



Protecting the most vulnerable: **time for action** for rural areas

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When disasters strike, it is always those who are poor, malnourished and vulnerable who pay the highest price. The COVID-19 pandemic is no different.

Most of the world's extremely poor and hungry people live in rural areas of developing countries. IFAD is raising the alarm about the pandemic's threat to their well-being, jobs and food security.

It's essential to protect rural livelihoods and local food production **so that the health crisis doesn't become a food crisis.**

IFAD has launched the **Rural Poor Stimulus Facility**, an emergency fund to help the most vulnerable and marginalized people survive the crisis, to boost their resilience and to accelerate the recovery of rural communities. It takes action such as ensuring the availability of vital inputs like seeds, maintaining liquidity, keeping markets open and helping small-scale farmers maintain food supply.

Small farming systems produce 50 per cent of all food calories on 30 per cent of the world's agricultural land.* Their role in providing food is even more important at a time when disruptions of trade and transport threaten food supplies. **We need small-scale farmers now more than ever. And they need us.**

*Samberg et al. 2016. Subnational distribution of average farm size and smallholder contributions to global food production. Environmental Research Letters Vol. 11 (12). <http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/11/12/124010/meta>.

Let's make history and put the most vulnerable first. Please give to the Facility.

Governments, foundations, the private sector and philanthropic individuals can all give.

The multi-donor Facility is linked to the United Nations Socio-Economic Response Framework.

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