

SOLUTIONS FOR Food Security Challenges Due to COVID-19



Food systems, already at risk for people living in poverty, have an even **bigger** concern due to COVID-19. Shutdowns, travel restrictions, and economic downturns have challenged every level of food supply chains in developing countries.

The solution?

Reduce the risk to the food system.

WHAT IS A FOOD SYSTEM?

Think of a food system as all the links in a chain that ensure food security.

Farmers, food processors, micro-retailers, and consumers are all essential parts of the cycle.

How do we maintain the critical links in the chain?

FARMERS

FOOD PROCESSORS

MICRO-RETAILERS

CUSTOMERS

Farmers



Less than \$2 per day

The daily salary of 500 million small farmers worldwide



More than 50%

Cash crop farmers in 10 countries report losing income over the past month

THE SOLUTION: New Crops and Farming Skills

TechnoServe helped farmers adopt new agricultural skills and grow new crops, offsetting fluctuating demand for their usual crops. Moises and Arminda, soybean farmers, have already harvested over 661 pounds of soybeans and plan to do so again next year.



“The money from soy allowed us to buy things for the house: food and clothing. We bought a bicycle to fulfill our dream.”

Arminda,
A soybean farmer in Mozambique

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Food processors are struggling.

75% of firms reported challenges with marketing, sales, and distribution



This results in reduced availability of staples.

63% of firms reported challenges with access to supplies and materials



Food Processors



THE SOLUTION: Stronger Business Skills

Through remote and blended training and support, TechnoServe is helping business owners step up to face food security challenges. After completing a TechnoServe training program, employees of Musoma Food Company in Tanzania are better equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to fortify flour and rice, as well as educate people about the benefits of essential nutrients found in fortified foods.

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Micro-Retailers



41% Decrease in daily revenues, compared to pre-COVID-19 figures

28% Micro-retailers at risk of having to close their businesses permanently



THE SOLUTION: Knowledge Sharing

In Kenya, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire, TechnoServe helped micro-retailers grow before COVID-19, and now it's helping them navigate the pandemic and recovery. For example, The Pan-African Youth Entrepreneur Development (PAYED) program aims to increase adoption of best practices by 70% and sales by 30%.

In countries like Kenya, small retail shops are vital to the local economy, often providing

80-90% OF ALL CONSUMER GOODS

“Through TechnoServe, we have created a WhatsApp group where our trainer is sharing training materials. We are also discussing and sharing with each other insights on COVID-19 pandemic updates as communicated by the government.”

Caroline,
A 23-year-old shopkeeper in Kenya and PAYED beneficiary



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Every day, people's well-being depends on being able to buy essentials close to home, usually coming from small local farms and processors.



70%

of surveyed farmers in developing countries reported that COVID-19 had impacted their ability to feed themselves or their families

Consumers

THE SOLUTION: Local Access to Food

It is more sustainable and affordable for communities to buy locally made products than it is to rely on food imported from across an ocean, especially during a time when transportation logistics can be difficult to predict.

Farmers, food processors, and shop owners also contribute to the local economy by using their incomes to purchase goods.

TechnoServe is part of the community.



Responsive

Despite barriers due to COVID-19, our teams continue to support clients remotely and through blended approaches that involve limited in-person presence.

Innovative

To reach communities, we take into account the tools our clients have access to and are conscious of technological gaps related to gender and age.

Adaptive

Experts remain well within reach and continuously adapt their guidance and strategic recommendations to current situations in each community.