



# GABON

## RAPID ASSESSTMENT

Agricultural and Rural  
Development Project  
PDAR II

## IFAD'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

RURAL POOR STIMULUS FACILITY (RPSF)

### FACILITY'S PILLARS



Inputs  
& basic assets



Targeted  
funds



Access  
to markets



Digital  
services

## **Agricultural and Rural Development Project, PDAR II (Gabon) <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 Agricultural and Rural Development (PDAR II) project in the context of COVID-19 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 Agricultural and Rural Development (PDAR II) project, with a total budget of US\$ 444,295.

The project has supported small producers whose production has been strongly affected by the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic, according to their testimonies during discussions on the ground. Through support the livestock sector and animal production, the project has helped producers recover from the direct or indirect negative impacts of COVID 19 on their animal production systems through the strengthening and to support their existing operations. The activities of distribution to the beneficiaries of animals (poultry, pigs, sheep), animal feed, materials for the construction of animal shelters, veterinary care products (vaccines, vitamins, etc.). Households benefited from the kits and were also trained in poultry, small ruminant and pig farming techniques (direct beneficiaries, volunteers and trainers). Some also benefited from follow-up and advisory support. Other breeders have also benefited from advisory support.

The project directly reached 243 households, impacting more than 1,427 people in provinces of Ngounié, Ogooué-Ivindo and Woleu Ntem. Around one-third receiving direct support were women.

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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.

## Rapid assessment methodology

Self-reported information on Tier 1 ‘development results’ indicators was collected from a representative sample of 161 beneficiary households, of which 22 percent are headed by women and only 4 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 August 2022 and mid- September 2022 using a Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) survey.

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

### Contribution effect of COVID-19

- Around 6 out of ten households experienced a sharp decline in food security (number of meals consumed), total income and resilience, prior to the start of project activities. In contrast to this, production and market affected a larger share of households. Overall, households were less often affected on the number of assets owned in the aftermath of the pandemic.
- There is large heterogeneity by sex of the household head, where women headed beneficiary households were more affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to households headed by men, in terms of production, sales, number of meals consumed and resilience.

### Contribution effect of RPSF

- More than 8 out of 10 households were able to maintain or improve on indicators of interest. The project seemed to have brought benefits to households along multiple dimensions, since a similar share of households reported improvements across all indicators of interest.
- A larger share of households headed by women reported maintaining or increasing production.

### Lessons learned

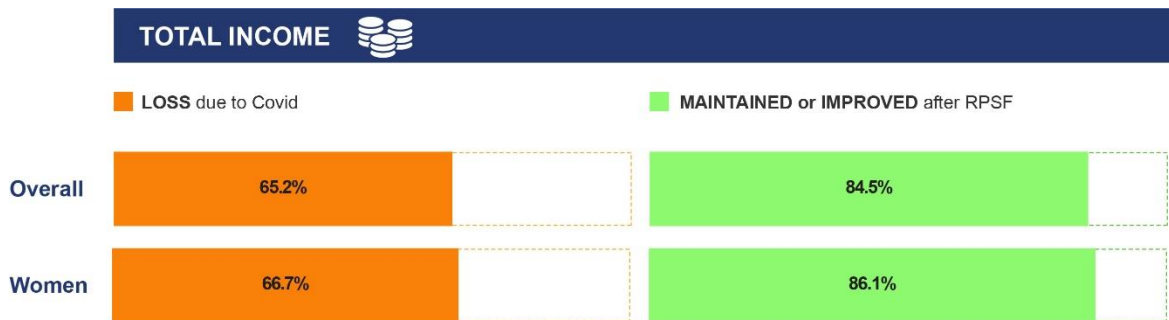
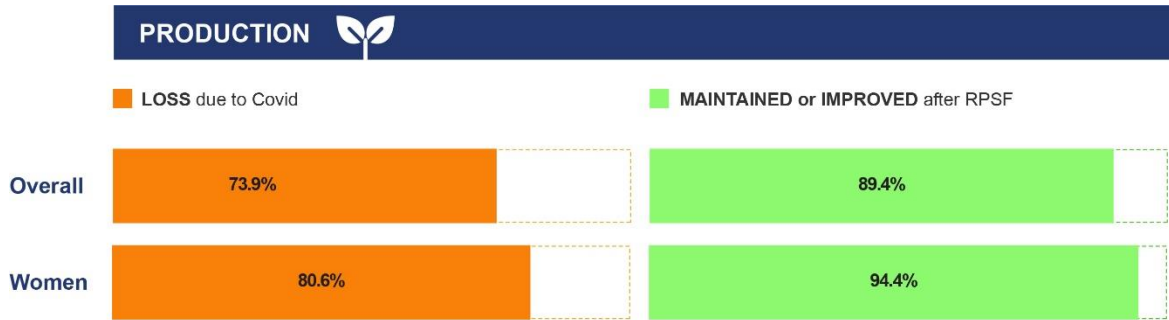
- Additional support might be required to improve and sustain the resilience of households headed by women to unexpected shocks, as this subgroup was more affected by the disruption of pandemic.
- Based on the findings, future similar programs should replicate the mechanisms for improving welfare conditions of beneficiaries along multiple dimensions.

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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.

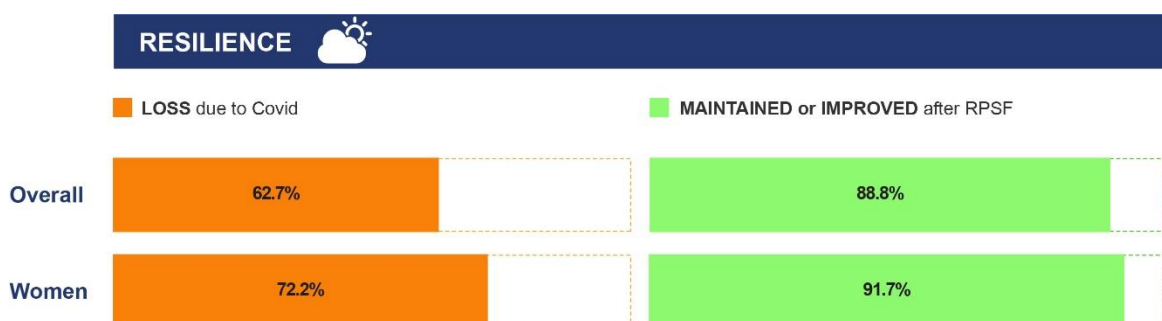
**Figure 1:** Percentage of households that experienced a loss in each Tier I indicator due to COVID

**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 March 2022.

Two separate questions were asked for each indicator. The first question asked what happened to each Tier 1 indicator between March 2021 and March 2022: 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 March 2022: 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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