IFAD 11 Impact Assessment – COVID19 Challenges & Status Update

Communication prepared for the 112th EC meeting
March 19th, 2021

Background

IFAD11 impact assessments

➢ June 2018: selected 24 projects for IFAD11 IA.

➢ 2019: Launch IAs activities

➢ March 2020: COVID-19 Lockdown
  ✓ five IAs were already completed

➢ June 2020: 109th Session EC minutes:
  ✓ increase sample size (>15%) if possible,
  ✓ conduct sensitivity analysis,
  ✓ highlight limitations.

COVID-19 Disruptions

➢ Froze all field level activities that are central to IA

➢ Uncertainty on time and costs to resume face-to-face data collection activities

➢ Changes in IFAD's project portfolio and consequences on IA sample size and projects

➢ Nov 2020: EMC approved the commitment to...
  ✓ deliver at least 14 IAs, representing 15% of portfolio at that time
  ✓ use a mixed-methods approach to IA

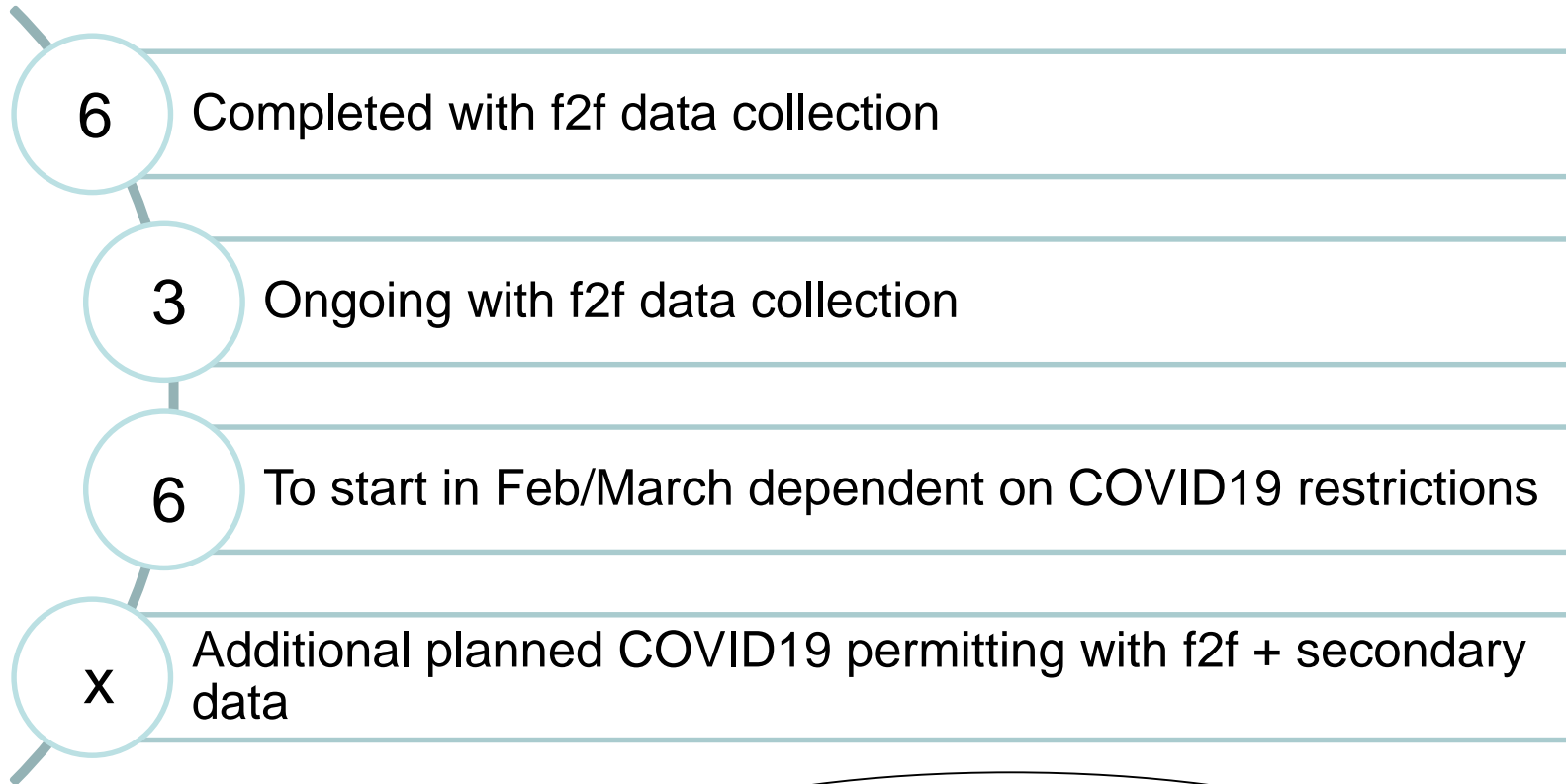**IFAD**
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Adaptive approach during COVID19

Sample

- Delivering on IFAD's commitment of IAs on 15% of the portfolio
- Conducting a sensitivity analysis

Data collection

Assessed feasibility of other methods of data collection including phone surveys

Benchmarking with other organizations and discussions with IOE

Based on this continuing with f2f data collection where feasible

+ supplementing it with secondary data (project M&E, GIS etc.

Necessary data collected on 15% of the portfolio by end 2021

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Current status

6   Completed with f2f data collection

3   Ongoing with f2f data collection

6   To start in Feb/March dependent on COVID19 restrictions

x   Additional planned COVID19 permitting with f2f + secondary data

15% of the portfolio to be delivered despite COVID19 challenges

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Conclusions

- **Continued commitment to deliver on IFAD11 commitments**
  - IFAD is committed to delivering IFAD11 IA despite the extraordinary challenges imposed by the pandemic
  - Corporate commitment will be met: 15% portfolio, more if possible
  - Focus on Tier II Development Impact Indicators of the RMF and lessons learned from individual projects
- **Uncompromised rigor of evaluation**:
  - F2f data collection to the extent possible supplemented with secondary data
  - Testing of short questionnaire developed for Phone survey or FtF implementation
  - External expert validation of final impact assessment results
- **An opportunity to innovate**:
  - Testing BigData, Machine Learning & GIS to complement standard approach

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