



## Highlights

### ***Latest stories and blogs:***

As COVID-19 spreads around the world, IFAD staff are gathering information, insights and finding solutions to some of the challenges the pandemic poses to rural small-scale producers and communities. This selection of stories and blogs is drawn from IFAD's corporate [website](#).

### **Get sick or go hungry: Afghan nomads battle against COVID-19**

In the face of COVID-19 challenges, IFAD and the Government of Afghanistan developed a novel way of helping to raise awareness and keep Kuchis nomads safe while improving food security and animal health. [Read more.](#)

### **Looking inward: I-Kiribati fight a double health crisis**

As COVID-19 slows global trade, closes borders and threatens the stability of food imports, initiatives such as the IFAD-funded [Kiribati Outer Islands Food and Water Project](#) (KOIFAWP) have been more important than ever to the people of Kiribati. [Read more.](#)

### **Stepping up rural finance to support smallholder farmers in Zambia**

While the COVID-19 pandemic spreads devastating health and economic impacts, it can also offer innovative solutions – especially for those populations who are most in need. In Zambia, the [Rural Finance Expansion Programme](#) (RUFEP), a joint initiative of IFAD and the Government of Zambia, is doing just that. [Read more.](#)

### **Location, location, location: Why using GIS in rural development projects is fundamental**

When an emergency strikes, knowing the geographic location of people and conditions on the ground is fundamental to IFAD's operations. Now, thanks to the increasing availability of geographic information system (GIS) technologies, IFAD has more tools to design projects better with precise data on the locations and landscapes of our planned project areas. GIS can also inform decision-making during implementation and monitor current conditions, even without a supervision mission. [Read more](#)

## **Never let a good crisis go to waste**

The economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic threaten to push development progress back in Cambodia. That's why IFAD is aligning its response with Ministry partners, the UN's overall COVID-19 response (which covers both the health response and the socio-economic recovery), and partners such as the Asian Development Bank. [Read more](#).

## **Ten reasons why remittances matter, now more than ever**

On 16 June, the International Day of Family Remittances was observed under unprecedented conditions. COVID-19 has had devastating consequences on millions of migrant workers who are losing their jobs, and many remittance families have suddenly been pushed below the poverty line. [Read more](#).

## ***Other news:***

### **Gradual Return to IFAD Headquarters Offices – Phase Two**

On 22 June, IFAD's Executive Management Committee approved the second phase of the gradual return to headquarters offices based on a cautious and risk-averse approach to ensure the safety and health of all personnel.

Phase began on 6 July and foresees an increase of personnel on-site from 50 to up to 130, with the majority of IFAD's workforce continuing to telework. This number takes into account the on-site staffing requirements as indicated by all departments.

During phase two, colleagues will have the possibility of working in teams on a rotational basis as long as the departmental allocation is not exceeded and COVID-19 precautionary measures are observed.