

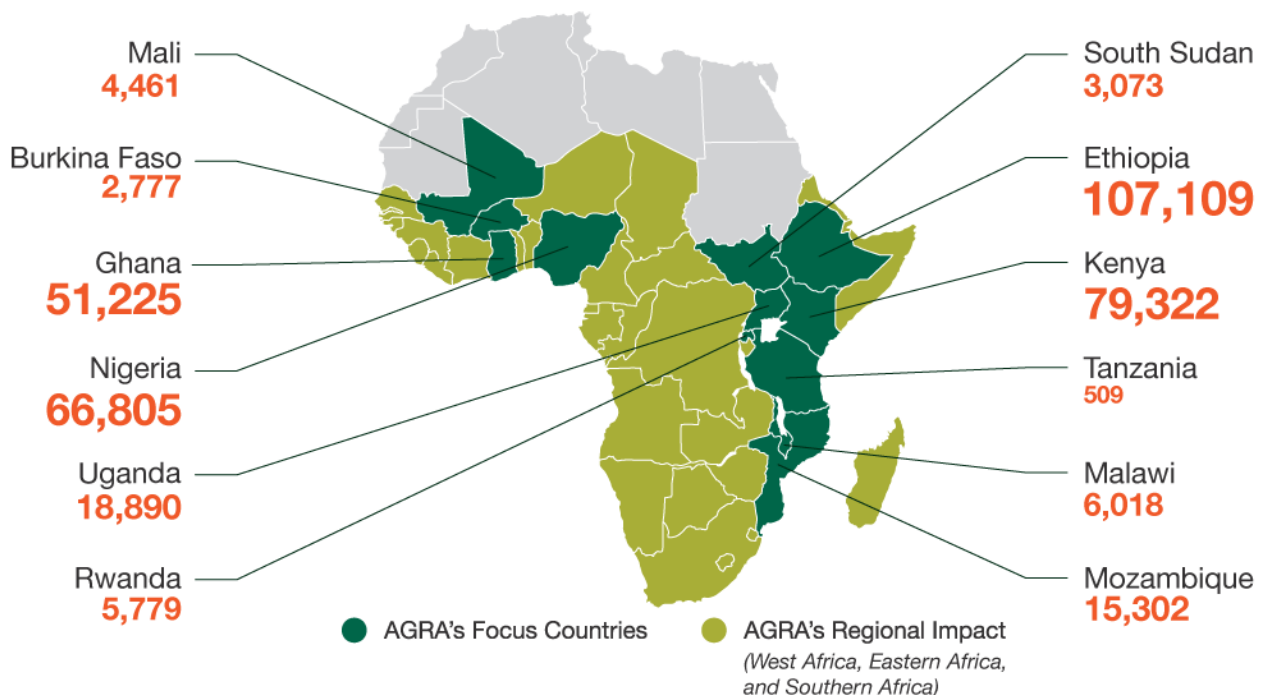
COVID-19 Situation Report #10


November 30, 2020

- Reports of COVID-19 cases continue to increase as governments loosen restrictions amid “prevention fatigue”
- [FAO and WFP warn](#) that the risk of famine in four countries is again on the rise, and hunger hotspots are emerging as a result of a “toxic combination” of conflict, economic decline, climate extremes, and the ongoing pandemic.
- AGRA’s Agribusiness Survey, launched in November with KPMG, found that even in COVID-19, Africa’s agribusinesses are continuing to invest in innovative ag solutions. The survey found that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the collapse of global markets for some sectors and disrupted agricultural supply chains, yet agribusiness CEOs in Africa remain determined to steer their organizations forward. [More](#)
- Easing of movement restrictions is making it easier for AGRA teams to implement programs and much programmatic work is proceeding following an initial restructuring of grants. We highlight AGRA’s response to the COVID-19 crisis in Nigeria and Ghana. AGRA’s [latest Food Security Monitor](#) focuses on a number of key issues including COVID, price stability issues, hunger spots and trade barriers. Three of the four hunger hotspots noted in the report, where more than 50 percent of the country have insufficient food for consumption, are in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger).

COVID-19 cases continue to climb in AGRA focus (1) countries with caseloads in five countries more than doubling

COVID-19 Cases in AGRA Focus Countries as of November 25, 2020





In AGRA focus countries as of November 25, 2020, the number of COVID-19 cases has risen to over 360,000 cases from approximately 210,000 cases reported in our September sitrep. We see a mixed picture across Africa with cases more than doubling in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and Burkina Faso. We highlight the situation in a few AGRA focus countries below.

In Ethiopia, cases have roughly doubled since we reported in September - to over 100,000 cases of COVID-19. Since mid-March 2020, the development of the ag sector – and especially the livestock sector’s development – have been hit hard by prevention measures introduced to control the spread of the disease. In the northern part of the country, conflict impedes the harvesting of crops. However, AGRA staff note that the implementation of AGRA supported projects is progressing. Field days have been organized with limited participants, while interactive radio broadcasts are being used to fill the information gap and reach large numbers of farmers.

In Malawi, the government continued to ease COVID-19 restrictions as cases have increased only 8% from September 1. Commercial flights have resumed on a reduced schedule, schools have reopened, and fast-food outlets, restaurants, and public eating places have resumed dine in services. Many hotels and lodges are operating but with strict COVID-19 measures, including requirements that guests provide passports and documentation of negative COVID testing.

With cases nearly trebling since September to 15,302 on 25 November, Mozambique remains under red alert level. It continues to observe general safety measures, including mandatory facemasks, social distancing, closure of bars and informal stalls that sell alcoholic beverages, and reduced operating hours for markets. Despite some relaxation in COVID-19 control measures, and the border reopening with South Africa, poor households continue to face difficulty obtaining sufficient food and income due to continued restrictions on the operation of small income-generating businesses. With limited income to purchase food from markets, the worst-affected poor urban and peri-urban households are in crisis.

In Kenya, the country is seeing a second wave of COVID-19 with cases more than doubling since September. Though the government is mandating preventive measures against COVID-19, markets are open, and trade within and between counties is ongoing unhindered as are exports and imports.

COVID-19 has exposed fragility in food systems and increased food insecurity around the world notes FAO and WFP

A joint FAO-WFP report raised the alarm on 20 countries including Ethiopia, saying that acute food insecurity levels appear to be reaching new highs globally as a result of the socio-economic fallout of measures imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

As COVID-19 has exposed the vulnerability of countries around the world to food insecurity, we are seeing this fragility play out in Sub-Saharan Africa. A new [FAO and WFP report](#) focuses on 20 “hotspots” for food insecurity. The report notes in East Africa that “The unprecedented overlap of shocks including floods, a desert locust upsurge, economic challenges and the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic – compounded in some contexts by persisting conflict – is exacerbating food insecurity and severely eroding livelihoods.” This is also playing out in West Africa where ‘Food insecurity across West Africa and the Sahel has risen dramatically due to increasing conflict and the impact of COVID-19- related restrictions’. In southern Africa, the report notes “While food supply chains have remained functional, COVID-19-related border closures and movement restrictions, combined with reduced harvests in some countries, have led to above-average food prices and hindered food access.”

As economic growth slows across Africa, governments in some countries step up support.

Across Africa, as people continue to suffer from the economic knock-on effects of the pandemic, governments continue to step up support for their economies. According to World Bank August 2020 estimates, ‘economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa will decline from +2.4 percent in 2019 to a range expected to fall between -2.1 and -5.1 percent in 2020, the first recession in the region in 25 years. We highlight how government support is being provided in Uganda and Ghana below:

In Uganda, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased to 18,890, a fivefold increase from the 3,037 cases the government reported in September. Daily cases reported are now averaging 197 and there is increasing concern by the government that the pandemic is not being given adequate attention by the public especially during election campaigns. However, in areas where AGRA is operating, we are seeing that there is ample food available, even in the cropping season and the ag contribution to GDP is expected to rise by about 2% as a result of the good harvests and the relatively fewer interruptions experienced from COVID-19 compared to other sectors.

Also in Uganda, in the 2020/21 budget, the government has encouragingly increased its investment in the agriculture sector from approximately US\$ 270 million last year to approximately US\$ 346 million this year. Agriculture now comprises 2.86% of the entire budget compared to 2.46% in the previous FY 2019/20. Priorities for agriculture include the following:

- Enhance provision of improved agricultural inputs using NAADS and e-Voucher Scheme to farmers;
- Upscaling agriculture extension services to boost production of key agricultural commodities, for
- Provision of rainwater harvesting technologies in rural communities; implementation of solar irrigation schemes and investment in the construction of multi-purpose water reservoirs;
- Roll-out of regional and community based storage facilities to store increased agricultural products and reduce post-harvest losses by continued construction of storage facilities of 42,000 Metric Tons capacity

The government has introduced an import duty on agricultural products which has been increased from 35% to 60% on products that can be locally produced.

In Ghana, case growth has slowed to 15%, with 51,225 COVID-19 cases reported – up from 44,460 reported in September. However, the economy continues to be negatively impacted by the pandemic, with the economy shrinking by 3.2% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2020. It was the first economic contraction since Q2 of 2016. The country has started to gradually ease lockdown restrictions since May, but many businesses remain shut.

Also in Ghana, as commodity prices are in decline, and given that crude oil and cocoa exports have contributed greatly to Ghana’s economic growth over the past decade (accounting for about 50% of total export revenues in 2019) Ghana’s finance minister adjusted the country’s economic growth forecast for 2020 downward, from an initial projection of 6.8 to 1.5 per cent—which would be the country’s lowest growth rate in 37 years.

However, implementation of government COVID-19 response plans appears robust as this checklist compiled by AGRA staff notes.

COVID-19 MEASURES/POLICY	STATUS	COMMENT
Government of Ghana to set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Coronavirus Response chaired by President.	Implemented	The Committee chaired by the President provides regular media updates to the citizenry. A total of 17 updates provided by the president so far.
Recruit at least 1,000 community health workers and 10,000 volunteers to work effectively to implement Government’s policy of tracing and testing all contacts of people tested positive.	Implemented	Over 15,000 volunteers recruited to curb the menace of the pandemic.
A minimum of GH¢1 billion to be made available by the Banks to households and	Implemented	The Governor of the Bank of Ghana has announced that commercial banks have disbursed over GHC20Bn

COVID-19 MEASURES/POLICY	STATUS	COMMENT
businesses, particularly small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs).		(approximately \$3.5B) credit to mitigate the impact of COVID 19 on distressed businesses enterprises.
The establishment of a COVID-19 fund, to be managed by an independent board of trustees and to receive contributions and donations from the public, to assist in the welfare of the needy and the vulnerable.	Implemented	Covid-19 fund established under the chairmanship of Ghana's former Chief Justice, Mrs. Sophia Akufo. More public and private sector organizations and individuals continue to contribute to the Fund.
A 2% reduction of interest rates by banks, effective 1 April 2020.	Implemented	Interest rate currently at 13.55%. it has been forecasted that the policy rate will end 2020 at 14.11% and 2021 at 13.75%.
Roll out a soft loan scheme up to a total of GH¢600 million, which will have a one-year moratorium and two-year repayment period for micro, small, and medium-scale businesses.	Under implementation	A total of GH¢289m already disbursed to SMEs by the National Board for small-scale industries (NBSSI).
Government will also fully absorb electricity bills for the poorest of the poor.	Under implementation	3 months 50% incentive Currently exhausted.
Government to absorb the water bills for all Ghanaians for the three months of April, May, and June.	Under implementation	Policy extended up to December 2020.

Tech helps business navigate the COVID-19 pandemic reports AGRA's new report: [Agribusiness in unprecedented times](#)

AGRA's Agribusiness report, launched together with KPMG reported that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, agribusiness remained resilient as digital is playing a significant role. Companies surveyed reported using a wide array of digital technologies for their operations. Companies have been able to do more with technology during this COVID-19 period as a work-around to movement restrictions and social distancing. Companies are using digital platforms for on-boarding farmers, managing sales, sharing information, providing payments and virtual training to farmers, monitoring stock levels and payments to suppliers among others. Farmers across the region are increasingly using digital interventions as well, although respondents mentioned that there needs to be simpler innovation for example more innovation around simple feature phones as opposed to smart phone and apps which not everyone has access to. [More](#)

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 cautious fashion and respecting government protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19. We highlight findings from AGRA's Food Security monitor and follow with examples of AGRA's work in a few focus countries.

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 focus on work in Nigeria and Ghana alongside ongoing challenges that the teams are facing, confronted with the challenges of COVID-19.

In Nigeria, while the phased approach to easing the restrictions is making it easier to implement programs, AGRA programs continue to face challenges. In Kaduna State (Northwest Nigeria) harvesting is ongoing and farmers are being trained on post harvest handling and processing. This includes training on post harvest techniques including threshing and storage. Trainers are finding it difficult to comply with COVID-19 protocols, though smaller groups are helping to minimize physical contact. In Niger State (North-Central Nigeria), AGRA consortia partners are showcasing crop performance and yield with improved varieties promoted by AGRA. However, we are seeing difficulties in the input supply chain as agro-dealers struggle to reach smallholder farmers with quality inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. To mitigate this, we continue to advocate for the institutionalization of the community based advisor concept at the national level and the use of CBAs as entrepreneurs for last-mile input delivery and produce aggregation.

The pandemic emerged in Ghana when farmers were preparing for the planting season and restricted movement of farmers to their fields.

Since most of the attention was on the Health Sector, AGRA supported MoFA leadership in the following ways:

COVID-19 Response plan: AGRA supported MoFA in its engagements with DPs to develop a COVID-19 response plan for the Ag sector.

AGRA developed its own COVID-19 Country Response Plan, which has so far attracted \$1.5M from USAID Ghana.

AGRA engaged BMZ to re-purpose 314,004 Euros from an existing agreement to support COVID-19 interventions; specifically the integration of digital solution for extension and direct farmer access to mechanization services.

Work on the ground in Ghana is on-going. In Ghana's Northern regions, where the focus is on capacity building activities and training, farmer mobilization is continuing despite the pandemic. Demo plot activities and digital profiling of CBAs are taking place, with farmer field days planned. Due to COVID-19, fewer farmers are being trained at a time - reduced from 100 to 50 – and radio, TV and pamphlets are also being used to fill information gaps.

In the Volta Region, we are facilitating partnerships with private sector actors to access essential services – such as finance, mechanization and investment. This is happening together with training to improve producers' knowledge on GAP. However, as we are seeing the current drought in the Volta region compound the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, AGRA is supporting farmers to adopt drought tolerant varieties and climate smart practices.

October Food Security Monitor Highlights

Our monthly Food Security Monitor is one way that AGRA makes data available to key stakeholders to underpin evidence-based decision-making. Highlights from [the October Food Security Monitor](#) are summarized below.

The number of countries with very high levels of food insecurity decreased to four over the past month with the situation in Zimbabwe improving over the past month. The situation in West Africa appeared the most volatile. Three of the four hunger hotspots where more than 50 percent of the country have insufficient food for consumption are in West Africa. They include Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger with South Sudan remaining a hunger hotspot. In East Africa, in Ethiopia, there was a marked deterioration in the food security situation as the number of people without sufficient food for consumption increased by 49%. In Southern Africa, Malawi continued to record an increase in the number of people with insufficient food for consumption for the third consecutive month with the number increasing by 96% in October.

Cross border transit remains slowed, but tracking systems are easing some transit woes, especially in East Africa. Implementation of the electronic tracking system RECDTS (Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System) at the Kenya—Uganda borders have reduced queues from 100km to 50km. In Southern Africa, the continued COVID-19 test requirements continue to result in delays at border posts, particularly at the Beitbridge Border post between Zimbabwe and South Africa. In West Africa, the recent unrest in Nigeria, which has been reported to have disrupted food distribution in affected areas is likely to lead to seasonal food shortages and increases in food prices in those areas.

Desert locusts re-emerged as a threat to crops as we saw threats of a new generation of desert locusts emerge in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Ethiopia and Somalia. The new generation will result in new swarms forming by mid-December which are expected to move southwards. The interventions that the affected countries, together with partners, have put in place since the desert locust invasion started put them in a better place to continue monitoring and reducing new infections.

Agricultural commodities prices. In East Africa, maize prices recorded low (less than 5%) and moderate increases (5-15%) from September across many markets in the region. In Southern Africa, the good harvests experienced earlier this year contributed to boosting food supplies and pushing prices down this month. In West Africa, prices for millet have increased (mostly between moderate and high levels) compared to the past three, six and 12 months across all countries. However, the new millet harvests across the region are improving supplies and in the next three and six months are expected to push prices down.

Rainfall conditions vary across focus regions in Africa. The Southern Africa region where the main cropping season has started is projected to experience normal rainfall in many countries. This will be beneficial for planting activities that are ongoing. In East Africa, most of the region is projected to experience below normal rainfall while the western parts of the region, especially South Sudan, northern Uganda will experience above normal rainfall. The coastal areas of the West Africa region are projected to experience above-normal rainfall. The rainfall conditions, both dry and heavy rainfall, pose risks to the short season cropping activities.

Related COVID-19 News

- [Interview with AGRA's Country Manager for Ethiopia, Nega Wubeneh discussing Ethiopia's food security outlook and effects of COVID-19 on farmers.](#)
- [Op-Ed by a Ghanaian food scientist calling on African countries to build more resilient food systems post COVID-19 and suggesting ways they can do this.](#)
- [Following the release of the Agrbusiness Report, CNBC Africa interviewed AGRA's Vanessa Adams on how smallholder farmers can adapt to new COVID-19 realities.](#)
- [An IFPRI evaluation of the economic costs of COVID-19 in developing countries, and identifying policy and public investment priorities for relief \(2020\) and recovery](#)
- [AGRA President, Dr. Agnes Kalibata speaks about food security and the importance of resilience on CNBC and how women are at the frontlines of economic and extreme weather impacts, including impacts driven by both climate change and the spread of COVID-19. Link](#)

About the Sitrep

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

- (1) 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 November 21, 2020)

Country + summary of current situation	COVID19 challenges & mitigation (where applicable)	Government ask/response	AGRA activities (highlights only)
<p>Burkina Faso. Most COVID-19 measures are suspended including curfews. However, gatherings of more than 50 still prohibited. Air borders are open from August 1 for travelers who meet the health and sanitary conditions.</p>	<p>To support farmers to cope with COVID-19 impact, the government purchased all available cereal seed for the input subsidy program. This has led to difficulties in acquiring seeds by other actors such as NGOs, development projects, programs and other technical and financial partners as well as producers with the capacity to acquire seeds by their own means.</p>	<p>To meet humanitarian needs in Burkina Faso, the World Food Program (WFP) has received a contribution from France of approximately CFA Franc 1.7 billion. 20% of this funding will go to the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. 80% will be used to acquire food; 75,371 internally displaced people and members of host families will benefit from food assistance for three months. The announcement was made on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, during a press conference jointly hosted by the French Embassy and the WFP.</p>	<p>Boucle du Mouhoun; Centre Ouest, Haut-Bassins, Centre-Est and Cascades regions : Ongoing follow up on the rainy season agricultural campaign. AGRA is assisting farmers to access finances and secure the inputs for the campaign.</p> <p>Follow up with grantees on harvest and post-harvest activities. The main current cropping operation is the harvest carried out between 25 and 50% for maize, peanuts, cowpeas and yams.</p> <p>The dominant phenological stages are heading / flowering, ripening and maturity. Heading / flowering is observed between 50 and 75% for sesame and between 75 and 100% for sorghum, millet, rice, cotton and cowpea. Maturation is observed at a rate of between 25 and 50% for cowpeas and between 75 and 100% for maize, peanuts, cotton and yams.</p>
<p>Ethiopia. Movement restriction has been eased by regional government. Ethiopian government declared the number of food insecure people has</p>	<p>Restrictions on large group gatherings for field days.</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</p>	<p><i>Tigray & Amhara consortium; work is ongoing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,400 mother demonstration plots (1440 in Amhara, 960 in

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<p>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>Food security across the eastern Horn of Africa is likely to deteriorate in late 2020, driven by below-average rainfall from October to December. Food assistance needs across the region are already high, due to recurrent climatic shocks since 2016, the economic impact of COVID-19, and the desert locust upsurge, as well as long-term deterioration in macroeconomic conditions in Ethiopia. (FEWSNET).</p>	<p>Limited field supervision and technical backstopping's due to movement restriction.</p>	<p>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>The government has dropped taxes, tariffs on all edible oil products, bread wheat, rice, packed children food and sugar to stabilize the market and minimize economic effects of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Tigray) and 160 FTCs (96 in Amhara, 64 in Tigray) are well underway in 160 kebeles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers field days conducted in both consortium at FTC demo sites for Maize, Teff & wheat <p><i>SNNPR Consortium</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-harvest handling • Facilitating access to structured markets • SME support • Training on post-harvest handling • Demo on use of hermetic storage technology (PICs bags) • Platform organized for haricot bean output marketing • Finalization of construction of grain aggregation centers

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<p>Ghana</p>	<p>Number of farmers for the field days reduced from 100 to 50 due to COVID19. Some farmers have complained of inadequate mechanization services and this has compounded access to labor. This has a cost implication for programming and profitability.</p> <p>In response , AGRA has distributed PPE and nose masks. AGRA is using E-extension packages such as Radio, TV and pamphlets.</p> <p>The short drought further compounded the COVID19 pandemic. In response, AGRA is supporting farmers to adopt drought tolerant varieties and climate smart practices.</p> <p>Supporting implementing partners to develop emergency response strategy for COVID-19 has put projects back on track to achieve targeted outputs by December 2020.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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> <p>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> <p>131,000 businesses revealed they still had challenges accessing finance with over 60 per cent calling for subsidized interest rates.</p> <p>The Executive Director of the National Board for Small Scale</p>	<p>Farmer mobilization ongoing despite the pandemic. Demo plot activities and Digital profiling of CBAs are on-going and farmer field days are planned.</p> <p>33,653 baby demonstrations established and being supervised following acquisition of inputs from agro-input dealers, M & B Seed company and Corteva for minor season demos.</p>

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		<p>Industries (NBSSI), Mrs Kosi Yankey-Ayeh, announced that 120,000 businesses in the country have so far received the government's stimulus package. It will be recalled that as part of measures to ease the economic pressure on Ghanaian businesses posed by Covid-19, the government earmarked a GH¢600 million (approx.. \$120M at the time) stimulus package to be distributed among small and medium scale enterprises. Through the Consortia work of AGRA, 15 Rice Millers have so far benefitted a total of approx. \$11M from the government stimulus package.</p>	
<p>Mali. The curfew put in place following the socio-political crisis (Coup d'Etat/resignation of the President) was suspended to celebrate Achoura afterwards it will be applied from 1:30 am to 5:00 am [No update]</p>	<p>No new update on challenges.</p>	<p>The government is maintaining the fertilizer subsidy at 11,000CK /50kg to support farmers in the current planting season.</p> <p>On August 17, 2020, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded a grant of four million dollars (over two billion FCFA) to the World Food Program (WFP) in Mali to help mitigate the negative effects of Covid-19. The grant agreement will provide food aid to more than 196,000 food insecure Malians in the regions of Kayes, Ségou, Mopti, Tombouctou, Taoudéni, Kidal,</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. A limited nationwide curfew remains in force (from 11 PM to 4 AM) but business is resuming across the country.</p>	<p>All markets are open, trade within and between counties is ongoing unhindered. Export and export ongoing.</p> <p>However, Kenya is undergoing a second wave of COVID-19. There is increased concern on the part of the government to respect COVID guidelines.</p>	<p>Ménaka, Gao and the district of Bamako.</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture continues to Coordinate effort to monitor food security through the AGRA-funded Food Security War Room.</p> <p>The President estimates that tax breaks provided as part of Kenya's COVID-19 response have put US\$ 470mn in the hands of citizens directly.</p>	<p>Development of village based advisors in counties across Kenya.</p> <p>Promotion of balanced fertilizers</p> <p>Support counties domesticate potato regulations and validation of the plant protection 2020 bill.</p>
<p>Nigeria</p>	<p>In Kaduna state there is an insufficient learning environment that is compliant with Covid_19 protocols. AGRA is training in batches and streams to minimize physical contact.</p> <p>In Niger state staff have noted a low-level implementation of Covid-19 guidelines and protocols at State Ministries, Department, and Agencies (MDAs) alongside limited ICT infrastructure to continue virtual meetings.</p> <p>AGRA is supporting the installation of safety measures at office entry points and other strategic locations within the MDAs) and promoting the use of a hybrid system for meetings and training.</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 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.</p> <p>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>Kaduna State (North-West Nigeria)</p> <p>Harvesting and training on post-harvest handling and processing.</p> <p>Niger State</p> <p>AGRA POs and M&E visited 2-key offices in Niger State- Office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and Office of the Governor's Chief of Staff (CoS); as efforts continued to close the information gaps in AGRA partnerships in the State.</p>

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Rwanda. No new update	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.	No new updates.	AGRA team continues to support farmers through planned activities. Team is resuming field visits while still observing government guidelines on health protection.
Uganda. The number of COVID-19 cases has increased nearly five fold since we last reported in September and there is increasing concern that this pandemic is not being given adequate attention by the public especially during election campaigns.	Slow clearance of trucks at border points due to mandatory testing of COVID-19. This has caused an increment in number of days spent at the border by a truck from 1 -2 to about 7 days. Discussions are being held with authorities from Kenya and Uganda as well as transporters associations and related MDAs. AGRA together with Ministries of EAC affairs are facilitating negotiations for quicker movement of goods.	Agro-Input supply through the Govt subsidy e-voucher programme is now reaching 50 out of the 134 districts of Uganda ¹ . Season A having received good rainfall, led to a surplus output of grain and pulses now being exported to neighboring countries.	Central, Western and Northern Uganda AGRA is linking SMEs to markets. Strengthening of seed inspection. Close to 10,000Mt traded through Kenya-Uganda in past 2 months via the traders platform established with support from AGRA.
Malawi. Reduced commercial flights have resumed, schools have reopened, and fast-food outlets, restaurants, and public eating places have resumed dine in services. Many hotels and lodges are operating but with strict COVID-19 measures, including requirements that guests provide passports and documentation of negative COVID-19 testing.	Reduced extension and advisory services to farmers due to restricted farmer/extension worker interactions. Limited supervision. In response, extension service providers including input dealers are reaching out to farmers through the phone; farmers are making input orders through phone.	Measures introduced on 27 August included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of fuel prices to lower the transport costs. • Application of tax waivers on the importation of essential goods for Corona Virus management. • Reserve Bank of Malawi to allow banks to offer a three-month moratorium on interest payments on loans to small- and medium-sized businesses. 	Procurement of inputs, land preparation and planting. Field crop management. Raising awareness of COVID so that farmers observe guidelines. SMEs using PPE and observing guidelines.

¹ <https://www.agriculture.go.ug/the-agriculture-cluster-development-project-acdp/>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country's Competition and Fair-Trading Commission to put in place strict monitoring of price controls and punish anyone found increasing prices. The government to increase loans under the Malawi Enterprise Development Fund that will help micro, small and medium scale businesses that have been seriously affected by COVID-19. 	
<p>Tanzania.</p> <p>Despite the ended harvesting season, prices of both maize and rice remain significantly low in October 2020 compared to October 2019.</p> <p>Compared to the five-year (2015-2020) average prices, the trend for both maize and rice currently shows lower prices.</p> <p>Prices of beans have been on the increase conforming to seasonality trend.</p>	<p>Availability of inputs was envisaged to be highly affected by limited movement due to COVID-19.</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>Western Tanzania</p> <p>AGRA continued with coaching and mentoring agro dealers on agro dealer business.</p> <p>Grameen continued to support VBAs in deploying various business models for both input and output markets.</p> <p>Southern Highlands Tanzania.</p> <p>Dodoma cement and other partners working liming demos and creation of distribution mechanisms for soil liming.</p> <p>Northern Highlands of Tanzania</p> <p>Following the establishment of the protocol for potato crop management, the practical application/hand on use of the agro-chemicals followed in the</p>

Country + summary of current situation	COVID19 challenges & mitigation (where applicable)	Government ask/response	AGRA activities (highlights only)
<p>Mozambique.</p> <p>Mozambique remains under a national State of Public Calamity and at a red alert level. It continues to observe general safety measures, including mandatory facemasks, social distancing, closure of bars and informal stalls that sell alcoholic beverages, and reduced operating hours for markets.</p> <p>Farmers are allowed to buy inputs without restrictions. They are only required to observe the government's guidelines on social distancing, wearing of a face mask and hygiene when they visit agri-input shops.</p> <p>In urban and peri-urban areas, despite some relaxation in COVID-19 control measures, and the border reopening with South Africa, poor households continue to face difficulty obtaining sufficient food and income due to continued restrictions on the operation of small income-generating businesses. With limited income to purchase food from markets, the worst-affected poor urban and peri-urban households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).</p>	<p>Limited gathering restrictions impede trainings with larger groups to reach more farmers. Doubling effort is required, and use of alternative means of communication such as ICT is encouraged.</p>	<p>Donors and financing agencies have so far disbursed \$448.54 million in response to the Mozambican government's request for \$700 million to meet the needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>farms of the farmers who were identified.</p> <p>As the planting season progresses, Implementing Partners (IPs) continue supporting farmers through VBAs and agro-dealers observing government guidelines under COVID-19 pandemic.</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.