



Investing in rural people

Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility: Asia and the Pacific

GRANT RESULTS SHEET



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The IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility is an innovative funding resource that indigenous communities can access to support their own solutions to development challenges

Goal and objectives

The IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) is an innovative funding resource that indigenous communities can access to support their own solutions to development challenges. It supports self-driven development by investing in small projects that build on indigenous peoples' culture, identity, knowledge, natural resources and income-generating activities.

The goal of the IPAF programme is to empower indigenous peoples' communities and their organizations in Asia and the Pacific to foster their self-driven development. The objectives of the programme were to:

- **Empower indigenous peoples' grassroots organizations to determine and develop priorities and strategies to fulfil the development needs of their communities based on their culture and identity.**

This involved financing projects ranging between US\$20,000 and US\$ 50,000 that were designed and implemented by indigenous peoples' communities and their organizations. It also involved strengthening the capacity of IPAF sub-grantees to manage and implement their projects, and linking indigenous peoples to regional and global platforms through workshops and training.

- **Build the capacity of indigenous peoples' organizations at the regional level to manage financial instruments that support grassroots development initiatives.**

This included providing training and overall guidance to three indigenous peoples' organizations to support grassroots organizations in implementing development initiatives; strengthening linkages and cooperation between the three organizations and IFAD's operations in the region; and supporting the three organizations in strengthening the regional-level indigenous peoples' platforms and linking them with the international arena.

- **Generate and share knowledge on indigenous peoples' development initiatives.**

This included conducting studies and analyses of the applications received by the IPAF to assess at the regional and country levels the solutions indigenous peoples' communities and their organizations propose to the challenges they face; conducting studies and analyses of IPAF project results and innovations, as well as initiatives to be scaled up/replicated; and establishing communities of practice with IPAF sub-grantees.



Beneficiaries

The project financed nine subprojects in seven countries of the region: Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Solomon Islands. Of those initially targeted, the subprojects directly reached 27,763 (36,778 initially targeted) indigenous people from 18 communities. Indirectly, they reached an estimated 160,696 individuals (123,053 initially targeted). Below is a breakdown by subproject.

Country	Project title	Target beneficiaries					
		Direct			Indirect		
		M	F	Youth	M	F	Youth
Bangladesh	Ethnic Minority Rights Development	3 340	3 340		15 000		
India	Promoting Culture, Human Rights and Socio-Economic Opportunities of the Hmars		1 000	1 000		3 000	2 000
India	Reclaiming the Commons with Women's Power; Ecovillage Development in Tribal Orissa	1 500			5 000		
Lao PDR	Indigenous Families Life Skills	2 667	2 580		10 000		
Nepal	Empowering Tharu by Promoting Cultural Values	1 800	3 550	1 230	20 000	25 000	15 000
Papua New Guinea	Cultivation and Production of Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms	800			5 000		
Philippines	7 Mangyan Communities	412	138		420	180	
Philippines	Indigenous Knowledge in Support of Socio-Economic Survival of Indigenous Women in Urban Setting		150		375	375	
Solomon Islands	Mangrove Rehabilitation for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	3 248	3 345	6 678	21 703		

Facts at a glance

Grant implementing agency

Tebtebba, Inc.

Theme

Indigenous peoples

Benefiting countries

Bangladesh, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands

Total programme cost

US\$670,600

IFAD contribution: US\$525,600

Tebtebba cofinancing: US\$145,000

Partners

Tebtebba Foundation and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Effectiveness and duration

July 2011 – June 2015

Main results

All projects in Asia were fully implemented directly by indigenous peoples' organizations. The two projects in the Pacific were implemented only in part as a result of operational problems and the increased cost of some activities. (Project amounts ranged from US\$32,000 to US\$47,000.)

The projects have contributed to increasing household income (cash and in-kind) while reversing ecological degradation by enhancing the way that traditional lands and their resources are used – for example through reforestation; setting up village-level mechanisms to protect forests; agroforestry; intercropping; and mangrove rehabilitation.

The logic and significance of resource mapping, zoning and village development planning have also been reiterated in two of the projects as a tool to map, protect and manage resources. However, the benefits gained do not suffice to ensure food security or to resolve lingering poverty in these indigenous communities, which are still highly marginalized. Sustained financial support and capacity-building of local communities are still required.

The projects have contributed to the general empowerment of the sub-grantees and indigenous peoples' communities through capacity-building activities that promote culture and identity and help strengthen their institutions and communities. These include enhanced knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples managing their resources, promoting cultural rights and creating income-generating activities to improve their livelihoods; women and children's rights; technical and logistical skills to manage their own projects and activities; and training to manage and implement projects and activities. Community participation in collective actions to improve their livelihoods and natural resource management has increased, as has leadership among the women and young people.

Free, prior and informed consent is a project requisite and has been, in various ways, operationalized at the project level and reinforced by project activities. In this regard, potential leaders – men, women and young people – have emerged from the communities with better appreciation of their identities and cultures as indigenous peoples. Advocacy for and access to rights, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), has been enhanced through local and other laws/policies and programmes. The issue of security of tenure, a critical component in indigenous peoples' development, has been addressed through the projects to varying degrees.

Lessons learned

The project has demonstrated that small investments in context-specific and community-defined development initiatives can be significant building blocks for sustainable development. Important elements are: empowerment through knowledge of and access to indigenous peoples' rights; ensuring integrity of land and natural resources, including land tenure; physical assets; socio-cultural assets (integrity of culture and identity, social/political infrastructure, community cooperation, volunteerism); resource mobilization (human and financial); and a sense of ownership. Measuring project results may require adjustments in perspective to take into consideration cultural sensitivity and an understanding of collective rights with regard to indigenous peoples.

The IPAF's decentralization strategy has proved to be beneficial to IFAD, Tebtebba and the sub-grantees. However, the strategy needs to better address linkages with IFAD country offices and projects, capitalizing on the successful experiences for scaling up in IFAD-funded projects through loans and larger grants, or where this is not feasible, by applying the successful practices and methodologies of the IPAF-funded projects in other projects. Implementing the IPAF for Tebtebba and the sub-grantees meant taking on technical and logistical tasks which have improved institutional skills and capacities in managing the grant and projects, as well as in exploring strategies/methods and experimenting with innovation. Moreover, local presence has strengthened and advanced the holistic framework for indigenous peoples' sustainable and self-determined development.

Way forward

Most of the projects were undertaken in communities whose experiences of discrimination as indigenous peoples are evident in the persistent non-recognition of their identities and rights, and their very limited access to basic services. Since these projects are by nature community-defined, context-specific and short-term, there is a need to sustain them, either by including them in IFAD operations in the country or by securing resources with other donors. It must be remembered that most of the community organizations are still building their agencies, capacities and resources for viable livelihood options. Longer project time frames need to be considered, alongside additional budget for monitoring and to create the necessary linkages to continue on-site capacity-building and advocacy. This is especially

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true with linkages to IFAD country offices and projects and the possibility of including the small IPAF-funded projects in ongoing operations in the country. Livelihood projects, which are a major focus of IFAD projects, are powerful in mobilizing communities. Improved linkages with IFAD operations in the country would help build the capacity of implementing agencies of loan-financed projects through the government, where capacity for working with indigenous peoples is often lacking.

The IPAF can be a vehicle for IFAD to further amplify its modelling and pioneering role among United Nations agencies in fulfilling their commitments to the UNDRIP by reflecting IPAF experiences in its regular country loan programmes and navigating opportunities provided by existing frameworks at the country level. Given the scope of its work and its policy on engagement with indigenous peoples, IFAD is in a position to influence governments and their agencies to uphold the UNDRIP through IFAD projects if country and field staff are sufficiently aware of these broader institutional initiatives. For instance, the IPAF requisite for free, prior and informed consent could be adapted by and strengthened in IFAD projects affecting indigenous peoples and their territories. The analysis of the proposals received by the IPAF in Asia can provide useful information on the situation of indigenous peoples, and their challenges and proposed solutions, all of which can be taken into account in IFAD's strategies and funded projects at the country and regional levels.

Knowledge generated

The knowledge products resulting from the projects prepared by the sub-grantees and Tebtebba are listed below. Some of them have been uploaded into the IPAF system. The Tebtebba project team is exploring the development of additional knowledge products based on project experiences.

ARDO, Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ News article ▪ Publication on the project
AMASANGATHAN, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publication: Our Land, Our Life ▪ Publication: Reclaiming the Commons with Women's Power ▪ Article by Vidhya Das on Project 707 in Farming Matters Vol. 30, No. 3, September 2014
BHYC, India	News articles
CAMKID, Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brochure ▪ Radio (a radio programme was part of the project)
NRMC, Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publication "Tiripunan", August 2013 issue ▪ News articles ▪ Video on cultural programme
CWEARC, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ News articles ▪ Training module on waste management and vermi culture ▪ Video
HAGIBBAT, Philippines	Primer on Human Rights/Indigenous Peoples Rights
ALCAA, Solomon Islands	Video clips
Tebtebba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project 585 (Nepal): Article on the project published in Tebtebba Magazine, Volume 15, 2014 issue, pages 23-28 ▪ Project 704 (Philippines): Article on the account of a beneficiary published in AIWN Magazine, 2014 ▪ Regional Overview Paper for IPAF Projects 3rd Cycle. Submitted to the IPAF Secretariat, 2013