



In Ethiopia, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected livelihoods and caused declines in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the agrifood system (AFS) as well as in total GDP. CGIAR has been working with partners in the country to inform policy responses, focusing on the pandemic's effects on rural households, the delivery of health services, and food systems and diets.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

Due to limited direct restrictions on local businesses in Ethiopia, the most significant impact of the pandemic on Ethiopia's economy has been via its effects on trade and remittances. Poor urban households are of particular concern as COVID-19 has severely affected their livelihoods. This sector of society also spends a disproportionately large share of income on food, housing, and other basic needs. It is estimated that these households reduced their private consumption expenditure by 6.3 percent due to the pandemic.

AFS GDP declined due to income losses and supply chain disruptions, even though food supplies were exempt from restrictions during the lockdown period. Research suggests that total GDP declined by 6.1 to 7.7 percent due to the pandemic. The AFS sector accounted for 14.9 percent of total GDP losses. The number of poor people in the country increased by 8.5 percentage points.

CGIAR COVID-19 HUB RESEARCH RESPONSE

The CGIAR response in Ethiopia focuses on four workstreams: coordination; assessment and mapping of seed supply; consumption, food safety, nutrition, and health messaging; and digitalization. The coordination workstream is also intended to produce lessons learned

for One CGIAR coordination, planning, and implementation. Other workstreams address the nexus of demand/supply mapping needs in Ethiopia. These workstreams align with the Ministry of Agriculture's responses to COVID-19, which have prioritized five key components: business continuity of agricultural services; safe and timely distribution of agricultural inputs; increased production of agricultural products, including grains and vegetables; support for both domestic and export commodity supply chains; and food support to the most vulnerable communities.

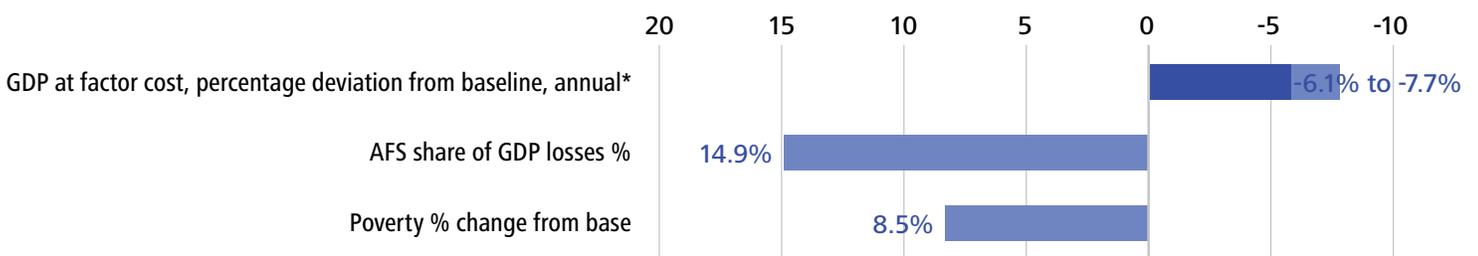
Key outputs expected from the CGIAR COVID-19 Hub include:

- Production of evidence on seed supply (the volume of seed supplied by each seed producer, processor, and distributor); the geographic location of available seeds; and seed demand data by geographic location and actor (when available).
- Communication of messages on consumption, food safety, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) via different outlets to the public, which also serves to protect them from misinformation.
- Development and promotion of digital platforms and apps for various agriculture sector stakeholders, such as seed value chain actors, government departments, development partners, researchers, and the private sector.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

The CGIAR COVID-19 Hub has leveraged CGIAR's research capacities in Ethiopia as well as existing partnerships. Key partners include the

Figure 1: Economic and poverty impacts of COVID-19 in Ethiopia 2020/2021



Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Addis Ababa University, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), the Ministry of Agriculture, regional and private seed companies, smallholder farmers, Seqota Declaration PDU, and Green Henon. The urgency of responses to COVID-19 has fostered new partnerships and models of collaboration in the country.

CGIAR scientists and experts are part of various policy dialogues in Ethiopia, including the Policy and Governance and the Agricultural Systems Transformation Technical Committee of the Rural Economic Development and Food Security Sector Working Group (RED&FS SWG), which contributes to agriculture-related policies; and the National Information Platform Forum for Nutrition (NIPN) at EPHI. NIPN receives its overall guidance from the national nutrition monitoring, evaluation, and research steering committee and a high-level, dedicated multisectoral advisory committee. CGIAR's active participation in these platforms and forums means that the COVID-19 Hub is well-placed to disseminate and support the adoption of research findings.

CGIAR COVID-19-RELEVANT WORK IN ETHIOPIA

Provision of weather forecast services during the pandemic

Seasonal and intraseasonal climate forecasts and advisories were provided to smallholder farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impact of the pandemic on rural households and the delivery of health services

Ongoing work pivoted to examine the effects of COVID-19 restrictions on [rural households](#) and the [delivery of health services](#). Households reported significant disruptions to livelihoods and food security. At the same time, health extension workers spent substantial time providing advice on COVID-19 protective measures and addressing immediate threats to human life while reducing time allocated to antenatal care and family planning.

Effects of COVID-19 on food systems and diets

Researchers contributed to understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems and diets in Ethiopia and three other countries. Using a [panel survey of urban households in Ethiopia](#), researchers found that in the early stages of the pandemic, aggregate food value chains were resilient to the shock.

Support to rural households during the pandemic

Rapid assessments were launched to understand how earlier donor investments supported rural households during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data from [Ethiopia](#) show that investment in small-scale irrigation supported access to water for sanitation, hygiene, and vegetable production.



The CGIAR COVID-19 Hub is led by the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health. To learn more, visit www.a4nh.cgiar.org/covidhub/

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