



BURKINA FASO

RAPID ASSESMENT

Assistance project for pastoral and agro-pastoral households confronted with the cumulative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lean period and insecurity

IFAD'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

RURAL POOR STIMULUS FACILITY (RPSF)

FACILITY'S PILLARS



Inputs
& basic assets



Targeted
funds



Access
to markets



Digital
services

Assistance project for pastoral and agro-pastoral households confronted with the cumulative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lean period and insecurity (Burkina Faso) ¹

Launched in April 2020, the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) is IFAD's multi-donor response to COVID-19. With the overall objective of providing agile support to poor rural producers affected by key immediate challenges posed due to COVID-19, it seeks to improve the resilience of rural livelihoods in the context of the crisis by ensuring timely access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity. The West and Central Africa regional assistance project for pastoral and agro-pastoral households confronted with the cumulative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lean period and insecurity (PAS2P) is part of the 20% of the projects chosen to undergo a rapid assessment to report against Tier 1 'development result' indicators in the RPSF Results Measurement Framework.

Project activities

The WCA regional project covered Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, with a total budget of US\$ 2.44 million. It was implemented by the Billital Maroobé Network (RBM), a non-profit transnational pastoral organization established in West and Central Africa. RPSF 1 provided support to households directly, while RPSF 2 benefitted focal points and stakeholders of FOs trained or involved in policy dialogue activities.

The overall objective of the project is to sustainably strengthen the livelihoods and resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral households facing the negative effects of the pastoral lean season, recurrent insecurity and the coronavirus pandemic.

The project focused on two components. For component one, the project worked in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which were the three countries hardest hit by the cumulative crises, and targeted cross-border areas and areas hosting internally displaced persons. Here, the project predominantly provided tailored support packages supported 9,200 households. The project distributed livestock (cattle, sheeps, goats), 2,400 tonnes of animal feed between contributions from IFAD and RBM, and seeds (vegetable, millet, fodders). It also organized a vaccination campaign.

For component two, the project reached 170,500 people through a variety of activities. It focused on data collection to feed into the RBM digital platform, which provides monitoring for the impacts of COVID-19 on the group, and offered trainings and technical support for digital monitoring. It also used digital means such as SMS (with technical support from ORANGE) and radio for transhumant herders awareness on areas such as regulatory measures and their movements. It also organized a pastoral hackathon to support innovation to support relevant challenges, selecting 5 projects.

To implement, RBM put in place memorandums of understanding with nine national pastoral organizations: CRUS-Burkina Faso, RECOPA-Burkina Faso, TASSAGHT-Mali, AREN-Niger, GNAP-Mauritania, BILMPAN-Nigeria, ADENA-Senegal, COPAFIB-Chad and PAEP-Togo. The latter ensured the implementation of project activities in its various areas

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of intervention. Project activities were implemented in the eight, covering 35 regions, 84 municipalities and more than 345 localities.

The project directly supported almost 180,000 people, nearly half women and a majority of 60 per cent young.

Rapid assessment methodology

Self-reported information on Tier 1 'development results' indicators was collected from a representative sample of 400 beneficiary households in Burkina-Faso supported by RPSF 1, of which 24.8 percent are headed by women and 13.8 percent are headed by youth (aged less than 35 years). Details of each indicator were asked with the aim of capturing the potential contribution effect from i) COVID-19 and ii) the RPSF project. Interviews were conducted between the last week of July 2022 and mid-August 2022 using a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) survey.

Key results ²

Contribution effect of COVID-19

- More than 7 out of ten households experienced a sharp decline due to COVID-19 on production, total income, food security (number of meals), resilience and number of assets owned. However, market sales were less often affected by the pandemic, as only 4 out of 10 households reported a loss or reduction in the indicator.
- The group of households headed by women and youth were more vulnerable after the pandemic, since a larger proportion reported a total loss or reduction on their capacity to cope against other shocks (resilience), compared to households headed by men and adults, respectively.

Contribution effect of RPSF

- After the start of RPSF activities, indicators of interest maintained or increased for almost 9 out of 10 households, with the exception of number of assets owned which only benefited less than 4 out of 10 households.
- Households headed by youth and adults experienced similar benefits after the implementation of the project. Contrary to this, households headed by women, compared to men, reported less often to maintain or improve the number of assets owned

Lessons learned

- While market sales were less affected by the pandemic, households experienced sharp declines on most welfare indicators of interest. Future program design should consider how to i) generate new opportunities among households that already have

² The rapid assessment does not consider a control group; thus, results are only indicative of potential contribution effects.

access to markets; and ii) support improvement in longer-term outcomes such as assets, and in particular for women.

Figure 1: Percentage of households that experienced a loss in each Tier I indicator due to COVID

Figure 2: Percentage of households that were able to maintain or improve each Tier I indicator after RPSF

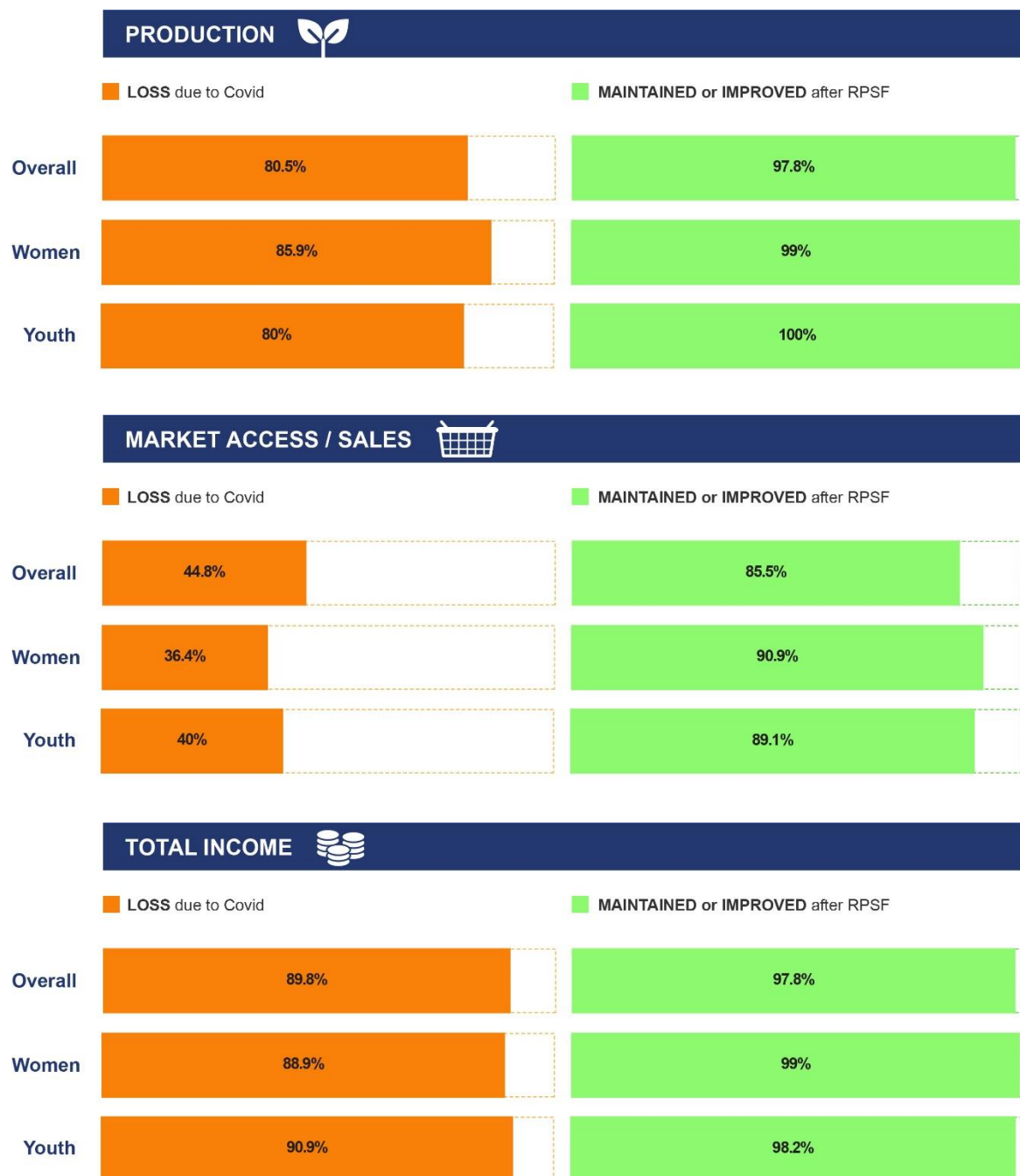


Figure 1: Percentage of households that experienced a loss in each Tier I indicator due to COVID

Figure 2: Percentage of households that were able to maintain or improve each Tier I indicator after RPSF



NOTE: RPSF activities were rolled out starting in April 2021.

Two separate questions were asked for each indicator. The first question asked what happened to each Tier 1 indicator between June 2020 and June 2021: i) a total loss; ii) reduced; iii) stayed the same; or iv) increased. The **orange bar** shows the percentage of households that responded i) or ii) to this question, that is, those which experienced a total loss or reduction in the indicator. The second question asked what happened to each Tier 1 indicator since June 2021: i) reduced further; ii) stayed the same; iii) increased but still below the level before COVID-19; iv) returned to level before COVID-19; or v) increased above the level before COVID-19. The **green bar** shows the percentage of households that responded ii), iii) iv) or v) to this question, that is, those which maintained or improved each indicator since the start of RPSF.

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