



Investing in rural people

## **IFAD Statement, World Humanitarian Summit**

**Josefina Stubbs, Chief Strategist and Associate Vice President**

1. Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
2. When we think of humanitarian emergencies, we most often think of natural disasters and conflicts - events that seem to explode into crisis overnight. But often they have their roots in problems and situations that go back years, or even decades.
3. We cannot ignore human suffering. It demands an immediate, collective response. But we cannot forget that *development* - a long-term process involving sustained investments of time and money - is a key response to crisis, and especially to the *cycle* of crisis. People caught up in humanitarian disasters need relief and emergency services, but they also need strategies that solve underlying problems over the long-term.
4. My organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, or IFAD, sees this Summit as a key moment - not just for commitment, but for consensus. It offers us the opportunity to bridge the gap between humanitarian and sustainable development responses.

5. For almost 40 years, IFAD has been investing in rural areas where disasters have a disproportionate impact. Most of the poor people who live there depend on natural resources for their food and livelihoods, leaving them vulnerable to the impact of shocks.
6. When people can no longer earn an income or feed their families, they migrate - often leading to local and regional instability. And when people are pushed away from rural areas and farming, it can threaten the food security of entire countries.
7. Almost half of IFAD's ongoing operations are in countries with fragile and conflict-affected situations. Our approach is to start with the people, investing in them so they can overcome poverty, grow their businesses and build dignified and sustainable futures. This is only possible if we invest in resilience and ensure people have the resources to cope with shocks and bounce back from them.
8. IFAD is well-positioned to serve as a key partner to bridge the gap between humanitarian and sustainable development responses in rural areas.
9. We commit to invest US\$3.5 billion of our core resources in the rural sector over the next two years to provide access to finance, promote food security and create job opportunities, especially for young people.
10. Under our Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme, or ASAP, we commit to invest US\$583 million by 2020 to enhance the capacity of at least 8 million smallholder farmers to adapt to a changing climate.

11. And through our projects and programmes, we commit to support disaster risk reduction and the improvement of community preparedness plans.
12. IFAD recognizes that sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the closely interlinked issues of forced displacement, migration and stability. Therefore, we also commit to mobilise an additional US\$100 million to specifically invest in rural areas in the Near East and North Africa region, to create livelihood opportunities for host communities and displaced people.
13. With Agenda 2030 we set ourselves a goal to leave no one behind. We need to feed people today, but we also need to ensure that they continue to feed themselves tomorrow.
14. Ladies and gentlemen, we no longer have the luxury of time. We need to go beyond talk. We need to take action. Thank you.