

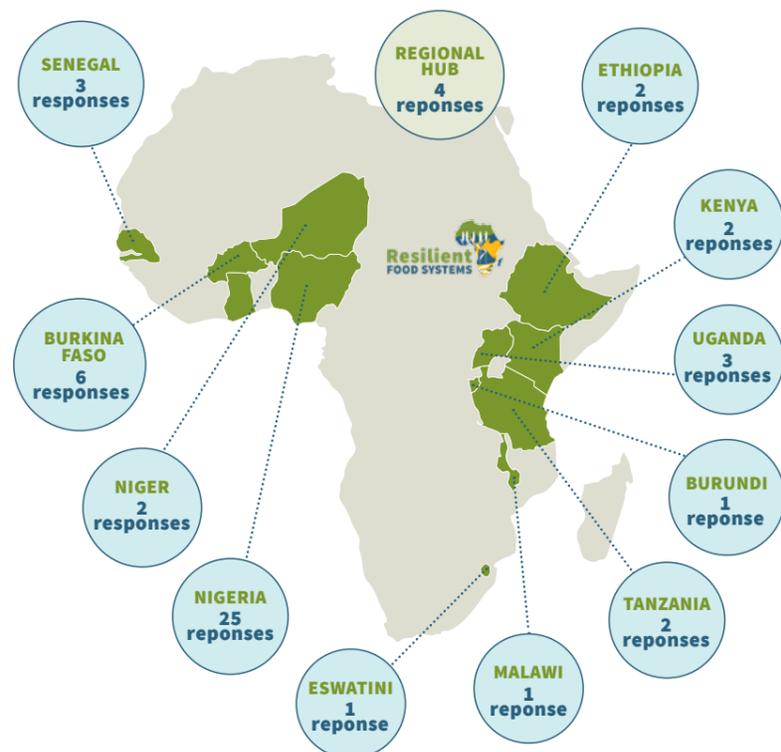


Impact of COVID-19 on the Resilient Food Systems Programme



Background

The Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) prepared a short survey, in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat, to understand the **impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Resilient Food Systems (RFS) programme**. The survey was distributed to the project countries and RFS programme partners on 30 April 2020, remaining open until May 15th. The aim of the survey was to understand how project operations, beneficiaries and development outcomes were being affected. The survey also sought to understand how the country teams were coping with the emerging crisis, and what additional support, both short and long-term, was needed at the different levels of operation. A total of 52 responses were received from 12 RFS projects.



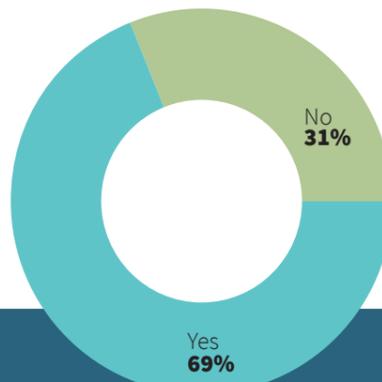
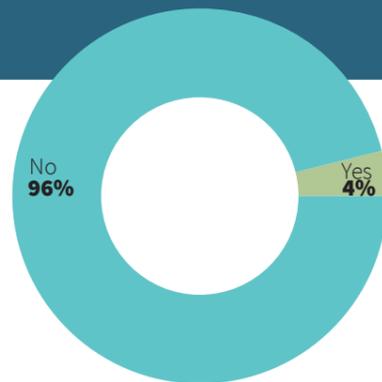
Summary of Survey Results

Impact on Daily Life

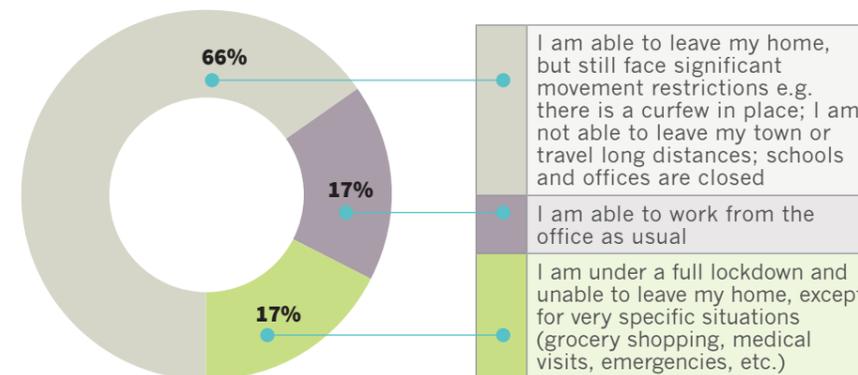
The movement of people to alternative towns and remote areas different to normal duty station.



Generation of additional household responsibilities (e.g. caring for relatives or home-schooling children).



Travel and movement restrictions experienced by RFS programme colleagues.



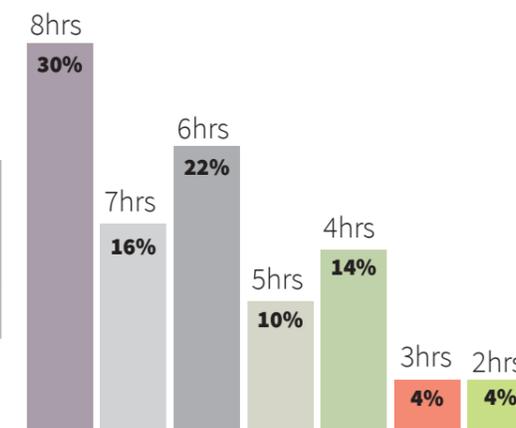
A need for access to essential facilities to enable working from home (e.g. a personal computer, a reliable power supply, a stable internet connection, and a quiet working space).



The extent to which a lack of essential working facilities and/or added household responsibilities are affecting work performance.

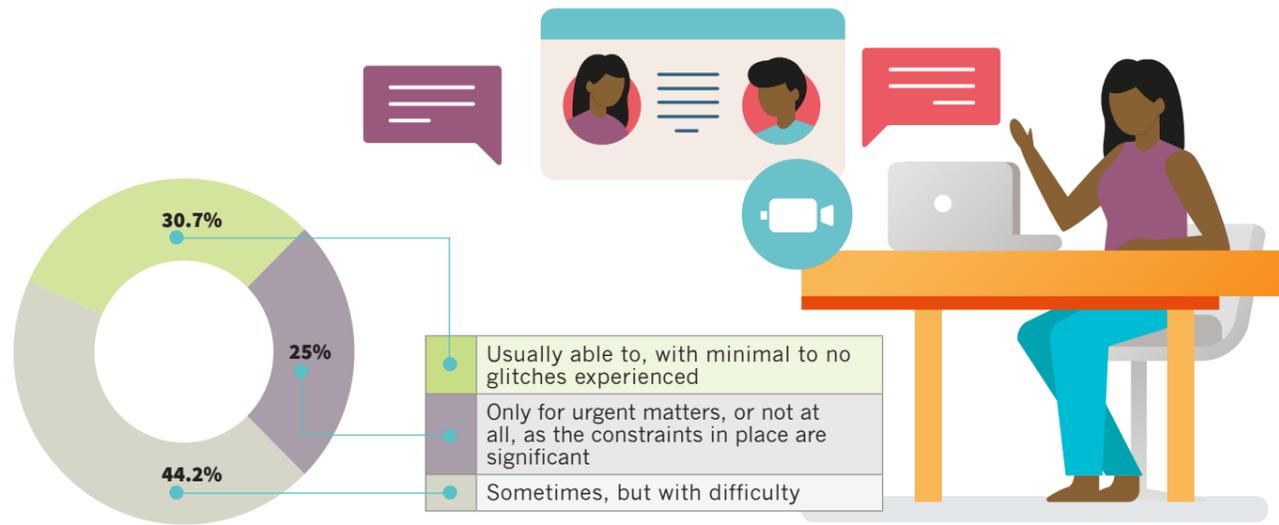


Number of hours respondents are able to work per day in the current situation.

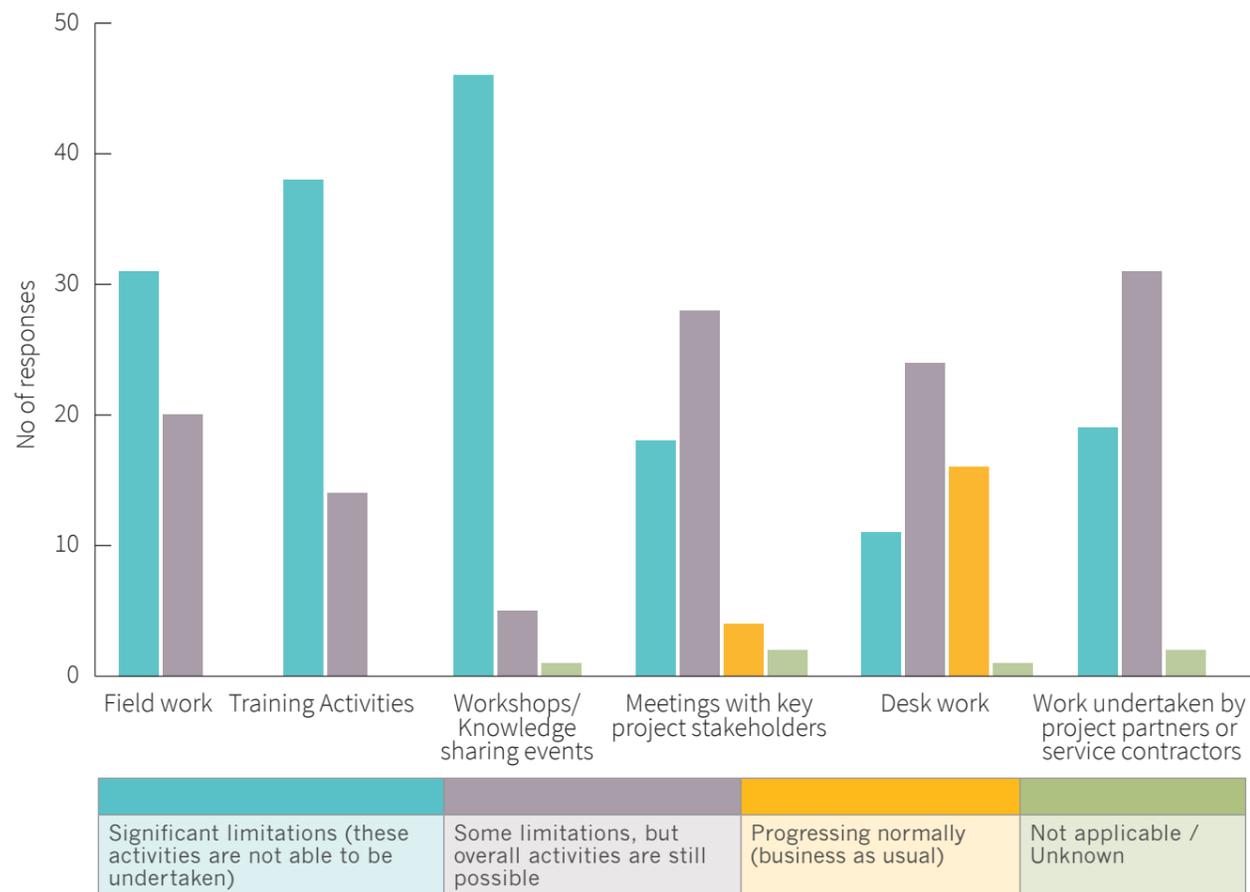


Impact on Project Management Operations

The ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings



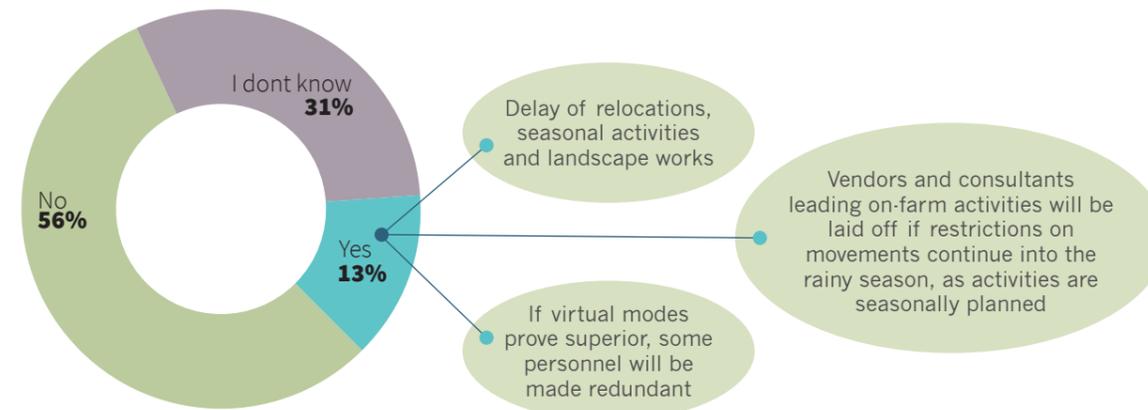
Impact on various project activities.



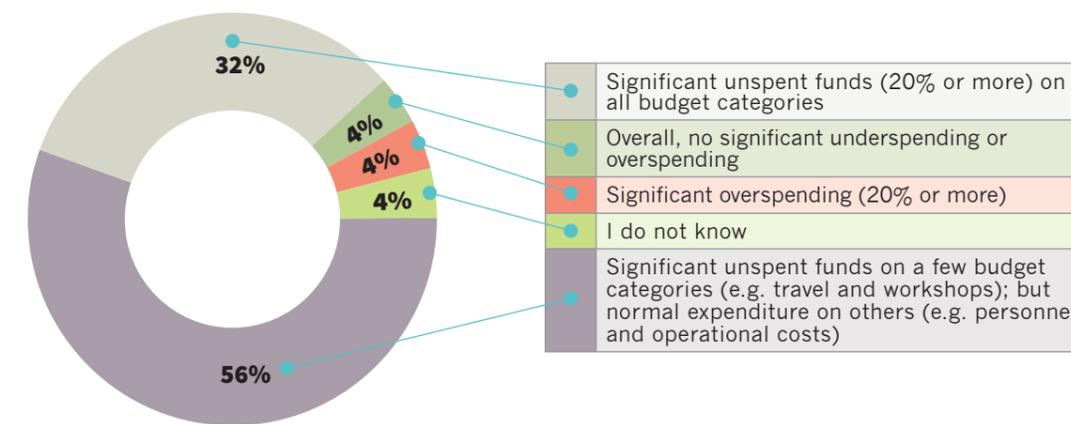
Key trend

There are significant limitations to field work, training activities and workshops. Some limitations are experienced with stakeholder meetings and desk work.

Risk to project personnel (including executing partners and contractors) being significantly affected in the short-term (e.g. by furloughs, layoffs and relocations).



Impact on project expenditure budget (compared to original project workplan and budget for 2020)



Key trend

89% of the respondents expect to see significant underspending for 2020. However, most projects expect this to be uneven among different budget categories - which would present **challenges for potential no-cost extensions**.

Significant unspent funds on a few budget categories

(e.g. travel, workshops); but normal expenditure on others (e.g. personnel, operational costs)

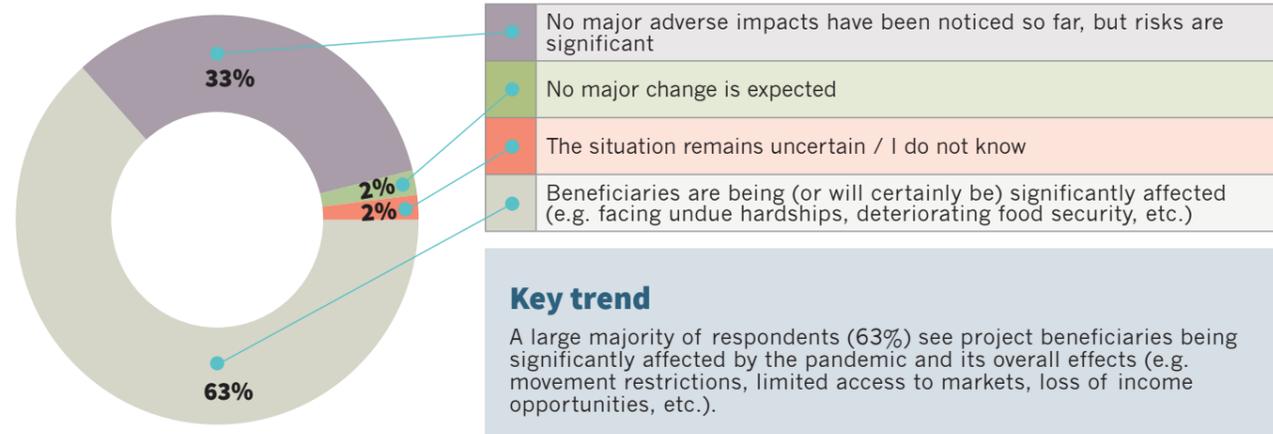
- Nigeria
- Malawi
- Uganda
- Ethiopia
- REGIONAL HUB
- Kenya
- Burkina Faso
- Niger
- Senegal

Significant unspent funds (20% or more) on all budget categories

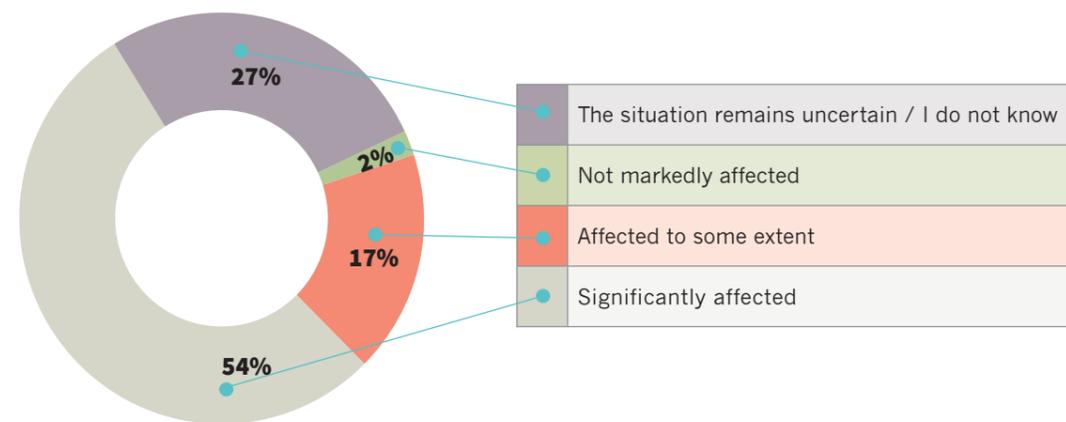
- Burundi
- Eswatini
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Senegal

Impact on Project Beneficiaries

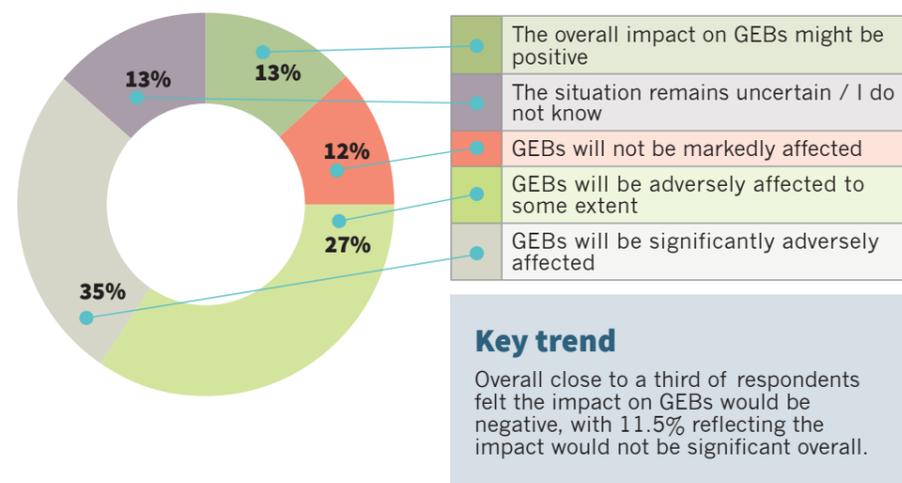
Overall impact on project beneficiaries (farmers and local communities).



Potential impact on project beneficiaries from postponement or delay from project activities



Anticipated overall impact of the pandemic on Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), in project intervention areas .

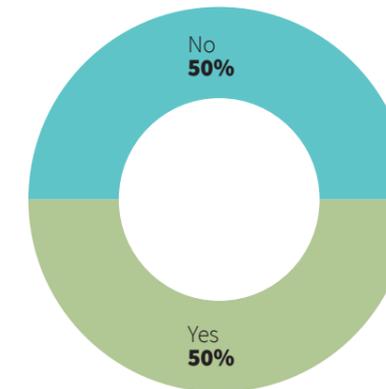


Resilient Food Systems - Intended Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs)

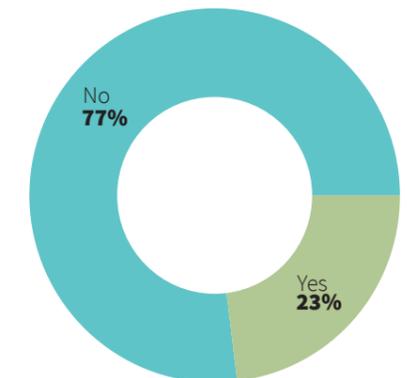
- 1.1 million hectares under improved production practices
- Avoiding emission of 59 million metric tonnes of CO₂
- 15-25% improvement of genetic biodiversity on smallholder farms
- 2.1 million hectares under SLM
- 2 million households benefiting from the programme

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of any mitigation measures on project management and operations.



Planned or enacted mitigation measures on the projects' overall development outcomes and achievement of GEBs.



Key trend

Many country projects had not yet implemented project management and operational mitigation measures and 77% had not yet decided on, or implemented, mitigation measures regarding project development outcomes. However, countries will continue to monitor plans and suggested this could change in the near future.

Amendments to Workplans

Uganda

- We are organizing virtual meetings with project teams and implementing partners.
- Suitable options for training of project staff are also being explored.
- Community level capacity development interventions are still a challenge but the possibility of having mini-group meetings/ training are being explored.

Burkina Faso

- Virtual meetings, development of other activities in view of lost time, acquisition of equipment and inputs for producers.
- Organizing a 15-person training session to take into account the capacity of the room and respect for social distancing.

Kenya

- We are in the process of transforming all training to be undertaken online or virtually. The challenge is the unreliable internet access experienced by many participants.
- Planning for virtual training.
- All meetings are conducted virtually, a concept has been proposed to aid planting materials distribution using an SMS platform, working through partners enjoying essential services status e.g. Water Resources Authority, NCWSC, Frigoken.
- Transforming team planning meetings into virtual sessions- gender training, team quarterly review and planning meetings, Governance team meetings.

Eswatini

- Amendment to virtual formats for meetings with consultants, contractors, project teams and the evaluation of proposals and review by the tender board.

Senegal

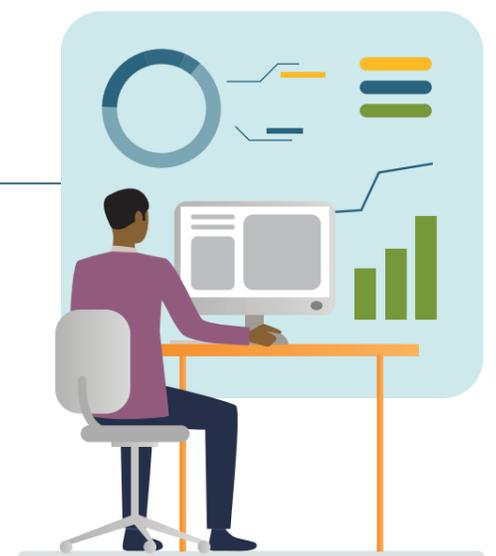
- Only virtual meetings are being held.

Niger

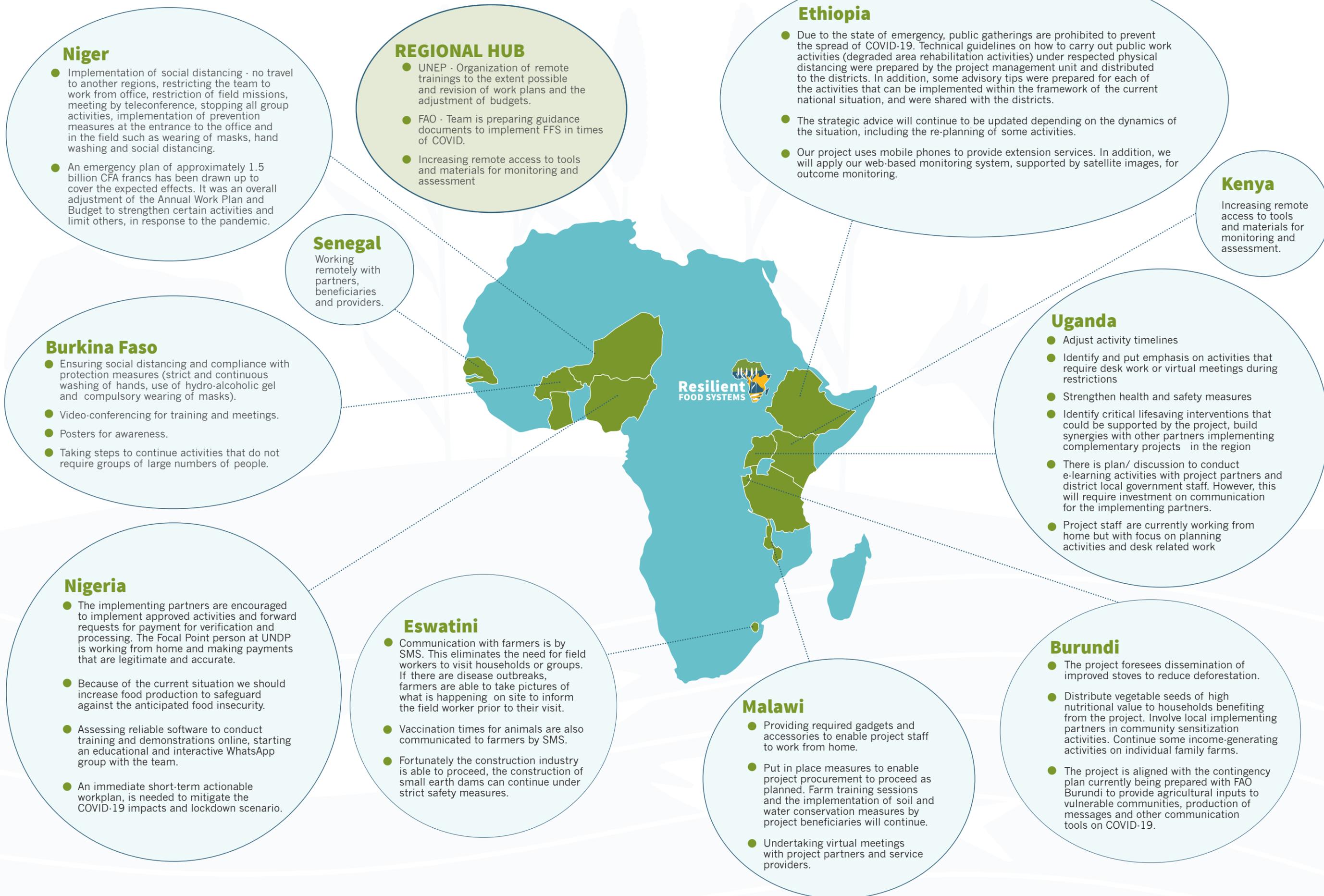
- Management meetings between URGP are held virtually.
- The training of farmers is done in several subgroups.
- Management meetings are restricted and are conducted by video-conference.
- Payment for work is expected to be in cash. Transfers are unreliable.

Tanzania

All consultancy work, including workshops and training, have been transferred to the coming financial year.



Summary of Key Mitigation Measures



Sharing lessons learnt and advice between RFS Country Projects and Partners

Senegal

- We would like to exchange with other projects on mangrove reforestation, especially for the avicenia species, on the fight against salinization of land, on CES/DRS work technology.
- Let's take advantage of the moments of confinement to get back in front of our goals; it will allow us to continue to move forward in the end.

Nigeria

- Keep in touch with project site focal persons and encourage them to obey social distancing guidelines whilst working with communities.
- Following government guidelines and enlightenment of beneficiaries.

Kenya

“Business continuity is still possible through virtual technologies - meetings, training, planning sessions.

Also, review strategically what others can do for your project without on-site presence and delegate more to keep business going” .

Anthony Kariuki, Nairobi Water Fund manager, RFS Kenya Project

Uganda

- Prioritise activities that can be handled virtually.
- This is a difficult time. Reaching the beneficiaries is not easy under the lockdown situation. We need a lot of creativity/

Niger

- Acting on time would be best; it can save a lot of lives.

Burkina Faso

- Avoid physical contact and promote virtual work with co-workers. Encourage all to respect the COVID-19 barrier measures.
- **COVID-19 reminded us of the need to strengthen our capacity to adapt to external shocks and mitigate the risks of implementing our projects.**
- This pandemic has called into question the objectives set, due to the reorientation of actions and activities. It has led the project to review its guidelines, taking into account the constraints.

Tanzania

“This pandemic will also pass, so we need to follow the guidelines provided by our governments to stay safe and prepare ourselves for the life after the pandemic remaining focused to accomplish our projects’ objectives”.

Selemani Milundi, Vice President's Office Tanzania, RFS Tanzania

Burundi

- The project is in line with the contingency plan being prepared with FAO Burundi to provide vulnerable communities with adapted agricultural inputs and other communication tools on COVID 19.

Ethiopia

“Let us use this situation to apply innovative approaches”.

Tesfaye Haile Dargie – Project Manager, RFS Ethiopia

Eswatini

- Constant communication with beneficiaries is crucial for them not to lose hope, which is really important under these trying circumstances. This can be through phone calls to the lead farmers or the chairpersons of groups. Our project is providing airtime for field officer to able to do this.
- Baseline studies are also useful at this point. From the baseline census survey, we are mining the cell phones of each household head. Through GIS mapping all field officer are able to reach household even ones that they do not work with under normal circumstances.
- Continued extension service through the SMS application has proved to be extremely important. One farmer commented that they feel educated, as they now communicate with ‘professors’’. Another commented that they now see the value of educating their children as they are the one that dictate to what to tell the field workers.

“It will be important for the project to take farmers on a tour to see how the environment has been able to heal itself under COVID-19. Wells, steams and wetlands have recovered in an unbelievable way. Livestock are in very good condition since grass is abundant. This will drive home the fact that we have to treat our environment well in order for it to give us GEBs”.

Lynn Kota, National Project Director RFS Eswatini

REGIONAL HUB

“I just wish to motivate all colleagues. Please hang in there, pray, meditate, exercise and more importantly take good care of yourself. The project needs all of us strong and sane!”

Margaret Oduk, Programme Co-Ordinator Component 1 RFS Hub Project

“COVID-19 has been a wakeup call to the world on implications of mishandling our food systems, especially biodiversity”.

Charles Sebukeera, UNEP, Regional Science Policy Coordinator, Africa.



Synthesis of Country Responses



Image: Ollivier Girard (CIFOR)



Travel or movement restrictions
Able to work for 6 hrs and currently have access to essential facilities to allow for working from home.

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings
Sometimes, but with difficulty.

Impact on project personnel
Relocations, seasonal activities and landscape works are delayed.

Other potential or expected impacts
Reduced institutional capacity.

Project activities being affected

Significant limitations



Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are significantly affected - farmers cannot access seed and other required agricultural inputs.

Impact on GEBs

Restoration activities for degraded landscapes have been halted and degradation continues at an accelerated pace.



Image: Neil Palmer (CIAT)



Travel or movement restrictions

- Able to leave my home, but still face significant movement restrictions (e.g. there is a curfew in place; I am not able to leave my town or travel long distances; schools and / or offices are closed).
- No additional burden of household responsibilities. I am able to work 8 hours a day.

Project Management
Able to organise virtual meetings.

Significant impact from postponement of project activities

- As a result of the cancellation of training sessions and workshops, a lot of farmers are unable to continue with their activities (including producing at a commercial scale for the formal markets).
- Field work is also reduced, as project officers are only able to visit one household at a time, resulting in delays in addressing problems in the field.
- Groups that are ready for harvesting, have to rely on information passed on by the lead farmers on how to prevent post-harvest losses.

Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

Some beneficiaries are casual workers who have been laid off. They usually sell their produce through informal markets, they are unable to do so now.

Impact on GEBs

Potentially positive - in most instances, GEBs are affected by human activity. With the limited movement of people, cars and buses, pollution (water and air), land degradation and biodiversity will decrease significantly.



Travel or movement restrictions

- I am able to leave my home, but I still face significant travel restrictions (for example, there is a curfew in effect; I cannot leave my city or travel long distances; schools and/or offices are closed).
- I can work in the office as usual.

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

- Sometimes, but with difficulty.
- Generally yes, with minimal to no glitches experienced.

Impact on project personnel

- Winter has not yet started, however, the restriction prevents producers from obtaining inputs as the markets are closed. Also, the lack of guidance could affect production and yields.
- We are currently not in the production period and so we cannot assess the impacts on production.
- The northern region is not yet affected by COVID-19, and so social engineering partners continue to operate. However, restrictions on compliance with barrier measures prevent training workshops and/or approval of business development plans (EDPs).Funding for the 200 EDPs planned for the first half of the year would be delayed to the latter half.
- Various activities have slowed down, or even stopped because of COVID-19.

Project activities being affected

Significant limitations

Some limitations



Impact on GEBs

Restoration and recovery activities of degraded land will not be able to continue and would exacerbate soil degradation. Natural resources would be overexploited for energy and timber needs, due to travel restrictions and unmet food needs.



Ethiopia

2 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

Still able to work from the office

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

- Sometimes, but with difficulty.
- Only for urgent matters, or not at all, as the constraints in place are significant.

Impact on project personnel

No immediate risks to project personnel.

Project activities being affected

Significant limitations

Some limitations



Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

- As a result of the pandemic, there is a state of emergency which has prohibited meetings of more than four people. There are also restrictions of movement to the field. These restrictions affected the transfer of knowledge and skills to the local level project implementer and consequently can impact the implementation of project activities at the household and community level.
- Furthermore, the local market does not adequately provide agricultural inputs which are essential for diversification and productivity improvement. A lack of adequate agricultural input coupled with a lack of field level technical support and poor monitoring support could affect the income of project beneficiaries.
- Our beneficiaries are in rural areas where the spread of the virus is not yet reported. In addition, as people in rural areas are living at individual household levels, there is a low risk of spreading the virus.
- No major adverse impacts have been noticed so far, but risks are significant.

Other impacts on beneficiaries from project changes - not markedly affected

The activities we postponed are those which require the gathering of people for workshops. However, we have used other methods to address the beneficiaries, such as extension services via mobile phones and house to house expert advice.

Other potential or expected impacts

- Reduced institutional capacity.
- If the situation continues for more than 3 - 5 months, the project outputs may be affected. As the project is lead through an integrated approach which requires intensive discussion and interactions at the district level with implementing agencies, the prohibited actions by the state of emergency may affect the performance.

Impact on GEBs

- The major activities which contribute to improving GEBs are still underway. So it is expected that there will be no significant impact on GEBs.
- GEBs result from the protection and management of existing natural resources including their sustainable use. The rehabilitation of degraded landscapes shall encompass conservation and management technologies (physical and biological soil and water conservation practices).
- As movement to the towns is restricted, people may be depressed and unable to access the labour market and associated income. This could force communities to move into nearby forested areas resulting in deforestation and degradation.



Tanzania

2 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

- No requirement to move location and currently able to work from the office, but experiencing difficulties with access to Wi-Fi or data bundles. Currently, able to work 8 - 8.5 hours.
- Currently, do have additional household responsibilities due to COVID-19 which are affecting work performance to a large extent.

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

Only for urgent matters, or not at all, as the constraints in place are significant.

Impact on project personnel

No current risks to project personnel through furloughs, layoffs or relocations.

Project activities being affected

Significant limitations

Some limitations



Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

- No major adverse impacts have been noticed so far, but risks are significant for project beneficiaries and communities; and if the number of cases continues to increase significantly, there is a possibility of more restrictions being put in place. No assessment has been done to identify the significant impacts on beneficiaries as a result of the pandemic.
- The postponement or cancellation of project activities due to COVID-19 will have significant impacts as no training can be conducted in the current situation. So beneficiaries will lack the knowledge to improve their agriculture production and environment.

Other potential or expected impacts

- Particularly at district level, where district experts who participated in district facilitation team may be transferred to other areas thus will reduce institutional capacity for the project.
- Some stakeholders will change their priorities to continue participating in the project and focus on other issues.
- Government policy may change to support other projects, due to the pandemic. This may reduce funds and technical support for this project.

Impact on GEBs

Adversely affected to some extent as some environment improving activities cannot be conducted in the current situation.



Image: Neil Palmer (CIAT)



Malawi

1 Response

Travel or movement restrictions

- I am able to leave my home, but still face significant movement restrictions (e.g. there is a curfew in place; I am not able to leave my town or travel long distances; schools and / or offices are closed).
- Additional household responsibilities.
- Able to work for 4 hours.

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

Virtual meetings are possible but experience difficulties.

Impact on project personnel

The local village markets have been suspended due to Covid-19, as such farmers have limited access to markets. The farmers are therefore selling their goods to scrupulous traders who are buying their produce at lower prices leading to a loss of income.

Project activities being affected

Significant Limitations

Some limitations

Normal



Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

The capacity building of project beneficiaries will be greatly affected as all training sessions, workshops and meetings have been suspended. The project planned to undertake exercises to build capacity of the project beneficiaries at a local level.

Impact on GEBs

As community gatherings have been suspended it will be impossible to implement communal soil and water conservation activities, such as planting of trees at a community woodlot or the construction of physical soil and water conservation structures. This could affect the GEBs.



24 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

I am able to leave my home, but still face significant movement restrictions (e.g. there is a curfew in place; I am not able to leave my town or travel long distances; schools and / or offices are closed).

Limited access to facilities to be able to work at home

- Power supply is unreliable and the Wi-Fi signal is not strong, so we are reliant on hot-spotting which fluctuates. This requires changing from one network to another at different times of the day.
- Limited access to a quiet working space.
- Lafia region – no access to a computer, reliable power supply, no internet facility and no android phone or ipad/tablet.
- Software, and hardware including printer, scanner and printing material.
- Conference call software.

Able to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

- If IT and virtual meetings prove superior some personnel will remain redundant.
- Training sessions, workshops and work undertaken by project partners are being significantly impacted.

Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are being (or will certainly be) significantly affected.

- Already some of our beneficiaries have missed out on dry season farming which would have added to their income and provided opportunities to learn.
- There may be hunger and poverty because communities will not be able to meet their food production capacity. As movement is restricted, access to farm inputs will be difficult thereby resulting in further impacts.
- Farmers are unable to buy inputs because of limited access to markets, similarly, they cannot take their farm produce to markets to earn an income.
- Livestock on some farms are suffering from food shortages due to restrictions.
- Farmers are facing challenges due to the restricted access to training and workshops. This will impact their livelihoods.
- Not attending markets because they are closed.
- Facing hardship in transportation as well as access to market and deterioration in food security.
- Missing capacity building.
- Untimely supply and disruption of inputs.
- Many farmers will set aside some of their capital for unforeseen expenses such as medical bills.
- As a result of lockdown, a stay at home order by the government, movement of farm products and marketing is difficult.

Impact of postponement of project activities

- Some livelihood training sessions were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For example, around 350 farmers were unable to attend livelihood training on dairy goats, fattening rams and bee keeping.
- The workplan cannot be achieved, as the implementation period is affected and may result in the loss of community interest to participate.
- All the livelihood project activities will stop, and capacity building will also be affected.
- Potential policy shifts and a change in project priorities.
- So far, the beneficiaries and small farmers have access to their farms without restriction. However, the risk of the discontinuation of work by contractors is significant, following the outbreak of COVID-19.

Other potential or expected impacts

- The farmers' expectations of benefits to be derived from the project will be affected, and this will negatively impact on the reception of similar projects in the future.
- Access to funding by implementing partners to pay contractors.
- Since the project is community based, I am confident that the communities will be willing to implement as many activities as possible but may be constrained by payments to local consultants and contractors engaged at the State Level.

Impact on GEBs

- Will be significantly adversely affected - if training is not conducted on agroforestry and erosion control, to improve environmental degradation, an increase in eroded areas may result.
- Environmental mitigation would not be carried out leading to further environmental degradation. This is hinged on the fact that farmers are encouraged to implement best agricultural practices under the watch of the implementing partners.
- Potential positive impact – due to the restrictions on human activity, environmentally damaging actions such as air pollution from vehicular traffic, cutting down of trees, etc. have reduced.



3 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

Travel and movement restrictions – currently under a full lockdown and unable to leave my home, except for very specific activities and situations (grocery shopping, medical visits, emergencies, etc.).

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

Inadequate data bundles and unreliable power source

Impact on project personnel

A country-wide lock down is being enforced, markets are closed, movements are restricted, access to inputs are limited and the planting season is setting in. COVID-19 is exacerbating already existing vulnerabilities caused by insecurity, desert locust, fall army worm, livestock disease of economic importance resulting in quarantine, among others.

Project activities being affected

Significant limitations

Some limitations



Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

- COVID-19 has affected planting schedules, farm labor, food prices, and the incidence of domestic violence.
- Karamoja is the most vulnerable region in Uganda. The current situation has made the food security situation even worse.
- Government is likely to put more emphasis on emergency interventions to save lives and livelihoods.
- The capacity of implementing partners is likely to reduce due to financial constraints thereby increasing the unmet needs of the target communities.

Impact on GEBs

The GEBs may be positive in the short-term due to reduced environmental disturbance. However, there is a risk of increased exploitation of natural resources to supplement lost incomes. The risk of desert locust damage on pastures and food crops also remains high.



2 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

I am able to leave my home, but I still face significant travel restrictions (for example, there is a curfew in effect; I cannot leave my city or travel long distances; schools and/or offices are closed).

- I can work in the office as usual.

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

- Sometimes, but with difficulty.
- Generally yes, with minimal to no glitches experienced.

Impact on project personnel

- The measures adopted (limiting travel, closing borders, etc.) limit: opportunities (including income, food support, knowledge sharing) related to the implementation of development projects/programmes; the benefits of the exodus strategy, which allows many households to reduce the gap between production and the needs of their members; commercial transactions (products, animals, etc.) generate income for many households.
- Recipients are already affected by rising food and other commodity prices due to the closure of borders (mainly with Nigeria) and the restriction of travel, especially for importing traders.

Project activities being affected

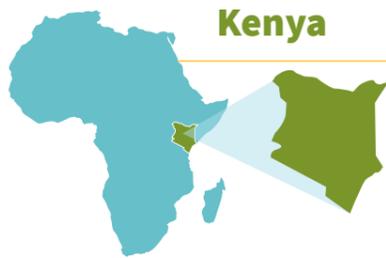
Some limitations



Impact on GEBs

Restrictions on population income sources linked to the various measures could lead vulnerable populations to adopt extreme survival strategies such as overexploitation of natural resources

(wild animals, aquatic animals, woody vegetation, etc.) with negative consequences on BEMs that may negate efforts to reverse the trend of environmental degradation.



2 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

- Able to leave my home, but still face significant movement restrictions (e.g. there is a curfew in place; I am not able to leave my town or travel long distances; schools and / or offices are closed).
- Able to leave my home, but still face significant movement restrictions.
- Additional household responsibilities.
- Work up to 6 hours.

Impact of delays and postponements on project beneficiaries

- Delays in obtaining sufficient data and information from child projects and other hub projects will definitely delay our work too.
- Component 1.2 is focusing on developing enabling tools for the country projects. These will be in place but their uptake at the county project level will be impacted by the COVID-19 situation.
- Country roll out of tools and hands-on training for the individual child projects cannot take place at the moment.

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

- Able to have virtual meetings with minimal to no glitches experienced.
- Can have virtual meetings with minimal disruption.

Impact of postponement of activities

We are currently experiencing heavy rains all across the country. Cases of landslides and flooding have been reported. This will affect our beneficiaries.

Other impacts

Change in priorities at a policy level



Significant Impacts

- The planting season and all field based activities have been stopped.
- Beneficiaries will miss a full season of support in planting materials, water harvesting technologies etc. from the Water Fund.



3 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

- I am able to leave my home, but I still face significant travel restrictions (for example, there is a curfew in effect; I cannot leave my city or travel long distances; schools and/or offices are closed).
- I can work in the office as usual.

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

- Sometimes, but with difficulty.
- Generally yes, with minimal to no glitches experienced.

Impact on project personnel

- With the restructuring, the weekly markets are closed, the producers cannot find buyers, it is almost impossible to sell vegetable crops without making losses.
- Producers no longer have platforms to sell their produce from. The 2019/2020 season breeders are making sales on the run, affecting their production. Feeding livestock is becoming increasingly difficult with non-existent pastures.
- We will face food insecurity for both man and livestock, markets are not provided, produce rots at the field level, animals do not have access to pastures because inter-urban travel is prohibited. All the restructuring is likely to impact the coming agricultural season. People no longer have incomes and there are many households who are dependent on money transfers.
- Failure to carry out good practice scaling activities can impact agricultural production.

Significant Impacts on beneficiaries

Our beneficiaries live in rural areas with some of the highest poverty rates in the country. Moreover, most of their trade or purchases are at the weekly market level, all of which have been closed due to COVID-19.

In addition, those involved in market gardening no longer have access to markets or social gatherings to sell their produce. Finally, the past agricultural season has been calamitous, causing producers to be food insecure since the end of March 2020.



Impact on GEBs

The area planned for reforestation and mangrove development is likely to be reduced by more than 30%. Soil restoration work will also b

- Our farmers supply many consumers including hotels, offices, supermarkets and other businesses. With the partial or complete closure of these businesses, farmers have reduced options as to where they can sell their produce. For example, farmers who used to sell milk and other dairy products to hotels are now forced to pour milk away because there is nowhere to sell it to. Those who sell eggs have been forced to sell them cheaper than the normal price.
- Beneficiaries are also incurring a lot of expenses running households. Cases of rural-urban migration due to job loss are on the rise. The burden of care increases on these households.
- There may be changes in priorities for most project countries who wish to concentrate on 'post COVID-19', bringing countries back to speed.
- Despite the pandemic, food security will remain the focus of most governments in Africa. However, overall government spending is likely to decline due to a possible economic depression in most countries. This will affect institutional capacities and the level of funding support.
- Reduced access to information, if our beneficiaries are out of office or cannot access the internet and other communication facilities at home.

Other potential or expected impacts

Change in government priorities in funding the expected policy implementation

- ### Impact on GEBs
- The project has halted tree planting activities for the current season.
 - The already established tree seedlings and other SLM practices continues to thrive with better rains across the watershed. However, planned additional efforts are unlikely to materialize this season.
 - There is a reprieve from the negative drivers of environmental change due to a decline in consumptive demands. There could be lifestyle changes after COVID-19 which may entail less movement as people are likely to continue social distancing even after the pandemic.
 - Loss of jobs and income opportunities due to the lock down and curfews will drive people to rely on natural resources to meet their livelihood needs.

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4 Responses

Travel or movement restrictions

Under a full lockdown and unable to leave my home, except for very specific activities and situations (grocery shopping, medical visits, emergencies, etc.).

Ability to organise (or join) virtual project team meetings

Able to organise virtual meetings with minimum interruptions.

Access to facilities to be able to work at home but with some limitations:

A decent desk and screen.



Significant Impacts to beneficiaries

Participation in exchange sessions (e.g. advisory services, FFS) will be compromised by the mobility restrictions. Also, these exchanges may pose a risk to participants.

Adverse impacts from the postponement or cancellation of project activities due to COVID-19

Expected benefits and services delivered by the project will need to be postponed, which may affect the revenue streams and food security of our farmers. As the country projects are not all fully operational yet, the number of farmers currently dependent on the project as a source of aid / support is not too high.

Other potential impacts

Countries may want to re-focus time and resources on prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and derived outcomes.

Impact on GEBs

Uncertain impact on GEBs

UNEP - Addis Ababa

- Under full lock down.
- Able to work from home but internet access is highly unpredictable.
- Additional burdens of household responsibilities.
- Desk work and work by partners is continuing as normal but field work, training and workshops are significantly affected.

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