

COVID-19 Situation Report #8

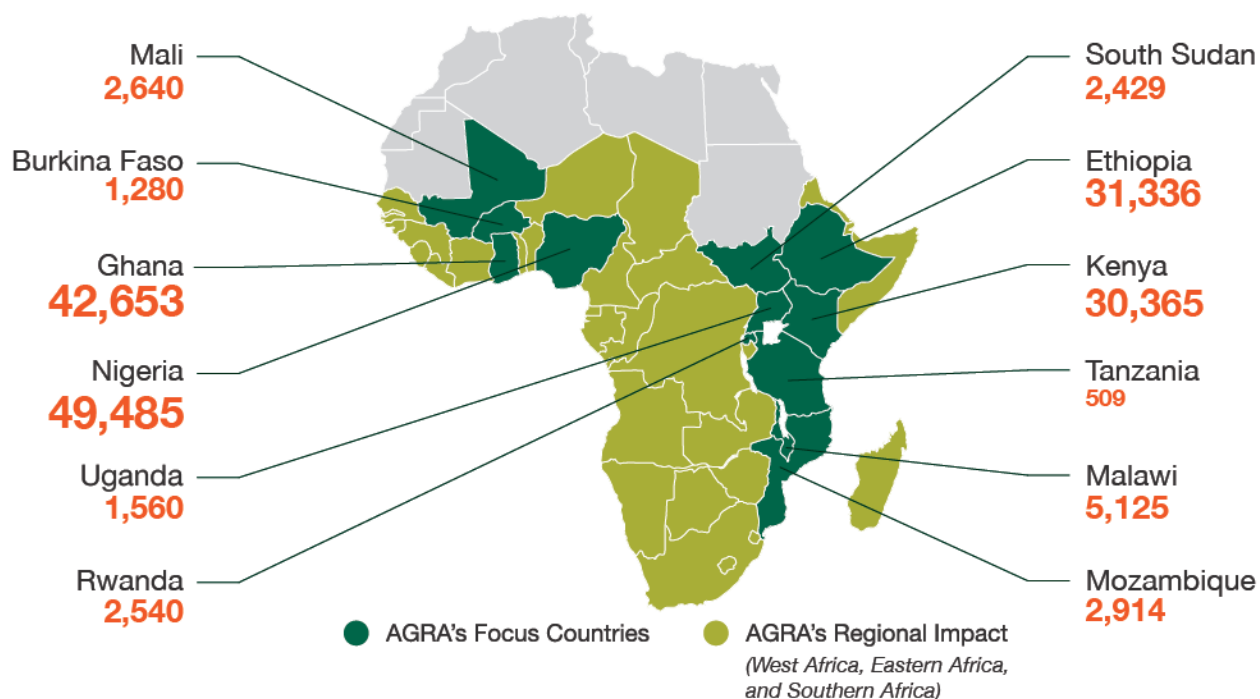
August 21, 2020

- As COVID-19 cases continue to increase in AGRA focus (1) countries, governments cautiously seek to strike a balance to slow the pandemic while minimizing the impact on economic performance. We provide insight from teams on the ground in Ethiopia, Ghana & Burkina Faso.
- The head of the [World Bank is advocating](#) for ambitious debt relief, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic is pushing poorer countries from “recession to depression”. At the same time, the launch of the AfCFTA secretariat in Accra and the creation of a single tariff-free \$3tn market is vital to helping Africa – and African agribusiness – to support itself to bounce back better. [Related FT article](#).
- The food security picture remains mixed in AGRA focus countries. The [AGRA July Food Security Monitor](#) reports that 15 African countries have been identified as “hunger hotspots” where the food security situation is significantly deteriorating, mainly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - In West Africa, in Nigeria, the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the reduced purchasing power of the Naira. In Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, COVID-19 continues alongside conflicts and difficult security situations, contributing to food insecurity.
 - East Africa showed mixed food security outcomes, with the food security situation stable in Kenya. In Ethiopia, COVID-19-related mitigation measures, in combination with recent flooding and crop losses caused by desert locusts, are projected to result in below-average secondary season harvest in June-July. This is likely to worsen the food security situation in the country.
 - In southern Africa, despite good harvests in Mozambique and Tanzania, multiple shocks in Mozambique, including consecutive droughts in southern provinces affecting last year’s and this year’s harvests, localized flooding in early 2020 and pests, continue to worsen the food security situation in the country.
- Easing of movement restrictions is making it easier for AGRA teams to implement programs and much programmatic work is proceeding as planned.
 - We highlight some work AGRA is doing with partners to train young agripreneurs in Ghana and lessons learned on the importance of digitization for farmers.
- AGRA’s newest [Policy Brief](#) “Improving the Functioning of Regional Food Supply Chains and Trade amidst the COVID- 19 Pandemic in East and Southern Africa” recommends steps to improve the functioning of food supply chains and trade activities in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [AGRF Virtual Summit 2020 “Feed the Cities, Grow the Continent”](#) has opened registration and is free to attend! We invite all our partners and colleagues to attend Africa’s premier agriculture event. Please join us in spreading the word. <http://agr.org>.

COVID-19 cases continue to climb in AGRA focus (1) countries

In AGRA focus countries, as of August 17, the number of COVID-19 cases has risen to over 172,000 cases from approximately 139,000 cases two weeks ago. Ethiopia, which has reported around 31,000 cases of COVID-19, reports cases that are increasing faster than other countries.

COVID-19 Cases in AGRA Focus Countries (August 17, 2020)



In Ethiopia, where COVID-19 cases have increased exponentially in the last two weeks, our country staff report that humanitarian needs have also increased. The number of food insecure people has increased to 16.5M, due to COVID-19, impact of desert locust infestation, floods, and changes to the displacement persons landscape. Flood is forecast to be a concern during the *kiremt* (summer) season in most parts of the country, especially in north western, central and south western Ethiopia. Unusual high assistance needs persist due to multiple drivers exacerbated by COVID-19. Food inflation registered a two-percentage-point rise, while non-food inflation has shown a slight dip of 0.8 percentage points. According to a World Bank Household COVID-19 monitoring survey, the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia are expected to be severe on households' welfare.

In Burkina Faso, which has reported 1,280 cases, AGRA field staff note that the impact of the COVID-19 response measures has made it difficult for farmers to receive credit notes from financial institutions, which farmers need to support the upcoming planting season. The uncertainty that exists as a result of the pandemic has also negatively impacted the negotiation of the renewal of sales contracts for inputs and seeds. To mitigate this impact, AGRA implementing partners are working with farmer organizations and financial institutions to address the credit issue and ensure farmers are supported to secure needed finance for upcoming seasons.

In Uganda, educational institutions, religious institutions and bars remain closed and sports gatherings are not permitted. The country has reported 1,560 cases of COVID-19 as of August 17. However, health officials are monitoring the increasing spread of new cases in Kampala, where 66 new cases of COVID-19 were reported on August 16.

The Ghana Statistical Service has released its phase 1 report on the Covid-19 Rapid Business Tracker Survey conducted between May 26 and June 17, 2020. Highlights of initial findings indicate that about 85,000 businesses in Ghana are still closed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. In all, 115,000 businesses have either permanently or temporarily closed down across the country. The tracker study results also reveal that more than 45,000 workers lost their jobs during the partial lockdown – with those in the accommodation and food sector badly hit. It further indicated that despite some respite granted businesses by government with the €600 million stimulus package, close to 131,000 businesses revealed they still had challenges accessing finance with over 60 per cent calling for subsidized interest rates.

The President of the World Bank is advocating for debt relief, noting the grave threat to food security for the poorest posed by COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the launch of AfCFTA shows “shoots of hope” as a vital building block for Africa to build back better post-COVID 19

Interviewed [in the Guardian](#), the President of the World Bank, David Malpass, raised the prospect of the first systematic write-off of debts since the 2005 Gleneagles agreement. He said fresh Bank figures due out next month would show an extra 100 million people pushed into poverty by the crisis. The World Bank president said the prospect of people going hungry was “gravely concerning”, noting the threat to food security as the year progressed. Decent harvests and food imports were currently keeping the threat of famine at bay, but Malpass said: “While there is no food shortage problem now if the situation continues it could become one”.

At the same time, the launch of the AfCFTA secretariat in Accra and the creation of a single tariff-free \$3tn market due in January 2021 is vital to helping Africa – and African agribusiness – to support itself to bounce back better. The African Union maintains that the AfCFTA will offer Africa an opportunity to reconfigure its supply chains, reduce reliance on others and speed up the establishment of regional value chains which will boost intra-Africa trade.

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the AfCFTA is, by the number of participating countries, the largest trade agreement since the formation of the World Trade Organisation. Its implementation will form a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc with 1.3 billion people across the continent. [Related FT article](#)

Governments Cautiously Open Economies, Despite Rising Case Numbers of COVID-19

Across Africa, governments cautiously seek to strike a balance to slow the pandemic while minimizing the impact on economic performance. We are seeing focus on some countries considering the resumption of lockdowns, despite the economic pain this would inflict, as the situation remains fluid around the world and in sub-Saharan Africa.

We are watching the situation closely in [Mozambique](#) where, as the numbers of positive cases and deaths due to COVID-19 have risen, the government has mandated a new State of Emergency for 30 days through September 6. Ongoing restrictive measures from April 1st, when the pandemic emerged, will continue. Among these restrictions included limitations regarding gatherings, events and entertainment spaces, and making the wearing of face coverings compulsory. The President announced a phased opening of economic activities into three phases to be “adopted gradually and cautiously” from 18 August with the resumption of “... *pre-school, primary and general secondary education,.. dependent on the verification of conditions imposed by health authorities and inspection bodies, clearly obeying the trend of the pandemic in our country*”.

In [Nigeria](#), where there are nearly 50,000 cases of COVID-19, the government continues to put in place support for the agricultural sector. A new rule published by the [Central Bank of Nigeria](#) (CBN) is lifting the ceiling on funding for agribusinesses by pegging the debt they can raise to their equity, raising the limits to 40 per cent of investee company's equity subject to a maximum of N2 billion and for up to 10 years. The Central Bank expects this to improve access to affordable and sustainable finance for agri-businesses, medium and small businesses (MSMEs), create employment opportunities in Nigeria, and boost the managerial capacity of agri-businesses and MSMEs to grow their businesses, develop the sector and promote inclusive growth.

We are seeing stakeholders debate the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) ban on using forex for maize imports which was aimed at boosting local production, stimulate a rapid economic recovery, safeguard rural livelihoods and increase jobs which were lost as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the prices of animal feeds have risen after the CBN's decision.

In [Kenya](#), various studies on the impact of COVID on SMEs are reporting depressed demand, difficulty to pay salaries, loan defaults and low cash flow positions. There is need for the speedy operationalization of the SME credit guarantee scheme by the Ministry of Finance. In [Malawi](#), a Rapid Assessment on the Impact of COVID19 on women horticulture farmers in Malawi, conducted by HIVOs, found that women farmers have experienced a 25% loss of income due to slowed marketing activities and other knock on effects from the COVID-19 pandemic. These are situations that AGRA is watching closely.

The food security picture remains mixed. The [AGRA July Food Security Monitor](#) reports that 15 African countries have been identified as “hunger hotspots” where the food security situation is significantly deteriorating, mainly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across Africa, 15 countries have been identified by the FAO and WFP as hunger hotspots where food security situations are significantly deteriorating, mainly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which has triggered knock-on effects that are pushing people into severe hunger. These include reduced household purchasing power that is impacting on food access, disruptions in supply chains affecting the movement of food to areas of needs and the movement of inputs to production areas, limited safety nets to protect the vulnerable populations, and multiple existing risks such as persistent armed conflict and insecurity. This is especially marked in parts of East Africa, including Somalia and South Sudan. The picture in Ethiopia is mixed, with some parts of the country experiencing severe hunger – but not all.

In July, most AGRA focus countries recorded trade deficits across major commodities – importing more than they exported. Import dependency was generally high in the wheat and rice sectors. In East Africa, these imports accounted for more than 80% of the countries’ total supplies. In Southern Africa, import dependency was high in the wheat sector, where imports accounted for over 90% of the countries’ total supplies. Food trade trends varied in West Africa with most countries recording trade deficits across the major commodities as exports remained low. Import dependency was high in the wheat and rice sectors across all the countries in West Africa.

Governments are implementing response measures which seek to minimise the spread of the pandemic while also minimizing its impact on economic performance. In Ethiopia for example, the government decided in mid-July to remove import taxes and tariffs on essential food commodities: wheat, edible oil, sugar, rice, and baby food to combat price hikes and food shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has opened opportunities for private sector companies to import these products, which will help increase food supplies and ease commodity prices in the country. In Malawi, however, government purchases of maize at above the prevailing market price is expected to crowd out private sector traders and restrict maize trade in the country.

Lower than normal food consumption levels continue, suggesting the ability to purchase food across sub-Saharan Africa has declined, possibly due to lower incomes as a result of the impact of COVID-19. Most countries covered in the report have food supplies that exceed domestic consumption, suggesting that most people in these countries are faced with a food consumption crisis due to physical and economic barriers. With most countries having lifted movement restrictions which have allowed food products to be distributed and with most countries in the region currently not faced with major conflicts (outside of Mali) that may disrupt food distribution and physical access, it can be inferred that the low consumption levels can be primarily due to lack of income. It can thus be concluded that those segments of the population facing a food crisis simply do not have the economic means to access food - possibly due to COVID-19 related income losses.

AGRA’s Response to COVID-19

In many AGRA focus countries, the easing of COVID-19 measures are making it easier for teams to implement programs – albeit in a highly cautious fashion and respecting government protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19. We highlight below AGRA’s work in Ghana to support young agripreneurs, and follow with examples of AGRA’s work in a few focus countries.



Modeling good entrepreneurship and leadership skills is a core objective of YADIS, a youth agripreneurship development Program which is a joint initiative between Nestlé Central and West Africa (CWA) and AGRA. In Ghana, the program is implemented with a Ghanaian agribusiness, Sahel Grain. The program aims to mentor young agripreneurs and provide them with training on good agricultural practices and entrepreneurial skills to produce and supply high quality maize, soybean, rice, cassava, cocoa and coffee. In early August, about two dozen


YADIS agripreneurs were taken through a week-long entrepreneurship and leadership training ran by Dr. Asitik, a rural entrepreneurship expert at the University of Development Studies, Ghana. When these two dozen agripreneurs returned to their communities, they also organized meetings within their communities to share the lessons they learned and how they are incorporating the training into their farming operations. The photo (at top left) is from the community meetings organized and led by YADIS agripreneurs.

Despite COVID-19, the planting season is underway in most AGRA focus countries. In many countries, easing of containment activities means that it is easier for AGRA grantees to implement programs on-the-ground to support farmers. We include highlights from some AGRA focus countries below:

Digital tools enhance COVID-19 response and also provide farmers with up to date market information

Lessons we are learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic stress the importance of digital tools to enhance education, information and communication campaign strategies related to COVID-19 and associated preventive protocols. In Ghana, the AGRA-supported GESSIP Consortium has signed a service agreement with Airtel-Tigo to supply 150 mobile phone devices to support the work of Community Based Advisors (CBAs). This is expected to promote extension service delivery, increase farmer reach and enhance smallholder access to input and output markets. In Mozambique, where program officers have made use of digital tools where available, we are finding that digital tools and platforms, including radio for dissemination of price and volume information, are critical to enhance farmers' awareness of market dynamics during the ongoing marketing season. It is clear that ICT solutions must be an integral part of future project designs.

- In Ghana, the team is cautiously taking advantage of the easing COVID-19 measures to support partners in the current planting season. Farmers are being trained in preparation towards the minor season which is due in the coming weeks. AGRA Ghana has taking delivery of 2.584 MT of Hybrid maize seed provide by Corteva in support of the minor season planting.
- In Kenya, the Food Security War Room continues to support government efforts on data collection to ensure food security by supporting a coordinated response and monitoring of the COVID pandemic and its implications to the agriculture sector. Crop and livestock markets have remained open and COVID-19 compliant.
- In Mozambique, as some measures have been relaxed, and internal travel allowed, field visits have resumed. As the main crops harvesting comes to an end, AGRA's Mozambique country team continues to support grantees to ensure the marketing campaign benefit



farmers. Using digital tools, weekly meetings have been set up with the team and grantees for regular updates on progress, challenges, sharing of observed dynamics in the market.

- In Malawi, AGRA is working in collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU) to undertake a rapid assessment focused on impact of COVID-19 on food trade as supported under our Regional Food Trade program.
- In Mali, where the government is re-opening the economy slowly, AGRA is supporting farmers to introduce new varieties of seeds; organizing direct sales with agrodealers; facilitation of input credit financing; and continued engagement with private seed companies. The recent change of government is being followed carefully by the AGRA team with a view to ensuring the safety of staff and partners.
- In Nigeria, with the government lifting the ban on interstate travel, AGRA is continuing to connect with seed companies to facilitate last mile seed delivery to the farmers through their retail agro dealers and community based advisors at the village level. We are learning that the CBA approach works well even in the face of COVID-19 and as highlighted in the cases of Ghana and Mozambique, digitalization of extension services for farmers is a very important component of project design.
- In Tanzania, restrictions on public gathering above 10 people continue to present challenge to agricultural programs. However, AGRA Consortia have resumed providing technical support to farmers using one to one discussion and ICT platforms where possible.
- In Ethiopia, despite the recent political unrest, the AGRA country team is working with grantees in preparation for planting season. Some of the activities include on-going support to planting Teff (a grain used to cook Ethiopian injera/flatbread); supporting agro dealers to obtain the necessary certifications to open their businesses and supporting the readiness of Farmer Training Centers including equipping them with digital technologies.

AGRA News

- **The Point (Accra).** [FAO launches new Africa regional COVID-19 response & recovery package.](#) AGRA Vice President for Policy and State Capability Dr. Apollos Nwarfor participated in the launch of an Africa regional COVID-19 response package by FAO.
- In a [publication authored by Dr Agnes Kalibata](#) in her role the UN Special Envoy to the 2021 Food Systems Summit, she focuses on how Indigenous peoples can inspire future global food systems towards more sustainable and just societies.

Related COVID-19 News

- **The Guardian:** [World Bank: Covid-19 pushes poorer nations 'from recession to depression](#)
- **FAO:** [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020](#)

About the Sit-Rep

As COVID-19 continues to spread across Africa, our bi-weekly sitrep is designed to provide timely information, reflecting what we hear from small holder farmers and partners on-the-ground in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (1). We welcome your feedback at sitreps@agra.org

- Ghana, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mali, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania

COVID-19 situation and response at a glance by country (selected highlights only, updated as of August 17, 2020)

Country + summary of current situation	COVID19 challenges	Government ask/response	AGRA activities (highlights only)
<p>Burkina Faso. Most measures against COVID-19 are suspended including curfew lifted. The reopening of air borders (starting August 1, 2020 at 12 a.m.) for travelers who meet the sanitary conditions, i.e. having taken their Polymerase Chain Reaction “PCR” test with a negative result not older than 5 days.</p>	<p>The impact of the COVID-19 response measures on the market has generated difficulties in the payment of credits by producers at the level of financial institutions and also negatively impacted the negotiation of the renewal of sales contracts. Farmers need finance for activities around upcoming planting seasons.</p> <p>AGRA implementing partners are working with farmer organizations and financial institutions to address the credit issue and ensure farmers are supported to secure needed finance.</p>	<p>Ongoing distribution of food supplies at subsidized price through the Government established special shops. The points of sale, commonly known as "witness shops", facilitate access for vulnerable people to cereals, allowing them to buy them at a subsidized price of 6,000 CFA francs per 50 kg bag. 150-witness shops are gradually operational. 23 out of 33 outlets are already opened in the Center region. 10 MT of corn will be sold there per week in each shop. In total, some 25,000 MT of grain will be sold to vulnerable people.</p> <p>Tax breaks to farms & agribusinesses. Several measures have been taken, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowering import duties and VAT on essential items • delay in tax payments, and waiving late payment fines and penalties; • suspending government fees charged on informal sector operators for rent, security and parking in urban markets; • Government policy decision for the Burkina Faso Central Bank to allow for a deferral of payments on claims for a period of three months, renewable once. • lowering the licensing fee for companies in the transportation and tourism sectors; • suspending on-site tax inspection operations; 	<p>Ongoing follow up on campaign activities. The sowing performance rate is between 75% and 100% for cereals in most regions and the weeding performance rate is between 25 and 50% for cereals and 75 and 100% for cotton.</p> <p>The country team organized the joint results review committee with grantees to discuss the quarter 2 achievements and the planning for the next quarter.</p> <p>From this review, there is Many achievements despite the COVID-19 context that blocked field activities for an extended period. Grantees presented also their strategies to fill gaps in some objectives and indicators</p>

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<p>Ethiopia. Movement restriction has been eased by regional government.</p> <p>Ethiopian government declared the number of food insecure people has reached 16.5 million (6.7 million non COVID-19 and 9.8 million COVID-19 related). Of those that require assistance, 61% of are children, 21% women and 9% people with disabilities.</p> <p>Headline inflation, an indicator of the cost of living, rose for the second successive month ##July to 22.3pc, marking the highest figure of the new fiscal year.</p> <p>In July, food inflation registered an almost two-percentage-point rise, while non-food inflation has shown a slight dip of 0.8 percentage points.</p>	<p>Movement and meeting restrictions do not allow mass trainings to be conducted.</p>	<p>On July 4, 2020, a Grant Agreement amounting to \$65.69 MM was signed virtually between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the African Development Bank to finance the COVID-19 Emergency Crisis Response Budget Support Program. The Export Import Bank of Korea is a co-financer with an allocation of \$40MM in the form of credit.</p> <p>A Concessional Loan Agreement amounting to \$30MM was signed between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the Republic of Korea to finance the provision of medical equipment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture is working hard to put additional land under cultivation to compensate for expected production loss due to COVID-19.</p>	<p>AGRA country team working with grantees in preparation for planting season.</p> <p>Some of the activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going support in planting of Teff • Supporting agro dealers in obtaining competency certificate to venture into business • Supporting the readiness of Farmer Training Centers including equipping with digital soft technologies etc.
<p>Ghana. Lockdown has been eased in-country; public transport which could only load half capacity due to COVID 19 restrictions can now load full capacity; Religious gatherings/meetings which could not meet for up-to 1hour at a time, can now meet up to 2hours at a time; Restaurants that operate in open space which were closed can resume operation. In all these easing, COVID 19</p>	<p>The easing of COVID-19 measures is making it easier for team to implement programs.</p> <p>Some farmers have complained of inadequate mechanization services due to scarcity of labor as a result of COVID19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government has put together a COVID 19 Alleviation Program (CAP) Fund to mobilize public and private funds, PPEs and support to mitigate the effect of the pandemic. • At the 2020 mid-year review of governments financial statement to Parliament, the Finance Minister requested a supplementary budget of GHC11Billion (@ \$2B) to support COVID-19 activities. 	<p>Taking advantage of the easing of COVID-19 Measures, AGRA programming is ongoing.</p> <p>Farmers are being trained in preparation towards the minor season which is due in the coming weeks</p> <p>AGRA Ghana has taking delivery of 2.584 MT of Hybrid maize seed provide by</p>

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<p>guidelines and protocols must be adhered to.</p> <p>Movement of food and goods in country, and across borders by land, air or sea are not restricted as long as they are done within the SPS and customs regulations and COVID 19 guidelines are followed.</p> <p>However, Ghana's borders remain closed to movement of people from neighboring countries. Military and other security officers have been detailed to the country's entry points to check the illegal movement of people across the borders.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financing arrangements for Ghana's Agriculture Sector COVID-19 Response Strategy program is in two phases. Phase 1 is from July to December 2020 and Phase 2 January to December 2021. The total cost for Phase 1 is estimated at GHS 2.143 billion (approx. \$360M). Phase 2 cost is estimated at GHS 2.512 BN (approx.. \$425 M). Out of this, MOFA is seeking GHC1.88B approximately US\$340 M from the Ministry of Finance and the rest from other sources including development partners, financial institutions and private sector. 	<p>Corteva in support of the Minor season planting</p> <p>To mitigate the limitations of COVID 19 has brought to bear on face to face capacity building and extension service delivery, AGRA supported GESSIP Consortium has signed a service agreement with Airtel-Tigo tele-communication company for the provision of 150 mobile phone devices to support the work of Community Based Advisors (CBAs). This is expected to promote extension service delivery, increase farmer reach and enhance smallholder access to input and output markets. The use of the mobile phones will further roll out education, information and communication campaign strategies on COVID 19 and associated preventive protocols.</p>
<p>Mali. Mali is slowly re-opening borders. Reopening of the air borders July 25, 2020; reopening of land borders from July 31, 2020; reestablishment of normal working hours from August 1, 2020 and reopening of schools.</p> <p>Estimated number of food insecure people in the country stands at 3.5 million. This is probably exacerbated by recent violence in the country.</p>	<p>No new update on challenges.</p>	<p>The State of Mali's public treasury, has just obtained on August 4 from investors in the financial market of the West African Monetary Union (UEMOA) an amount of 55 billion FCFA (EUR 82.5 million) at the end of its auction issue of 91-day treasury bonds (BAT) COVID-19 Social Bonds, the UEMOA agency announced. This issue of COVID-19 bonds aims to cover the cash flow mismatches created by the fight against the pandemic caused by COVID-19 and its consequences.</p>	<p>Ongoing Campaign preparation activities: These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support farmers to introduce new varieties Organizing direct sales with agro-dealers Facilitation of input credit financing Continued engagement with private seed companies

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<p>Kenya. The government of Kenya revised its COVID-19 measures. The Nationwide Curfew remains in force for a further 30 days.</p> <p>The closing time for restaurants and eateries has been amended from 8pm to 7pm, for the next 30 days. This has a spiral effect on farm produce (transport and markets). Schools and other learning institutions remain closed. This is affecting demand for agriculture commodities.</p> <p>Food supply and general trade flows remained stable: Availability of processed food commodities, fresh produce, pulses and cereals generally remained stable.</p> <p>Adherence to guidelines estimated at 80% in sampled markets. Safety measures in place in all markets including hand washing facilities at the entrance and wearing masks by operators and customers. Some traders have put up price lists and social distancing signage.</p>	<p>In Central, Western and Eastern Provinces, no major challenges except social distancing measures.</p> <p>In addition, heavy rain has become challenging in some places.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture continues to Coordinate effort to monitor food security through the AGRA-funded Food Security War Room.</p>	<p>AGRA team is working closely with consultant to support the War Room.</p> <p>Government efforts to ease restrictions will help in expediting program implementation.</p>
<p>Nigeria. The Federal Government has extended the second phase of eased lockdown until the end of August.</p>	<p>Aligning to government guidelines on COVID -19. Implementation of interventions following COVID-19 safety</p>	<p>The Government of Nigeria launched the Agriculture Food and Job Plan (AFJP) in Funtua, Katsina State on the 23rd of July 2020 by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Alh. Sabo Nanono. The <i>Agriculture for Food and Job</i></p>	<p>Kaduna State: Second fertilizer application for maize and rice. Field Monitoring and supervision by Extension Agents/AGRA Team</p>

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<p>Under the current extended second phase: The current curfew of 10 pm to 4 am is still in force The various authorities at the States and the Federal Capital Territory were mandated to enforce non-pharmaceutical guidelines, the use of face masks in public appearances and places.</p>	<p>protocols. Social distancing and other COVID 19 control measures continue to limit physical contacts</p>	<p><i>Plan</i> (AFJP) is a component of the Nigeria Economic and Sustainability Plan (NESP). The Plan is to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on farmers in particular, and the national economy in general. The project would mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy and livelihoods of farmers by creating more access to food for and the rapid emergence of a competitive food production, processing and distribution in Nigeria.</p>	<p>Niger State: Weeding of fields Second application of fertilizer is delayed due to no rains. Soybean input distribution and planting is on-going in some field for NAERLS. Field Monitoring and supervision by Extension Agents/AGRA Team</p>
<p>Rwanda. Travel across the country is open except two districts bordering Congo (Rusizi and Rubavu) [no new updates from July 23]</p>	<p>Cross border trading with neighbors is a challenge but it seems the government easing of COVID-19 measures is offering a return to some kind of normality.</p>	<p>No new updates.</p>	<p>AGRA team continues to support farmers through Q2 planned activities. Team plan to resume field visits while still observing government guidelines on health protection.</p>
<p>Uganda. Life almost returning to normal as business and buyers resume trading activities. Educational institutions, religious institutions and bars, sports gatherings remain closed. The food situation is stable as harvest is on. Farmers are preparing for the next planting season at the end of August.</p>	<p>Low incomes of potential buyers hence downward pressure on commodity prices.</p>	<p>UNDP and Stanbic have launched the Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility (Y4BF) is an initiative to tackle youth unemployment. This support is worth \$3 MM.</p>	<p>Central, Eastern and Western Uganda are in harvesting season. North East will soon move into harvesting</p>
<p>Malawi. Gatherings above 100 are limited. This has been protested by the faith community.</p>	<p>Limited supervision on harvesting and handling of seed by out-growers.</p>	<p>No new updates.</p>	<p>Main Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-harvest handling and marketing </p>

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<p>Reduction of public transport by 60 percent while observing social distancing. Wearing of face masks in public places is obligatory.</p> <p>Grain trade is happening normally within the country with minimal restriction except at borders which have all been closed - apart from Mchinji in the Centre, Mwanza in the South and Songwe in the North for essential services.</p> <p>According to MoAFS, Malawi has produced over 3.7 million MT of maize (11.5%) above last year and 28% above the five-year average.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for winter cropping i.e. planting • Most of the harvesting is done and marketing is underway
<p>Tanzania. Government offices are open, and all schools resumed from 29th June 2020. The Ministry of Health issued operational manual for colleges and schools to combat the spread of COVID-19. Parties and recreational activities now allowed to happen while observing preventive measures. There is an observed relaxation with most closed businesses re-opening up, but most if not all non-government institutions are either closed operations or working from home</p> <p>Grain trade and other food produce trade both internal and international is highly encouraged by the government.</p> <p>Tanzania airspace is open and major international flights like KLM, Qatar</p>	<p>Availability of inputs will be highly affected by limited movement due to COVID-19</p> <p>Restricted public gathering above 10 people continue to present challenge to Agricultural programs</p> <p>Restricted trucks movements to from Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda</p>	<p>Operationalization of third season concept</p> <p>Support to digitalization of agric. extension services</p> <p>Coordination of multiple COVID-19 impact study results</p>	<p>AGRA Consortia have resumed providing technical support to farmers using one to one discussion and ICT platforms where possible. The support includes capacity building training, validation workshops etc.</p>

Country + summary of current situation	COVID19 challenges	Government ask/response	AGRA activities (highlights only)
Airways resumed flights to Dar es salaam and Kilimanjaro.			
<p>Mozambique. As cases rise, the government put in a place a new state of emergency. But the govt. continue to emphasize not to ignore the gains made during the state emergency.</p> <p>As the number of positive cases and deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic rise, the geographical areas declared under the community transmission category also are rising. The Ministry of Health announced the country's capital city of Maputo has entered into community transmission stage with 579 positive cases, as well as Maputo Province with 352. Before, only Cabo Delgado (236), Nampula (222) provinces were under this category.</p> <p>Insurgency in Cabo Delgado is escalating and causing large numbers of refugees to be in camps increasing the risk of transmissions</p> <p>The country remains in a State of Emergency. However despite the COVID-19 situation, the current State of Emergency declared by the President to be observed from August 8th to September 6th, the country will resume issuance of personal documents. Urban public transport services are also being</p>	Serving large number of farmers on post-harvest technologies continue a challenge.	<p>DG of the National Institute for Disaster Management and the Humanitarian Coordinator launched two appeals to guide actions and mobilize resources:</p> <p>(i) Rapid Response Plan for Cabo Delgado that seeks \$ 35.5 million for urgent support to those affected by the increase in violence in the region; and</p> <p>(ii) Urgent Appeal in Response to COVID-19 for Mozambique, part of the updated version of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan to COVID-19 (PGRH), with an appeal of US \$ 68 million. Source: (UN Moz-Covit 19.12/07/2020).</p> <p>Government urging swift response from donor community on promises made for support.</p>	<p>End of harvesting season for maize, and peak for secondary crops; and marketing season</p> <p>Supporting government with decentralization of agricultural sector coordination mechanisms (CCSA) from central to local level accounting for COVID-19 challenges</p> <p>Regular (bi-weekly) virtual convenings with implementing partners assessing impacts of COVID-19 on ongoing farmers' activities.</p> <p>Ensuring and training of Implementing Partners on data collection</p>

Country + summary of current situation	COVID19 challenges	Government ask/response	AGRA activities (highlights only)
<p>extended for an additional three hours, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.</p> <p>According to the National Statistics Institute (INE), consumer prices seems to be dropping in three largest cities (Maputo, Nampula and Beira). Inflation for July was negative, at minus 0.2 per cent. This slight improvement reflects extension of the harvesting season that will end soon.</p>			

Financial resources committed as of July 3, 2020. These are resources committed that AGRA is aware of; the table may be changed as updates occur and we are made aware of them.

	Total	World Bank	IMF	Donors	WFP	Govt	Local Private Sector	Other	Remarks
	\$MM	\$MM	\$MM	\$MM	\$MM	\$MM	\$MM	\$MM	
Ghana	1,345.5	100.0	1,000.0	125.0	0.5	120.0			"The Govt. has proposed \$390MM humanitarian budget Govt. \$120MM Stimulus Package for SMEs."
Mali	233.2	25.1	200.0	2.3			5.8		
Burkina Faso	200.8	148.0				50.0		2.8	Govt. \$50MM support to AG sector.
Nigeria	1,642.8	50.0		6.6		1,202.6	94.4	289.2	"Govt. \$1.2BN funding for mechanization in 632 local govts. CBN providing \$90.3MM economic stimulus for households and businesses"
Ethiopia	499.0	82.6	411.0	5.4					The Govt. has set up a \$1.3BN Budget to mitigate COVID-19.
Kenya	1,702.0	50.0	758.0	191.0		703.0			"EU = \$5MM, Other UN agencies = \$135M, RF = \$1MM GOK has set up \$100MM SME recovery budget and \$100MM cash transfer to vulnerable people GOvt. Economic stimulus package = \$503MM"
Uganda	581.5		491.5	75.0		15.0			US Govt. \$3.4MM, EU \$31.6MM to support Govt effort to tackle COVID-19. GOG has dedicated \$15MM for food relief and IFAD set up \$40MM rural poor stimulus fund envelope.
Tanzania	-								
Rwanda	4.0			4.0					US Embassy has donated to support Govt. effort.
Malawi	42.7					42.7			Govt allocated \$22MM to agriculture, \$14 for grain purchase.
Mozambique	686.0	217.0	337.0					132.0	"Govt. setup \$700MM budget to mitigate COVID 19 Impact Islamic development fund has 132M in project support in the IMF's Pro-Saúde health support Program."
Total	6,937.5	672.7	3,197.5	409.3	0.5	2,133.3	100.2	424.0	

New Updates:

- IFC announced a sum of \$50 million loan to Nigeria's first City Monument Bank (FCMB).
- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced \$50 million to support Kenya's response and recovery efforts to meet the immediate and longer-term challenges that COVID-19 is posing.
- June 27th, the World Bank approved a \$117 million grant to support a government project on Urban Development and Decentralization.