

DJIBOUTI

RAPID ASSESSTMENT

Top-up to Soil and Water Management Programme (PROGRES) and Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas (PRAREV) in the Context of COVID

IFAD'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

RURAL POOR STIMULUS FACILITY (RPSF)

FACILITY'S PILLARS



Inputs
& basic assets



Targeted
funds



Access
to markets



Digital
services

RPSF projects: Top-up to Soil and Water Management Programme (PROGRES) and Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas (PRAREV) in the Context of COVID in Djibouti ¹

Launched in April 2020, the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility 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 PROGRES and PRAREV in the Context of COVID-19 is part of the 20% of the projects of the Facility chosen to undergo a rapid assessment to report against Tier I 'Development Results' indicators of the RPSF Results Measurement Framework.

Project activities

The project had a total RPSF budget of US\$ 413,710. The overall objective of the RPSF funds was to improve poor and rural populations recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 through the provision of inputs. The intervention targeted agricultural, livestock and fish sectors.

Specifically, it provided 250 market gardening households with 732 kg of seeds and fertilizer and 100 sets of small tools. 1,063 agro-pastoral households benefited from 800 heads of goats, 109 tonnes of feed, 400 sets of veterinary products, 120 vaccines and the equipping of 4 wells with solar panels. Also, 625 fishing households benefited from 24 outboard motors, 66 generators, 109 nets, 279 fish-vending kits and 432 lines and hooks.

The RPSF Fund directly supported 1,938 households, and 11,628 people predominantly across the 3 regions of Arta, Tadjourah and Dikhil. Around half of those receiving support were women, and about 40 per cent youth.

Rapid assessment methodology

Self-reported information on the six Tier I 'Development Results' indicators was collected from a representative sample of 498 beneficiary households, of which 50 percent are headed by women and 26 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 10th and 21st of August 2021 using a Pen-and-Paper Personal Interview (PAPI) survey.

Key results ²

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

Contribution effect of COVID-19

- COVID-19 has severely affected welfare conditions, as captured in most Tier I indicators. Women and youth headed beneficiary households were equally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to those headed by men and adults, respectively.

Contribution effect of RPSF

- Most indicators show substantial improvements after the RPSF project was implemented. Production, sales, income, number of meals consumed, and resilience increased for the majority of households. Further, almost 6 out of 10 households maintained or increased the number of assets owned.
- In most dimensions, households headed by women and men, and youth and adults benefitted equally from the RPSF project.
- Yet, households headed by women were less likely to maintain or increase their ownership of assets compared to men. Contrary to this, household headed by a youth person more often maintained or increased the number of assets owned.

Recommendations

- While asset accumulation takes more time, future program design should consider how to support improvement in some of these longer-term outcomes, 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

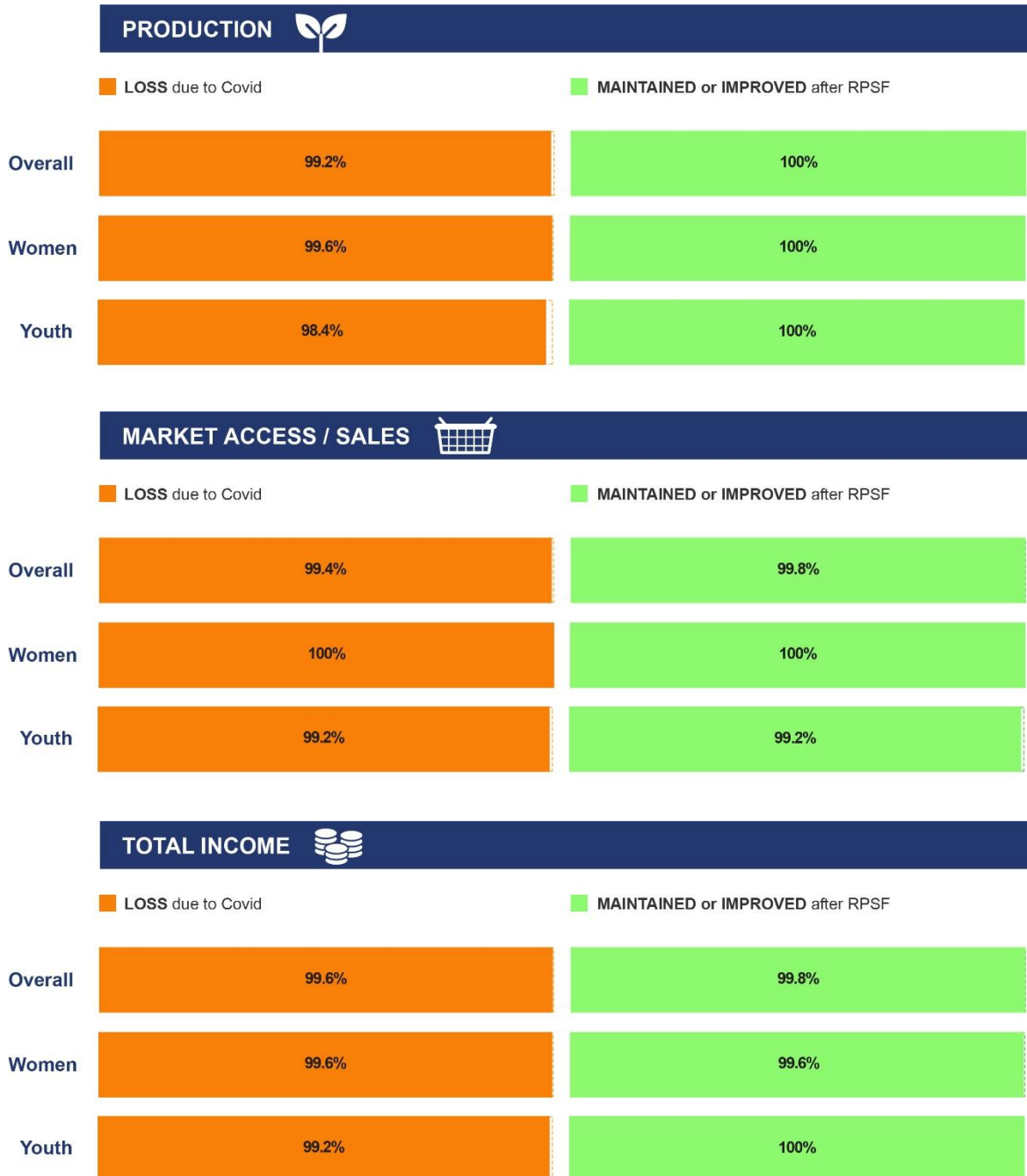


Figure 1: Percentage of households that experienced a loss in each Tier I indicator due to COVID

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



NOTE: RPSF activities started in June 2020, with the project fully rolled out by November 2020. Two separate questions were asked for each indicator. The first question asked what happened to each Tier I indicator between March – November 2020 relative to March – November 2019: 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 I indicator since November 2020: i) reduced further; ii) stayed the same; iii) returned to level before COVID-19; or iv) 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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Investing in rural people

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