



Impact of COVID-19 on food systems

Indo-Pacific synopsis

Key findings July 2020



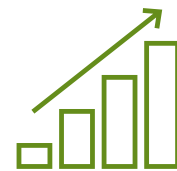
Common food system risks

- Significant dependence on food imports
- Climate change and extreme weather events
- Pre-existing and persistent nutritional challenges
- Growing informal labour and economic marginalisation
- Pre-existing and persistent gender inequity
- Baseline data gaps: agriculture, fisheries, ecosystem integrity, gender, health, nutrition
- Patchy biosecurity, animal and plant health services
- Fragmented value chains and food system governance
- Rapid population growth, inequity between generations and urbanisation
- Poorly adapted risk communication*



Common impacts of COVID-19 on food systems

- Loss of employment and incomes
- Growing food and employment insecurity
- Disrupted value chains, agricultural supply chains
- Declining food demand and access*
- Reduced timely access to agricultural supplies
- Increased gender-based discrimination^



Common recovery and resilience factors

- Availability of imported staple foods
- Variable functionality of food system governance
- Heightened recognition of the importance of food systems
- Significant scope for social protection to build resilience
- Local value chains contributing to food and nutrition security^
- Evidence of local food system agility†

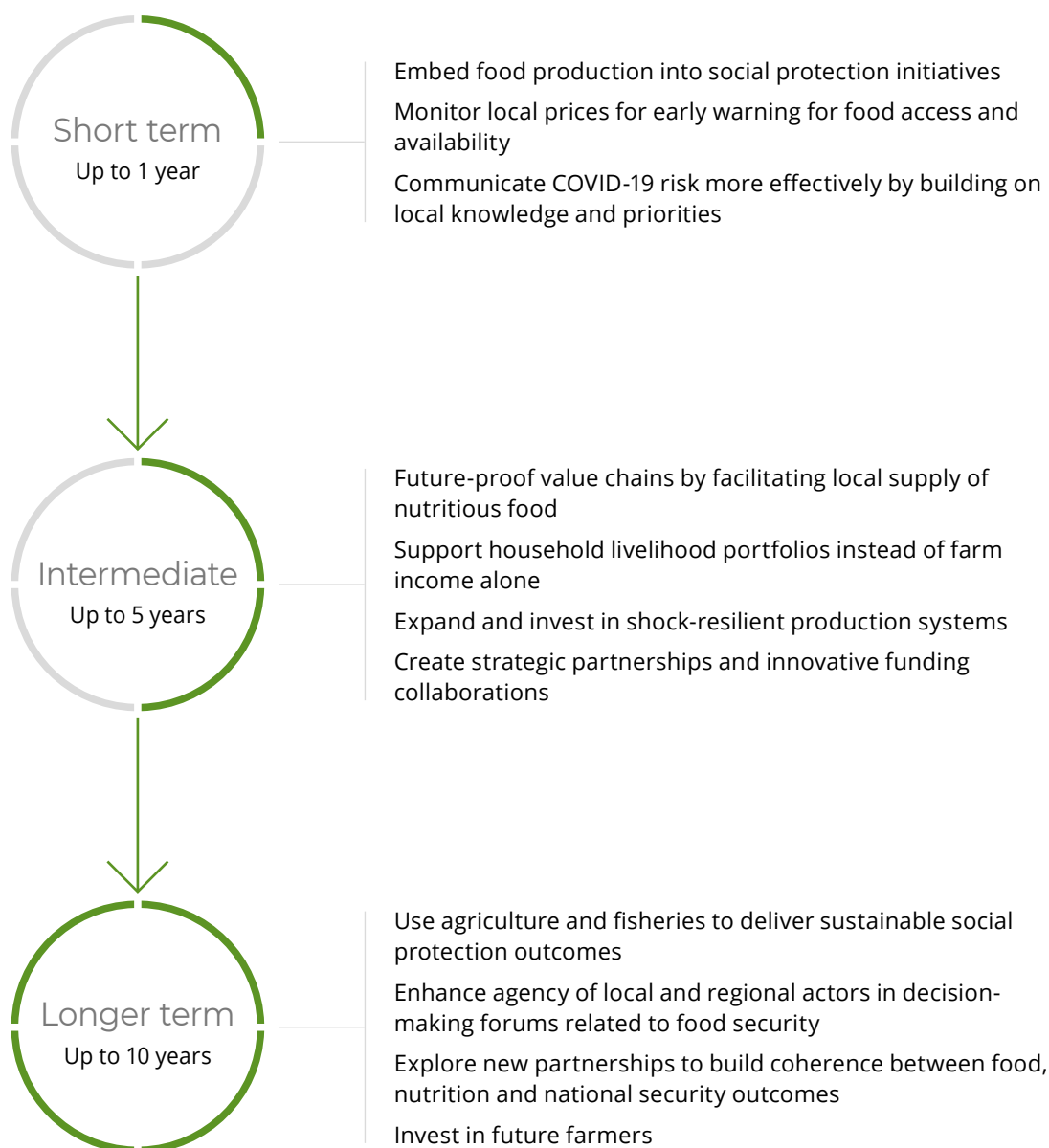
* With the exception of Indonesia. ^ With the exception of the Philippines. † With the exception of Timor-Leste.

Assessment approach: This regional assessment was conducted to identify common themes across the project's five geographical assessments (Indonesia, Pacific island countries, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Timor-Leste) and to explore common themes were generalisable to the broader Indo-Pacific region. The primary data source was the five geographical assessments and this was supplemented by additional interviews, policy and literature analyses.

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Suggested opportunities for regional action



Short-term opportunities include resource mobilisation and pivoting existing activities towards COVID-19 responses (up to 1 year). Intermediate-term opportunities include addressing gaps in knowledge, redressing negative impacts and/or boosting aspects of recovery or resilience (up to 5 years). Longer-term opportunities include research and development to address systemic challenges and options for transformational change (up to 10 years).

This is an abbreviated summary of the cross-cutting assessment findings. Please refer to the full chapter at www.aciar.gov.au/covid19-assessment-stage2

Visit www.aciar.gov.au/covid19-assessment-stage2
to learn more about the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems
in the Indo-Pacific region



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