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## Update on the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

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For: **Review**

## **I. Latest figures on approved financing and disbursements for the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility**

1. Since the drafting of the progress report, US\$1.5 million of the remaining US\$2.4 million has been approved. The purpose of the funding was to top up the existing Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as anticipated in the progress report. This takes the total amount approved to US\$88.1 million, leaving just US\$0.9 million remaining. Requests for the remaining funds, to be used as additional financing for two existing RPSF projects, are under review for imminent approval. Management continues to identify new implementation arrangements in Afghanistan to ensure that funds already approved can be retained in the country, as described in the progress report. In the event a solution cannot be found, the option to reallocate the funds to well performing projects will be retained.
2. In terms of the implementation of RPSF projects, a further US\$5.2 million has been disbursed since the progress report, taking the total amount disbursed to US\$69.2 million (80 per cent of approved funds excluding Afghanistan). The vast majority of projects remain on track to complete before the June 2022 deadline and ahead of the September 2022 RPSF completion date. Nevertheless, Management continues to monitor the portfolio closely as the completion of the facility approaches.

## **II. Early indication of RPSF results**

3. As mentioned in the progress report, data is being collected for Tier II and Tier III indicators through internal tracking systems. With projects beginning to reach completion, collection of the primary data required for a sample of projects for Tier I reporting is also now well under way. A rapid assessment for the first round of financing for a sample project in Djibouti was recently completed with support from the Research and Impact Assessment Division, and another 12 projects are expected to be included the sample. Overall, data collection is expected to have begun in more than half of the sample projects by May 2022, at which point IFAD can start to develop a more holistic view.
4. The project in Djibouti focused on the provision of 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. The results from the assessment sample show that between 99 and 100 per cent of surveyed households reported having retained or improved their production, sales, income, number of meals and resilience after RPSF interventions were implemented. Additionally, 57 per cent of them reported that their assets were also maintained or increased. Over 50 per cent of the surveyed households were headed by women and over 25 were headed by youth (aged 15 to 34), in line with minimum outreach targets.