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Update on Implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility and IFAD's Wider Response to COVID-19

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For: Review

I. Update on implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

1. This is the third update for the Executive Board on the implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) and IFAD's wider COVID-19 response. It provides the latest information on approved projects, disbursements, and early results of the RPSF, along with the latest figures on project repurposing and analytical and policy support provided by IFAD. As usual, an addendum to this report will be issued shortly before the start of the 132nd session of the Board in April 2021 to ensure the most recent figures on RPSF implementation are available to Board members.

A. Completion of resource mobilization phase

2. In mid-December 2020, the fifth contribution agreement was signed for the RPSF, between IFAD and the Government of Switzerland. The generous CHF 2 million contribution brought total resources mobilized for the facility from external donors to US\$53 million, which, combined with the US\$40 million provided by IFAD, makes a total of US\$93 million for the facility (see table 1 for a breakdown of financing sources).

Table 1
Breakdown of RPSF financing sources
 (Amounts in millions)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (original currency)</i>	<i>Amount (US\$)</i>
Canada	CAD 6	4.5
Germany	EUR 27.4	33.2
The Netherlands	EUR 6	7.1
Sweden	SEK 50	5.9
Switzerland	CHF 2	2.3
IFAD	US\$ 40	40.0
Total		93.0

3. With the official completion of the facility scheduled for the end of 2021, attention is now focused on ensuring that these funds are committed and used effectively.

B. Launch of the second financing round

4. The first financing round of the RPSF was launched in June 2020 to allocate the US\$40 million in seed funding contributed by IFAD. These funds were allotted to a pool of single-country projects (85 per cent) and a pool of multi-country projects (15 per cent). In the single-country pool, funds were distributed across 59 eligible countries using an index of COVID-19 risk combined with countries' rural population and prevalence of food insecurity. For greater efficiency, it was agreed that additional contributions to the facility would be grouped as much as possible and allocated together in rounds, using a similar allocation mechanism. As the five contributions to the facility were agreed in relatively close proximity, Management was able to combine all of these together in one round. In early December, once the final contribution to the facility was confirmed, IFAD launched the second financing round to allocate this US\$53 million in contributions from donors.
5. The allocation mechanism for the second round replicated that used for the first, with US\$41.7 million allocated to the pool for single-country projects for the same 59 eligible countries, and US\$7.4 million allocated to the pool for multi-country projects.¹ In the pool for single-country projects, country teams were encouraged to use their second round allocation to top up RPSF projects approved during the first round in order to maximize impact by saving time and money on start-up costs. Many projects from the first financing round were approved with financing gaps in anticipation of this additional funding. To facilitate the topping up of

¹ These amounts are minus the seven per cent management fee applied to all contributions.

existing RPSF projects, IFAD designed a streamlined procedure for approving the additional funds, ensuring quick processing but with the appropriate level of scrutiny.

6. For the pool for multi-country projects, IFAD issued a call for proposals in December 2020 and received nine proposals. These were reviewed by the RPSF task force, which made recommendations to the Associate Vice-Presidents of the Programme Management Department and the Strategy and Knowledge Department who, in collaboration with the Vice-President, decided on five proposals to go forward for an arms-length review. This review was completed recently, and Management expects the proposals to be approved by mid-March 2021. Once approved, further details will be included in the addendum to this report, to be provided shortly before the Board session.

C. Financing approved so far

7. Since the first call for proposals in June 2020, 53 proposals worth US\$36.6 million have been approved through the RPSF or are awaiting final approval (see annex I for summaries of each proposal). This consists of US\$5.5 million for the four multi-country initiatives detailed in the previous update, and US\$31.1 million for 49 single-country initiatives.
8. Since the last update, at the 131st Board session in December 2020, three projects have been approved, in the Comoros, Kenya and Mozambique. With these approvals, only four countries are still to use their allocation from the first financing round. The allocations for Kiribati and the Solomon Islands will be combined as part of a multi-country proposal for the Pacific region, which has already undergone an arm's length review and is currently being revised before being submitted for final approval. A proposal for Mauritania, which combines the country's first- and second-round allocations, is also undergoing final post-review revisions. Discussions are ongoing as to how best to use the allocation for Iraq and a decision will be made soon.
9. Much of the time since the December update has been spent building up a pipeline, which is expected to be approved in the coming weeks. This pipeline includes the five multi-country proposals mentioned in paragraph 6, amounting to US\$7.9 million. The pipeline also includes US\$10.3 million in top-up requests for 16 ongoing RPSF single-country projects currently undergoing arm's length review, and US\$2.1 million for two new single-country projects which are also under final revision after completing their arm's length reviews. In all, the pipeline amounts to US\$20.3 million, which will take total approved financing to US\$56.9 million. Country teams will continue to submit proposals for new projects and top-up funds, and it is expected that the whole US\$93 million will be committed by the end of June 2021 at the latest. Table 2 below presents the estimated timeline for the remaining commitments.

Table 2
Estimated timeline for remaining RPSF commitments
(Millions of United States dollars)

	<i>Feb-March 2021</i>	<i>April 2021</i>	<i>May 2021</i>	<i>June 2021</i>
New commitments	20.3	15	15	6.1
Rolling total	56.9	71.9	86.9	93.0

10. Funding from other sources – including implementing partners, governments and beneficiaries – amounts to an additional US\$8 million for the approved projects. This represents a cofinancing ratio of 22 per cent. The governments of the recipient countries are the main cofinanciers.² But the World Food Programme (WFP) and

² Including Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Palestine, Senegal, Sudan and Uganda.

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are providing cofinancing for RPSF projects in Djibouti and Sao Tome and Principe, and FAO is cofinancing another RPSF project in Afghanistan. Again, FAO is an implementing partner for a digital cash transfer project to support input access in Pakistan, and for another input support project benefiting crop and livestock producers in Afghanistan. For a pipeline project in Zambia, IFAD will work with WFP to help establish a livestock insurance index.

11. Table 3 below shows the spread of the approved RPSF funds across regions and income categories. The focus is predominantly on low-income and lower-middle-income countries, and approximately US\$17.4 million (48 per cent) has gone to countries in fragile situations.³

Table 3

Approved RPSF financing, by income category and region

(Millions of United States dollars out of a total of US\$36.6 million)

<i>Income classification</i>		<i>Region</i>	
Low-income	18.0 (49%)	Asia and the Pacific	7.5 (20%)
Lower-middle-income	16.8 (46%)	East and Southern Africa	11.8 (32%)
Upper-middle-income	1.8 (5%)	Latin America and the Caribbean	2.3 (6%)
		Near East, North Africa and Europe	3.1 (9%)
		West and Central Africa	11.9 (33%)

12. Of the US\$36.6 million approved or awaiting final approval, US\$15.7 million (43 per cent) has been allocated to meet farmers' urgent input needs for the upcoming planting seasons. US\$8.6 million (24 per cent) has been earmarked for improving market access, including storage and transport, and US\$3.8 million (10 per cent) for rural finance. An amount of US\$8.5 million (23 per cent) has been allocated for digital services, including support for e-training, advice and money transfers through mobile phone applications.

D. Current and expected results of approved and pipeline projects

Disbursement of funds for RPSF projects

13. So far, US\$12.2 million has been disbursed through the RPSF, which amounts to 33 per cent of the total amount approved. As a benchmark, the United Nations' COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) has so far disbursed US\$2.6 million, which amounts to four per cent of the US\$70.1 million approved to date.⁴ Although RPSF disbursements have been slower than expected – mainly because of some delays in completing the financing agreements for RPSF projects in cases where negotiations with government counterparts were slower than expected – IFAD expects disbursement to be faster in the coming months. Towards the end of 2020, a large number of projects were approved in quick succession, and the uptick is expected as these projects become ready to disburse. At this point, there are 18 projects, with total funding of US\$10.1 million, for which financing agreements have been signed. These projects are now preparing for disbursement and the funds should be released soon. In addition, the US\$7.9 million that will soon be approved for the five multi-country initiatives is likely to move quickly as these are larger projects with bulkier disbursements. IFAD has now also implemented a more streamlined process for finalizing financing agreements with governments: this will ensure the remaining agreements are completed quickly. Faster disbursements are also expected in the future due to the

³ Based on World Bank FY21 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/888211594267968803/FCSList-FY21.pdf>.

⁴ See United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office Gateway (<http://mpmf.undp.org/>). Data downloaded on 24 February 2021.

fact that most of the financing in the second round will be used to top up existing projects, which will take less time to disburse due to time saved on start-up.

Expected beneficiaries and impacts

14. Although implementation of approved RPSF projects is well underway (see box 1), it is too early to report on their results at this point. However, from the targets set in the 53 approved proposals, Management estimates that they will reach around 3 million households. All proposals will adhere to the target of 50 per cent of beneficiaries being women and 25 per cent youth. Once the full US\$93 million is disbursed, this will allow IFAD to reach approximately 7.6 million households.
15. While projects are required to have at least an equal focus on men and women, a number of approved projects are expected to have a larger impact on women and youth beyond the core indicators of the RPSF results measurement framework. For example, the recently approved project in the Comoros is expected to have particular impact on women and youth as it focuses on supporting female-headed households in production and market access, and works through women's and youth groups to improve outreach and participation. The project will focus on people affected by the pandemic, extending COVID-19 related support in staple crop production – in which women are disproportionately involved – as well as help in diversifying into other crops less affected by COVID-19. The support will include inputs (particularly improved seeds and time- and labour-saving technologies), and rehabilitation of local market, storage and transport infrastructure to overcome mobility restrictions caused by the pandemic.

Box 1

Spotlight on the results of the RPSF project with Precision Agriculture for Development

In June 2020, US\$1.5 million from the RPSF (plus US\$500,000 from the regular grants programme) was used to finance an initiative covering Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan in collaboration with Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD), a non-government organization (NGO) started by economics Nobel Prize winner Michael Kremer, among others. This project became one of the first flagship initiatives financed by the RPSF, given its innovative nature and exciting partnership with an NGO with considerable potential for helping to overcome COVID-19 constraints, as well as for producing longer-term benefits for modern rural livelihoods. So far, US\$1.8 million (90 per cent of the total grant) has been disbursed, helping the project reach some 1.4 million farmers with digital agricultural advisory services in the first six months. For the remainder of the project, a further 300,000 farmers are expected to benefit.

In Kenya, around 108,000 new users have been added to PAD's SMS-based digital agricultural advisory platform, bringing the total to 467,000 farmers enrolled. Through the platform, PAD has since disseminated 1.7 million advisory messages to farmers across 10 crop types. The project has also developed new advisory content for bulb onions, composting, mulching, and fall armyworm, as well as seed-selector decision-support tools, one for farmers and another for dealers. As part of the project, the team has also been working with local governments to expand the reach of the platform to farmers in different locations.

In Pakistan, the project has provided support to 1.1 million existing users with tailored information across a range of crop types, and is continuing to adapt its service. To assist in the adaptation of the advisory support provided through the project, PAD recently conducted a needs survey of 2,500 farmers aimed at identifying specific COVID-related market disruptions and other problems in real time.

In Nigeria, the service is being launched from scratch and has registered its first 8,000 users. Over 100 pre-recorded audio messages have now been developed and will be sent to users (or provided via a dedicated phone line). These messages give agronomic advice tailored to local COVID-related problems, focusing on the production of onions and tomatoes, two key crops for the current season. The messages have been recorded in the local languages of the Northern Nigeria region.

A key aim for the remainder of the project is to foster strong links with IFAD interventions in order to ensure sustainable impact and to lay the foundations for better integration of digital advisory support into IFAD's wider portfolio. Amid the many harmful effects of COVID-19, the pandemic has presented an exciting opportunity to leverage the need for better remote connectivity to accelerate the coverage and adoption of digital services in rural areas. This has scope to benefit IFAD's target group long after the pandemic is over. Through the PAD project and other initiatives planned or implemented under IFAD's information and communications technologies for development strategy, the Fund is pushing to further such partnerships and to rigorously collect and use the lessons they generate.

E. Repurposing of project funds

16. In collaboration with governments, IFAD country teams continue to look for opportunities to repurpose funds within ongoing IFAD-financed investment projects to finance COVID-related support for project beneficiaries. At the time of the previous Board update, IFAD had approved repurposing of US\$142 million across 54 projects in 32 countries. This has now increased to US\$171 million across 56 projects in 33 countries, with a further US\$64.5 million across 13 projects in 13 countries in the pipeline. As shown in figure 1, most of the repurposed funds continue to be used to support access to inputs, markets and financial services, with a small proportion also being used to provide COVID-19 prevention equipment and information.
17. Examples of recently approved repurposing include the Project to Support Agricultural and Rural Financial Inclusion in Burundi, where US\$2.2 million was repurposed to provide emergency livelihood support to project beneficiaries, including distribution of small livestock, veterinary products for pigs, vegetable and legume seeds, and agricultural tools. In Georgia, US\$1 million was recently repurposed through the Dairy Modernisation and Market Access Project to temporarily extend the project area to cover three additional regions where the livelihoods of rural people had been particularly affected by COVID-19. In Argentina, US\$7 million was recently repurposed through the Programme for Economic Insertion of Family Producers of Northern Argentina to provide focused support to rural women, particularly victims of gender-based violence (which has risen in the country during the pandemic). The support will help them access new technologies and develop agroecological production units. The programme was used to channel additional investment to promote the economic activities and food production of women as part of the Government’s national strategy for rural women. Finally, in India, US\$400,000 was repurposed through the Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme for the Coastal Communities of Tamil Nadu Project to establish a vulnerability reduction fund to provide much-needed capital to federations of self-help and fishing groups.

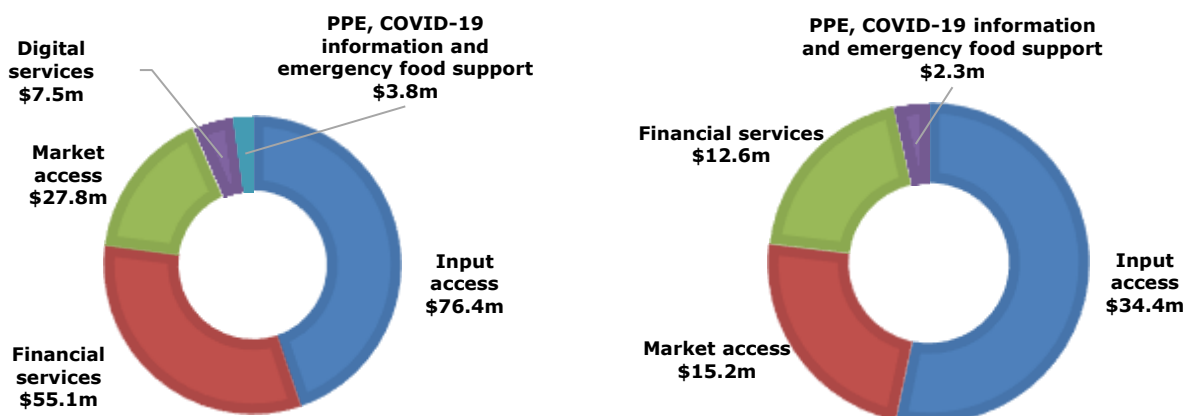
Figure 1
Distribution of planned and pipeline repurposing by activity

Approved repurposing

Countries: 33
 Projects: 56
 Total amount: US\$170.7 million

Pipeline

(under discussion with government/awaiting approval)
 Countries: 13
 Projects: 13
 Total amount: US\$64.5 million



F. Engagement with the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund

18. IFAD continues to work closely with governments, United Nations country teams (UNCTs) and resident coordinators for consistent, timely and demand-driven responses. IFAD is also continuously exploring opportunities to engage with MPTF as a financier and as a grant recipient. In addition to the projects approved in Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu detailed in the previous update, IFAD has since had two further projects approved through the MPTF. In Brazil, IFAD will partner with FAO, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and WFP to implement a two-phase project which will first collect detailed data on the situation of rural women and then deliver tailored livelihood support; similarly, in Viet Nam, IFAD will implement a joint initiative with UNIDO and UN-Women to build skills and capacity, promote COVID-safe working conditions, and support modern and digitized economic activities for women and youth affected by the pandemic.
19. IFAD is also continuing to look for linkages between the MPTF and the RPSF. So far, Management has approved financing through the RPSF to an MPTF-funded project being implemented by FAO and WFP in Eswatini. This project will provide subsidies for production inputs, develop digital marketing platforms, build linkages between small-scale farmers and school feeding programmes, subsidize market transport costs, provide capital to vendors (in the form of agricultural merchandise), and provide COVID-19 awareness training.

G. Policy and analytical support

20. IFAD has now provided policy and analytical support to 41 countries (see annex II for details). These studies have helped to inform activities both within and outside IFAD, provided a basis for policy dialogue with national governments, resulted in a range of publications, and created space for extensive collaboration with the Rome-based agencies (RBAs), other United Nations agencies and the World Bank.
21. Studies supported since the last update include a report compiled in collaboration with the Government of Honduras entitled Plan for rehabilitating the agrifood sector of Honduras aimed at mitigating the impacts of COVID-19, which will be used extensively to inform ongoing COVID-19 response policies in the country.
22. Other publications supported by IFAD include the following:
 - (i) **Bangladesh:** Second Rapid Assessment of Food and Nutrition Security in the Context of COVID-19 in Bangladesh;
 - (ii) **Plurinational State of Bolivia:** National Response and Rehabilitation Plan for the Agricultural Sector;
 - (iii) **Ethiopia:** One UN Assessment: Socio-Economic Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 in Ethiopia;
 - (iv) **Fiji:** Impact Survey of COVID-19 and Agriculture;
 - (v) **Iraq:** Food Security in Iraq: Impact of COVID-19;
 - (vi) **Jordan:** Jordan Food Security Update: Implications of COVID-19; and
 - (vii) **Lao People's Democratic Republic:** Rapid Assessment of Food Security and Agriculture.

Overview of approved RPSF proposals

Summary of RPSF projects approved so far

<i>Multi-country</i>		
Asia and the Pacific (20 countries) ⁵	Pillar 1. Provide agricultural inputs and support marketing through public-private-producer partnerships brokered or implemented by farmers' organizations.	US\$2.0 million
East and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa (22 countries) ⁶	Pillars 1-4. Work through farmers' organizations to adapt and restore food production by supporting access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity, and disseminating information on food availability and safety.	US\$1.5 million (plus US\$2.2 million in cofinancing)
Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru (stand-alone project implemented by Agriterra, an NGO)	Pillar 4. Establish wide-ranging digital services, with activities including provision of related equipment and training; connecting producers' organizations with private sector buyers and increasing their e-commerce capacity; helping groups to establish certified procedures and protocols on biosafety and risk management; and equipping local financial service providers with digital technologies to ensure business continuity.	US\$2.3 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan	Pillar 4. Deliver personalized agricultural advice through a mobile phone application, establishing a two-way information channel for farmers to receive low-cost advice to improve farm practices and access to markets.	US\$2.0 million (plus US\$0.9 million in cofinancing)
<i>Country-level</i>		
Afghanistan (a stand-alone project implemented by the project management unit of the IFAD-funded Community Livestock and Agriculture Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide inputs and basic assets for production and additional support through veterinary field units, fodder banks and ongoing IFAD investments in dairy value chains.	US\$0.9 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Bangladesh (implemented through the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project)	Pillar 1. Quick-impact provision of inputs and capacity-building support for high-value and nutrient-rich home vegetable gardening in coastal areas.	US\$0.9 million
Benin (implemented through the Agricultural Development and Market Access Support Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Support rice value chains by providing inputs and machinery for production, tricycles for transporting goods to markets and machinery for post-harvest processing.	US\$0.4 million
Burkina Faso (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provide subsidized inputs (including climate-resilient seeds), equipment, training and extension for digital information services for market gardens during the dry season. Establish a digital marketing platform and market information call centre, and promote partnerships along vegetable value chains.	US\$0.7 million
Burundi (implemented through the Value Chain Development Programme – Phase II)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide input kits containing hybrid seeds and fertilizer and plant protection products in the next two seasons, plus training on production practices and weather and market information.	US\$0.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)

⁵ Full list of countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

⁶ Full list of countries: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania.

Cambodia (implemented through the Agricultural Services Programme for Innovation, Resilience and Extension)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provide inputs and e-training and accelerate the ongoing roll-out of a multi-purpose mobile phone application for small-scale producers.	US\$0.5 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing and US\$0.5 million from regular grants)
Cameroon (implemented through the Youth Agropastoral Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Deliver inputs, machinery and technical assistance for crop and livestock production. Support market access by setting up temporary markets, assisting with storage and connecting with buyers through digital platforms.	US\$0.5 million
Central African Republic (implemented through the Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provide input kits for crop producers and animal kits (consisting of small ruminants) for agropastoralists, and assist in hiring tractors. Also support farmers' groups to engage in collective production and provide e-training on adapted production practices.	US\$0.6 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Chad (implemented through the Strengthening Productivity and Resilience of Agropastoral Family Farms Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide inputs, training and equipment for crop producers, seed farmers, livestock producers and young rural entrepreneurs along selected value chains. Also, offer logistical support for the transportation of agricultural products to grouping centres and markets, provide support for the organization of group sales and extend technical information and training to improve storage, packaging and marketing capacities.	US\$0.8 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Côte d'Ivoire (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chain Development Support Programme)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide production and post-harvest equipment including mini tractors, and support transportation for rice producers' organizations. Also, provide livestock inputs, including a large vaccination campaign.	US\$0.6 million
Comoros (implemented through the Family Farming Productivity and Resilience Support Project)*	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide inputs and training, in partnership with local research institutions, for crop rotation and use of improved varieties. Also, upgrade selected market infrastructure for storage, sales and transport in rural and peri-urban areas.	US\$0.3 million
Congo (implemented through the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Project)	Pillar 1. Work through producers' organizations to support cropping, livestock raising and aquaculture by providing inputs (including climate-resilient vegetable seeds, fingerlings, chicks, feed and veterinary products), climate-smart weather readers and training in adapted production practices.	US\$0.4million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (implemented through the North Kivu Agriculture Sector Support Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Work through farmers' organizations to provide inputs and training on adapted production practices. Support market access by providing means of transportation and improving price and market information systems.	US\$1.2 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Djibouti (implemented through the Soil and Water Management Programme)	Pillar 1. Provide various inputs for crop, livestock and fish producers, including seeds (forage seeds for plant cover regeneration and vegetable seeds for backyard farming), fertilizers and crop protection products, licking stones for livestock, veterinary products and fishing nets.	US\$0.2 million
Eritrea (implemented through the National Agriculture Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Distribute seeds and equipment, including water pumps for irrigation, along with livestock inputs and training in adapted production practices. Support marketing by providing storage sacks, milk churners and transport assistance.	US\$0.4 million

* These projects have been reviewed and are awaiting final approval.

Eswatini (stand-alone project implemented by FAO)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide cofinancing to a FAO/WFP project funded by the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF. The project will provide inputs, promote market linkages, subsidize transport costs, provide a capital subsidy to vendors and promote COVID-19 awareness raising.	US\$0.3 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Ethiopia (implemented through the Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme II)	Pillars 1, 2 and 3. Provide a range of support, including input vouchers, cash-for-work schemes, support for storage and transport of goods, provision of protective equipment and awareness training.	US\$1.0 million
Gabon (implemented through the Agricultural and Rural Development Project – Phase II)	Pillar 1. Support chicken cooperatives and pig and sheep farmers with inputs (including feed, housing and other equipment) and training in adapted production practices and financial management.	US\$0.2 million (plus US\$49,000 in cofinancing)
The Gambia (implemented through the Resilient Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Programme)	Pillars 1-4. Focusing on women and youth working in vegetable gardens, provide crop and livestock inputs and digital cash transfers; support safe and hygienic transportation to markets and provide equipment to ensure that all market actors can continue to operate. Establish a multi-purpose mobile phone application for market information, training and other uses.	US\$0.3 million
Guinea (implemented through the Family Farming, Resilience and Markets Project in Upper and Middle Guinea)	Pillars 1-3. Working through farmers' organizations, provide production kits in partnership with private suppliers, along with production and protective equipment, technical assistance and training in adapted production practices, and marketing, and market information. Provide transport equipment and inject money into local financial service providers.	US\$0.5 million
Guinea-Bissau (implemented through the Economic Development Project for the Southern Regions)	Pillars 1 and 2. Supply inputs, technical assistance, training, and protective equipment and hygiene kits, and establish national radio broadcasts to provide information on market prices and supply and demand for specific value chains.	US\$0.4 million
Kenya (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives)*	Pillars 1, 2, and 4. Focusing on potato farmers, provide e-vouchers for inputs, training on adapted practices and digital information on weather and production-enhancing techniques. Also facilitate group marketing, provide storage support and connect farmers to digital market platforms.	US\$0.8 million (plus US\$0.7 million in cofinancing)
Lebanon (stand-alone project implemented through the Climate Smart Agriculture: Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of the Rural Communities in Lebanon project, funded by the Adaptation Fund and supervised by IFAD)	Pillar 1. Provide inputs for greenhouse producers, including plastic sheeting for rainwater harvesting.	US\$0.2 million
Lesotho (stand-alone project implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association)	Pillar 1. Provide inputs to wool and mohair farmers, particularly production inputs to feed animals to sustain flock size and quality.	US\$0.3 million (plus US\$0.8 million in cofinancing)
Liberia (implemented through the Tree Crops Extension Project)	Pillar 1. Provide inputs, equipment and training for rice, cassava and vegetable production.	US\$0.5 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)

* These projects have been reviewed and are awaiting final approval.

Madagascar (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries)	Pillars 2 and 4. Enhance post-harvest warehouses and marketing facilities and establish a revolving fund for farmers' organizations to enable them to make collective sales to urban and peri-urban areas, as well as set up a digital platform for information on prices and market opportunities	US\$0.8 million (plus US\$0.6 million in cofinancing)
Malawi (implemented through the Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Supply agricultural inputs in collaboration with a private supplier; provide e-extension services and support to the government for the certification of seeds produced by farmers' organizations, using a digital system to increase efficiency. Provide market information, assist in identifying markets for crops and transporting products to market and for aggregation. Implement a livestock pass-on programme.	US\$0.6 million (plus US\$69,000 in cofinancing)
Mali (implemented through the Rural Youth Vocational Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship Support Project)	Pillars 1-4. Provide support to young people working in small and medium-sized enterprises, including subsidizing costs for rescheduling interest on loans from microfinance institutions and providing three months' worth of inputs. Will also supply market information by promoting communities of practice and sharing information on marketing opportunities and technical advice through WhatsApp.	US\$0.4 million
Mozambique (implemented through the Inclusive Agrifood Value Chain Development Programme)	Pillars 1-4. Provide a range of support including: nutrition-rich inputs, education on nutrition, sanitary kits for marketing, weather and market information, storage equipment, new aggregation points, technical assistance to farmers' organizations to develop business plans and access capital. Support access to digital information services.	US\$0.8 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Myanmar (stand-alone project implemented by the Centre for Economic and Social Development)	Pillar 4. Digitally register beneficiaries to ensure they are able to access a range of digital services. Also provide training on digital literacy; expand internet coverage and access to mobile money services; and help to enhance regulatory, incentive and business frameworks for long-term digital transformation.	US\$0.6 million (plus US\$0.04 in cofinancing)
Nepal (stand-alone project, implemented by the Agriculture Development Bank Limited)	Pillars 3 and 4. Support local banks to expand their digital services, implementing a new credit card and mobile phone application for money and information transfers, and automated loan processing.	US\$0.5 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Niger (implemented through the Family Farming Development Programme in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder Regions)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide inputs including seeds and water-pumping equipment, along with processing and conservation equipment for agricultural products.	US\$0.7 million
Nigeria (implemented through the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme in the Savannah Belt)	Pillar 1. Through farmers' organizations, deliver packages containing tailored inputs and products, including climate-resilient, high-yielding, short-duration and high-nutrition seeds.	US\$0.9 million (plus US\$1.3 million in repurposed funds from the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme)
Pakistan (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research)	Pillars 1, 3 and 4. Provide cash transfers for inputs through e-wallets programmed so that they can be used only for inputs from selected suppliers.	US\$1.1 million
Palestine (implemented through the Resilient Land and Resource Management Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Distribute seed and fertilizer to small-scale producers, and support clustering of crops and connecting farmers with buyers.	US\$0.3 million (plus US\$27 000 in cofinancing)

Papua New Guinea (stand-alone project implemented by the Fresh Produce Development Agency and Department of Agriculture and Livestock)	Pillars 1, 3 and 4. Provide free inputs at the farm gate, cover the 10 per cent contribution required to access a loan from the ongoing Market for Village Farmers Project, provide working capital to local transport operators to maintain their service and facilitate access to a digital market-price platform.	US\$0.4 million
Rwanda (stand-alone project implemented by the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide seeds for maize, beans and potatoes along with fertilizer, and support market access by providing guaranteed purchase for grains plus storage facilities.	US\$0.6 million
Sao Tome and Principe (implemented through the Commercialization, Agricultural Productivity and Nutrition Project)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provide production and post-harvest inputs and training for crop, livestock and fish production, and support for e-marketing and e-commerce.	US\$0.2 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Senegal (implemented through the Rural Youth Agripreneur Support Project [Agrijeunes Tekki Ndawñi])	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provide subsidized inputs and small equipment for potato and watermelon producers; provide capacity-building and advisory support for producers' groups on adapted horticultural production practices and how to access digital services for market information and input suppliers.	US\$0.5 million (plus US\$0.5 million in cofinancing)
Sierra Leone (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provide inputs (including fast-germinating and high-yielding seeds) and land preparation machinery; support the improvement of collection centres and establish a digital platform to serve as a repository for extension and market information.	US\$0.5 million
Somalia (stand-alone project implemented by the Somalia Development and Resilience Institute)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide inputs and minor equipment for crop, livestock and fish production, and equipment and training to minimize post-harvest losses and add value. Organize local purchases from small-scale farmers' groups.	US\$0.6 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
South Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by FAO)*	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide seeds, fishing nets, and post-harvest equipment and facilities (threshers, silos, hermetic bags, storage, coolers etc.) as well as training on production technologies and post-harvest handling practices (focal crops: millet, wheat, sorghum, sesame, maize, groundnuts, and vegetables).	US\$0.7 million
Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources)	Pillars 1-3. Provide production inputs to small-scale farmers, including vegetable seeds for women, to be used for home gardens, plus training on adapted production and post-harvest practices and financial management. Provide hermetic storage bags and support for collection centres, and distribute production and market information via SMS and radio. Inject money into local financial service providers to increase credit access and ability to send and receive money.	US\$0.7 million (plus US\$32,000 in cofinancing)
Syrian Arab Republic (implementation arrangements TBC)*	Pillar 1. Provide pregnant ewes and animal feed, along with seeds and other essential inputs and farm tools.	US\$0.6 million (plus US\$40,000 in cofinancing)
United Republic of Tanzania (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Support pre-season planning meetings of small-scale farmers' organizations to establish input requirements and seasonal marketing objectives. Also, support the purchase of maize grains from small farmers by the Government, link farmers' organizations with buyers and establish a mobile phone application for market information for inputs, sales and training.	US\$0.9 million

* These projects have been reviewed and are awaiting final approval.

Togo (implemented through the Shared-risk Agricultural Financing Incentive Mechanism Support Project)	Pillar 1. Support vegetable gardeners with inputs (including irrigation kits) and training.	US\$0.5 million
Uganda (stand-alone project implemented by the management unit of the Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas)	Pillars 3 and 4. Support local credit and savings groups by providing cash grants combined with capacity-building assistance on management, and extension on digital technologies (plus Internet costs).	US\$1.0 million (plus US\$53,000 in cofinancing)
Yemen (stand-alone project implemented by the Social Fund for Development)	Pillar 1. Depending on need, provide free inputs and assets for horticulture and livestock production combined with training in adapted production practices.	US\$0.8 million
Zambia (implemented through the Enhanced Smallholder Livestock Investment Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provide remote veterinary training and COVID-19 messaging, along with other veterinary services. Also establish a web-based surveillance and information-sharing platform for livestock disease prevention, along with livestock packages of rabbits, chickens and goats, solar-equipped boreholes for hand washing, and rabbit cages. Will also support the development of a livestock index insurance scheme.	US\$0.6 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Zimbabwe (implemented through the Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provide a nutrition-dense input package, along with basic personal protective equipment. Also, establish farmers' linkages to reliable markets and off-takers, and promote adoption of post-harvest technologies.	US\$0.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)

Overview of policy and analytical support

<i>Country</i>	<i>Activities</i>
Bangladesh	In collaboration with FAO, completed two rounds of rapid assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on the nationwide food and agriculture systems.
Plurinational State of Bolivia	Prepared a diagnosis on the impact of COVID-19 on agrifood systems based on a sectoral segmentation to design a strategy for the recovery of the country's agrifood sector in the medium and long term.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	In collaboration with FAO, prepared a study on the effects of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector.
Brazil	Series of studies to test remote technical assistance approaches, digital inclusion and marketing during the pandemic to feed into policymaking.
Burundi	RBAs in Burundi prepared a joint assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as recommendations.
Côte d'Ivoire	Analysis to help ensure COVID-19 does not exacerbate the meat price crisis in the country.
China	In collaboration with the United Nations country teams (UNCT), rapid assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.
Djibouti	Forthcoming RBA study and assessment of COVID-19 impacts will be informed by data from IFAD projects.
Ecuador	Conduct a study with the Government of Ecuador on the impact of COVID-19 on the rural labour market.
Egypt	IFAD, FAO, WFP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Food Policy Research Institute conducted a rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector. Also participating in several national COVID-19 policy response groups and contributing to several other ongoing analyses.
Eritrea	FAO and IFAD provided support to the UNCT Rapid Assessment: The Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Eritrea.
Ethiopia	IFAD contributed to a common country analysis with FAO, WFP, International Labour Organization, UNIDO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), feeding into the United Nations socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Ethiopia.
Fiji	Conducting an impact study in collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Pacific Islands Farmers Organization Network (PIFON).
Guatemala	Leading the preparation of a policy brief titled: Family farming and school feeding, an effective synergy for local development and instrument to respond to the COVID-19 situation in Guatemala.
Guinea-Bissau	In collaboration with FAO, WFP and UNDP, developed three chapters of the United Nations assessment of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.
Honduras	Conduct joint study with the Government of Honduras on ways to rehabilitate the agrifood sector to recover from the pandemic.
India	In collaboration with FAO, assessment of the impact of COVID-19 in a post-lockdown setting.
Iraq	In collaboration with RBAs and the World Bank, produced a series of publications on the impact of COVID-19 on food security.
Jordan	In collaboration with RBAs and the World Bank, produced a series of publications on the impact of COVID-19 on food security.
Kenya	Assisted the UNCT in conducting a rapid assessment of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	In collaboration with FAO and WFP, rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods.
Lesotho	Assisted the UNCT in conducting a rapid assessment of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

Morocco	In collaboration with FAO, drafted an economic study on the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector.
Mozambique	Multiple studies to inform the response effort in the areas of market access and production of fish, small stock and poultry in rural and peri-urban areas.
Myanmar	In collaboration with UNCT, rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods.
Namibia	In collaboration with WFP, Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis to inform the country analyses of UNCT and government efforts to support the agricultural sector and national development goals.
Nigeria	In collaboration with FAO and WFP, rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on Nigeria's agriculture-based livelihoods, food security and nutrition levels.
Peru	Prepared a diagnosis of the impact of COVID-19 on agrifood systems and production, and policy recommendations for the Ministry of Agriculture.
Philippines	In collaboration with FAO, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund, rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods, agricultural market chains and food security.
Samoa	Data-driven impact study in collaboration with CTA, PIFON, the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and FAO.
South Africa	Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on rural households and small farmers to inform the work of the government and UNCT.
South Sudan	Rapid assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and agriculture.
Tajikistan	In collaboration with FAO, prepared the pre-common country assessment (CCA) in the rural sector, to inform the multisector CCA that will lead to the country's new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.
United Republic of Tanzania	Conduct a synthesis of the evidence around the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and food systems, and produce an analysis using price data to assess the impact of COVID-19 on cereal markets.
Tonga	Study to assess the vulnerability of food and seed supply for the target group of the Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II.
Tunisia	Two studies in collaboration with FAO, WFP and the World Bank on the impact of COVID-19 on small-scale producers and strategic agricultural value chains.
Turkey	Assessment with FAO and UNDP on the impact of COVID-19 on the rural sector to feed a broader UNCT multisector impact assessment.
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Develop policy and programme briefs to inform the COVID-19 response activities of the government and development partners, drawing on FAO's monitoring, anticipation and assessment guidelines.
Viet Nam	In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, assist the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in conducting a countrywide survey on COVID-19 impacts on small-scale farmers.
Pacific Region (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)	Collaborate with WFP on mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping, through review of technical tools and engagement of key informant groups to address the longer-term economic impacts of COVID-19. Also, in collaboration with CTA and the TraSeable Solutions company in Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands, conduct a pilot study of an application for crowdsourcing data on the impact of COVID-19 on key commodities.