COFFEE FARMERS AND COVID-19 IN UGANDA
Survey rounds 1 - 3 | August 2020

COVID-19 timeline
- March 13: First case reported
- March 18: Schools closed, public events banned, lockdown started
- March 22-25: Public transport suspended, curfew in place
- May 20: Transport restrictions lifted
- July 27: Motorbike taxis able to carry passengers, with restrictions
- August: Digital election campaigns began - no public rallies

Coffee farming households
- Survey regions:
  - Ssembabule
  - South West*
- Total households surveyed: R1 - 554, R3 - 511
- Household size is stabilizing
- 1 in 5 households reported a new member
- Round 1: 47% of farmers report they could raise emergency finance in the next month if needed - though a gender difference persists
- Round 3: 57% of farmers report they could raise emergency finance

COVID-19 concerns
- Farmers' top COVID-19 concerns remain consistent over time:
  - Round 1: 47% Health concerns, 53% Not enough work/income
  - Round 3: 57% Health concerns, 43% Not enough work/income

How have coffee farming households been affected so far?
- 35% of households report challenges selling crops in the last 7 days (round 3). Reasons for this differ by region:
  - Ssembabule: 83% Reduced prices of produce, 40% Fewer customers than usual
  - South West*: 68% Reduced prices of produce, 42% Fewer customers than usual

Coffee harvesting calendar
- Early coffee harvest:
  - May: Ssembabule
  - June: South West
- Food shortages:
  - July: South West
  - Aug: Ssembabule

How are households coping?
- 8 in 10 households report using at least one coping strategy to cover basic needs (round 3). The top two strategies are:
  - Using savings
  - Relying on less preferred or cheaper food

Farmers' optimism about the future is rising
- % of farmers who believe they will be better off financially in one year than they are now:
  - Region: Round 1, Round 3
  - South West: 23% to 32%
  - Ssembabule: 39% to 54%

60% of farmers report they could raise emergency finance in the next month if needed - though a gender difference persists
- 68% of farmers in Ssembabule could raise emergency finance (R3)