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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 fourth 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 financing and project implementation under the RPSF, as well as activities financed through repurposing of IFAD project funds, and analytical and policy support provided to governments. As usual, an addendum to this report will be issued shortly before the start of the 133<sup>rd</sup> session of the Board in September 2021 to ensure the most recent figures on RPSF implementation are available to Board members.

### **A. Extension of the RPSF**

2. The completion date of the RPSF has been extended from December 2021 to September 2022, as all five of the Member States that contributed to the facility have now signed an amended contribution agreement. As part of the agreement to extend the facility, IFAD has agreed to provide a completion report for the facility by 30 June 2023, along with an intermediate report on 30 September 2022, which will provide details of the facility's performance as measured against the results measurement framework at that point, along with other results and lessons learned from projects completed by the end of 2021. In order to ensure that all projects are completed by September 2022, IFAD will not approve any projects with a completion date after June 2022.

### **B. Financing approved so far**

3. As explained in the update provided at the 132<sup>nd</sup> session of the Board in April, resource mobilization for the RPSF has now ceased. After management fees are subtracted, the total amount in the facility is US\$89.1 million. To date, US\$75.3 million has been approved (including US\$35.5 million since the last update) across 55 single-country and eight multi-country projects (see annex I for more details), alongside US\$19.3 million in cofinancing from sources including the Rome-based agencies (RBAs), implementing partners and recipient governments. Requests totalling US\$12.8 million – including requests for one new project and 12 requests for additional financing for existing IFAD projects – are currently under review and are expected to be processed in the coming weeks. This leaves US\$1 million that is yet to be requested, which is being held until a small remaining contribution to the facility is encashed in September 2021, after which the final remaining amount will quickly be allocated.
4. Projects approved since the last update include exciting new regional initiatives in the Horn of Africa, Latin America and the Pacific. In the Horn of Africa, the project will cover Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan and will focus on providing seeds and strengthening seed supply networks for pastoralists affected by COVID-19. Covering the Plurinational State of Bolivia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, the project in Latin America will provide financial and technical support to companies that offer digital services for rural finance and agriculture, helping them to adapt their business models to reach the rural poor affected by COVID-19, particularly women, youth and indigenous peoples. The new project in the Pacific region, covering Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, will offer a range of support, including facilitating access to inputs and equipment, providing training for small enterprises and establishing digital platforms for marketing, data collection and information dissemination. This last project is particularly noteworthy, as it is a collaborative effort with the Government of Australia, as well as the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Food Programme (WFP). The project will also benefit from US\$1.5 million in cofinancing from the multi-partner United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

5. As required, all RPSF projects have been discussed with governments, the United Nations country team and other key relevant partners. IFAD is also continuing to explore collaborations with the RBAs and other partners through the RPSF. An example of this is another recently approved project in Zambia, which will promote virtual market linkages by supporting livestock producers in registering on a virtual farmers' market established by WFP.
6. Table 1 below shows the spread of the approved RPSF funds across regions and income categories. The focus has remained on low-income and lower-middle-income countries, and approximately US\$35 million (46 per cent) has gone to countries with fragile situations.<sup>1</sup> A large share of the funds allocated to upper-middle-income countries has gone to Small Island Developing States, which, while having a relatively high income per capita, continue to suffer from specific constraints that warrant support from the facility.

Table 1

**Approved RPSF financing, by income category and region**

(Millions of United States dollars, out of a total of US\$75.3 million)

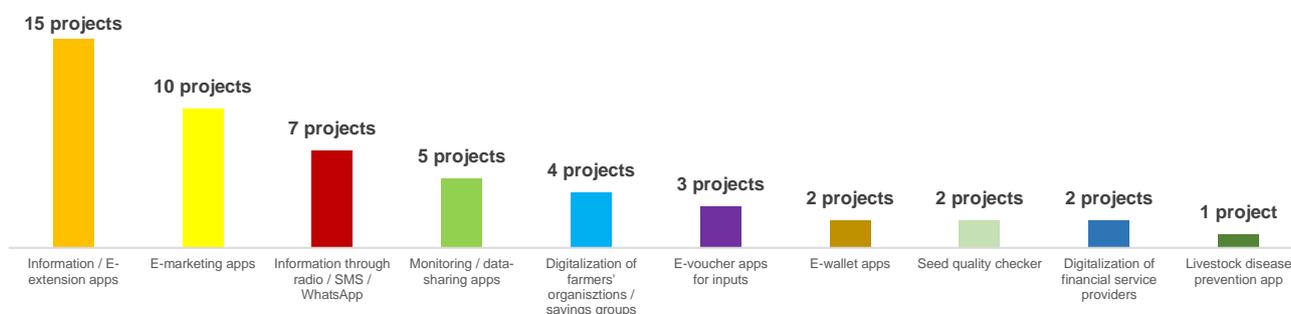
<i>Income classification</i>		<i>Region</i>	
Low-income	39.2 (52%)	Asia and the Pacific	13.9 (18%)
Lower-middle-income	32.0 (42%)	East and Southern Africa	23.7 (31%)
Upper-middle-income	4.1 (6%)	Latin America and the Caribbean	4.8 (7%)
		Near East, North Africa, and Europe	8.8 (12%)
		West and Central Africa	24.1 (32%)

7. Of the US\$75.3 million approved or awaiting final approval, US\$33.2 million (44 per cent) has been allocated to meet farmers' urgent input needs for the upcoming planting seasons. US\$19.3 million (26 per cent) has been earmarked for improving market access, including storage and transport, and US\$7.4 million (10 per cent) for rural finance. An amount of US\$15.4 million (20 per cent) has been allocated for digital services.

**C. Spotlight on projects utilizing digital technologies**

8. As noted above, around 20 per cent of RPSF funds have been allocated for digital services, covering 24 projects. The use of digital technologies to help overcome COVID-19-related constraints has presented an important opportunity to accelerate the adoption and expand the coverage of digital technologies that can also support long-term rural transformation. Figure 1 provides an overview of the main activities being implemented through these projects (see annex I for more details on each project).

Figure 1

**Types of digital activities implemented through RPSF projects**

<sup>1</sup> Based on World Bank FY21 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/888211594267968803/FCSList-FY21.pdf>.

9. The most common activities being implemented involve support for the development and uptake of existing mobile phone applications for accessing markets and information. These include applications offered by governments (such as in Papua New Guinea and United Republic of Tanzania), NGOs (e.g. the project with Precision Development in Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan) and in partnership with the private sector (e.g. in Cambodia). Only a few projects are introducing brand-new applications, including a market and weather information platform in Mozambique and a platform for extension materials, market information and awareness-raising information on nutrition and gender-based violence in Sierra Leone.
10. The marketing-related applications mainly consist of e-platforms for connecting buyers and sellers of inputs and goods, while the information applications mainly provide training materials and interactive advice on production, along with updates on weather and prices. Other types of applications include e-wallets for sending and receiving money and for redeeming e-vouchers for inputs (e.g. in Cambodia and Kenya), for conducting quality checks on seeds (e.g. in Burkina Faso and Malawi) and for collecting and sharing data (e.g. in the regional projects in the Pacific, and West Africa).
11. Aside from mobile phone applications, other activities include helping local financial service providers to expand their digital services in rural areas (e.g. in Nepal, Uganda and a regional project in Latin America and the Caribbean) and providing information and advice via radio or SMS (e.g. in the Central African Republic, Mauritania and Sierra Leone).
12. Many of these projects are already under way. It will be essential to ensure that lessons are captured from these activities so that they can inform the use of digital technologies across IFAD's wider portfolio. Identification of lessons learned will be part of the robust knowledge management strategy established for the facility.

## **D. Progress of RPSF projects so far**

### **Disbursement of funds for RPSF projects**

13. So far, US\$24.3 million has been disbursed through the RPSF across 35 projects, which amounts to 33 per cent of the total amount approved and 27 per cent of the total amount in the facility. The 27 projects yet to disburse include 8 recently approved projects for which the financing agreement is currently being negotiated or is awaiting final signature and 19 projects for which the financing agreement has been signed and preparations are currently being made for the first disbursement. While a large amount of funds remains to be disbursed, a marked increase in disbursements can be seen and is expected to continue, given that the bulk of funding committed in 2021 has been for additional financing for ongoing RPSF projects.
14. As mentioned in previous updates, some RPSF projects have experienced delays due to the time spent negotiating financing agreements with governments and some issues linked to COVID-19-related constraints on the ground. However, based on a survey of project teams, there is a low risk that any of the RPSF projects would be unable to reach completion, at least by the new cut-off of June 2022. Nevertheless, Senior Management is acutely aware of the need to ensure timely delivery of RPSF projects and is taking additional measures to ensure this, including increased monitoring by regional directors and advising the slowest-moving projects of the risk of cancellation.

### **Project outreach and initial results**

15. Of the 35 projects for which funds have been disbursed, project teams estimate that their activities have already reached around 2.3 million beneficiaries (around 58 per cent of the estimated 4 million total beneficiaries of the RPSF). As per the

RPSF target, 50 per cent are of these beneficiaries are women and 25 per cent are young people.

16. As no projects have been completed, and most of the projects are yet to provide a supervision report, reports against the results measurement framework of the RPSF are limited at this time. However, of the projects for which supervision reports have been submitted (see box 1 for a case study), strong results have been achieved, including farmers being able to complete their cropping season, produce additional food to safeguard their food security against COVID-19-related disruptions and access digital platforms for information and marketing. By the next update to the Board in December, it is expected that supervision missions will have been completed for a larger number of projects, and more details of initial impacts of RPSF projects will be provided.

Box 1

#### **Spotlight on the results of the Support African Farmers in the 2020 Emergency (SAFE)**

The SAFE project was approved for RPSF funding of US\$1.5 million in July 2020. It covers 22 countries across Africa. The aim of the project is to enable African farmers' organizations to support their members by ensuring timely access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity and to disseminate on a large scale reliable and updated information on food availability and safety. The project is closely linked to the Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP) programme, financed by IFAD and the European Union, and is being implemented through the members of the Pan-African Farmers' Organization. Cofinancing of US\$2.0 million was provided through FO4ACP to support emergency COVID-19 support that is outside the scope of FO4ACP. The project has benefited from the efficiencies of utilizing the infrastructures of the farmers' organizations and is expected to have reached around 300,000 small-scale producers by its completion.

Scheduled for completion in December 2021, the project is well under way and important results have already been achieved, with 90 per cent of the funding having already been disbursed. Some key results in selected countries are as follows:

- **Cameroon:** Six farmer cooperatives have been provided with working capital to support their operations during the pandemic.
- **Congo:** Through the National Consultation of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers of Congo, 30 member cooperatives received over 7 kg of improved seeds for cabbage, pepper and tomato to help ensure that their cropping season was not disrupted by COVID-19.
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** 200 farm households received seeds for cassava, corn, cowpea, and peanuts to allow them to plant for the cropping season. In addition, four cooperatives who are members of the Congo Rural Confederation have been selected to receive working capital to support their operations during the pandemic.
- **Djibouti:** The Djibouti Agropastoralist Association was supported to enable it to purchase and distribute 20 metric tons of animal feed to 500 dairy goat farmers and to provide them with extension services during the cropping seasons to help them navigate COVID-19-related challenges.
- **Kenya:** Key inputs were provided to 1,812 farmers (52 per cent of whom are women) to secure their maize harvest for the season. The total value of this harvest that has been secured through the project is estimated at around US\$250,000.
- **Cross-cutting:** Various media have been used to provide tailored information in local languages on adapted production practices and on COVID-19 prevention, helping to compensate for the limited mobility of extension workers. Lobbying and advocacy activities have also been conducted to promote policies to facilitate rural livelihoods during and after the pandemic, including the provision of essential services to ensure value chain functioning, removal of cross-border trade barriers and the use of digital technologies to overcome COVID-19-related challenges.

In addition to these results, key lessons have been drawn from the SAFE experience. While some RPSF projects have experienced delays in implementation, the strong progress of SAFE has shown that farmers' organizations can serve as an agile and efficient implementing partner for disaster response initiatives. Moreover, the strong linkage with the ongoing FO4ACP initiative highlights the value of providing complementary support to ongoing projects in times of disaster and disruption, which helps to ensure a quick and efficient way to implement disaster response activities as well as helping to secure the progress and longer-term results of the project concerned.

#### **Measuring project impacts**

17. As outlined in previous updates to the Board, a robust results measurement framework has been established for the RPSF, one aspect of which will involve collecting data on a sample of projects to measure their impacts on production, market sales, income, resilience, and food security and nutrition. Preparations for this data collection are now well under way. The sample of 13 projects (10 single-country and 3 multi-country projects, representing 20 per cent of the portfolio) has been selected and the first round of data collection for the RPSF project in Djibouti has begun. The second round of data collection for the project with Precision

Development will be conducted in September, with data collection for the remaining 11 projects to follow shortly thereafter. IFAD's Research and Impact Assessment Division has designed a questionnaire for data collection and is supporting project teams on sample design, logistics and analysis.

18. A rigorous knowledge management strategy has also been developed, which will include a series of blogs, knowledge-sharing events and communications materials, for which work has already begun.

### **E. Repurposing of project funds and policy support**

19. During 2020 and early 2021, IFAD quickly repurposed large amounts of funding to support the rural poor against the immediate threats arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. IFAD has also worked with other United Nations agencies to provide policy and analytical support to inform national response strategies. At this point, there is relatively lower demand from governments for these forms of support, but IFAD continues to work with governments and other agencies to provide such assistance when needed and appropriate.
20. Since the last update, a further US\$9 million has been repurposed to finance COVID-19 support through IFAD projects, bringing the total amount to US\$179 million, spanning 58 projects in 36 countries. This includes the recent repurposing of US\$1 million through the Fisheries Resources Management Programme in Eritrea. This funding was used to provide temporary cold storage to ensure those affected by COVID-19 restrictions were able to store their harvests; in addition, cash vouchers were provided to 100 vulnerable women to help them to address short-term cash flow constraints caused by the pandemic.
21. IFAD continues to add to the list of 46 countries to which it has provided policy and analytical support for the response to COVID-19 (see annex II for further details). Perhaps the most notable recent example is the support being provided through the RPSF project in the Pacific region. This project will build upon existing efforts to improve the data collection capacity of governments in the region in order to inform targeting and tailoring of support to small-scale producers affected by COVID-19. In collaboration with WFP and other United Nations agencies, this support will include establishing platforms through which data on food production, food insecurity and vulnerability can be crowdsourced to inform policymaking in real time.
22. Reflecting the need to adapt support to the post-pandemic recovery phase, "post-lockdown" studies are being planned in several countries in Asia, with the participation of partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with a view to informing longer-term rebuilding policies. Another recent example highlighting the shift of focus to the recovery phase is a recently completed study in Lesotho, which used funds repurposed through the Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agricultural Production Project. The findings of this study will be used to inform new safety protocols for the food sector.

## Overview of approved RPSF proposals

### Summary of RPSF projects approved so far

<i>Multi-country</i>		
Asia and the Pacific: 20 countries <sup>2</sup> (stand-alone project implemented by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, a federation of farmers' associations)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> <sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>4</sup> (stand-alone project implemented through the Pan-African Farmers' Organization, a federation of farmers' associations)	<b>Pillars 1-4.</b> 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)
Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by Seed Systems Group, an NGO)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> Provide sub-grant funding for lead seed enterprises, lead farmers and research institutes to provide seeds and train youth local advisers on extension services.	US\$2.5 million (plus US\$0.5 million in cofinancing)
Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger (stand-alone project implemented by Réseau Billital Maroobé, a network of farmers' organizations)	<b>Pillars 1 and 4.</b> Focusing on cross-border areas, provide organizations of pastoralists and agropastoralists with animal feed, subsidized seed, veterinary services and cattle and small ruminants (to ultra-poor). Will also help to establish a digital platform to monitor the situation of pastoralists and the impact of COVID-19 on them and help to inform policymaking and promote inclusion of this group in new legislation.	US\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.9 million in cofinancing)
Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan (stand-alone project implemented by Precision Development)	<b>Pillar 4.</b> 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\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.9 million in cofinancing and US\$0.5 million from regular grants)
Pacific region: Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu (stand-alone project implemented through project management units of IFAD projects in each country)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> Provide inputs, working capital for land preparation, equipment and training for production and post-harvest processing/storage. Also support COVID-19-compliant supply chains, support governments in collecting data on COVID-19 impacts on food security and vulnerability. Also facilitate the provision of business development services and other support for small enterprises. The project will establish dedicated COVID-19 platforms and dashboards to disseminate information on progress milestones, real-time outcome data and crowdsourced data on food production and consumption. It will also promote the development and scaling up of tested digital solutions for market linkages (including e-commerce platforms for small and medium-sized enterprises), agricultural advice and nutrition awareness.	US\$3.0 million (plus US\$6.5 million in cofinancing)
Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru (stand-alone project implemented by Agriterra, an NGO)	<b>Pillar 4.</b> 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)
Plurinational State of Bolivia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico (stand-alone project)	<b>Pillars 3 and 4.</b> Provide financial and technical support to fintech and agritech companies in order to adapt their business models and serve the needs of small-scale rural	US\$2.5 million (plus US\$0.7 million in cofinancing)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> RPSF pillars are as follows: (1) provision of inputs and basic assets for production; (2) facilitated access to markets; (3) targeted funds to preserve services, markets and jobs for poor rural people; (4) delivery of agriculture-related information through digital services.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

implemented by Sparkassenstiftung für Internationale Kooperation, an NGO)	producers, including cooperatives, producer organizations and, especially, women, youth and indigenous peoples.	
<i>Country-level</i>		
Afghanistan (a stand-alone project implemented by the project management unit of the IFAD-funded Community Livestock and Agriculture Project)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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)
Angola (implemented through the Smallholder Agriculture Development and Commercialization Project in Cuanza Sul and Huila Provinces)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> Provide input package containing seeds, fertilizer and a machete, along with training on agronomic practices, water harvesting, COVID-19 awareness and nutrition. Also provide start-up capital for youth groups to make hand soap, and provide market information via radio, arrange rural trade fairs and provide training on marketing and negotiation. Also distribute masks made by local women.	US\$1.4 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Bangladesh (implemented through the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> Quick-impact provision of inputs and capacity-building support for high-value and nutrient-rich home vegetable gardening in coastal areas.	US\$2.0 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Benin (implemented through the Agricultural Development and Market Access Support Project)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> Support rice value chains by providing inputs and machinery for production, tricycles for transporting goods to markets and machinery for post-harvest processing.	US\$1.0 million
Burkina Faso (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.5 million
Burundi (implemented through the Value Chain Development Programme – Phase II)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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)
Cambodia (implemented through the Agricultural Services Programme for Innovation, Resilience and Extension)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> Provide inputs and e-training and accelerate the ongoing roll-out of a multi-purpose mobile phone application for small-scale producers.	US\$1.2 million (plus US\$0.4 million in cofinancing and US\$0.5 million from regular grants)
Cameroon (implemented through the Youth Agropastoral Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.1 million
Central African Republic (implemented through the Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.4 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Chad (implemented through the Strengthening Productivity and Resilience of Agropastoral Family Farms Project)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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\$1.8 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Côte d'Ivoire (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chain Development Support Programme)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> 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)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> 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\$0.4 million
Eritrea (implemented through the National Agriculture Project)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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
Eswatini (stand-alone project implemented by FAO)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> Provide cofinancing to a FAO/WFP project funded by the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. 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)
Eswatini (implemented through the Smallholder Market-led Project)	<b>Pillars 1,2 and 4.</b> Provide a subsidy for production inputs for nutrient-dense vegetables alongside technical production support and promotion of climate-smart agricultural innovations. Will also offer COVID-19 awareness training and upgrade current digital e-marketing platforms. Will support post-harvest by providing solar driers and training farmers on their use (using youth trainers).	US\$0.4 million
Ethiopia (implemented through the Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme II)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 3.</b> 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\$2.2 million
Gabon (implemented through the Agricultural and Rural Development Project – Phase II)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> 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\$0.4 million (plus US\$49,000 in cofinancing)
The Gambia (implemented through the Resilient Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Programme)	<b>Pillars 1-4.</b> 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\$0.6 million
Guinea (implemented through the Family Farming, Resilience and Markets Project in Upper and Middle Guinea)	<b>Pillars 1-3.</b> 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)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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)	<b>Pillars 1, 2, and 4.</b> 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\$0.9 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)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> Provide inputs for greenhouse producers, including plastic sheeting for rainwater harvesting.	US\$0.2 million
Lesotho (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> 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)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> Provide inputs, equipment and training for rice, cassava and vegetable production.	US\$1.1 million (plus US\$0.6 million in cofinancing)
Madagascar (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries)	<b>Pillars 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.8 million (plus US\$0.6 million in cofinancing)
Malawi (implemented through the Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.4 million (plus US\$69,000 in cofinancing)
Mali (implemented through the Rural Youth Vocational Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship Support Project)	<b>Pillars 1-4.</b> 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\$1.0 million
Mauritania (implemented through the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Communal Equipment and the Organization of Rural Producers Project)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> Provide certified climate-resilient seeds, equipment, livestock inputs and veterinary services and technical support and training on production. Also provide information on input availability, veterinary services and market information via radio, text messages and digital platforms.	US\$0.7 million
Mozambique (implemented through the Inclusive Agrifood Value Chain Development Programme)	<b>Pillars 1-4.</b> 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\$1.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Nepal (stand-alone project, implemented by the Agriculture Development Bank Limited)	<b>Pillars 3 and 4.</b> 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\$1.2 million (plus US\$0.4 million in cofinancing)
Niger (implemented through the Family Farming Development Programme in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder Regions)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> Provide inputs including seeds and water-pumping equipment, along with processing and conservation equipment for agricultural products.	US\$1.5 million
Nigeria (implemented through the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme in the Savannah Belt)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> 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)
Nigeria (implemented through the Value Chain Development Programme)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> Work through farmers' organizations to provide agricultural stimulus and resilience input packages and training on production. Will also link farmers to the existing e-marketing platform.	US\$1.1 million

Pakistan (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research)	<b>Pillars 1, 3 and 4.</b> Provide cash transfers for inputs through e-wallets programmed so that they can be used only for inputs from selected suppliers.	US\$2.4 million
Palestine (implemented through the Resilient Land and Resource Management Project)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> Distribute seed and fertilizer to small-scale producers, and support clustering of crops and connecting farmers with buyers.	US\$0.6 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Papua New Guinea (stand-alone project implemented by the Fresh Produce Development Agency and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock)	<b>Pillars 1, 3 and 4.</b> 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\$0.7 million
Rwanda (stand-alone project implemented by the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> Provide seeds for maize, beans and potatoes along with fertilizer, and support market access by providing guaranteed purchase for grains, plus storage facilities.	US\$1.4 million (plus US\$0.5 million in cofinancing)
Sao Tome and Principe (implemented through the Commercialization, Agricultural Productivity and Nutrition Project)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> Provide production and post-harvest inputs and training for crop, livestock and fish production, and support for e-marketing and e-commerce.	US\$0.4 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Senegal (implemented through the Rural Youth Agripreneur Support Project [Agrijeunes Tekki Ndawñi])	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.0 million (plus US\$1.1 million in cofinancing)
Sierra Leone (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.1 million
Somalia (stand-alone project implemented by the Somalia Development and Resilience Institute)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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 Vétérinaires sans Frontières Germany, an NGO)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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\$1.4 million
Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources)	<b>Pillars 1-3.</b> 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\$1.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Syrian Arab Republic (stand-alone project implemented by UNDP)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> 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)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$2.0 million
Togo (implemented through the Shared-risk Agricultural Financing Incentive Mechanism Support Project)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> Support vegetable gardeners with inputs (including irrigation kits) and training.	US\$1.0 million

Uganda (stand-alone project implemented by the management unit of the Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas)	<b>Pillars 3 and 4.</b> 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)	<b>Pillar 1.</b> 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)	<b>Pillars 1, 2 and 4.</b> 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\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.4 million in cofinancing)
Zimbabwe (implemented through the Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme)	<b>Pillars 1 and 2.</b> 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\$1.6 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)

Note: RPSF contributions have also been used to cofinance larger projects with a COVID-19 response component in Côte d'Ivoire and Yemen. In Côte d'Ivoire, US\$0.7 million in RPSF funds were contributed to the recently approved Agricultural Emergency Support Project, and in Yemen, US\$3 million in RPSF funds were contributed to the upcoming Rural Livelihoods Development Project.

## 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 and conducted study to inform new safety protocols in the food sector.
Mexico	Provide inputs into a national post-COVID-19 strategy in collaboration with FAO, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the World Bank.
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.
Papua New Guinea	IFAD is an active member of the national Food Security Cluster, supporting the coordination and planning of the national COVID-19 response, and is cofinancing, in cooperation with the International Food Policy Research Institute the development and publication of a food price bulletin.
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.