COFFEE FARMERS AND COVID-19
IN ZIMBABWE
Survey round 1 | 3-10 July 2020

Coffee farming households in Zimbabwe
- 189 households surveyed
- 49% male, 51% female
- 71% of households have children who were attending school prior to school closures

COVID-19 knowledge and concerns
Farmers' top COVID-19 concerns:
- 77% Health concerns
- 39% Unable to get farm inputs
- 38% Unable to sell crops
- 20% Children can't go to school
- 18% Not enough food

COVID-19 timeline
- March 13: First case reported
- March 23: Public events banned, borders closed
- March 30: Nation-wide lockdown imposed
- May 16: Lockdown extended, restrictions on shop opening hours eased

How have coffee farming households been affected so far?
- 85% of households have lost income as a result of COVID-19 since the outbreak began. Top sources of income loss:
  - Sale of cash crops other than coffee: 75%
  - Non-farm business: 28%
  - Sale of excess food crops: 11%
- 1 in 8 households report going to bed hungry at night due to lack of food

How do households view their financial situation?
Compared to one year ago...
- 88% of farmers believe they are worse off financially

When asked about their financial well-being in a year's time...
- 47% of farmers believe they will be worse off than they are now

Access to emergency finance is low, especially for women
- 19% of men and 13% of women report they could raise emergency finance in the next month

Restrictions on movement and loss of income from a range of sources affect farmers' ability to buy inputs for their coffee farms

1 in 4 farmers are not aware that COVID-19 can be spread by someone who does not experience visible symptoms

1 in 3 households in Mutare, Chimanimani and Chipinge districts do not have access to a health care facility within 1 hour travel time

1 in 8 households report challenges selling crops in the 7 days preceding the survey. Key reasons:
- Fewer customers: 53%
- Issues with transport: 52%
- Other, incl. currency depreciation: 22%
- Shop/market closures: 10%

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