

Document: EB 2022/135/R.17
Agenda: 11(a)
Date: 31 March 2022
Distribution: Public
Original: English

E



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

Note to Executive Board representatives

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Donal Brown
Associate Vice-President
Programme Management Department
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2448
e-mail: d.brown@ifad.org

Ashley Anne Davidson
Programme Officer (Rural Poor Stimulus Facility)
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2160
e-mail: a.davidson@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Deirdre Mc Grenra
Chief
Institutional Governance and
Member Relations
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374
e-mail: gb@ifad.org

Executive Board — 135th Session
Rome, 25-27 April 2022

For: Review

I. Update on implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

1. This is the sixth 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 upcoming Board session to ensure that the most recent figures and information on RPSF implementation are made available.
2. As agreed with the RPSF donors, a detailed interim review of the RPSF will be undertaken by 30 September 2022. Building on the progress reports already available to Board members, this interim report will provide initial results against the RPSF Results Management Framework. In 2023, a final completion report will be prepared, collating the results and lessons learned from all completion reports of RPSF projects in order to share a comprehensive view of the facility.

A. Financing approved to date

3. Of the US\$89.0 million available for the RPSF, US\$86.6 million (97 per cent) has thus far been approved across 55 single-country and nine multi-country projects, together with US\$22.0 million in cofinancing.
4. The delay in approving the remaining funds is mainly due to Management's efforts to ensure that the funds reach the most challenging contexts, despite the difficulties this presents. Of the remaining US\$2.4 million to be approved, US\$1.5 million has been committed to top up the existing RPSF project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The delay in approving the funds there is due to a switch in the IFAD project to which the RPSF funding is anchored, after the anchor project used for the initial round of funds received a financial management rating below the required threshold for IFAD projects. This proposal is currently under review and should be completed by September. A further US\$1.1 million is allocated to Afghanistan, and had already been approved in August 2021, before the current political crisis and sanctions. IFAD is in the advanced stages of exploring the best means for continued engagement with these funds in the light of the current situation in the country. Management is committed to retaining resources in these countries, given the continued high level of need due to COVID-19, and is also aiming to have the funds approved under the new arrangements by April. At the same time, the option to reallocate the funds elsewhere if a solution cannot be found will be retained. A number of projects proven to be effective and fast-disbursing have been identified as potential recipients of the reallocated funds, if necessary.
5. The final remaining amount of US\$0.91 million, made up of several small sums of unused country allocations, will be split to provide additional financing to existing well-performing projects in high-priority countries. Approval is expected by April. Given the faster pace at which the intended recipient projects have been disbursing, and the extreme and ongoing effects of COVID-19 in these countries, Management is confident that the projects will provide much-needed support and complete in a timely manner, despite the advanced stage of the facility.
6. Table 1 shows the updated approximate spread of the approved RPSF funds across regions and country income categories. The focus remains on low-income and lower-middle-income countries, and approximately US\$41 million (47 per cent) has gone to countries with fragile situations.¹

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

Table 1

Approved RPSF financing, by income category and region

(Millions of United States dollars, out of a total of US\$86.6 million)

<i>Income classification</i>		<i>Region</i>	
Low-income	44.5 (51%)	Asia and the Pacific	17.6 (20%)
Lower-middle-income	37.6 (43%)	East and Southern Africa	29.7 (34%)
Upper-middle-income	4.5 (5%)	Latin America and the Caribbean	4.8 (6%)
		Near East, North Africa, and Europe	9.6 (11%)
		West and Central Africa	25.1 (29%)

7. Of the US\$86.6 million approved, about 42 per cent has been allocated to meet farmers' urgent input needs for the upcoming planting seasons; 31 per cent for improving market access, including storage and transport; 9 per cent for rural finance; and 21 per cent for digital services.

B. Project progress and performance**Project implementation**

8. Implementation of all ongoing RPSF projects has made significant progress since the prior update to the Executive Board in December 2021. Already, several projects have completed and are preparing for closure. Furthermore, all projects under way remain on track to complete by the RPSF project completion date of June 2022. Since the last update, the amount disbursed has risen from US\$39 million to US\$64 million (75 per cent of the approved funds), spread across 62 of the 64 approved RPSF projects. This includes 10 projects that had previously not disbursed, and a project only approved in late 2021. Additionally, several withdrawal requests are currently in the pipeline, meaning the amount disbursed will continue to rise as IFAD works towards the RPSF completion date.
9. Based on the upcoming disbursements and information collected through regular stock takes with country teams, Management is confident that the vast majority of projects remain on track to complete by 30 June 2022. The RPSF projects completion deadline of June, rather than the facility completion date of 30 September 2022, was set by Management to allow for a buffer for exceptional cases where projects require additional time. Nevertheless, Management continues to vigilantly monitor the RPSF portfolio to avoid delays in implementation, with additional weekly monitoring of all projects, and follow-up with projects that have a below-average disbursement profile. The frequency of this portfolio monitoring will continue to be ramped up as completion of the facility approaches.

Ongoing rapid impact assessments

10. The interim progress report in September 2022 will present the available data for all three tiers of indicators included in the RPSF Results Management Framework: (i) development results; (ii) outreach and service delivery; and (iii) operational efficiency and effectiveness. The completion report in June 2023 will present the final results for the entire portfolio.
11. The data for the Tier II and III indicators are being continuously collected through internal tracking systems. Additionally, with projects beginning to reach completion, collection of the primary data required for a sample of projects for the Tier I "impact" reporting is also now well under way. The assessment for the first sample project in Djibouti was recently completed with support from the Research and Impact Assessment Division, and the report is currently being finalized. The results will be shared as part of the customary addendum to this report to be published in early April. As mentioned, Management intends to share results for additional sampled projects in the interim report in September. Overall, data collection is expected to have begun in more than half of the sample projects by May; some of these will be finalized by September and therefore included in the report.

Knowledge management (KM) activities

12. In order to effectively respond to potential global challenges that disproportionately affect the rural poor, and to support their resilience to future shocks, capturing and integrating lessons from the RPSF is vital. With implementing and completing projects, IFAD will continue to increase its focus on generating lessons.
13. Guided by the RPSF KM Strategy, IFAD has developed several knowledge products for this purpose, including internal and external blogs, learning events, and COVID-19 learning notes in areas such as digital agriculture and inclusive financial services. The most recent example is an RPSF learning event held in January 2022 as part of an ongoing series. This event focused on drawing lessons from some of the multi-country projects implemented through the facility and finding ways to use such multinational initiatives to help provide more efficient and collaborative crisis responses in the future.
14. The discussion held between IFAD staff and RPSF project implementers highlighted relevant lessons for further exploration. These included the finding that regional projects disburse more quickly on average than single-country projects (validated by internal tracking) and have effectively facilitated cross-country policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing. Additionally, the discussions revealed how third-party implementers, in particular farmers' organizations, can offer agile and sustainable means of intervening during emergencies. These experiences were similar across diverse implementation contexts. The event was accompanied by a learning note recently shared on the IFAD website.²

II. Other COVID-19 support

15. Other COVID-19 support provided by IFAD includes two large emergency projects being implemented in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Additionally, the ongoing third window of the China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility also has a strong focus on COVID-19 response and has approved grants to Afghanistan, Cuba, Kenya, Rwanda, Tajikistan and the United Republic of Tanzania for this purpose. The grant covering Kenya and Rwanda, for instance, is targeting 2,800 smallholder cereal growers with a range of COVID-19 recovery support, including a digital platform to promote knowledge transfer on innovative agricultural solutions between the two countries.
16. While no further repurposing has been approved since the last update, results from the large amount of repurposing implemented through 2020–2021 are beginning to emerge. For example, using US\$560,000 of repurposed funds through the Vocational Training and Agricultural Productivity Improvement Programme in Madagascar, IFAD has been able to train and employ 2,500 rural youth in public works schemes, helping to develop 150 hectares of irrigated land for local farmers. This has ensured a source of income for the beneficiaries despite COVID-19, and will help keep the programme's longer-term objectives of support to the livelihoods of rural youth on track.
17. Repurposed funds have also been used to leverage cofinancing for emergency COVID-19 support from other partners. For example, after US\$15 million was repurposed through IFAD's Rural Financial Intermediation Programme (Phase III) in Ethiopia in 2020 to provide liquidity support and debt deferral for microfinance clients, the European Union agreed in 2021 to provide a further US\$15 million in cofinancing. Implementation of this joint initiative is currently under way, and by completion the combined funds are expected to reach around 1.5 million smallholders.

² The learning note for the January 2022 learning event can be found here: https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/42023505/covid_learning6.pdf/6ef6a30d-473d-57dd-6a92-4cc1cc9b0518?t=1646654382706.

18. Currently, in terms of policy and analytical support, there are planned, ongoing and completed studies across 46 countries and also at the regional level (see annex II for an overview). The majority of these studies are being conducted in collaboration with United Nations country teams (UNCTs) and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and other development agencies. Most of them focus on conducting rapid assessments of the situation in the agricultural or rural sector, often with an emphasis on the challenges faced by women and youth.
19. For example, in a recently published study, IFAD, FAO, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joined forces to assess how investment in agriculture could improve health outcomes, provide livelihood alternatives for rural people, enhance food and economic self-sufficiency, and improve resilience to external shocks in the Pacific. As part of the United Nations response to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems across the Pacific Islands, this report offers a consolidated analysis of pre-COVID food security and nutrition challenges and outlines key actions needed to respond to the current impacts, inform medium- to long-term recovery planning, and better prepare for future crises. It reflects cross-cutting development challenges – especially of small island developing states – with a focus on post-COVID-19 recovery through food systems.³

III. Ongoing engagement with the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund

20. IFAD has so far been involved in five projects that have received funding from the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. A sixth had been anticipated in Brazil, but unfortunately the participating United Nations agencies were unable to mobilize the necessary resources. As a reminder, the five projects discussed in prior updates to the Board include one each in Eswatini, Panama and Viet Nam, and two in the Pacific. IFAD continues to look for opportunities to collaborate with UNCTs and other partners in search of synergies with the RPSF.

³ The majority of the publicly available assessments and reports on the food security and nutrition impacts of COVID-19 focused on Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. A few included Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, but less information was collected on other Pacific Island countries. Papua New Guinea is not within the scope of this report. https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/44935339/pacific_covid_recovery.pdf/650af032-e003-595f-12ea-8c45f7197c7c?t=1644853380565.

Overview of approved RPSF proposals

Summary of RPSF projects approved so far

<i>Multi-country</i>		
Asia and the Pacific: 8 countries ⁴ (stand-alone project implemented by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, a federation of farmers' associations)	Pillar 1. ⁵ 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 (stand-alone project implemented through the Pan-African Farmers' Organization, a federation of farmers' associations)	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)
Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by Seed Systems Group, an NGO)	Pillar 1. 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 Marobé, a network of farmers' organizations)	Pillars 1 and 4. 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)	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\$3.2 million (plus US\$1.7 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)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. 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)	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)
Plurinational State of Bolivia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico (stand-alone project implemented by Sparkassenstiftung für Internationale Kooperation, an NGO)	Pillars 3 and 4. 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 producers, including cooperatives, producer organizations and, especially, women, youth and indigenous peoples.	US\$2.5 million (plus US\$0.7 million in cofinancing)

⁴ Full list of countries: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam.

⁵ 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.

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.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in East Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda (stand-alone project implemented by Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority)	Pillar 2: Improve response to cross-border trade disruptions along the Northern Corridor through effective information sharing and coordination of border regulations; training for farmers' organizations and MSMEs to increase collective bargaining power; logistics and storage support to farmers' organizations and MSMEs (including establishing rural aggregation centres).	US\$2.0 million (plus US\$0.6 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\$2.0 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Angola (implemented through the Smallholder Agriculture Development and Commercialization Project in Cuanza Sul and Huila Provinces)	Pillars 1 and 2. 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)	Pillar 1. 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)	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\$1.0 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\$1.5 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\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
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\$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)	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\$1.1 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\$1.4 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\$1.8 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\$0.7 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\$1.0 million (plus US\$0.3 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\$0.4 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
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 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)	Pillars 1,2 and 4. 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)	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\$2.2 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\$0.4 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\$0.6 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\$1.2 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\$0.8 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\$1.9 million (plus US\$1.5 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 the Ministry of Agriculture and the 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\$0.7 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\$1.1 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
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\$1.8 million (plus US\$59,000 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\$1.4 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\$1.0 million
Mauritania (implemented through the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Communal Equipment and the Organization of Rural Producers Project)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. 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)	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\$1.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million 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\$1.2 million (plus US\$0.4 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\$1.5 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)
Nigeria (implemented through the Value Chain Development Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. 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)	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\$2.4 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\$0.6 million (plus US\$60,000 in cofinancing)
Papua New Guinea (stand-alone project implemented by the Fresh Produce Development Agency and the 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\$0.7 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\$1.4 million (plus US\$0.5 million in cofinancing)
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\$0.4 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Senegal (implemented through the Rural Youth Agripreneur Support Project [Agrijeunes Tekki Ndawñii])	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\$1.0 million (plus US\$1.1 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\$1.1 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\$1.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
South Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by Vétérinaires sans Frontières Germany, an NGO)	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\$1.4 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\$1.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Syrian Arab Republic (stand-alone project implemented by UNDP)	Pillar 1. Provide pregnant ewes and animal feed, along with seeds and other essential inputs and farm tools.	US\$0.5 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	US\$2.0 million

	and establish a mobile phone application for market information for inputs, sales and training.	
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\$1.0 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\$2.1 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\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.4 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\$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 Agricultural Emergency Support Project, and in Yemen, US\$3 million in RPSF funds were contributed to the 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.
Brazil	Series of studies to test remote technical assistance approaches, digital inclusion and marketing during the pandemic to feed into policymaking and project operations.
Burundi	RBAs in Burundi prepared a joint assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as recommendations.
Côte d'Ivoire	Analysis and study underway 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. IFAD also led an assessment on the impact of the pandemic on the rural economy, and completed a policy implication note on the meta analysis study on this topic.
Ecuador	Conducted an analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on the Ecuadorian agriculture with emphasis on small-scale producers. The results were shared with the Government of Ecuador.
Egypt	IFAD, FAO, WFP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 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.
Pakistan	IFAD is working to produce several policy notes before the end of 2021 to support COVID-19 recovery as part of a working group with World Bank, Asian Development Bank, FAO and IFPRI.
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 IFPRI, the development and publication of a food price bulletin.
Peru	In collaboration with FAO and WFP, prepared a diagnosis of the impact of COVID-19 on agrifood systems and production, and policy recommendations for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
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 impact 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, soon to be published.
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.
Zambia	Supported a recent United Nations study, led by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 in the country at this advanced stage and the most effective pathways for recovery.
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.
Pacific Region	IFAD joined FAO, WFP and UNICEF as part of the United Nations response to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems across the Pacific Islands to assess how investment in agriculture could improve health outcomes, provide livelihood alternatives, enhance food and economic self-sufficiency, and improve resilience.