
Report on the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to review the note on the completion 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>.

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Executive summary

1. **On 30 September 2022, the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) and the implementation of its projects reached completion.** Two specific cases with donor approval were extended by one year, which included RPSF funds to an existing project in Yemen, and to Afghanistan. IFAD will share the results of these projects following their completion.
2. **The facility successfully targeted, allocated and implemented its resources to support rural poor people facing the impacts of COVID-19.** IFAD allocated 100 per cent of its available US\$89.0 million across 64 projects in all five of its regions, comprising 55 single-country projects and nine multi-country projects. Funds were spread across each of the RPSF's four pillars, namely: (i) provision of inputs; (ii) access to markets; (iii) access to finance; and (iv) digital services for agricultural information.
3. **IFAD has undertaken its reporting against the three tiers of the RPSF Results Measurement Framework:**
 - (a) **Tier I** focused on the RPSF's contribution to improving or maintaining households' number of meals, production, sales, income, resilience and number of assets. IFAD's final sample-based assessment shows that between 52 and 77 per cent of households reported evidence of recovery across each area, with the strongest results in the number of meals and production. This jumps to 90 per cent for most indicators (except assets) when removing one outlier assessment focused exclusively on digital activities.
 - (b) **Tier II** focused on outreach and outputs. The RPSF is expected to have directly supported more than 3.6 million people by completion through its four pillars, including 1.1 million women and 965,000 young people. This translates into about 19.2 million household members. Moreover, the RPSF helped at least an additional 35 million people to receive information on how to better prevent, cope with or recover from the pandemic through digital platforms, such as radio and podcast broadcasts.
 - (c) **Tier III** focused on operational performance. IFAD achieved the targeted scale of the facility and saw strong implementation performance of projects. It fell short of its ambitious target of 100 per cent of projects being gender-sensitive, though it achieved more than 50 per cent; it exceeded its target of 50 per cent of projects being youth-sensitive, achieving 62 per cent. It did not hit its targets on start-up and implementation speed, but continuously improved over time across all areas.
4. **IFAD has learned important lessons, not least that the RPSF was relevant, innovative and required an adaptive approach. The RPSF demonstrated to IFAD how and where it can continue to increase its inclusivity, streamline start-up procedures, focus funds in a more consolidated manner and remain flexible.** These lessons are being applied to future responses, such as the ongoing Crisis Response Initiative.

Report on the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

1. During the 137th session of the Executive Board, IFAD confirmed the completion of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) on 30 September 2022.¹ This report provides a summary of the RPSF and reports on the lessons learned and the aggregated results of the facility following its completion.

I. Updates on RPSF completion

2. **On 30 September 2022, the RPSF and the implementation of its projects reached completion. The facility was successfully operationalized.** It effectively targeted and allocated its resources to support rural poor people facing the impacts of COVID-19. IFAD allocated 100 per cent of its available US\$89.0 million across 55 single-country projects and nine multi-country projects across all five of its regions. More than half of resources at design went to low-income countries, and 95 per cent of resources to low- or lower-middle-income countries, and among these about half of all resources were allocated to countries with fragile situations. Funds at design were spread across each of the RPSF's four pillars, namely: (i) provision of inputs, (ii) access to markets, (iii) access to finance, and (iv) digital services for agricultural information. Furthermore, these projects brought in an additional US\$18.8 million in cofinancing to supplement the RPSF financing. This cofinancing usually came in the form of in-kind support from recipients and beneficiaries, funds from other donors or IFAD's own regular grant resources.
3. **RPSF resources were ultimately implemented and utilized, with 62 projects having completed no later than the completion of the facility.** The utilization of RPSF funds successfully enabled projects to support farmers in tackling the impacts of the pandemic and other shocks.
 - (a) Under the RPSF's first pillar, 57 projects supported smallholder farmers in continuing production by not missing their planting seasons and maintaining livelihoods.² A range of inputs were provided to smallholder farmers, depending upon their needs, with the majority focusing on the provision of seeds, fertilizers and pest control supplies. Other projects provided small ruminants and livestock (and support for their care), as well as other labour-saving equipment and technological packages.
 - (b) To improve post-harvest activities and access to markets under pillar II, several projects included activities such as improving or building facilities for better storage, handling and processing (e.g. storage centres and cold rooms), and providing equipment for transport (e.g. motorbikes or bicycles). This pillar of support often overlapped with the focus on digitalization under pillar IV, with certain projects creating platforms for price and market information or developing e-marketplaces.
 - (c) Through pillar III support, projects aimed to improve access to and the terms of rural finance. Examples of activities include offering financial support to microfinance institutions to maintain their liquidity while working through financial intermediaries to reach rural areas, and setting up revolving funds to provide affordable loan assistance to ensure working capital and simultaneous capacity-building of farmers' organizations and other rural networks.
 - (d) Finally, 24 RPSF projects included digital activities. While these activities usually complemented other areas of support, two projects invested exclusively in digital areas. Commonly, digital platforms under the RPSF facilitated training or e-extension to rural communities, micro, small and

¹ EB 2022/137/R.43.

² This will increase to 59 projects with pillar I activities once the projects in Afghanistan and Yemen have completed.

medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and others in order to improve production, increase valorization, promote food certification and more. The activities overlapping with pillar II frequently served to promote access to markets through e-platforms or provide market information. Additionally, projects digitalized rural institutions such as rural community banks and producers' organizations, thus supporting rural households' ability to hold accounts, and to send transactions and remittances. Finally, one project invested in fintech and agritech start-ups to develop alternatives and innovations in inclusive production, commercialization and financing.

5. **It is important to note that despite its overall success, IFAD did face challenges and delays during implementation.** Firstly, IFAD serves communities in challenging contexts, and RPSF projects targeted remote and hard-to-reach communities. Additionally, many countries faced several waves of COVID-19 and phases of movement restrictions, which impacted delivery times. On top of these challenges, several countries faced environmental, economic or other shocks, which exacerbated the burden faced by vulnerable rural populations, and posed obstacles to implementation.
6. **Additionally, the war in Ukraine impacted global supply chains and prices, and, as a result, several RPSF projects faced longer waits for deliveries and higher prices for inputs and services than envisaged at project design.** For instance, during the final months of a project in Bangladesh and a regional project in the Horn of Africa, supply delays left shipments of procured inputs and materials held up at sea for several months. More commonly, projects faced significant price increases for inputs and services – this made original budgets unrealistic. In Kenya, for example, the project reported that prices for fertilizer increased by over 100 per cent during implementation, as did seed prices, following the onset of the war in Ukraine. The project adapted to encourage farmers to source inputs locally.
7. **In two rare instances, projects were not able to fully implement their anticipated activities, and did not succeed in restructuring and implementing any adapted activities.** This included a regional project focused on strengthening MSMEs implemented through an intergovernmental agency in East Africa. As flagged during progress reports to IFAD's Executive Board, the project faced delays in signing the grant agreement and in procurements, despite the intensive efforts of IFAD staff as well as the implementation support provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In Madagascar, the project recipient faced issues processing the financing request through internal governance mechanisms, meaning that a large portion of funds were not released on time and never used. IFAD will continue to explore how to integrate these activities into the design or restructuring of ongoing investment projects, if relevant to the countries' needs.
8. **Finally, a few projects faced force majeure and conflict.** Specifically, following the political crisis in Myanmar in February 2021, the project was cancelled. IFAD took an adaptive approach to ensuring that the funds were quickly reallocated. Also as mentioned, IFAD faced unique situations in Afghanistan and Yemen, whereby additional time was required for quality implementation. Following the last update, RPSF donors granted extensions for these two projects while maintaining completion for the remainder of the facility. Both projects are well under way with implementation.

II. Results of the completed facility

9. **IFAD has aggregated the outputs, outreach and outcomes of the facility through the dedicated Results Measurement Framework (RMF).** These results have become available upon completion of every grant, and the submission of their progress reports and results against the RMF.

A. Tier I – Development results

Rapid impact assessments to understand RPSF contributions

10. IFAD selected a sample of approximately 20 per cent of the RPSF portfolio, encompassing 13 projects across various regions and project type to conduct rapid assessments. It collected data and conducted analyses for 9 single-country projects, and 4 multi-country projects, of which 11 focused on pillars I to IV, and 2 concentrated exclusively on digital activities (pillar IV). The assessments relied on a questionnaire that captured self-reported information on tier I indicators, as shown in table 1. They did not aim at measuring the attributable impacts of IFAD’s intervention, instead providing a measure of contribution effects.

Table 1
Tier I of the RPSF RMF

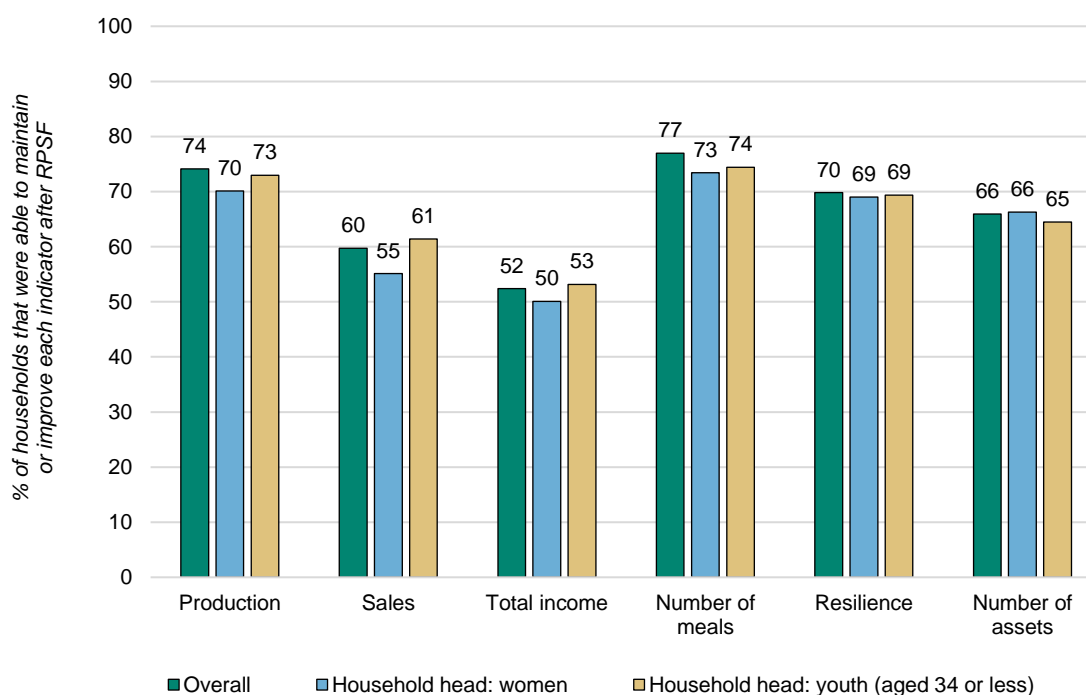
Objective	Indicators	Targets (female:youth ratio)
<i>Tier I: Development results</i>		
Minimize impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods, resilience and food security of IFAD’s target group, and maintain progress towards the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (IFAD11) impact targets.	(Number) Percentage of households reporting the following was maintained or improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value of production - Value of market sales - Household income - Nutrition/food security* - Resilience - Asset ownership 	75% of households receiving support through RPSF-financed activities (defined as the number of people receiving support)

* Measured through “number of meals”.

11. Analysing the entire sample, figure 1 presents the average share of households reporting that each tier I indicator was maintained or improved after the RPSF was introduced across the entire sample. The average was derived by weighting project-level estimates with the proportion supported by each project from the total of 20 countries selected for the rapid assessment.

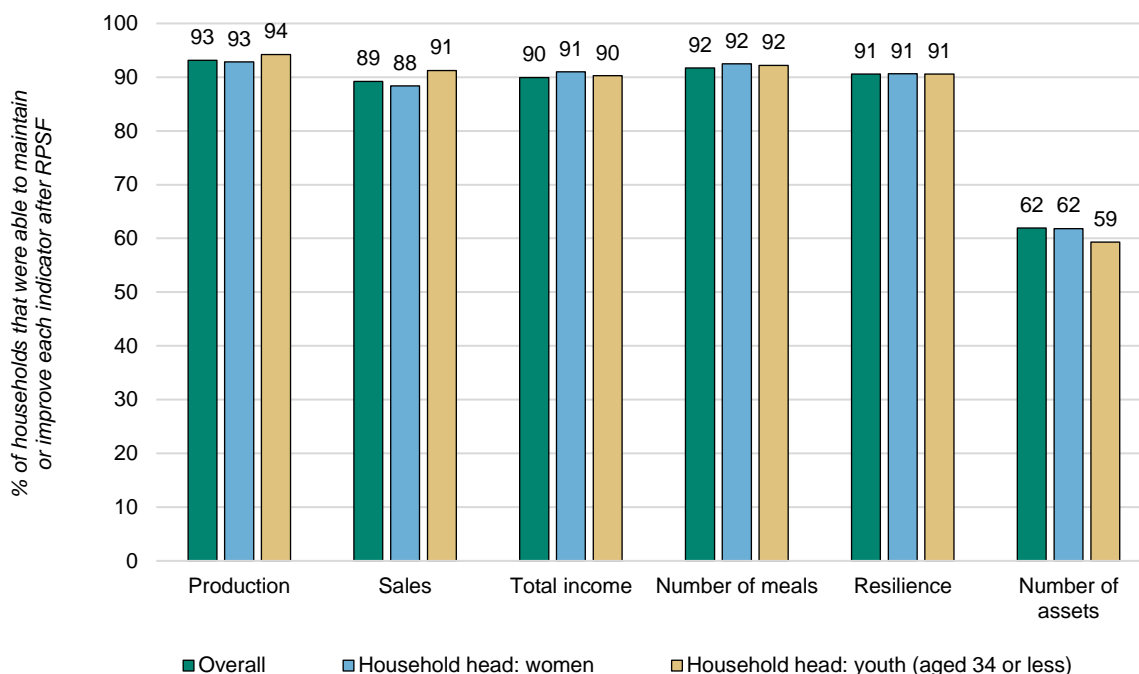
Figure 1
Summary of RPSF contribution effects (outreach-weighted average estimates for the full sample of projects selected for a rapid assessment), also by women and youth

Each indicator should read in full, “% reporting [indicator] was maintained or increased after RPSF”



12. **Tier I results show that the majority of beneficiary households experienced a strong recovery from COVID-19 across all welfare indicators after RPSF activities began. This includes number of meals, production, sales, income, resilience and number of assets.** IFAD’s final assessment with the entire sample shows that between 52 per cent and 77 per cent reported that RPSF helped them to maintain or improve across each indicator, with the strongest results in the number of meals and production. These results demonstrate that IFAD has met its target of 75 per cent of households reporting that RPSF helped them to maintain or improve their number of meals and nearly met the target for production; however, it has fallen short on the other four indicators.
13. Figure 2 presents the estimates excluding the two digital-only projects, given their unique nature and the fact that they had a heavy weight in the final aggregates (82 per cent of the final outreach selected for the rapid assessment). This is also useful for IFAD to understand the effects of activities supported by pillars I-III, given that all but two projects included these pillars and that these activities are closely linked to those of IFAD’s ongoing emergency response facility, the Crisis Response Initiative (CRI).

Figure 2
Summary of RPSF contribution effects (outreach-weighted average estimates for projects selected for a rapid assessment excluding digital-only projects), also by women and youth
 Each indicator should read in full, “% reporting [indicator] was maintained or increased after RPSF”



14. **When removing two outlier projects focused solely on digital activities and maintaining those focused on at least one area of pillars I-III in the sample, an increase to approximately 90 per cent reporting these benefits can be seen, with the exception of number of assets, which falls to around 60 per cent.** This means that for the 62 projects not solely focused on digital activities, the RPSF is expected to have helped 9 out of 10 people to maintain or improve their number of meals, production, sales, income and resilience.
15. The improvements seen in figure 2 are largely driven by the exclusion of a rapid assessment in Kenya, which was part of a multi-country project focused on digital advisory services, and which can be considered as an outlier with unusually low results and relatively high weight of outreach compared to the sample. The less positive results may be related to the severe drought and desert locust outbreak

that occurred during the 2021 rainy season, which may have hindered the adoption of advice. Nevertheless, it may indicate that certain communities struggled more to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. It may also suggest that while digital projects have higher outreach potential, these interventions may bring different or less instantaneous benefits relative to other types of interventions in certain contexts.

16. **These assessments estimate that nearly 3 million households benefited in terms of number of meals, production and resilience, and more than 2 million for sales, income and assets.** Table 2 presents estimates for the total number of households and people that benefited across the whole portfolio of 64 projects based on extrapolation of the results.³

Table 2

Extrapolation of RPSF contribution effects across the whole portfolio, by households and people
(Millions)

<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Sales</i>	<i>Total income</i>	<i>Number of meals</i>	<i>Resilience</i>	<i>Number of assets</i>
Millions of households reporting the indicator was maintained or increased after the RPSF	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.9	2.7	2.3
Millions of people reporting the indicator was maintained or increased after the RPSF	15.2	12.9	11.9	15.5	14.4	12.4

B. Tier II – Outreach and service delivery

17. Tier II indicators focused on capturing the overall outreach and outputs of the RPSF. The data also include a breakdown by women and youth.⁴

Table 3

Tier II of the RPSF RMF

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Targets (female:youth ratio)</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Tier II: Outreach and service delivery</i>			
Overall outreach	Number of people receiving support through RPSF-financed activities under pillars 1-3 Number of people receiving support through RPSF-financed activities under pillar 4	1.1 million – 6.9 million * (50:50:25) 0.5 million – 60 million * (50:50:25)	Pillars 1-3: 1,164,049 (563,160 female; 379,544 youth) Pillar 4 2,573,482 (647,789 female; 629,636 youth) specifically supporting production, income generation, agricultural capacity-building or information and financial services Plus 35,000,000 reached with radio and podcasts for COVID prevention and recovery information
Pillar 1. Provision of inputs and basic assets for production	Number of rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages (under conditions of stress/disruptions)	tracked (50:50:25)	881,503 (395,477 female; 255,902 youth)
Pillar 2. Facilitated access to markets	Number of rural producers (and producers' organizations if applicable) supported to collect, store, transport or sell their products (under conditions of restrictions/safety measures and protocols)	tracked (50:50:25)	236,615 (135,870 female; 105,517 youth) and at least 450 producers' organizations

³ For more details on methodologies and analyses for tier I results, contact the Research and Impact Assessment Division.

⁴ People may be counted twice across pillars of support, as often beneficiaries received more than one type of support, but they are not counted twice in the overall outreach figures of paragraph 18. The figure for input provision is likely underestimated, but is conservative due to data quality issues in certain projects.

Pillar 3. Targeted funds to preserve services, markets and jobs for poor rural people	US\$ amount of funds provided to rural financial service providers (under conditions of business disruptions or liquidity issues)	tracked	US\$5,813,233 (and more to other entities such as cooperatives, etc.)
	Estimated number of rural producers benefiting from new loans or improved terms for existing loans through supported rural financial service providers **	tracked (50:50:25)	72,647 (48,004 female; 20,356 youth)
Pillar 4. Delivering agriculture-related information through digital services	Number of persons provided with remote training in production practices/technologies; or in other income-generating activities	tracked (50:50:25)	1,414,302 (302,449 female, 284,009 youth)
	Number of persons connected to e-platforms for information, sending and receiving money, and other digital services where relevant	tracked (50:50:25)	2,508,847 (609,081 female; 617,182 youth)

* Range determined by the facility mobilizing between US\$40 million and US\$250 million in financing, and by country demand.

** Improved terms may include deferred repayment of loans and/or reduced interest on loans.

Overall outreach for the RPSF

18. **Overall, the RPSF is expected to have directly supported 3.6 million people by completion, including 1.1 million women and 965,000 young people. This translates into approximately 19.2 million household members.** This positions IFAD in line with its estimate for the facility's impact, i.e. to reach 20 million people through its four pillars of support, no easy task given the challenges described above. Additionally, this is a conservative estimate, which does not account for impact continuing through existing projects or scaled up by cofinancing, nor for results being achieved by the ongoing projects in Afghanistan and Yemen.
19. **RPSF also supported an additional 35 million people through other digital platforms to better prevent, cope with or recover from the pandemic.** Projects often went beyond just the four pillars of activities when the existing activities and partnerships could be leveraged for other benefits. In Ethiopia, for example, in collaboration with Farm Radio International Ethiopia, radio broadcasts shared messages to raise awareness on minimizing risks of COVID-19 to an estimated 4.5 million listeners. Similarly, in the Support African Farmers in the 2020 Emergency (SAFE) regional project, a regional farmers' organization – the Network of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA) – supported 127 podcasts to discuss COVID-19 issues within the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector, reaching an estimated 30 million people. These were left out of the outreach calculations, which focused on support by pillars, but are notable achievements of the RPSF.

Disaggregated outreach and specific outputs by pillar

20. **In terms of pillar breakdowns, approximately 1.2 million people were directly supported through pillars I-III with the provision of productive assets or facilitated access to markets or finance.** Input provision, as mentioned, was a focus of the RPSF. Many projects increased their efforts in this area even after design, adapting projects and further prioritizing these activities as global shocks, prices and markets shifted; particularly for fertilizers and seeds. In Malawi, for example, the project increased its focus on the production and provision of biofertilizers, and will look to scale this up in other projects in the country.
21. Additionally, many projects focused instead or also on pillars II and III, and often complemented pillar I. In Comoros, for example, the project provided improved inputs to vulnerable households. Additionally, the project provided storage infrastructure for agricultural products, and motorized tricycles to ensure the transport of fresh products – therefore strengthening the links to markets of the provided inputs and deepening impact. Projects (including in Comoros) often focused on training for production, sales, business development and other areas to increase sustainability.

22. **For these pillar I-III activities, IFAD has nearly met its target of directly supporting 50 per cent women, reaching 48 per cent, and has exceeded its target of at least 25 per cent youth, reaching 33 per cent.** This is an important milestone and success for the RPSF, as IFAD projects needed to very quickly implement targeting strategies and begin implementation. Several projects attributed the success here to leveraging the expertise of existing IFAD projects and local partners.
23. **For pillar IV, approximately 2.6 million people were delivered agriculture-related information through digital services.** For this pillar, 2.5 million were newly connected to a new or existing platform and 1.4 million were provided with some sort of remote training in production practices/technologies or in other income-generating activities, quite often through remote extension services.
24. **Here, IFAD was less successful in its ambition to ensure that women accounted for least 50 per cent of those supported (reaching only 25 per cent); however it met the target of 25 per cent for youth.** According to anecdotal evidence from projects, it is particularly difficult to reach women through certain digital services in certain contexts. For example, the largest proportion of the outreach comes from Pakistan’s Precision Development (PxD)-implemented project providing digital advisory services. In Pakistan, where more than 1.3 million people were reached, messages were sent via SMS and push calls, usually to men who oversee household phones. This does not mean, however, that women (and youth) did not benefit. In this case, the messages were sent to household phones, and the project encouraged families to listen together – therefore supporting empowerment in a realistic and culturally sensitive manner. In this way, the impacts to women and youth are likely underestimated.

Conclusion and country outputs

25. Overall, the RPSF was able to provide far-reaching and inclusive support across its four pillars in line with its objectives at design. However, it did not achieve every ambitious target.

C. Tier III – Operational efficiency and effectiveness

26. **Tier III of the RPSF RMF measures IFAD’s operational performance.** These RMF indicators are elaborated below in table 4.

Table 4
Tier III of the RPSF RMF

Objective	Indicators	Targets (female:youth ratio)	Results
<i>Tier III: Operational efficiency and effectiveness</i>			
Scale	Amount of funds approved	US\$40 million – US\$250 million	\$89.0 million (100% of total available funds)
Social inclusion	Percentage of approved projects that are gender-sensitive	100%	53%
	Percentage of approved projects that are youth-sensitive	50%	62%
Speed of IFAD response	Average time between project submission to the Operational Strategy and Policy Guidance Committee (OSC) and President approval	30 days	64 days
	Average time from approval by Executive Board/President to first disbursement (days)	30 days	217 days
Speed of implementation	Disbursement rate at planned completion date	100%	TBD
In-country partnerships	Number of projects implemented through government entities	tracked	50
	Number of projects implemented through United Nations/Rome-based agency (RBA) collaboration	tracked	14

	Number of projects implemented in partnership with farmers' organizations, NGOs or private sector	tracked	16
Overall performance	Overall implementation progress rating based on last supervision mission or completion report	90% rated moderately satisfactory or better.	92%

Scale and overall performance

27. **Under its tier III results on operational performance, IFAD achieved the targeted scale of the facility and saw strong implementation performance of projects.** As previously mentioned, IFAD successfully approved and committed US\$89.0 million to 64 RPSF projects, 92 per cent of those completing with a rating of moderately satisfactory or above for implementation performance. Monitoring, flexibility and adaptive management were key here.

Social inclusion

28. **To ensure an inclusive response to the shocks of the pandemic, IFAD set ambitious targets for social inclusion.** As part of design, RPSF projects applied adapted criteria to push for positive social inclusion in its projects, specifically towards gender and youth. For a project to be gender-sensitive, 50 per cent of direct beneficiaries had to be women, and there must have been elements to strengthen women's economic resilience and voice. For a project to be youth-sensitive, 25 per cent of direct beneficiaries had to be young, with their economic resilience supported by the project.
29. **Against very ambitious targets of 100 per cent of projects being gender-sensitive, IFAD fell short of the target with 53 per cent of projects achieving gender sensitivity.** The major constraint here was achieving the 50 per cent gender outreach threshold per project, including through digital activities, as mentioned earlier. In other cases, a project did not implement the other criteria – in large part due to the simple and fast nature of the projects. For example, in Liberia, the project simply focused on input provision without empowerment and training, and struggled to engage women during design given the rapid timelines. Therefore, it did not manage to achieve the voice component of gender sensitivity, despite the majority of those receiving the support being women.
30. **IFAD exceeded its target of 50 per cent of projects being youth-sensitive, achieving 62 per cent.** Moreover, support was often very comprehensive. In Mali, for example, the RPSF project only targeted youth, in particular for inputs, offering also support in connecting them to markets including through linking them to marketing networks and e-commerce techniques, and strengthening their leadership potential with cooperatives.

Performance on speed

31. **To drive a rapid response, IFAD set very ambitious targets for speed of start-up and implementation. However, due to the challenging contexts mentioned above, IFAD was not able to meet said targets. It did however become faster over time.** This was the case for both indicators. Firstly, IFAD's target was to spend an average of 30 days between project submission to OSC and approval by the President. However, the actual figure was approximately 64 days. During 2022, time to approval improved significantly with an average of 23 days (faster than the target), as IFAD no longer needed to develop and review several proposals simultaneously and was able to continue streamlining its well-established set of procedures. IFAD had the same target of 30 days for average time needed to move from approval to first disbursement. This timeframe was not realistic, and despite extensive efforts, took approximately 217 days on average. Overall, however, speed improved over time, averaging approximately 99 days for instruments approved in 2022. In practical terms, IFAD had less control over this indicator than for approvals, as it required negotiations also with counterparts. In

fact, nearly half of the time taken in reaching disbursement was spent finalizing agreements.

In-country partnerships

32. **In-country partnerships were critical for the facility. IFAD implemented through 50 governments and 16 NGOs, as well as farmers' organizations and other third-party entities. Additionally, IFAD collaborated with the RBAs and other United Nations agencies for the designs and implementation of 14 projects, leveraging comparative advantages and complementarity.** The type of support ranged by project. In Eswatini, for example, FAO was the leading implementing agency for one RPSF project there. In Sudan, WFP and IFAD worked together to target RPSF support to recently settled people from a WFP intervention.

III. Lessons learned

33. The RPSF has not only had significant impact on rural households facing the negative effects of COVID-19, it has also been an important learning process for IFAD. Several technical and operational lessons have emerged, which can be considered during implementation of other emergency responses and for IFAD's general portfolio.

Lessons from the RPSF

34. **The first lesson is that IFAD can improve rural households' well-being in response to shocks through rapid grant mechanisms. This has been evidenced by the positive outputs and outcomes under tiers I and II of the RPSF.** Overall, the RPSF has been an ambitious agenda and unique mechanism in response to unprecedented shocks. Despite the uncertainties, IFAD managed to directly support 3.6 million people under its four pillars, and tens of millions with other benefits.
35. **The RPSF also demonstrated the lesson that the selected four pillars are generally a feasible way to implement fully and quickly.** Though the facility did take more time to start up than anticipated, the activities were generally implemented in a timely manner once under way. With the exception of more sophisticated types of infrastructure that didn't materialize (such as silos in Rwanda), the provision of inputs, financing, digital services and simple infrastructure (e.g. supplies for greenhouses in Lebanon) were rapid in most cases. Several projects still delivered within the timelines for completion at design, with some even exceeding outreach targets by completion.
36. **Additionally, IFAD has found that this mechanism for crisis response is feasible for implementation in countries with fragile situations.** RPSF funds were spread across 36 projects in countries facing fragility. Delivering across all of these projects posed challenges, and required monitoring, adapting and patience. In South Sudan, for example, the project included zones with potential violence and had to adapt geographic locations. Success here has been attributed to having simple context-sensitive activities, leveraging partnerships networks and knowledge on the ground, and flexibility to adapt to the context.
37. **Moreover, projects are providing anecdotal evidence that RPSF activities remain relevant for increasing households' resilience against the impacts of other climate and supply-related shocks due to their immediate impacts on livelihoods.** IFAD is seeing that other shocks, such as the war in Ukraine and climate shocks, are posing similar threats to rural communities, and that the RPSF has increased resilience against these. For example, in projects in Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the introduction of organic fertilizers was timely against the impacts of the war in Ukraine on prices and access to inputs. Furthermore, in Pakistan, one PxD-implemented project focusing on digital advisory

services used existing technology to warn farmers of catastrophic floods, allowing some to harvest cotton earlier and to protect livestock.

38. **Additionally, IFAD has found that digital innovations are a successful component of COVID-19 recovery, with broad outreach and a relatively low cost per beneficiary. It has also learned that more can be done at design and implementation when targeting marginalized groups who face barriers to use or access.** As mentioned, the use of digital services was critical during the pandemic in overcoming movement restrictions and in reaching 2.6 million people, including those in remote or insecure areas. Despite these very positive benefits, IFAD was not able to achieve 50 per cent outreach to women. As noted, this could be in part due to the contextual and social obstacles that prevent women from accessing or using digital tools. Ultimately, the focus on digitalization has been an ambitious innovation and crucial to pushing a transformational agenda in agriculture. IFAD will consider these case studies and incorporate lessons learned into ongoing projects and future IFAD designs.
39. **With RPSF projects, IFAD also understood that using existing implementation structures for projects increases sustainability, scalability and particularly efficiency.** This was a common approach to anchor into ongoing IFAD investment projects and leverage their project/programme management units to facilitate start-up. This also had the benefit of directly contributing to preserving the development gains of IFAD projects. In other cases, RPSF funds were implemented through third parties, such as NGOs and farmers' organizations, that are deeply rooted in the target communities. In both cases, projects have demonstrated how working with established implementing agencies with existing architecture helps to expedite a response, including through ensuring staff availability and faster development of assessments and targeting strategies.
40. **Despite the positive results of the RPSF, ensuring prioritization, adequate resources ready for disbursement, and project consolidation could help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency initiatives in the future.** While IFAD successfully brought relief to over 60 countries through the RPSF, the high volume of relatively smaller grants approved under the facility (between US\$200,000 and US\$3 million) proved to be an obstacle to IFAD meeting its ambitious targets for speed of design and implementation. Having many small projects resulted in a simultaneous bunching of designs, approvals, effectuation and negotiation of agreements, and financial closures. This was exacerbated by the time needed to encash contributions, leading to two main rounds of financing, therefore doubling the number of approval procedures for projects. The lesson is that a timely response requires resources up front as much as possible, and that there is a trade-off between spreading resources widely but more thinly and the speed of the overall response. In the future, IFAD should consider focusing on consolidating responses in larger-scale projects, which also have potential gains for scale and sustainability.
41. **Additionally, while RPSF projects streamlined design and implementation where possible, most recipients and IFAD teams found there was room for more efficient processes as a crisis response.** At design, in part due to the bunching of many projects, teams found there could be more agile approval processes. As previously stated, the time for approval was reduced by more than half during 2022 once IFAD had refined its internal mechanisms to facilitate quality reviews. Additionally, effectuating agreements between approval and disbursement has been a time-consuming process. While third-party entities were generally more rapid, governments often have their own lengthy internal approval processes. IFAD teams also noted that procurement procedures could be lengthy. Some found pragmatic ways to adapt, such as in Rwanda, where the project relied on input suppliers with existing and valid framework contracts to reduce time. Still, IFAD,

recipients and partners should take a proactive approach to ensure streamlined actions from design to closure for any future emergency response.

42. **The RPSF has demonstrated that flexibility in procedures for delivery is necessary under crisis contexts and that IFAD should carry over what has been developed into future emergency responses.** Under COVID-19, projects had to find ways to operate among new waves of the virus and reoccurring movement restrictions. This was compounded by other shocks, examples being droughts in the Horn of Africa, a volcanic eruption in the Pacific, and the impacts on many due to the war in Ukraine. It therefore became critical to be ready to add financing, repurpose resources and restructure in a timely manner to stay ahead of the shifting needs of projects and countries. While this was done over the course of the RPSF, policies often had to be developed in response to evolving scenarios. This sort of flexibility positively contributed to the allocation of 100 per cent of available resources. For future responses, IFAD should leverage what it has already developed under the RPSF to increase its proactivity for itself and recipients in these areas, and to see where it can further streamline.
43. **In the same vein, allowing some flexibility in timelines can also help to cope with cross-cutting shocks, and may allow for extra activities that increase sustainability.** In addition to the necessary instruments to adapt to projects, rapid implementation timelines posed challenges to achieving all planned activities. As mentioned previously, in some cases, projects faced unstable market prices for inputs, or an inability to complete works due to supply chain shocks. Another challenge that arose was a mismatch between rainy or planting seasons and the expected planned delivery of inputs and equipment – as was the case in Sudan. Finally, in other cases, projects planned to pair input provision with training or capacity-building, but had to adapt due to a shortage of time.
44. Clearly, in order to respond to an emergency, support cannot wait. However, creating linkages to longer-term initiatives, phasing implementation and accounting for context can support effectiveness and sustainability. Evidence of this is the donor-granted extensions for the RPSF, which ultimately allowed the facility to directly support 19.2 million household members.

Learning from experience

45. **IFAD has been internalizing and reflecting on these lessons, and will apply them to other responses. This has been the case for the CRI.** For the CRI, IFAD further streamlined its approval process while maintaining the arm's length quality review. It has also prioritized its support, targeting the 22 most vulnerable countries with a minimum allocation of US\$3 million. Furthermore, the CRI has been designed to link to ongoing IFAD initiatives and trusted partners, and to leverage the existing processes developed under the RPSF. While activities are still being implemented during a short timespan (one year) under the CRI, the projects have been closely linked to anchor investment projects in most cases, allowing for complementary to longer-term sustainable activities.

IV. Next steps

46. **Implementation of the RPSF in Afghanistan and Yemen.** IFAD will continue the implementation of the RPSF project in Afghanistan and the COVID-19 component of the Rural Livelihood Development Project in Yemen. Management will continue to closely monitor progress, even more so due to the delicate nature of implementing in these contexts. Through an addendum to this report, IFAD will share the final results in Afghanistan and Yemen with donors, following the closure of these projects.
47. **Closure of remaining grant accounts and financial reporting to donors.** IFAD will finalize all steps, including verifications of remaining audit information, in order to close individual RPSF grant accounts.

48. **Reflecting further upon IFAD’s experiences with the RPSF and sharing results.** At the time of writing, the results of the facility have been circulated and shared internally. IFAD is also planning an internal learning event, specifically to discuss lessons from the RPSF. Additionally, during the first session of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources, IFAD launched its [RPSF Completion Website](#), which shares some of the stories and key results of the facility. IFAD will also continue to publish these stories across its social media. Finally, in addition, IFAD is sharing the detailed final report with donors, which formed the basis of this update, and remains open to donor engagement.

Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) Results Measurement Framework

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Targets (female:youth ratio)</i>	<i>Actuals (female-youth breakdowns)</i>
<i>Tier I: Development results</i>			
Minimize impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods, resilience and food security of IFAD's target group, and maintain progress towards IFAD11 impact targets	(Number) Percentage of households reporting the following was maintained or improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value of production - Value of market sales - Household income - Nutrition/food security - Resilience - Asset ownership 	75% of households receiving support through RPSF-financed activities (defined as the number of people receiving support)	Considering the entire sample for RPSF assessments, including female-led and youth-led households) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value of production 74% (70% female, 73% youth) - Value of market sales: 60% (55% female, 61% youth) - Household income: 52% (50% female, 53% youth) - Nutrition/Food security: 77% (73% female, 74% youth) - Resilience: 70% (69% female, 69% youth) - Asset ownership: 66% (66% female, 64% youth)
<i>Tier II: Outreach and service delivery</i>			
Overall outreach	Number of people receiving support through RPSF-financed activities under pillars 1-3 Number of people receiving support through RPSF-financed activities under pillar 4	1.1 million – 6.9 million * (50:50:25) 0.5 million – 60 million * (50:50:25)	Pillars 1-3: 1,164,049 (563,160 female; 379,544 youth) Pillar 4: 2,573,482 (647,789 female; 629,636 youth) specifically supporting production, income generation, agricultural capacity-building or information and financial services Plus 35,000,000 reached with radio and podcasts for COVID prevention and recovery information
Pillar 1. Provision of inputs and basic assets for production	Number of rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages (under conditions of stress/disruptions)	tracked (50:50:25)	881,503 (395,477 female; 255,902 youth)
Pillar 2. Facilitated access to markets	Number of rural producers (and producers' organizations if applicable) supported to collect, store, transport or sell their products (under conditions of restrictions/safety measures and protocols)	tracked (50:50:25)	236,615 (135,870 female; 105,517 youth) and at least 450 producers' organizations
Pillar 3. Targeted funds to preserve services, markets and jobs for poor rural people	US\$ amount of funds provided to rural financial service providers (under conditions of business disruptions or liquidity issues)	tracked	US\$5,813,233 (and more to other entities such as cooperatives, etc.)

	Estimated number of rural producers benefitting from new loans or improved terms for existing loans through supported rural financial service providers**	tracked (50:50:25)	72,647 (48,004 female; 20,356 youth)
Pillar 4. Delivering agriculture-related information through digital services	Number of persons provided with remote training in production practices/ technologies; or in other income-generating activities	tracked (50:50:25)	1,414,302 (302,449 female, 284,009 youth)
	Number of persons connected to e-platforms for information, sending and receiving money, and other digital services where relevant	tracked (50:50:25)	2,508,847 (609,081 female; 617,182 youth)
<i>Tier III: Operational efficiency and effectiveness</i>			
Scale	Amount of funds approved	US\$40 million – US\$250 million	\$89.0 million (100% of total available funds)
Social inclusion	Percentage of approved projects that are gender-sensitive	100%	53%
	Percentage of approved projects that are youth-sensitive	50%	62%
Speed of IFAD response	Average time between project submission to the Operational Strategy and Policy Guidance Committee (OSC) and President approval ***	30 days	64 days
	Average time from approval by Executive Board/President to first disbursement (days)	30 days	217 days
Speed of implementation	Disbursement rate at planned completion date	100%	TBD
In-country partnerships	Number of projects implemented through government entities	tracked	50
	Number of projects implemented through United Nations/Rome-based agency collaboration	tracked	14
	Number of projects implemented in partnership with farmers' organizations, NGOs or private sector	tracked	16
Overall performance	Overall implementation progress rating based on last supervision mission or completion report	90% rated moderately satisfactory or better	92%

* Range determined by the facility mobilizing between US\$40 million and US\$250 million in financing, and by country demand.

** Improved terms may include deferred repayment of loans and/or reduced interest on loans.

*** Excluding projects above US\$10 million for which Executive Board approval is required.

Overview of RPSF projects

<i>Multi-country</i>		
Asia and the Pacific: 8 countries ⁵ (stand-alone project implemented by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, a federation of farmers' associations)	Pillars 1 and 3. ⁶ Provided financial support through revolving funds. Provided agricultural inputs and supported marketing through public-private-producer partnerships brokered or implemented by farmers' organizations. Through a total of 231 farmers' organizations, more than 20,000 farmers directly received funds.	US\$2.0 million
East and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa: 21 countries ⁷ (stand-alone project implemented through the Pan-African Farmers' Organization, a federation of farmers' associations)	Pillars 1-4. Worked through farmers' organizations to adapt and restore food production by supporting access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity, including through revolving funds, and by disseminating information on food availability and safety. Supported around 220,000 households. In addition, one farmers' organization supported 127 podcasts to discuss COVID-19 issues within the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector, reaching an estimated 30 million people.	US\$2.0 million
Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by Seed Systems Group, an NGO)	Pillar 1. Provided sub-grant funding for lead seed enterprises, lead farmers and research institutes to provide seeds and train youth local advisers on extension services. Supported more than 107,000 people.	US\$2.9 million (plus US\$0.5 million in cofinancing)
Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger (stand-alone project implemented by Réseau Billital Maroobé, a network of farmers' organizations)	Pillars 1 and 4. Focusing on cross-border areas, provided organizations of pastoralists and agropastoralists with animal feed, subsidized seed, veterinary services and cattle and small ruminants (to ultra-poor). Also helped 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. Supported almost 180,000 people.	US\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.9 million in cofinancing)
Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan (stand-alone project implemented by Precision Development)	Pillar 4. Delivered personalized agricultural advice through mobile phone applications, establishing two-way information channels for farmers to receive low-cost advice to improve farm practices and access to markets. More than 2 million people supported.	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. Provided inputs, working capital for land preparation, equipment and training for production and post-harvest processing/storage. Also supported COVID-19-compliant supply chains, and supported governments in collecting data on COVID-19 impacts on food security and vulnerability. Also facilitated the provision of business development services and other support for small enterprises. The project established 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 also promoted the development and scaling up of tested digital solutions for market linkages (including e-commerce platforms for small and medium-sized enterprises [SMEs]), agricultural advice and nutrition awareness. Activities directly supported more than 33,300 people.	US\$3.0 million (plus US\$3.7 million in cofinancing)
Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru (stand-alone project implemented by Agriterra, an NGO)	Pillar 4. Established wide-ranging digital services for producers' organizations and rural community banks, with activities including provision of related equipment and training; connecting producers' organizations and SMEs 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	US\$2.5 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)

⁵ Full list of countries: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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, United Republic of Tanzania.

	technologies to ensure business continuity. An estimated 32,000 family farmers were directly supported.	
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. Provided 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, producers' organizations and, especially, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples. At the time of RPSF completion, more than 3,400 people and their households were being directly supported. As the project continues to be implemented with cofinancing, an estimated 10,000 smallholders will have been supported.	US\$2.5 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing and US\$1 million in regular grants)
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)	Pillars 1 and 2: Improved 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; provided technological inputs, logistics and storage support to farmers' organizations and MSMEs (including establishing rural aggregation centres). Supported around 1,300 people.	US\$1.5 million
<i>Country-level</i>		
Afghanistan (a stand-alone project previously implemented by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan, which replaced RPSF project implemented of the IFAD-funded Community Livestock and Agriculture Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provides inputs and basic assets for livestock hygiene and production and additional support through veterinary field units and vaccination campaigns; provides training and extension for veterinary field. Project ongoing.	US\$1.5 million
Angola (implemented through the Smallholder Agriculture Development and Commercialization Project in Cuanza Sul and Huila Provinces)	Pillars 1. Specifically provided dense nutrition inputs and agricultural tools to vulnerable households affected by the COVID-19 crisis, and also by natural disasters. Reached almost 80,000 household members.	US\$1.4 million
Bangladesh (implemented through the Smallholder Agricultural Competitiveness Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Quick-impact provision of inputs and capacity-building support for high-value and nutrient-rich home vegetable gardening in coastal areas and training on post-harvest activities. Supported almost 55,000 people.	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. Supported rice value chains by providing inputs including production kits, and machinery for production, tricycles for transporting goods to markets and machinery for post-harvest processing. Supported 3,315 people.	US\$1.0 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Burkina Faso (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provided subsidized inputs (including climate-resilient seeds), equipment, training and extension for digital information services for market gardens during the dry season. Established a digital marketing platform and market information call centre and promoted partnerships along vegetable value chains. Supported over 8,000 people.	US\$1.5 million
Burundi (implemented through the Value Chain Development Programme – Phase II)	Pillar 1. Provided input kits containing hybrid seeds or seeds, fertilizer, plant protection products, veterinary kits, feed, and pig spray pumps. Communication workshops on COVID-19 were held and awareness messages were broadcasted by local media. Supported more than 87,000 people.	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. Upgraded and rolled out an existing ICT solution, the Chamka app, for support to rural/ remote households; intensified the production of vegetable and backyard chickens; and introduced e-training in production practices/technology. Supported 6,737 people.	US\$1.2 million (plus US\$0.4 million in cofinancing)
Cameroon (implemented through the Youth Agropastoral Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Delivered inputs, machinery and technical assistance for crop and livestock production. Supported market access by setting up temporary markets, assisting with storage and connecting with buyers through digital platforms. Supported 1,500 people, with 80 per cent of them being young.	US\$1.1 million (plus US\$50,000 in cofinancing)

Central African Republic (implemented through the Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah)	Pillar 1. Acquired and distributed plant production inputs and animal production; improved the seed production capacities of the Central African Institute of Agricultural Research (ICRA); and cleared and ploughed agricultural plots, building management capacities of producers' organizations and strengthening production techniques. Reached 2,360 households.	US\$1.4 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Chad (implemented through the Strengthening Productivity and Resilience of Agropastoral Family Farms Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided inputs such as seeds and improved seed varieties, fertilizers, small agricultural equipment, water-pumping equipment, veterinary inputs, motor pumps and tricycles. Supported the construction of boreholes, the development of market gardening sites, and flood-recession and rainfed cultivation sites, and offered training in areas such as agricultural production, seed multiplication, equipment maintenance and more. Reached more than 8,600 households.	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. Provided small farmers' organizations and small ruminant breeders with production equipment, post-harvest equipment and vaccination kits to expand and prepare cultivated land, and improve the immune status and resilience of animals. Also focused on training on use and maintenance of materials. Reached 60,284 households.	US\$0.6 million
Côte d'Ivoire (implemented through the Agricultural Emergency Support Project)	Pillar 1. Provided inputs such as improved rice seeds and fertilizers, as well as provided training on good agricultural practices. Reached 1,137 households.	US\$0.7 million
Comoros (implemented through the Family Farming Productivity and Resilience Support Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided inputs and training, in partnership with local research institutions, for crop rotation and use of improved varieties. Upgraded selected market infrastructure for storage, sales and transport in rural and peri-urban areas. Reached more than 1,100 households.	US\$0.3 million
Congo (implemented through the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Project)	Pillar 1. Worked with producers' organizations to support cropping, livestock-raising and aquaculture by providing inputs (including climate-resilient vegetable seeds, fingerlings, chicks, feed and veterinary products) and training in adapted production practices. Directly supported more than 3,900 people.	US\$1.0 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (first grant implemented through the North Kivu Agriculture Sector Support Project, and second grant implemented through the Inclusive and Resilient Rural Development Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Worked through farmers' organizations to provide inputs and training on adapted production practices. Supported market access by providing means of transportation and improving price and market information systems. Supported more than 12,500 people.	First grant: US\$1.2 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing) Second grant: US\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.3 million in cofinancing)
Djibouti (implemented through the Soil and Water Management Programme)	Pillar 1. Provided 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. Supported 1,938 households.	US\$0.4 million
Eritrea (implemented through the National Agriculture Project)	Pillar 1. Distributed emergency seeds for farmers who had lost crop harvests and were exposed to higher vulnerability due to their inability to access open markets and traditional seed suppliers. Reached 4,800 producers.	US\$0.3 million
Eswatini (stand-alone project implemented by FAO)	Pillars 1, 2, and 4. Provided cofinancing to a FAO/WFP project funded by the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. The project provided inputs and promoted market linkages through the sensitization and training on the revised Agricultural Market Information System application, a digital marketing system to facilitate easier marketing of horticulture vegetables. It also engaged transporters to connect farmers to markets, and promoted COVID-19 awareness-raising. Supported more than 3,400 people.	US\$0.3 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Eswatini (implemented through the Smallholder Market-led Project)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provided production inputs for nutrient-dense vegetables alongside technical production support and promotion of climate-smart agricultural innovations and	US\$0.4 million (plus US\$0.7 in cofinancing)

	practices. Also promoted COVID-19 awareness-training and upgraded current digital e-marketing platforms. Supported post-harvest by providing solar driers and training farmers on their use (using youth trainers). Reached more than 1,600 people.	
Ethiopia (implemented through the Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme II)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Through voucher systems, provided smallholder farmers with access to improved seeds, fertilizers, ruminants, stoves, and more; and offered extension advisory services. Provided employment opportunities for youth, including nursery seedling production and gully rehabilitation, and supported movement of value chain products from farms to cooperatives. It also constructed 29 storage facilities. It sought COVID-19 prevention through safety training and equipment, and farm radio broadcasts with information on the pandemic. Supported almost 70,000 households and reached an estimated 4.5 million people through the radio broadcasts.	US\$2.2 million (plus US\$2 million in cofinancing)
Gabon (implemented through the Agricultural and Rural Development Project – Phase II)	Pillar 1. Supported chicken cooperatives and pig and sheep farmers with inputs (including feed, housing and other equipment) and training in adapted production practices. Reached 243 households.	US\$0.4 million
The Gambia (implemented through the Resilient Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Focusing on women and youth working in vegetable gardens, provided crop and livestock inputs and digital cash transfers; supported safe and hygienic transportation to markets and provided equipment to ensure that all market actors could continue to operate. Established multi-purpose digital communication tools for market information, training and other uses. Supported more than 20,000 people.	US\$0.6 million
Guinea (implemented through the Family Farming, Resilience and Markets Project in Upper and Middle Guinea)	Pillars 1-3. Worked through farmers' organizations to 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. Provided transport equipment and injected money into local financial service providers. Supported around 7,600 people.	US\$1.2 million
Guinea-Bissau (implemented through the Economic Development Project for the Southern Regions)	Pillars 1 and 2. Supplied inputs, technical assistance, training, and protective equipment and hygiene kits, and established national radio broadcasts to provide information on market prices and supply and demand for specific value chains. Reached more than 2,800 households.	US\$0.8 million
Kenya (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives)	Pillars 1, 2, and 4. Focused on potato farmers, provided e-vouchers for inputs, training on adapted practices and digital information on weather and production-enhancing techniques. Also facilitated group marketing, provided storage support and connected farmers to digital market platforms. Reached around 8,150 small-scale farmers.	US\$1.9 million (plus US\$0.9 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. Provided inputs for 580 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. Provided inputs to 12,800 wool and mohair farmers, particularly production inputs to feed animals to sustain flock size and quality.	US\$0.7 million (plus US\$0.4 million in cofinancing)
Liberia (implemented through the Tree Crops Extension Project)	Pillar 1. Provided inputs, equipment and training for rice, cassava and vegetable production to farmers and cooperatives. Supported more than 12,000 people.	US\$1.1 million
Madagascar (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries)	Pillars 1- 4. Provided seeds, aided post-harvest and marketing activities by supporting the rehabilitation and construction of storage warehouses and kiosks. Project provided revolving funds. Supported the establishment of an information management platform and helped set up a	US\$1.8 million

	"digitalization task force" for its coordination. Supported 13,160 people.	
Malawi (implemented through the Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Supplied agricultural inputs in collaboration with a private supplier; provided e-extension services and digital agricultural information, and supported the Government for the certification of seeds. Implemented a livestock pass-on programme. Supported 43,600 people.	US\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Mali (implemented through the Rural Youth Vocational Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship Support Project)	Pillars 1, 4. Provided support to young people by providing inputs such as feed, poultry, marketing inputs, and more. Supplied phones, connected youth to digital agricultural platforms, and trained leaders in e-commerce techniques. Reached more than 8,300 young people.	US\$1.0 million
Mauritania (implemented through the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Communal Equipment and the Organization of Rural Producers Project)	Pillars 1 and 4. Provided certified climate-resilient seeds, equipment, livestock inputs and veterinary services and technical support and training on production. Also provided information on input availability, veterinary services and market information via radio, text messages and digital platforms. Supported almost 65,000 people.	US\$0.7 million
Mozambique (implemented through the Inclusive Agrifood Value Chain Development Programme)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Provided a range of support, including nutrition-rich inputs, education on nutrition, livestock hygiene, support materials for financial literacy, and access to digital information services and learning. Supported more than 12,000 people.	US\$1.7 million (plus US\$0.9 million in cofinancing)
Nepal (stand-alone project, implemented by the Agriculture Development Bank Limited)	Pillars 2, 3 and 4. Supported 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. Strengthened financial education and business literacy, loan processing capacity, digital market services, and local government capacity for planning and extension. Supported over 36,000 households.	US\$1.2 million
Niger (implemented through the Family Farming Development Programme in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder Regions)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided inputs including seeds and water-pumping equipment, along with processing and conservation equipment for agricultural products. Supported more than 16,000 people.	US\$1.5 million
Nigeria (implemented through the Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme in the Savannah Belt)	Pillar 1. Through farmers' organizations, delivered packages containing tailored inputs, equipment and products, including climate-resilient, high-yielding, short-duration and high-nutrition seeds, fertilizers and water pumps. Supported 8,334 people.	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)	Pillar 1. Provided quality productive inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizers to farmers, as well as training on agronomic practices. Supported more than 3,330 people.	US\$1.1 million
Pakistan (stand-alone project with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives)	Pillars 1- 4. Established and strengthened capacity for community food banks, provided communities with inputs (wheat, poultry, hatching units, kitchen gardening kits, nurseries), supported associated training, and also provided cash grants to beneficiaries receiving enterprise or vocational training from the anchor project. Supported approximately 28,000 people.	US\$2.4 million
Palestine (implemented through the Resilient Land and Resource Management Project)	Pillar 1. Distributed seed and fertilizer to small-scale producers, and supported clustering of crops and connecting farmers with buyers. Benefited more than 3,500 smallholder households.	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 1-4. Provided inputs and seeds for farmers, subsidized investments to rehabilitate two lead partner transport fleets (and supported the lead partners in mobilizing loan funding from a national bank), and ensured market price dissemination. Supported more than 3,000 people.	US\$0.7 million
Rwanda (stand-alone project implemented by the Rwanda Agriculture	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided seeds for maize, beans and potatoes along with fertilizer, and supported market access	US\$1.4 million (plus US\$0.5 million in cofinancing)

and Animal Resources Development Board)	by providing guaranteed purchase for grains, plus storage facilities. 48,000 people were directly supported.	
Sao Tome and Principe (implemented through the Commercialization, Agricultural Productivity and Nutrition Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided inputs including seeds, fertilizers, plant materials, biological bags for transportation, mosquito nets and kits for greenhouse cultivation. Supported the International Center for Tropical Agriculture to ensure the supply of quality plant materials, including for carrying out tests. Promoted poultry farming through (i) the distribution of chicks and poultry feed to farmers; (ii) training of breeders in biosecurity techniques; and (iii) provision of veterinary products. Reached 4,200 households.	US\$0.4 million
Senegal (implemented through the Rural Youth Agripreneur Support Project [Agrijeunes Tekki Ndawñi])	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided subsidized inputs and small equipment for potato and watermelon producers; and provided capacity-building and advisory support for producers' groups on adapted horticultural production practices and markets. Supported around 2,500 households.	US\$1.0 million
Sierra Leone (implemented through the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided inputs (including fast-germinating and high-yielding seeds) and land preparation machinery, and supported the improvement of linkages with markets. Supported more than 2,500 households.	US\$1.1 million
Somalia (stand-alone project implemented by the Somalia Development and Resilience Institute)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provided inputs and minor equipment for crop, livestock and fish production, and equipment and training to minimize post-harvest losses and to add value. Organized local purchases from small-scale farmers' groups. Supported more than 4,300 beneficiaries.	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 inputs such as seeds, and post-harvest equipment and facilities (threshers, silos, hermetic bags, storage, coolers, etc.). Supported 15,739 people.	US\$1.4 million
Sudan (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Irrigation)	Pillars 1-4. Provided 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. Provided hermetic storage bags and support for collection centres, and supported provision of e-extension and distribution of production and market information via SMS and radio. Injected money into local financial service providers to increase credit access and ability to send and receive money. Supported approximately 12,000 people.	US\$1.7 million (plus US\$0.1 million in cofinancing)
Syrian Arab Republic (stand-alone project implemented by UNDP)	Pillar 1. Provided pregnant ewes and animal feed, along with seeds and other essential inputs and farm tools. Supported 659 vulnerable people.	US\$0.5 million
United Republic of Tanzania (stand-alone project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture)	Pillars 1, 2 and 4. Supported small-scale farmers' organizations to attain inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. Also, supported the purchase of maize grains from small-scale farmers by the Government, linked farmers' organizations with buyers and established a mobile phone application for market information for inputs, sales and training. Supported more than 14,000 people.	US\$2.0 million
Togo (implemented through the Shared-risk Agricultural Financing Incentive Mechanism Support Project)	Pillar 1. Supported vegetable gardeners with inputs (including irrigation kits) and training. Supported more than 1,800 people.	US\$1.0 million
Uganda (stand-alone project implemented by the management unit of the Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas)	Pillar 3. Supported local credit and savings groups and their members by providing cash grants combined with capacity-building assistance on management, extension of digital technologies for management of groups, and offered financial literacy training. Supported more than 30,000 members.	US\$2.1 million (plus US\$0.2 million in cofinancing)
Yemen (stand-alone project implemented by the Social Fund for Development)	Pillar 1. Depending on need, provided free inputs and assets for horticulture and livestock production, combined with training in adapted production practices. Supported almost 1,400 people.	US\$0.8 million (plus US\$11,000 in cofinancing)
Yemen (implemented as a component of the Rural Livelihoods Development Project, through the Social Fund for Development)	Pillars 1 and 2. Provides productive inputs and equipment, veterinary materials and training and inputs for post-harvest processes. Project ongoing.	US\$3 million

Zambia (implemented through the Enhanced Smallholder Livestock Investment Programme)	<p>Pillars 1 and 4. Provided remote veterinary training and COVID-19 messaging, along with other veterinary services. Also established 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. Also supported the development of a livestock index insurance scheme. Supported nearly 85,000 people.</p>	US\$1.5 million (plus US\$0.5 million in cofinancing)
Zimbabwe (implemented through the Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme)	<p>Pillars 1 and 2. Provided a nutrition-dense input package, along with basic personal protective equipment. Also, established farmers' linkages to reliable markets and off-takers, and promoted adoption of post-harvest technologies. Reached 14,820 households.</p>	US\$1.6 million