Study #4082

**Contributing Projects:**
- P667 - 2.1.4 Rural-Urban Linkages and Agri-Food System Employment
- P668 - 2.1.5 Capacity Building and Economywide Data and Tools
- P2075 - 2.4.10 Support to Rwanda Policies

**Part I: Public communications**

**Type:** OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

**Status:** Ready to be reported on

**Year:** 2020

**Title:** Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and formulating policy responses to protect vulnerable sectors and populations in Rwanda

**Short outcome/impact statement:**
Using PIM economic policy modelling tools, IFPRI provided strategic and timely advice to the Government of Rwanda to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and of the measures taken to control its spread, implement short-term policy responses to protect vulnerable sectors and populations and formulate longer-term policies to spur economic recovery.
Outcome story for communications use:
Rwanda’s policy response to COVID-19 has been widely praised for its rapid, systematic, and comprehensive approach to containing the pandemic. However, the economic consequences of the restrictive measures taken to contain the spread of the disease are unavoidable. Understanding the nature of these consequences is the first step to designing appropriate policies to protect the most vulnerable, spur economic recovery, and get Rwanda’s economy back on its high growth trajectory.

Early in the crisis, and working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), IFPRI provided the Government of Rwanda with an ex ante assessment of COVID-19’s economywide impacts which informed the Government’s priorities for both the short-term response to the pandemic and the longer-term economic recovery.

IFPRI’s rapid assessment of COVID-19’s impacts in Rwanda [3] [4] indicated that Rwanda’s Gross Domestic Product in 2020 was likely to be 12 to 16 percent lower than without the pandemic. The Gross Domestic Product losses, totalling USD 1.1-1.6 billion, were expected to be primarily concentrated in the industrial and services sectors, although the agricultural sector was also likely to experience adverse effects. These losses were projected to increase the national poverty rate by 11 percentage points, corresponding to 1.3 million people temporarily falling into poverty, most of them located in rural areas. Poverty rates were expected to stabilize by late 2020, with no certainty.

IFPRI also provided input into the design of a robust monitoring system for the agricultural sector and helped position agriculture in the Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19 [5]. These contributions resulted in the adoption of a food systems approach designed to shift the sectoral policy response from a single focus on food production and distribution to a more integrated approach to nutrition-sensitive social protection and market-oriented interventions.

IFPRI continues to provide advice to the Government of Rwanda on its recovery plan and to advocate for expanding social protection programs, supporting enterprises of all sizes, providing broad assistance to the agrifood system and restoring international trade to ensure a speedy and successful recovery.

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:
- https://tinyurl.com/yhnwr62y

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies: Yes

Policies contribution:

Level of maturity of change reported: Level 1
**Links to the Strategic Results Framework:**

Sub-IDOs:
- Conducive environment for managing shocks and vulnerability, as evidenced in rapid response mechanisms
- Conducive agricultural policy environment

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Yes

SRF 2022/2030 targets:
- # of people, of which 50% are women, assisted to exit poverty

Comment: <Not Defined>

**Geographic scope:**
- National

Country(ies):
- Rwanda

Comments: <Not Defined>

**Key Contributors:**

Contributing CRPs/Platforms: <Not Defined>

Contributing Flagships:
- F2: Economywide Factors Affecting Agricultural Growth and Rural Transformation

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:
- GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit / German Society for International Cooperation
- Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (Rwanda)
- EU - European Union
- NISR - National Institute of Statistics Rwanda
- MINECOFIN - Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (Rwanda)
- USAID - U.S. Agency for International Development

**CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:**

RIAPA model, SAM for Rwanda

**Innovations:**
- 345 - Rural Investment and Policy Analysis model
- 712 - Updated social accounting matrices for Malawi and Rwanda
Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:
IFPRI has a long history of engagement with the Government of Rwanda. In 2018, the Government requested in-country IFPRI presence to develop its capacity to plan, monitor, and analyze the 2018-2024 Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation. The Rwanda Strategy Support Program [1] was launched in December 2019 and was in its inception phase when the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

In April 2020, the program pivoted to assess COVID-19’s impacts on the Rwandan economy. Building on a common IFPRI modelling approach developed for consistent and credible cross-country analysis [2], IFPRI prepared an economywide assessment of COVID-19’s impacts using the country’s social accounting matrix supplemented with expert input from MINECOFIN, MINAGRI, GIZ and other sources on the nature and magnitude of the lockdown restrictions rolled out across the country. After several rounds of consultations and revisions, results [3] [4] were shared with MINECOFIN and MINAGRI, and through MINECOFIN reached the Cabinet level.

In parallel, IFPRI was requested to join other development partners in the Agriculture Sector Working Group to help formulate the agricultural sector component of the Economic Recovery Plan. Through a series of consultation and drafting exercises, IFPRI’s contribution led to the introduction into the recovery plan of a food systems approach designed to shift the sectoral policy response from a single focus on food production and distribution to a more integrated approach to nutrition-sensitive social protection and market-oriented interventions.

In recognition of the sensitive nature of economic indicators, scenario analyses, and projections in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, IFPRI’s analysis was initially embargoed from publication at the request of MINECOFIN. This did not impede IFPRI’s ability to contribute evidence into decision-making processes [5]. In addition, subsequent opportunities emerged to share findings and methods with a wider audience and to build capacity among a larger cohort of policy analysts in Rwanda [6], [7], [8], [9].
References cited:


Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 0 - Not Targeted
Youth relevance: 0 - Not Targeted
CapDev relevance: 1 - Significant
Main achievements with specific CapDev relevance: IFPRI trained staff of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and of the National Institute of Statistics in CGE modeling and SAM building.
Climate Change relevance: 0 - Not Targeted
Other cross-cutting dimensions: Yes
**Other cross-cutting dimensions description:** Disaggregation of social groups (by poverty status, vulnerability category, employment/occupation status, rural/urban residence, and other dimensions) is extensively featured in this work [3], [4], [7], [8], [9].

**Outcome Impact Case Report link:** Study #4082

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