

Launch event for the synthesis report of the MOPAN case study on country-level collaboration between FAO, IFAD, and WFP

Concept note

Launch event 13 September 2019, Rome

This document presents the concept for the launch event.

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1. Background: case study on country-level collaboration between FAO, IFAD, and WFP

In 2018, MOPAN delivered a first pilot case study, starting a series of learning products aiming at understanding how multilateral organisations respond to new agendas and emerging challenges.

This first case study focused on collaboration among the three Rome-based agencies (RBAs): FAO, IFAD and WFP. The study was based on their work in four countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Jordan and Madagascar). By looking at three agencies together that have an agreement to collaborate, and by considering four countries in more detail and interviewing stakeholders in country, the study allowed shedding light on some of the factors that drive partnership in practice at a country level. While partnership is key to how multilateral agencies work and is part of the MOPAN 3.0 assessment framework, this case study was not an evaluation of the agencies as such, and is separate and distinct from the MOPAN 3.0 institutional assessment process.

The main messages that are emerging from the case study, detailed in the synthesis report, are the following:

- A significant amount of collaboration is happening, so far typically at project level, and is somewhat transactional in nature rather than strategic;
- There are important positive enablers for collaboration in place;
- The main driver of the collaboration work is country needs and context, and the direction set by the national governments in the context of the SDGs;
- Internally, collaboration is held back by a lack of alignment of business processes;
- Externally, the fragmented nature of funding flows and donors' work with individual agencies can be a constraint to collaboration.

2. Objectives of the event

The primary objective of the event is formally launching the synthesis report of the case study that has been finalised and posted online in August 2019.

A second objective of the event is to use the findings from the case study as basis for a discussion on strategies for further expanding the collaboration between the three agencies on the ground in support of achieving SDG 2 in particular. This discussion will involve the three agencies and their member states using the opportunity of organising this event on the margins of the Informal Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, the IFAD Executive Board and the WFP Executive Board.

Specific questions this discussion could address include:

1. The case study has found that while collaboration exists, it was more at project level than strategic. What are the plans to increase higher level collaboration towards SDG 2 and how do these fit within the broader UN reform?
2. A key constraint to collaboration lies in misalignment of processes among the three Rome-based agencies. How are the agencies envisaging to move towards increased harmonisation and what role can members play to support the move?
3. Another constraint to collaboration is fragmentation of funding and individual donor-agency relationships at country level. How can member states, including donors, create more incentives for collaboration on the ground?

The expected outcome of the discussion is a better understanding of the constraints to collaboration on the ground, and sharing of ideas on how to overcome these constraints.

3. Format and agenda

The event is scheduled on 13 September 2019 from 12:50 to 13:50, on the margins of the Informal Joint Meeting of the FAO Council, the IFAD Executive Board and the WFP Executive Board.

The following agenda is proposed:

1. Short introduction by the PRs from Denmark and the USA as champions of the study (5')
2. Short presentation of the study by the MOPAN Secretariat to introduce key findings and 2-3 leading questions for the discussion (10')
3. Quick feedback and comments from the three agencies (5' each)
4. Discussion and sharing perspectives (25')

The Head of the MOPAN Secretariat will moderate the discussion, orchestrating, and managing time, as well as the flow of questions.