



**Award competition initiated by the Independent Office of Evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), supported by the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank Group, and hosted and managed by the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS)**



## **Invitation to Nominate Evaluations: Award Competition 2022**

### **Context and purpose**

This Award is given in recognition of the growing understanding around the world that we need to transform our societies, our economies and our relationship with nature. On many fronts the world needs transformational change to be able to achieve the aspirations expressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. There is a sense of urgency in this ambition: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 appears to be out of reach, and the conduct of humanity over the last two centuries has led to the overshoot of key planetary boundaries. As a result, the era of the Anthropocene has brought with it multiple interconnected, cascading crises – climate change, biodiversity destruction, a pandemic, a recession, and vast and accelerating inequalities.

## About transformational change

'Transformational change' implies drastic and durable changes in the systems that make up societies and nature. A useful definition is provided by GIZ:

*"Transformational change can be claimed only if the change is profound enough to shift societies, including the global one, onto fundamentally different development pathways". And furthermore: "Transformational change converts a current (ecological, social, political, economic, scientific, or technological) system or all systems together into a fundamentally new one that, from there on, forms the new mainstream".<sup>1</sup>*

Transformational change usually takes time and is seldom achieved through one intervention. It tends to consist of many incremental changes that happen over time; even the most effective interventions, such as the mobile phone, transformed societies only when appropriate infrastructure, market forces, app innovations, policies and regulations aligned and evolved in concert.

## The value of evaluation in support of transformational change

Evaluations can contribute to transformational change in several ways, among others the following:

- They can provide evaluative evidence on whether changes are (potentially) truly transformational.
- Their design may focus on key aspects of change that need to be understood to achieve further progress towards transformational change.
- Innovative elements in these evaluations may uncover new areas of evidence and insight that can inform or encourage initiatives aimed at transformational change.
- The process of evaluation can be transformational for stakeholders. It may, for example, provide them with the inspiration to overcome barriers to transformation, or shift societal and institutional debates in new directions that can contribute to transformational change.

## Award categories

An award will be established in each of the following two categories.

- Evaluation in support of transformation – the evaluation of initiatives that support efforts aimed at transformational change.** Such evaluations will aim to assess efforts that are intended to trigger or contribute to desired transformations,<sup>2</sup> whether ecological, social, political, economic, scientific or technological, or a combination – for example, moving countries or rural areas out of poverty traps, developing green cities, reversing the destruction wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, or creating circular economies.
- Evaluation as transformation – Evaluations that are in themselves transformative.** An evaluation process, if implemented in an innovative, culturally responsive and empowering way, can in itself be transformative for one or more stakeholder groups, and/or for the initiatives in which they are engaged.

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<sup>1</sup> GIZ 2019, *Get ready for transformational projects!*

<sup>2</sup> For example, moving rural areas or countries out of poverty traps, developing green cities, reversing the economic destruction wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, or creating circular economies.

## Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria applied to both award categories are the following.

- **Credibility:** The evaluation is based on a clear and reliable methodological design. Findings are clearly underpinned by (multiple) sources of evidence and there is evidence of intra- and inter-method triangulation. Potential biases to the validity of findings are adequately addressed or explained as limitations of the evaluation.
- **Innovation:** The evaluation is based on a novel conceptual framework and/or methodological approach. What qualifies as novel is to be determined by the Judging Panel. The use of novel sources of data or using existing data more effectively (e.g., through data science) as well as the use of systemic approaches to address complexity challenges are examples of innovative approaches.
- **Influence:** The evaluation shows evidence of the use of evaluation findings in organizational learning and decision-making or even beyond (e.g., in the public debate, as a source of influence of other evaluations, as a source of influence on intervention design, etc.). Moreover, there is evidence of a (potential) contribution of the evaluation to transformational change in the context of the SDGs and/or significant systemic changes at country, regional or sectoral levels. Evaluations may provide inspiration for overcoming barriers to change and shift societal and institutional debates in new directions to promote change.

The influence criterion will receive a relatively higher weight in the assessment process for the award category of evaluation as transformation.

### Who can nominate evaluations?

Nominations may be submitted by evaluators or evaluation teams from, or commissioned by wide range of organizations, including multilateral and bilateral organizations, not-for-profit organizations (e.g., NGOs, foundations), academic institutions, private sector, or public sector organizations.

Evaluations may not be nominated by commissioners or by the institutions that mandated these evaluations. Furthermore, staff of IOE IFAD, IEG World Bank Group and the Board of IDEAS will not be allowed to participate due to the potential for conflict of interest.

### Publication

Nominated evaluations will be required to provide permission for publication, including in the Award electronic library.

### Judging Panel

The Judging Panel will consist of an independent panel of experts in evaluation, transformational change and/or sustainable development. The Judging Panel will review submissions and select the winner and two runners-up in each award category.

### Prize

The winner in each category will receive a monetary award of US\$ 5,000 and a certificate, and will be invited to contribute a chapter in an IDEAS publication after the Global Assembly.

The two runners-up in each category will each receive a trophy or certificate.

The winners and runners-up will be invited to take part in the IDEAS Global Assembly and Award Ceremony to be held in 2022.

### **Eligibility and submission of nominations**

Evaluations conducted since 2015, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement came into being, will be considered. Evaluations nominated in previous editions of the award will not be considered.

Evaluations written in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, or Arabic are considered eligible. All nominated evaluations should contain a summary in one of these languages. The nomination file should be filled out in English (see below).

In order to be included in the assessment process, nominations should contain the following documents:

- Nomination form (see below)
- An electronic copy of the evaluation report
- A summary of the evaluation (in case not included in the report itself)

### Nomination form

Date of submission	
Name of evaluation	
Type of intervention (e.g., character, country, sector, time period)	
Evaluation team leader	
Contact details (name, e-mail, phone, country/city of residence)	
Publicly available where <sup>3</sup>	
Award category (please select only one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation in support of transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation as transformation
Brief rationale why the evaluation is a good fit for one of the two award categories	
Brief rationale that highlights why the nominated evaluation should win the award	
Has the evaluation been nominated for a previous edition of the IDEAS award?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> NO</span>

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<sup>3</sup> Nominated evaluations must be published and publicly available, to assure the ability to make them public and available in the Award electronic library.