
Update on implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to review the update on implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility.

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For more information on the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, please visit
<https://www.ifad.org/en/rpsf>.

Update on implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

I. Introduction

1. This is the seventh and final progress report for the Executive Board on the implementation of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF), set to complete by 30 September 2022. It provides the latest information on approved financing and project implementation. While past progress reports also provided an update on IFAD's wider COVID-19 response – including the repurposing of ongoing IFAD investments, these are now limited given the length of time since the pandemic began. Therefore, this report focuses solely on the RPSF and how it is feeding into IFAD's response to emerging crises and shocks. 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 and results are made available, particularly given the advanced stage of the facility.
2. More comprehensive reporting on the RPSF will be provided upon completion. As agreed with the RPSF donors, a detailed interim review of the RPSF will be undertaken by 30 September 2022. Building on the updates already available to Board members, along with completion and supervision reports already collected, this interim report will summarize the implementation of the facility, share the lessons learned, and present the initial results against the RPSF Results Management Framework. In 2023, a final completion report will be prepared, collating the final 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, 100 per cent has been approved across 55 single-country and nine multi-country projects, together with more than US\$23.0 million in cofinancing. In the sixth update,¹ IFAD noted that US\$1.5 million was under review for a proposal in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These funds have since been successfully allocated and activities are under implementation. Additionally, IFAD identified the need to allocate additional funds of US\$0.9 million made up of several small amounts of unused country allocations; these were successfully allocated to well-performing and fast-disbursing projects with interventions that were already displaying strong results and impact. Specifically, these funds contributed to top up a RPSF project in Somalia with high gender and youth inclusion performance, providing much-needed inputs and improving market access; and a regional project in the Horn of Africa achieving notable success in delivering improved and climate-resilient seed variants in a regionally coordinated fashion and creating livelihood opportunities for young people.²
4. In addition, IFAD raised the need to address the funds that were initially allocated to Afghanistan prior to the political crisis and the sanctions following the events of August 2021. After flagging these unique circumstances to RPSF donors,³ Management identified new arrangements to maintain the US\$1.5 million in funding to Afghanistan (made up of the remaining first and second allocations to the country) given the high level of need due to COVID-19 and various other global and domestic shocks. IFAD is working with RPSF donors to ensure their agreement on the way forward, and evaluate if extra time can be allowed for the country. This is

¹ EB 2022/135/R.17.

² The top-ups to these projects were combined with small unspent amounts from completed or restructured projects, resulting in greater allocations than US\$0.9 million between the two, as reflected in annex I.

³ Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, Update to donors on implementation. Zoom. 18 March 2022.

also being done in parallel for funds in Yemen, given the country's unique circumstances and grave need.

5. 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\$48.9 million (49 per cent) has gone to countries with fragile situations.⁴

Table 1

Approved RPSF financing by income category and region

(Millions of United States dollars, out of a total of US\$89.0 million)

<i>Income classification</i>		<i>Region</i>	
Low-income	45.6 (51%)	Asia and the Pacific	17.6 (20%)
Lower-middle-income	39.0 (44%)	East and Southern Africa	27.8 (31%)
Upper-middle-income	4.5 (5%)	Latin America and the Caribbean	4.8 (6%)
		Near East, North Africa, and Europe	11.8 (13%)
		West and Central Africa	26.8 (30%)

6. Of the approved funds, an estimated 40 per cent has been allocated to meet farmers' urgent input needs for the upcoming planting seasons; 28 per cent for improving market access, including storage and transport; 8 per cent for rural finance; and 24 per cent for digital services.
7. Annex I provides a comprehensive breakdown of RPSF projects.

B. Project progress and performance

Project implementation

8. Significant progress has been made on all RPSF projects since the last update to the Executive Board in April 2022, despite some delays. Overall, timely completion of the facility is on track.
9. Since the last update, the amount disbursed has risen from US\$64 million to US\$81 million (91 per cent of the available funds). Without taking into consideration the exceptional projects of Afghanistan and Yemen under discussion with donors, disbursement progress has reached 93 per cent. Additionally, several withdrawal requests are currently in the pipeline as projects wrap up final activities, or as they request payments from IFAD following the completion for any conditions for release of final funds already spent for implemented or completed activities (such as audits, provision of completion reports, or other requirements in individual project financing agreements). This means that the amount disbursed will continue to rise steadily as all projects reach completion.
10. Overall, as of today, 26 projects have completed implementation of all activities, and are now focused on reporting, settling payments and closure of accounts as anticipated. The remaining projects continue to finalize all activities in advance of the facility's completion in September.
11. As noted in the previous report, Management set an internal deadline for the majority of projects to complete by June 2022. This internal deadline was set to ensure a buffer prior to the completion of the facility. While the majority of the projects were on track or nearly on track for this deadline, extensions were granted to several to allow them time to carefully monitor and finalize activities in a way that would ensure the greatest impact, while respecting the overall deadline agreed with donors. In particular, this buffer was used to adjust timelines or undertake minor project reallocations in order to: (i) overcome slight implementation delays (often caused by external shocks such as supply chain disruptions due to the crisis in Ukraine); and (ii) facilitate the efforts of various RPSF countries to better align

⁴ Based on World Bank's FY21 list of fragile and conflict-affected situations: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/888211594267968803/FCSList-FY21.pdf>.

activities with their planting seasons, many of which are ongoing and ever-more crucial to maximize yields in light of the ongoing crisis.

12. Still, given the challenging contexts in which RPSF projects are operating, Management is continuously monitoring all projects so it can take fast action against any project at risk of slipping. Extra attention is being devoted to one regional project that is delayed in particular. In this case, Management is working directly with the grantee, and the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are offering technical support, to speed up and overcome procurement delays. The project has a clearly defined workplan agreed by all parties and an update will be provided in the addendum to this report.
13. Nevertheless, nearly all of the remaining projects are set to complete by 31 August and a few by September (other than the two exceptional projects in Afghanistan and Yemen discussed earlier). Management continues to monitor the RPSF portfolio vigilantly and is committed to avoiding delays beyond the RPSF completion date while ensuring the greatest possible impact.

C. RPSF and other IFAD crisis responses

14. As discussed in prior updates, RPSF was part of a comprehensive response to COVID-19, but its impacts and lessons are highly relevant to other external shocks that vulnerable countries are facing, not least the crisis in Ukraine. There have been both implications of shocks for RPSF projects, and positive impacts of RPSF on resilience in the face of other shocks.

Implications of shocks for RPSF projects

15. The impact of external shocks on RPSF implementation varies across the 64 projects. Often, it is hard to attribute these impacts to a specific event given the variety of shocks countries face at any one time. However, IFAD has been monitoring impacts and employing an adaptive management approach to minimize the impacts of these shocks on implementation, when relevant.
16. For example, the project in Somalia faced an increase in the price of animal feed as well as for fuel as global prices climbed from effects of the crisis in Ukraine. This in turn raised the shipment costs of infrastructure intended to reduce post-harvest losses. In addition, the project's cost of distributing agricultural inputs to beneficiaries increased, while beneficiaries' revenues were at risk of shrinking due to rising transportation costs. To overcome these hurdles and costs associated with importing infrastructure, and to address the urgent and increased demand by smallholder farmers and agropastoralists for inputs caused by the crisis and worsening drought, the project quickly reacted to repurpose funds and prioritize the payment of animal feed. However, if prices continue to increase, the project risks not reaching its ambitious outreach targets. While there are very few remaining activities to implement at this stage in the facility, IFAD continues to monitor how active RPSF projects can address issues if and as they arise.

RPSF's impact on resilience to other shocks

17. RPSF has also helped to improve the resilience of the rural poor and enabled them to overcome other shocks, purely by the nature of its interventions.⁵ For example, in Malawi, the RPSF project helped to scale up new technologies in biofertilizers and biofortified legume varieties. These results are particularly relevant given the impact on global fertilizer supply as a result of the crisis in Ukraine. This particular country has been deemed eligible for the recently approved Crisis Response Initiative. Due to the success of the ongoing project, the Government has already

⁵ IFAD is measuring the RPSF's impact on resilience as part of its Tier I reporting. While data collection is still ongoing for several parts of the sample and will be shared in due course, early results are showing that the RPSF helped to maintain or improve resilience in all the interventions currently included in the sample.

expressed interest in building upon these activities, as well as strengthening market information systems, should funds for the country become available.

II. Enabling learning from the RPSF

18. IFAD's collection of results and learning continues to grow as projects finish implementation. The interim report in September 2022 will present a comprehensive view of 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, and will also document several of the lessons learned. The completion report in June 2023 will present the final results and comprehensive analysis of the entire portfolio.

Ongoing rapid impact assessments and reporting

19. For the Tier I reporting, IFAD has already shared some of the positive results achieved in Djibouti in the addendum to the previous progress report.⁶ The report presents the findings of the rapid assessment on the project's first round of financing. Since this update, data are being finalized for projects in Ethiopia, The Gambia, Rwanda and a multi-country project implemented by Precision Development in Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan. Another eight projects are undergoing assessment, with the support of IFAD's Research and Impact Assessment Division.
20. The data for the Tier II and III indicators are being continuously collected through internal tracking systems, and are showing positive results. For example, a recently completed project in Lebanon focused on the provision of inputs and basic assets for production by providing farmers with the necessary supply of materials for off-season production in greenhouses, and on sustaining farming through and beyond the pandemic. The project targeted poor and vulnerable small land holders, and data collection at completion shows that the project actually exceeded its target, reaching 116 per cent of targeted households. Continuous monitoring of projects under implementation and especially nearing completion will continue to build IFAD's understanding of the impact of the RPSF.

Learning and sharing lessons

21. In order to respond effectively to potential global challenges that disproportionately affect the rural poor and support their resilience to future shocks, capturing and integrating lessons from the RPSF is vital. As the focus on implementation support to countries is nearly complete, IFAD will only continue to increase its attention to generating lessons and enabling facilitators, implementing partners and beneficiaries of the RPSF to share their experiences.
22. Guided by the RPSF Knowledge Management Strategy, IFAD has already developed several knowledge products, including internal and external blogs, learning events, and learning notes in areas such as digital agriculture, inclusive financial services, and implementing multi-country initiatives. Through a multi-country project in Latin America and the Caribbean for example, IFAD has explored how innovations can support poverty reduction and markets. With the support of its Global Communications and Advocacy Division, IFAD is able to recount, in a [video](#), the lessons learned from this project, which contributed to the digitalization of rural banks in Honduras. The project shows how technology can empower smallholders by facilitating market access and rural finance, especially when faced with movement restrictions such as those imposed during COVID-19 – and also how it can incentivize rural youth and offer livelihood opportunities in agriculture. Lessons such as these will continue to be extracted and used for scaling up in IFAD's overall portfolio.
23. IFAD is continuously taking stock of the successes and challenges encountered through RPSF implementation and these will inform its emergency responses more

⁶ EB 2022/135/R.17/Add.1.

generally. In developing the Crisis Response Initiative as a response to the crisis in Ukraine, IFAD built upon the streamlined processes developed under the RPSF and which contribute to the facility's increased agility, but also reflected how to become even more effective. For example, from its experience with the different RPSF project types and overall trends, IFAD noted that: (i) it should leverage its existing implementation architecture and could occasionally involve third parties with a unique comparative advantage (such as farmers' organizations) for more agile responses; and (ii) prioritize targeted support to provide interventions with sufficient resources – as this is key for effectiveness and achieving maximum impact in crisis situations. At present, IFAD is also undertaking an analysis of all implementation delays in order to further refine its operational responses to emergencies.

24. Consultations with IFAD country teams, RPSF implementing agencies and partners have been key in determining these points. Such consultations and analysis will continue and be documented in final reports.

Overview of approved RPSF proposals

Summary of RPSF projects approved so far

<i>Multi-country</i>		
Asia and the Pacific: 8 countries ⁷ (stand-alone project implemented by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, a federation of farmers' associations)	Pillar 1. ⁸ 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 ⁹ (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\$2.0 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\$2.9 million (plus US\$0.8 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 Agriterria, 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)

⁷ Full list of countries: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.6 million in cofinancing)
<i>Country-level</i>		
Afghanistan (a stand-alone project previously implemented by the project management unit of the IFAD-funded Community Livestock and Agriculture Project and new arrangements under development)	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\$1.6 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\$0.3 million
Congo (implemented through the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Project)	Pillar 1. Work through producers' organizations to support cropping, livestock-raising and aquaculture by providing inputs (including climate-resilient vegetable seeds, fingerlings, chicks, feed and veterinary products), climate-smart weather readers and training in adapted production practices.	US\$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\$2.7 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\$0.3 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\$2.8 million (plus US\$0.3 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 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)	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.
Türkiye	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.