitated business growth of enterprises along selected commodity chains and built small-scale infrastructure for rural businesses. This in turn stimulated local investments in businesses, generated employment and increased purchases of local produce. The grant-financed small-scale infrastructure for business development was appreciated by local enterprises as IFAD filled a gap among a vast array of under-maintained rural infrastructure.

The most important lesson learned from the programme is related to the challenges in ensuring the poverty reduction effect of rural enterprise development. The justification for targeting leading local enterprises rests on the important linkage effects between rural business growth and benefits to the rural poor. The programme did not include poverty reduction goals, nor did it monitor the spill-over effect of rural enterprise development in benefitting the rural poor. Income changes of households below the poverty line were not sufficiently monitored, which undermined the programme's achievements.

DIRECT LINK: [Executive summary](#) | [Full document](#)



# The Philippines

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROJECT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

## Republic of The Philippines

### Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management Project

The project achieved positive results, having overcome a slow start-up and initial difficulties with the flow of funds. The project met - and in some instances surpassed - its output targets towards establishing and strengthening community institutions and self-help groups, participatory planning, infrastructure improvements, support to indigenous populations, and policy and institutional development. It also had a positive impact on women's mainstreaming and supported a wide range of initiatives of benefit to women. Moreover, the Poverty Alleviation Fund established by the project proved to be an effective tool for supporting local development priorities.

At the same time, impact on agriculture has been moderate and mainly linked to improved irrigation. The number of people experiencing food shortages has declined and the income generated has enabled them to purchase food. However, household food security is still vulnerable to climatic shocks with communities lacking opportunities to move to larger-scale initiatives. Among the key recommendations of this assessment are the need to continue nurturing the strong links between communities and local government units, thus creating potential for further development initiatives that could reduce such vulnerability; and developing a new set of skills to support commercial (value chain) development activities.

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