

# ETHIOPIA

## RAPID ASSESSTMENT

Participatory Small-Scale  
Irrigation Development  
Programme II



## IFAD'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

RURAL POOR STIMULUS FACILITY (RPSF)

### FACILITY'S PILLARS



Inputs  
& basic assets



Targeted  
funds



Access  
to markets



Digital  
services

## **RPSF project: Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme II (Ethiopia)<sup>1</sup>**

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 Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme II (PASIDP II) in the Context of COVID-19 in Ethiopia 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 project leveraged the existing Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme (PASIDP) and was implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture. It considered a total RPSF allocation of US\$ 2.24 million to help scaling up PASIDP activities.

The project aimed to minimize the pandemic's negative impacts upon rural poor livelihoods, by providing of farm inputs and post-harvest support, while also reducing need for travel for the most vulnerable beneficiaries. The project provided support to livelihoods through various activities.

Specifically, and in collaboration with the government, IFAD provided access to smallholder farmers through voucher systems with improved seeds (Cereals, pulses and vegetables) as well as fertilizers, agrochemicals and vermi worms; as well as offering extension advisory services. Additionally, and beyond this, some female led households were provided similar inputs, but also benefitted from small ruminants, chickens, and fuel saving stoves – and around 5,000 households impacted by war in the Amhara region were also targeted with similar activities.

Additionally, the project provided employment opportunities for youth, including nursery seedling production, gully rehabilitation, and supporting movement of value chain product from farms to cooperatives. It also constructed 29 storage facilities through consumer cooperatives with market linkages and reach more than 6,500 smallholder farmers to enable them to cope with increased costs and market challenges.

The project also sought to ensure safer and more effective working environments and awareness, in light of the pandemic. It provided safety equipment and trainings for minimizing infections across rural livelihoods, and organized mass media broadcasts on Farm Radio International Ethiopia on COVID-19 mitigation measures in several languages.

RPSF directly supported almost 70,000 households across interventions in four regions Amhara Oromia, SNNPR, and Tigray, and reached an estimated 4.5 million people with the radio broadcasts.

### **Rapid assessment methodology**

Self-reported information on Tier 1 'development results' indicators was collected from 400 beneficiary households, of which 21 percent are headed by women and 25 percent are headed by youth (aged less than 35 years). This is a representative sample of households supported by the

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<sup>1</sup> This note is prepared by Vibhuti Mendiratta, Gonzalo Nunez-Chaim and Piero Massotti from the Research and Impact Assessment (RIA) division of IFAD.

initial RPSF allocation from 3 regions, as Tigray was excluded due to issues with the implementation of the project associated to insecurity. 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 two weeks of May 2022 and the first week of June 2022 using a Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) survey.

## Key results <sup>2</sup>

### Contribution effect of COVID-19

- Around one out of two households experienced a sharp decline in production, market sales, income and assets owned due to COVID-19, prior to the start of project activities. Overall, households were less often affected on the number of meals consumed and their resilience to other shocks.
- There is large heterogeneity by sex and age of the household head. Women headed beneficiary households were more affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to households headed by men, in terms of number of meals consumed and resilience. In addition, youth headed beneficiary households were more affected compared to households headed by adults, on production, sales and income.

### Contribution effect of RPSF

- More than 9 out of 10 households were able to maintain or improve on indicators of interest. The strongest benefits were observed on production, sales, income, resilience and food security (number of meals), in line with the objective of the project.
- Asset ownership was also maintained or improved after the project was implemented, but fewer households reported improvements on this indicator. Further, a lower share of beneficiary households headed by women reported having maintained or improved the number of assets owned, compared to those headed by men.
- Adult and youth beneficiary households equally reported having maintained or improved on indicators of interest.

### Lessons learned

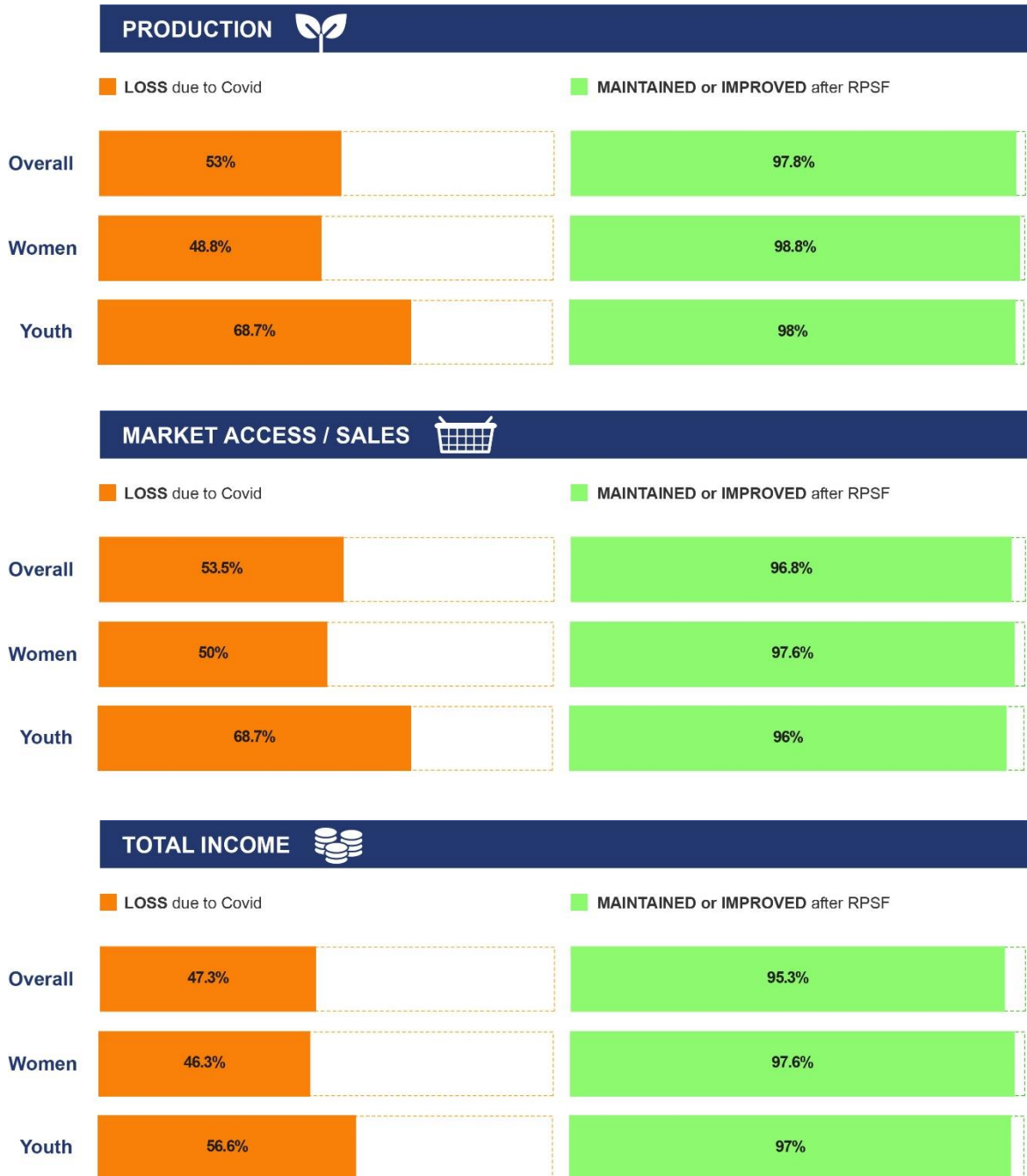
- The project seems to have been effective at improving indicators of interest. However, these results are not representative of households located in regions that were affected by insecurity. Additional support might be required whenever households experience multiple shocks.
- Future program design should consider mechanisms for improving longer term outcomes such as asset accumulation, and in particular additional support needed for women-headed households.

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

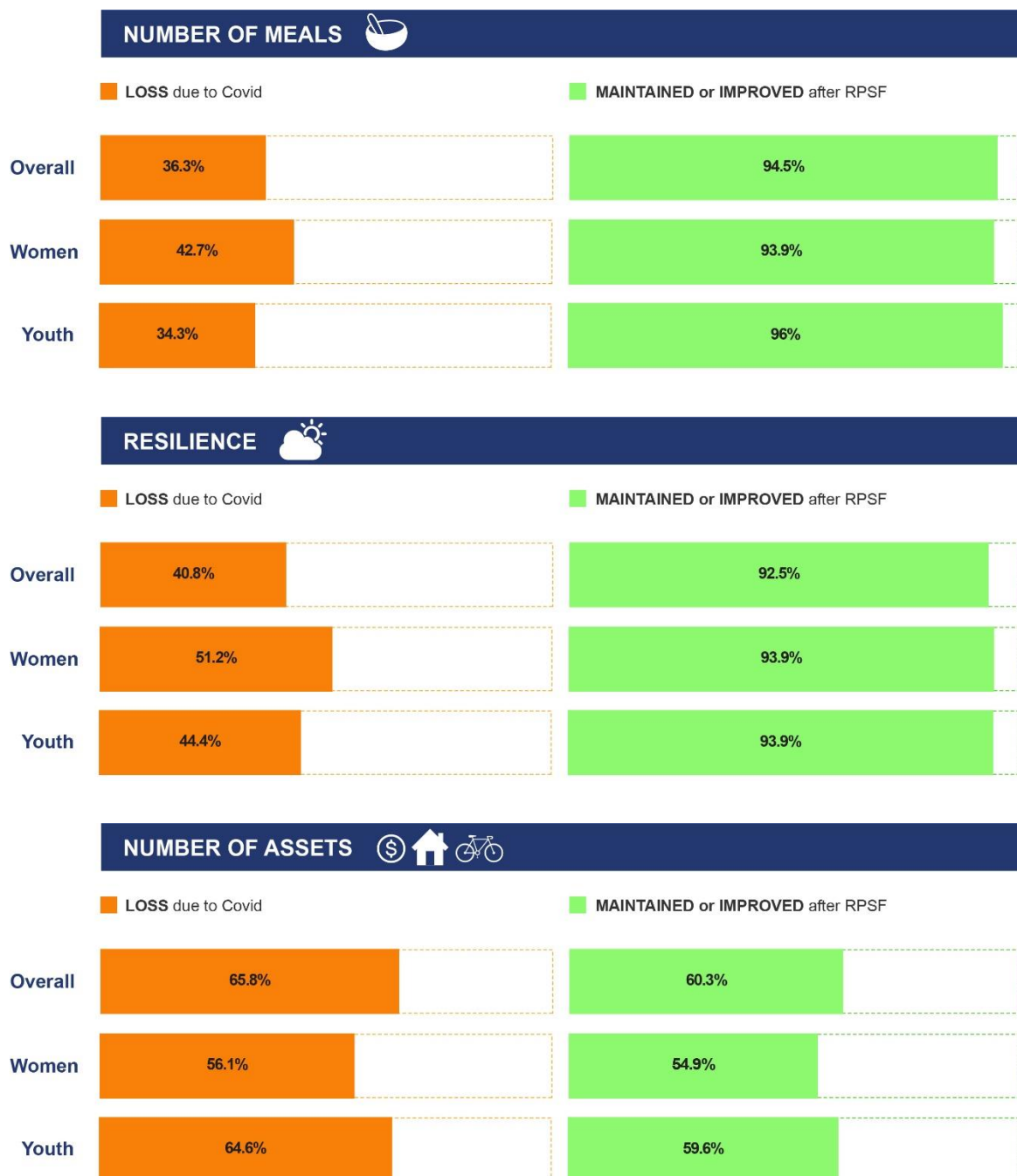
**Figure 1:** Percentage of households that experienced a loss in each Tier I indicator due to COVID

**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 April 2020- April 2021 relative to April 2019- April 2020: 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 April 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) or iv) to this question, that is, those which maintained or improved each indicator relative to pre-RPSF levels.

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International Fund for Agricultural Development

Via Paolo di Dono, 44 – 00142 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 06 54591 – Fax: +39 06 5043463

Email: [ifad@ifad.org](mailto:ifad@ifad.org)

[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)