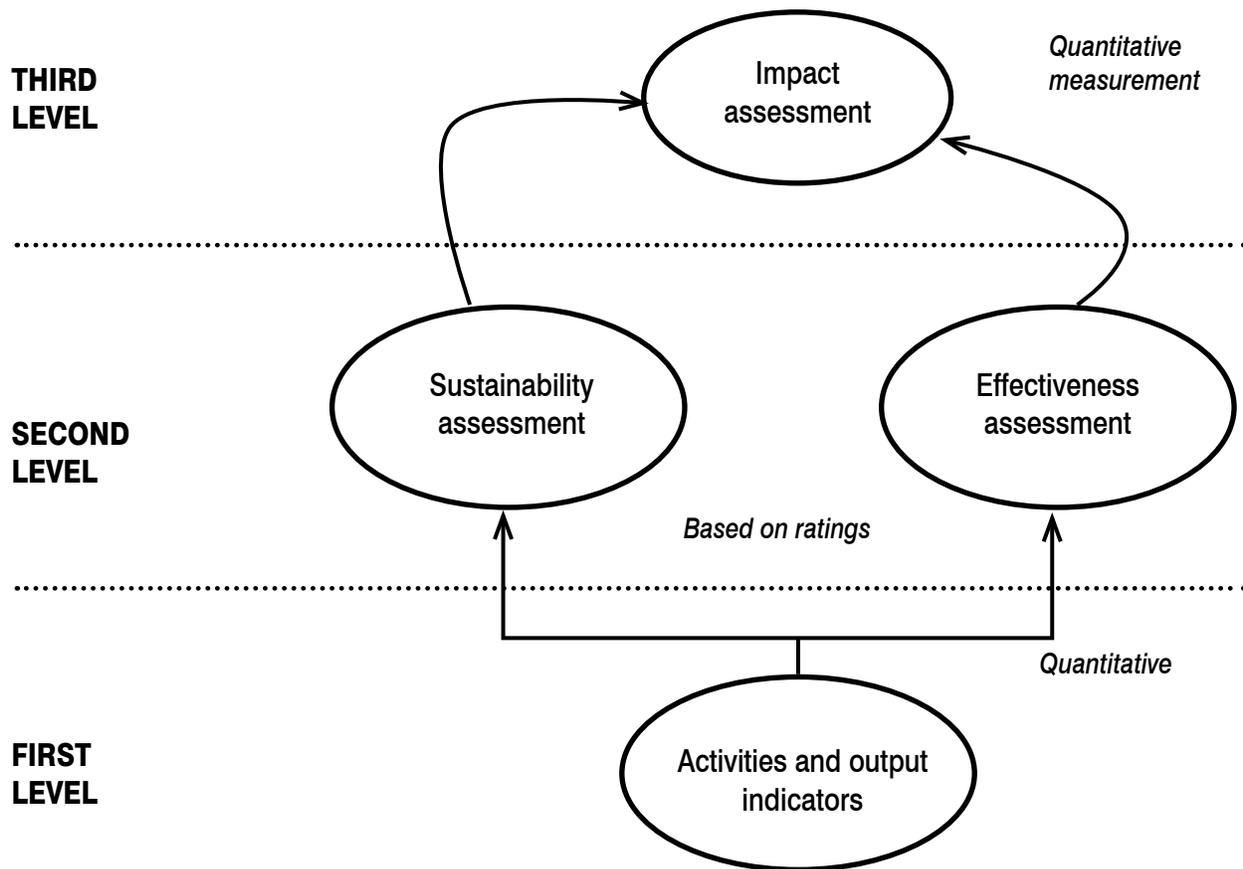


# IFAD's Results and Impact Management System



*RIMS: a schematic overview*

## Overview

**R**IMS (Results and Impact Management System) is a comprehensive system for measuring and reporting on the results and impact of IFAD-supported country programmes. It provides a framework for systematic reporting by project staff to IFAD and by IFAD to its governing bodies. RIMS includes a menu of standard indicators used to measure and report on the performance across all IFAD projects—at activities, outputs, outcomes and impact.

### RIMS impact survey methodology

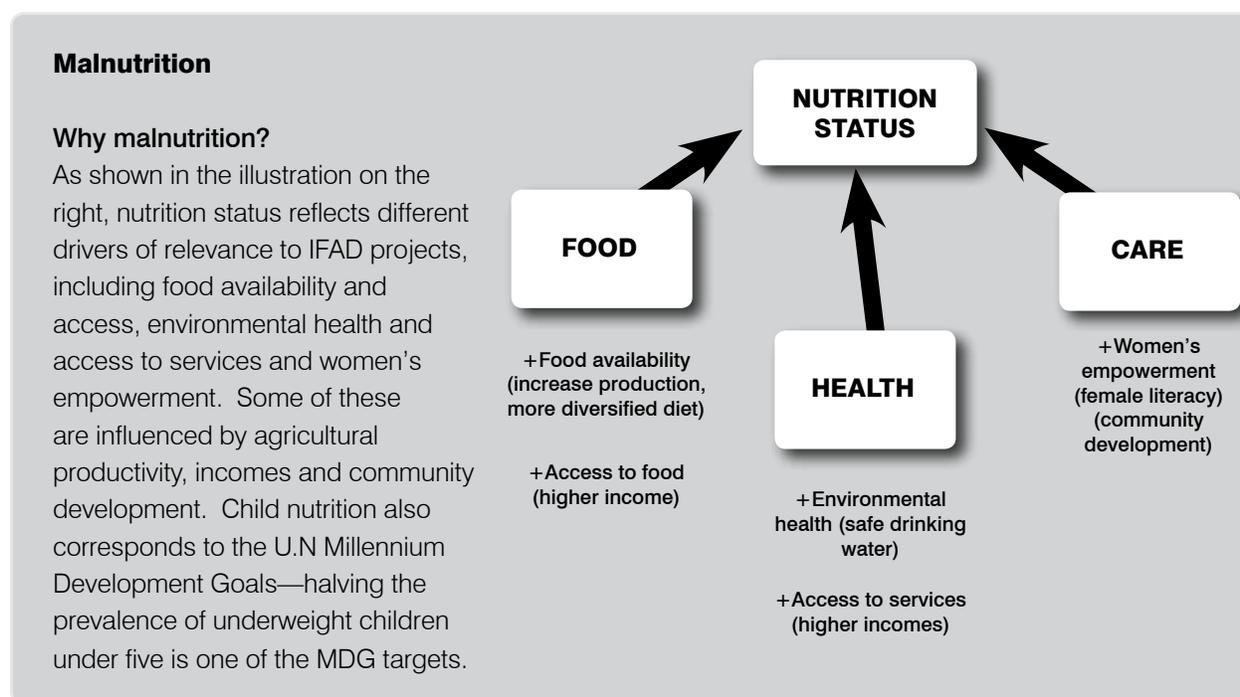
- Surveys 900 randomly selected households
- Anchored on surveying household's asset ownership and anthropometric measurement of children
- No control group

All IFAD-funded projects are required to conduct this standard survey (called the RIMS impact survey) at the start and end of the project. It provides objective quantifiable and comparable data which, when combined with qualitative information, can give a good overview of a project's contributions to changes and results at the household level (corresponding to project's goal and purpose).

The survey is anchored on two mandatory measures:

a) **A household asset survey:** This aims to capture the evolution of the household asset index over time and also provides a basis for analysing changes in relative wealth of the project's target group.

b) **The child nutrition survey:** Based on WHO and UNICEF standards for measuring child height and weight, this survey captures data related to three main variables: chronic malnutrition (stunting or height-for-age); acute malnutrition (wasting or weight-for-height); and proportion of children underweight (weight-for-age).



The RIMS questionnaire also includes other indicators, but these are not considered mandatory if not relevant to the project. The additional RIMS impact indicators include

- Literacy
- Access to safe water
- Access to improved sanitation
- Food insecurity - intensity and spread of hungry seasons

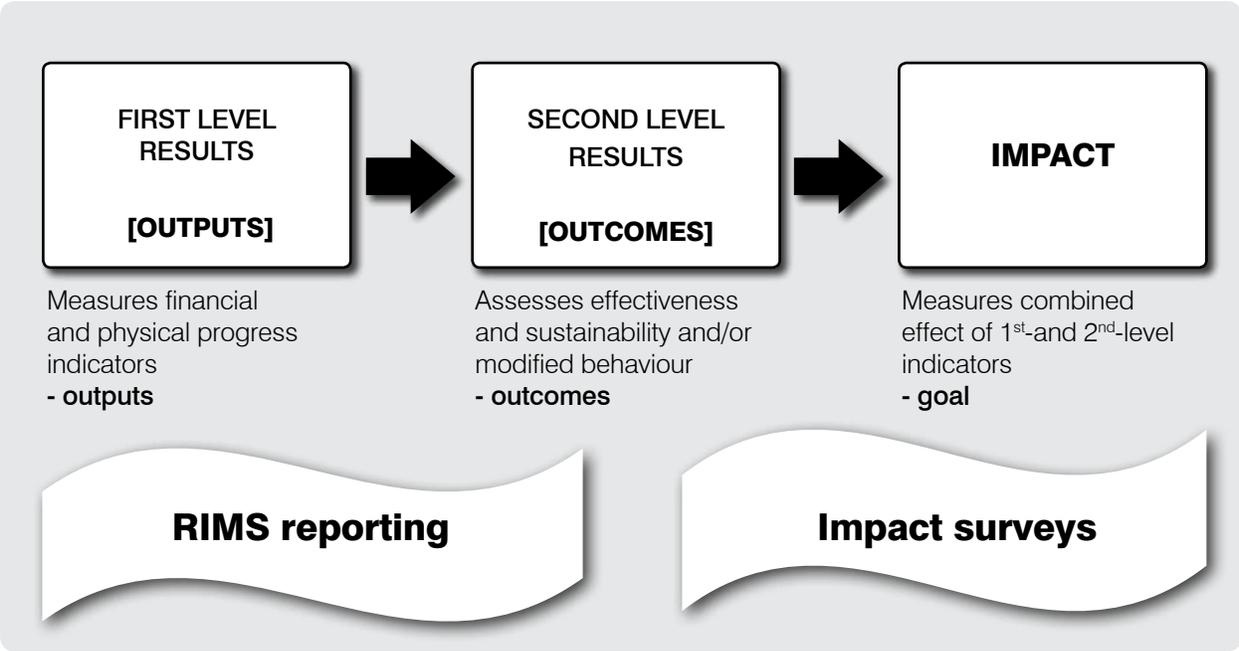
# Indicators identified for each level of results

IFAD’s RIMS methodology differentiates between three levels of results.

- First-level results (outputs): measures financial and physical progress
- Second-level results (outcomes): measures improved functionality and/or behavioural changes
- Third-level results (impact): measures the combined effects of the first and second-level results, usually quantitative (e.g., households reporting increased assets)

Except for the above mentioned mandatory anchor indicators for the impact survey and the mandatory RIMS outreach indicators (number of households receiving project services), indicators may be selected from a list of 70 standardised RIMS indicators. Standardization allows for comparing and aggregating between projects in a country, region or globally. Figure 1 below shows the relationship between the three levels of RIMS indicators.

*Figure 1. Position of RIMS indicators, from results to impact.*



RIMS indicators were devised to be representative of the type of interventions carried out by IFAD-funded projects. IFAD and the Project Management Unit need to agree on which measures of the various result categories (output, outcome and impact) are most appropriate. Agreements on overall and annual project targets are also undertaken.

Only the selected and agreed RIMS outputs and outcomes need to be reported on a scheduled basis to IFAD. However, additional indicators might be necessary for the effective execution of the project planning and M&E functions. Impact is assessed and measured on the basis of survey data generated by IFAD or from secondary sources (if relevant/reliable data are available and survey was carried out at a time considered relevant for benchmarking the situation at the time considered of project launch. The list of RIMS 1<sup>st</sup>-and 2<sup>nd</sup>-level indicators can be obtained at <http://www.ifad.org/operations/index.html>).

# Practical application of RIMS

## Executing RIMS from project start-up to completion

- Conduct RIMS impact baseline survey at start-up (and final RIMS impact survey at completion) using the IFAD RIMS survey questionnaire.
- Identify and agree on a list of indicators, including targets. A selection of indicators relevant to a particular project is made (see Table 1 for the complete set). Selection should include between 10 and 15 RIMS output indicators (level 1) that reflect the key project output areas, and between 5 and 10 outcome indicators (level 2) reflecting the key result areas.
- Ensure that RIMS indicators reflect the project logframe and that the selected RIMS indicators are part of the M&E system.
- Develop a plan for collecting and analysing indicators, including frequency, data collection methods, resources needed, assigned staff, etc.
- Collect data and information needed on the selected first-and 2nd-level indicators on annual basis. Outcome (level 2) indicator measurement must be reported to IFAD from year 3; it is suggested to take earlier measures for the project's own benchmarking and assessment purposes. This can be done using RIMS+, annual outcome surveys or other methods selected by the project.
- An annual record/report is to be submitted to IFAD with annual progress reports and reviewed by IFAD. These annual reports should also be updated and made available for validation by periodic IFAD supervision missions. At IFAD headquarters, all the projects' submitted data and information are aggregated and reported to the Executive Board each year (see box below).

### Reporting in the context of RIMS

- More attention to impact management
- Selection of programme-specific indicators from the RIMS universe
- Data on indicators reported to IFAD annually, periodically reviewed with IFAD HQ, in-country officers or supervision teams
- Impact surveys required at baseline and completion

**RIMS implies a significant shift in focus from physical and financial progress (level 1) to changes in behavioural outcome (level 2) and to impact in terms of improved living conditions (level 3).**

- There are a number of **RIMS resources** listed below in Box 4 that should help the application of RIMS to each IFAD project.

## RIMS resources

- Web page: [www.ifad.org/operations/rims](http://www.ifad.org/operations/rims):
- Handbook for reporting first/second-level results
- Handbook and software for undertaking baseline and impact surveys

## Survey software

A survey software has been developed by IFAD for data entry and reporting and is available in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. All RIMS impact reporting is embedded in this MSAccess software. Reports that can be generated from this software are produced in tables and graphs. It provides an in-built analysis of child malnutrition reports measured against new WHO standards, and a Principal Components Analysis formula that establishes cut-off points that divide households into 5 groups of relative poverty based on their comparative ownership of assets; and therefore demonstrates movement across those cut off points at project completion. All reports and all data can be exported to different formats, and follow-up surveys can be compared. The software and user manual can be downloaded at [www.ifad.org/operations/rims/](http://www.ifad.org/operations/rims/)

### Data entry

The screenshot displays the IFAD survey software interface. At the top, the IFAD logo and tagline "Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty" are visible. The main content area is titled "Housing properties and assets" and is divided into two columns of questions.

**Q1-Q2-Q3**

- 1.a- What is the main material of the dwelling floor?  
1 Earth - Sand
- 1.b- How many sleeping rooms in the dwelling?  
[Text input field]
- 2- What is the main source of the drinking water for members of your household?  
4 Tubewell - Borehole with pump
- 3.a- What kind of toilet facility does your household use?  
[Text input field]
- 3.b- Is this toilet facility located within your dwelling or yard or compound?  
[Text input field]

**Q4-Q5**

**Q4**

- 4.a- In the last 12 months, did your household experience a hungry season? [Dropdown menu]
- 4.b- During what month did the hungry season begin? [Dropdown menu]
- 4.c- During what month did the hungry season end? [Dropdown menu]
- 4.d- In the last 12 months, did your household experience a second hungry season? [Dropdown menu]
- 4.e- During what month did the second hungry season begin? [Dropdown menu]
- 4.f- During what month did the second hungry season end? [Dropdown menu]

**5- Does your household have...?**

- Electricity [Dropdown menu]
- Radio [Dropdown menu]
- Television [Dropdown menu]
- Refrigerator [Dropdown menu]
- Other asset [Dropdown menu]

Navigation buttons: Previous, Cancel, Next.

## Data quality, reports and analyses

- Data entry and quality: Locally adapted assets can be included, all questions to be filled (“no response” options included), checks for height and weight, age calculation, missing child data, data correction, re-entry and verification.
- Child malnutrition: Calculations based on the new WHO standards. Old datasets (compatible with new version) can be easily recalculated. Outliers ignored (beyond z-score of +6, -6). Scores can be calculated on the basis of months.
- Principal component analysis: Factors that explain variance in asset distribution are analysed. Households are stratified on these factor scores into five groups (quintiles), and movement among quintiles across surveys measured.

## Some salient features of RIMS impact measurement

Given the challenges and complexity of estimating income levels accurately, the RIMS impact measurement approach relies on measures of asset ownership and child nutrition as a proxy indicator for increased income and reduced poverty. Moreover, in consideration of the complexity and challenges of accurately selecting and administering a viable control survey (of nonparticipating farmers with similar conditions as participating farmers), the RIMS impact survey adopts a contribution (rather than attribution) approach. Control groups are not deployed and instead comparison is simply limited to ‘before’ and ‘after’ situations. Projects therefore need to complement the survey data with qualitative analyses to help explain the differences brought about by each project. Projects may also draw on national or subnational data to analyse broader changes taking place in the project area that may have occurred simultaneously with the project’s intervention.

The stratified random sampling methodology does not track the same households over time; so, for statistical purposes, it does not provide panel data. It is also possible that findings from a survey may be diluted by the inclusion of nonproject beneficiaries at the completion phase (the result of the clustered random selection methodology recommended by RIMS survey guidelines). However, as these are only guidelines, adjustments in the methodology can be made as long as this is done carefully and with expert advice to ensure that the random selection principle is not compromised, and the validity of the data is maintained. Generally, but especially in such cases, survey reports must include a section explaining the sampling methodology adopted and listing the randomly selected survey clusters.

### RIMS+ surveys

Recognizing that most IFAD-funded projects are multisectoral interventions covering a wide range of subsectors (natural resource management, agricultural development, irrigation, infrastructure, livestock, microfinance, community development, etc.), the scope of the standard RIMS impact surveys may be too limited to reflect the variety of impacts that IFAD-funded projects may have at the household or community level. Therefore, it is recommended that, along with the standard RIMS impact survey, projects will also conduct a RIMS+ impact survey—an additional questionnaire tailored to reflect the specific conditions of

each project intervention. The RIMS+ questionnaire should be administered just after a given respondent has finished answering all the questions of the RIMS Household Assets questionnaire and before the height and weight of the respondent's children are measured (as part of the RIMS malnutrition survey).

Similar to the approach in the RIMS first-and second-level indicator selection, the RIMS+ questionnaire includes various clusters of questions and allows each project to select those clusters most relevant to their specific intervention strategy. By tailoring the survey to its specificity, RIMS+ provides a more comprehensive basis to document the actual, and diverse, impacts of the project. Asking these additional questions will only marginally increase (by an estimated 15 minutes) the time spent by each enumerator with each survey respondent. This provides a valuable opportunity to better understand and document the outcomes and impact of the project. Given that the standard RIMS software cannot accommodate additional questions, a separate database is used to enter and analyse the answers to these additional questions.

**Table 1. RIMS indicators (partial listing only provided here).**

<b>RIMS INDICATOR FIRST-LEVEL RESULTS - OUTPUTS</b>		<b>RIMS INDICATORS SECOND-LEVEL RESULTS - OUTCOMES</b>	<b>VARIABLES MEASURED THROUGH RIMS</b>
<b>1. Natural resources (land and water)</b>			<b>The “anchor” indicators:</b>
1.1	People trained in infrastructure management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of groups operational / functional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Household asset index</li> <li>▪ Child malnutrition (see box)</li> </ul>
1.2	Groups managing infrastructure formed and/or strengthened		
1.3	People in groups managing infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farmers with secure access to water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Female/ male literacy</li> <li>▪ Access to safe water</li> <li>▪ Access to improved sanitation</li> </ul>
1.4	Groups managing infrastructure with women in leadership positions		
1.5	Land under irrigation schemes constructed or rehabilitated		
1.6	Livestock water points constructed or rehabilitated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incremental hectares of crop grown</li> </ul>	
1.7	Rainwater harvesting systems constructed or rehabilitated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of functioning infrastructure</li> </ul>	
1.8	Fish ponds constructed or rehabilitated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farmers with secure access to water resources</li> </ul>	
1.9	People trained in NRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fishers with secure access to resource base</li> </ul>	
1.10	Groups involved in NRM formed/strengthened		
1.11	People in NRM groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fishing pond operational after 3 years</li> </ul>	
1.12	NRM groups with women in leadership positions		
1.13	Environmental management plan formulated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of groups operational/ functional</li> </ul>	

<b>RIMS INDICATOR FIRST-LEVEL RESULTS - OUTPUTS</b>		<b>RIMS INDICATORS SECOND-LEVEL RESULTS - OUTCOMES</b>	<b>VARIABLES MEASURED THROUGH RIMS</b>
1.14	Land under improved management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hectares of land improved through soil/water conservation methods</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Agricultural technologies and production</b>		<b>Others:</b>	
2.1	Staff of service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operational self-sufficiency</li> <li>▪ Farmers reporting production/ yield increase</li> <li>▪ Farmers adopting recommended technologies</li> <li>▪ Farmers reporting increased herd size</li> <li>▪ Fishers adopting recommended technologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food insecurity (intensity and spread of hungry seasons)</li> </ul>
2.2	People trained in crop production practices and technologies		
2.3	People trained in livestock production practices and technologies		
2.4	People trained in fish production practices and technologies		
2.5	People accessing facilitated advisory services		
2.6	Households receiving animals from distribution and/ or restocking		
2.7	Households receiving facilitated animal health services		
<b>3. Rural financial services</b> <b>4. Access to markets</b> <b>5. Enterprise development and employment</b> <b>6. Policy and community programming</b> <b>7. Social infrastructure</b> <b>8. Total outreach</b>		For details: Please check complete listing of RIMS indicators ( <a href="http://www.ifad.org/operations/rims/index.htm">http://www.ifad.org/operations/rims/index.htm</a> )	

## Reference

Adapted from materials from Maria Donnat, IFAD, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, 16 April 2011, Tawfiq El Zabri, IFAD, M&E Workshop, Kandy, Sri Lanka, 21 July 2012, and Shyam Khadka, IFAD RIMS presentation, Rome, 13 January 2013.

## Bio-sketch and Contact Details

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