



Faces and Voices

OF AFRICAN FAIRTRADE PRODUCERS IN THE
COVID-19 ERA. **RECOVER AFRICA PROJECT**



FAIRTRADE
AFRICA

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Foreword

In March 2020, it became clear that the COVID-19 pandemic was going to significantly disrupt our lives. In its very unprecedented economic and social crisis, the pandemic has caused harm that is likely to take a long time to reverse.

In Africa alone, many economies have shrunk the most in 40 years. South Africa's economy and African trailblazer on many fronts has shrunk the most in 100 years. Globally, it is predicted that by the end of 2021, the world's economy will lose 12 trillion USD even after considering the 18 trillion USD that has already been spent to stimulate economies around the world. (IMF, 2020)

On the social front, COVID-19 is projected to send 50 million Sub-Saharan Africans into poverty, reversing many years of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on eradication of poverty. These macro examples are just the tip of the iceberg on the challenges that currently face the world and underscore the importance of mitigating the effects of pandemic shocks in a bid to lay the groundwork for future resilience.

In November 2020, Fairtrade Africa, through Fairtrade International, secured a grant of 4.9 million Euros from the German Government, through BMZ with cooperation from GIZ, which was aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Fairtrade producers' health, well-being and economic sustainability. The project, dubbed RECOVER Africa, has been implemented across 9 African countries (Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda), with both short-term and medium-term goals.

This photo book contains the stories and faces of Fairtrade producers and their families in these nine countries, spotlight the imperative of safeguarding the future of livelihoods of farmers and workers in times of need. It also conveys the heart and soul of the RECOVER Africa Project, which is rooted in the lives of these ordinary people with extraordinary capacity for coping and overcoming challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Looking forward, the crisis presents an opportunity to build fairer economies and policy reforms that will impact Fairtrade producers, including climate crisis, rising inequality and job insecurity; in preparation for a post-COVID world.

It is my pleasure to bring you the faces and voices of Fairtrade farmers and workers in Africa in the COVID era.

Enjoy the read!



Mr Kouamé N'dri Benjamin Francklin
Board Chair
Fairtrade Africa

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Introduction

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across the world and particularly in the African continent, people have been affected in numerous ways. People have lost their loved ones, lost their livelihoods and had to make adjustments to their daily lives in ways that was unprecedented. From a health perspective, the cost of management of the disease, from testing, possible ICU admission, and home-based recovery have all caused undue strain on households. Women bear the biggest burden of care when household members are sick. Young people have watched helplessly as older members of society have succumbed to the disease.

But beyond health, perhaps the greatest impact of this pandemic has been its social and the economic impact. As countries responded to the pandemic by imposing restrictions on movement to contain the spread of the virus, including closing their borders. We saw a disruption of global supply chains that greatly impacted the livelihoods of small holder farmers and large farms alike. Small holder farmers lost their sources of income and workers of big farms lost their jobs. This brought with it, an acceleration of social disruptions characterized by rising cases of gender-based violence, mental health issues, crime and delinquency. What looks like a health pandemic at a first glance, is a pandemic manifesting in the social and economic spheres. We have witnessed that these struggles have a gendered dimension to them. Men and women, boys and girls are experiencing these issues differently, they are coping differently, and the long term impacts too are different.

The recognition of these differentiated experiences and coping strategies was the inspiration behind this photo book. Beyond the numbers of those infected, we set out to find out, who are the faces of those affected, what are their struggles, their innovations and their triumphs, how have they coped, what adjustments have they made? These stories also serve in transmitting hope within communities, as communities see how others have faced challenges and developed coping and recovery strategies, they too find hope and get ideas on how to address their own challenges. We sought to hear the stories of the impact of COVID-19; the stories of resilience; the stories of recovery; and the stories of how Fairtrade Africa made a difference through the RECOVER Africa Project.

The RECOVER Africa Project was implemented by Fairtrade Africa with support from the German Cooperation Agency, as part of a broader COVID-19 funding that also covered Latin America and Asia.

The project aimed at mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on producers health, wellbeing and economic sustainability. It sought to do so by achieving the following:

- i) Providing immediate relief to and supporting prevention of the further spread of the pandemic to at-risk producers and their wider communities; and
- ii) Helping producers recover from economic losses due to COVID19, and maintaining and diversifying their supply chain relations, to ensure business continuity, food security and income generation for them thereby building their resilience to future shocks and stresses.

These interventions have benefitted over 600,000 fairtrade farmers and workers in nine countries in Africa, namely: Ghana, Côte D'Ivoire, Madagascar, South Africa, Malawi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Through the stories and photos that follow describing some of the activities producers have implemented through the project, we hope to demonstrate that beyond the numbers, there are real people, with real stories. Their stories bring both inspiration and hope, that no matter what, humanity has great capacity to bounce back.

This photo book is rooted in the lives of these ordinary people living in extraordinary times.



1,314
292 WOMEN
1,022 MEN

34 PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED

Achatina snail farming and forestry to survive the pandemic

Savadogo, president of The Groupement "Bienvenue des femmes d'Akridou-Laddé" (GBFAL) and a mother of seven has mastered Achatina snail farming techniques through the RECOVER Africa project.

"Our snails are raised with organic foods as we have learned how to make their food. We want to grow them exclusively organic without chemicals in their food." she explains.

"My associates and I plan to conquer the local market, supply nationally, regionally and to international consumers. In the long term, our objective is to make our site a university experimentation center in partnership with the Nanguy Abrogoua University of Abidjan." she concluded.

Savadogo

Poultry farming as a means of resistance to COVID-19

Ouédraogo Sayouba is from Banguéhi, a large village 538 km from Abidjan and worked as a farm hand before the pandemic and received financial relief from the RECOVER Africa project to start a poultry farm.

"Personally, the project has given me a lot. I have more financial independence from my parents. At the family level, my father is happy and encourages me by giving me advice. He is very proud of my work. At the social level, the project has brought us together to achieve the same objective which is to have additional resources. My companions and I now have a fresh outlook." Ouédraogo adds with a broad smile at the achievements of the project on himself and the Banguéhi community.

His personal goal is to build rental houses and open a hardware store.

Sayouba Ouédraogo





Page 9 Adama Ouédraogo, 30 years old in the poultry farm funded by the RECOVER Africa poultry project.

Left Portrait of 23 year old Sayouba Ouédraogo at the entrance of the poultry farm funded by the RECOVER Africa Project.

Right "Personally, the project has given me a lot. I have more financial independence from my parents. At the family level, my father is happy and encourages me by giving me advice. He is very proud of my work. At the social level, the project has brought us together to achieve the same objective which is to have additional resources." Ouédraogo adds with a broad smile

Page 12 Sawadogo Salimata, 47 years old in full palm oil production.

Page 13 56 year old Sanfo Salimata removing the fruits on the palm tree diet.







Left Poho Ange Michaelle, 38 years old drawing water from the well in her family yard.

Right Poho Ange Michaelle in front of the poultry farm supported by the RECOVER Africa project with her little girl Diahe Lyne Delor.

Page 16 Kindo Salif, 38 years old with cassava tubers in hand.

Page 17 Kindo Salif sitting on the Benkadi group tricycle from the RECOVER Africa Project.







285
12 WOMEN
273 MEN

10 PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED

Skills gained in baking made life less challenging

COVID-19 came along with its economic difficulties, however Charity Ofori had a different experience.

A resident of Odumkyere Daman in the West Akyem municipality of the Eastern region, Charity used to cultivate cocoa and trade in vegetables. She benefited from the Fairtrade Africa's Projects skill training on baking and received a start up kit to begin making pies and other pastries.

"The baking kicked-off in earnest and we could generate income to support ourselves even in the midst of COVID-19. My farming has in recent times been hit by droughts, reducing my revenue and life would have been very challenging save for the baking skills acquired from the training. Through the baking of meat pies, I have been able to provide upkeep money, manage the children's education and expenses." Charity disclosed.

Charity Ofori

Alternative livelihood to support herself during the lean seasons

Deborah Osei-Mensah is 30 years old. She is the Monitoring & Evaluation, and Livelihood Development officer at The Cocoa Farmers Union of Ghana – Asunafo branch.

Before joining the Union, Deborah used to solely cultivate cocoa, which she reveals was not sustainable due to weather patterns and lack of knowledge on soil quality and types of plants that would thrive.

She is now equipped with Good Agricultural Practices, Finance Management and Skill Training from the RECOVER Africa Project to support herself during the lean seasons.

"I also learned how to make other types of soap like liquid soap, bar soap, floor cleaner and bleach which I currently have for home use although I plan to commercialize it later."

Deborah Osei-Mensah





Page 19 33 year old Sarah Larweh is a cocoa farmer from Anwam. She was a beneficiary of the training on grass cutter farming through the RECOVER Africa project.

Left Sarah has a four-acre plantation in the Anhwie community in Suhum in the Eastern region of Ghana. She previously could not afford to pay for farm services due to insufficient revenue.

Right "Through the RECOVER Africa project we were trained in soap making. I can use this skill to make soap that I can sell to earn extra income. The great thing is that in producing black soap, we have been taught to use raw materials from our farms like cocoa pods. Usually the cocoa pods would have ended up as waste on the farm." Mabel Safoaa Asante.

Page 22 42 year old Akonor Samuel, a cocoa farmer was trained in grass cutter farming to provide additional income through the sale of the grass cutters. After completing his training, he received grass cutters plus a cage as start-up material. He tends to his grass cutters at his home in Tei Mensah in the the Eastern Region of Ghana.

Page 23 "We have received a lot of training on good farm practices. This has helped increase our yields. The premiums we get from selling our produce is used to continue work on the farm and to hire labourers to weed and spray our farm." Adjei Abigail Pinto Nako, 24.









Page 24 As part of the RECOVER Africa project, groups of cocoa farmers were trained in bread making. This initiative aims to provide additional livelihood and skills for the farmers.

Page 25 The women from the Asunafo North Cooperative Union after their training in bread making decided to form a group. Here, the group is prepping to bake bread as they grease baking trays and pans.

Left "Front-back Sakinatu Alahassan, Margaret Kontor and Abena Janet members of the Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union have benefitted from alternative livelihood trainings such as sewing and pastry making.

Right Cocoa beans spread out to dry in the sun at Suponso, Eastern region.





2,508
553 WOMEN
1,955 MEN

25 PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED

Apart from farming, she is crocheting her way to success

Ruth, 33, from Mutwe-Wathi village in Karatina, Nyeri County received a four day upskill training on crocheting furniture covers and making mats from the RECOVER Africa project. Whenever she closed her samosa business for the day, she would return home to continue sharpening her new found talent. In a few months, she had mastered the practice.

For Wanjiru, the most important achievement is the skill she learned from the training. "Aside from the skills, I received material capital which included yarn, scissors, crochet needles, just to name a few."

She has dreams of putting up a shop to sell her crafts and reviving her coffee farming.

Ruth Wanjiru

Age is just but a number for Machakos coffee farmer

Syomwilu Nzioki Muli, born in 1939 began coffee farming when Kenya had just gained its independence.

"Four of my children have gone into coffee farming, because over the years, they saw how this crop changed our lives."

When the pandemic struck, Syomwilu received food relief from the RECOVER Africa project. However she was somewhat prepared.

"Apart from coffee farming, I am a subsistence farmer, where I plant food crops like maize, beans, sweet potatoes, bananas, avocados and cassavas. I had already harvested, thus we had some food in storage." she speaks from her farm in Kitunduni village, Machakos County.

Syomwilu Nzioki Muli





Left Ruth was very fortunate to be selected by Fairtrade to be trained in crocheting and knitting so as to be able to weave items for sale such as baskets known as kiondos, knitted seat covers, shawls for women, floor mats, and sweaters.

Right In her old age, Beatrice does not sleep much anymore. Beatrice sits on a gunny sack outside her home and weaves her kiondos. She does wish she had more buyers for her kiondos, but people do not have any money during the hard times brought about by COVID-19.





Left A contemplative Syomwilu feels like they are working in vain continuing to care for the coffee bushes yet they get nothing out of it.

Right "The RECOVER Africa project has brought me easy money. I was called to the coffee factory and given 5 chickens with 10 kgs chicken feed. When the initial chicken feed was over, I was called in to get 5kgs more." says Caroline Mutheu Kimeu excitedly.







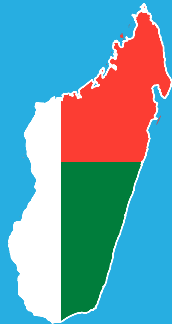
Page 34 Anne Nduta Mwangi, 32 years old and a single mother of one, is a satisfied employee of Wildfire Flowers, Naivasha Kenya since 2010. She is a recipient of funds from the RECOVER Africa project revolving kitty for workers which she used to set up her shop.

Page 35 "During the COVID-19 period we had no money and the children were home from school due to government lockdowns. I now have my salary from work and the extra shilling from my cereals shop. With my one shilling from this shop I can buy milk for my children and with my one shilling from work I can buy sugar, and I will not fail to also save for a rainy day." says Anne.

Left Peter Wangwe, 27 years old is employed at Wildfire Flowers, Naivasha Kenya as a crop sprayer. His life was adversely affected with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as his bonuses, paid overtime and annual salary increment disappeared. Peter is fortunate to have received funds from the RECOVER Africa project with which he started a poultry project with indigenous kiyenyeji chickens.

Right I invested in a new breed of super-yielding kiyenyeji chickens. I am able to sell a single egg for at least Ksh 25 compared to those from regular chickens which are sold to local vendors at the markets for Ksh 12. This new free-range breed requires no special care and can be cared for just like other indigenous chicken, so it is not costing me extra to have them but I make much more out of it." Peter adds.





MADAGASCAR



1,759

671 WOMEN

1,088 MEN

5

**PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
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We started income-generating projects in fish farming and bee-keeping

Ratovoarisoa Elina is 35 years old, a mother of 4 children and a member of the Association Theodore Vanille.

"Due to the effects of COVID-19, we have had difficulties in selling our vanilla, which has put us in a difficult financial situation. We benefited from the RECOVER Africa project which helped us start income-generating projects of fish farming and bee-keeping.

This project is promising even though it started in March 2021. Fish farming is enjoyable and will become a source of income as well as food for the household." Ratovoarisoa adds.

Ratovoarisoa Elina

The outbreak of COVID-19 caused a decrease in vanilla prices

"My name is Antoinette. I am 60 years old, married and we have 6 children. I am a vanilla farmer and also cure the harvested vanilla from my farm and sell it to our Association Soarano Vanille." she happily says.

"COVID-19 caused a decrease in vanilla prices. However for our Association members, we received training in sewing and baking with the purpose of increasing our income. We even learned to make face masks for our members and other organisations that made requests to us." Antoinette concludes.

Antoinette





Page 39 Ratovoarisoa Elina, 35 years old and a member of Association Theodore Vanille maintaining vanilla vines.

Left Mrs. Elina by the fish pond with her child. Through the RECOVER Africa project, the Vanilla farmers were supported in building a fish pond and provided with 200 fingerlings of carp and tilapia to supplement their income and provide food for the household.

Right Ms. Angelica, 25 years old and a Member of Association Soarano Vanille joined the training sessions on sewing and baking after the prices of vanilla decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She now gets additional income for a better livelihood.

Page 42 Antoinette, 60 years old and a member of Association Soarano Vanille working at her vanilla farm in Ambodiampana.

Page 43 "We received training in sewing and baking for the purpose of increasing income from sources other than vanilla sales. We made face masks for our members and to other organisations that made requests to us." says Antoinette.







Left "We continue our farming activities during this pandemic as we are aware of the health measures, including the use of hand sanitiser and wearing face masks because of the awareness campaign done by our association." Feno Marcelline, 63 years old and a member of Association Theodore Vanille.

Right Marcelline at home, processing harvested vanilla. Following the high cost of living caused by decreasing vanilla prices, she received financial support from Fairtrade Africa, which enabled her to purchase bags of rice, boxes of soap and hand sanitisers.

Page 46 Randimbiarison Elysienne, a 57 year old vanilla farmer taking note of the weight of her harvested vanilla. Her Association benefited from the RECOVER Africa project to purchase and distribute bags of rice, soap, face masks and hand sanitisers to members.

Page 47 A member of Association Theodore Vanille in protective clothing tending to a beehive. Thanks to the RECOVER Africa project, income generating initiatives of bee-keeping and fish farming helped alleviate the economic impact of COVID-19 to association members.







MALAWI



59,921
16,171 WOMEN
43,750 MEN

4 PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED

Relief as 'RECOVER Africa Project' mitigates impact of COVID-19

Hilda Amos, 34 years old, a mother of three living in Mulanje district in southern Malawi is a smallholder tea farmer who benefitted from relief support.

"I have received maize flour and sanitation materials such as face masks, hand sanitizers and soap. Imagine that I have even received tea seedlings for the next planting season! All this assistance will help me cope with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, I am able to fully concentrate on my farming instead of doing piece work, because I have food at home." says Hilda.

Hilda Amos

Championing right information on COVID-19

The Kasinthula Cane Growers Association (KCGA) where Peter Chikume, a cane grower is a member, purchased a public address (PA) system to help farmers receive accurate information about the novel virus.

"Right information has restored the farmers' hopes. With the PA system, we are able to deliver correct information on COVID-19 to our communities and share other important messages such as warning people on the dangers of stealing sugarcane from our farms. At least business is almost back to normal." Chikume said.

Peter Chikume





Page 49 Thuchila Linda Khodiwa, Premium Committee member, washing her hands as a COVID-19 preventative measure.

Left Thuchila and Professor Mangani, Eastern Produce Clerk weighing Tea at the factory.

Right Anesi Laitoni, a member of Phata Women Action Group wears a facemask as part of the COVID-19 prevention measures that were facilitated with funds from the RECOVER Africa project.







Page 52 Phata WAG Members receiving maize seed bought using RECOVER Africa Funds. They also received PPE's to help prevent the spread on COVID-19.

Seated from right to left: Annie Kanyebele, Ethel Chilembwe, Ruth Chiutsa, Elesi Pulenala, Anesi Laitoni, Dorothy Notice.

Page 53 Phata Cooperative WAG Chairperson, Ruth Chiutsa at her home, which during the COVID-19 pandemic doubled up as a shop.

Left Ruth Chiutsa who is Phata Cooperative WAG Chairperson, at her home tailoring business.

Right A typical day for a Sukambizi Association Trust member. The Association, based in Mount Mulanje area received support through the RECOVER Africa project to alleviate the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.





Left Members of the Kasinthula Cane Growers Association. Standing from left to right, Moses Jailosi, Mercy Luya, Maria Lapukeni, Allan Saidi, Montfort Kabisa, Julita Richard, Peter Chikume, Cecelia Simenti and Mercy Thom.

Right 'The RECOVER Africa projects has helped me in many ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. I received maize seeds which I could not afford to buy due to the negative economic impact of the pandemic,' Annie Kanyebele.





RWANDA



101,446

35,137 WOMEN
66,309 MEN

5

**PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED**

I got food support when I needed it most

Uwingabiye Albertine is a 32 year old mother of two and has been working at the Sorwathe Green Tea Factory, Kinyihira for the last 12 years.

With limited movement of vendors during the lockdown, food prices increased. Uwingabiye was fortunate to receive food relief in the form of flour, beans, and cooking oil. "I had enough food for me and my last born," said Uwingabiye.

Uwingabiye and other factory employees also benefitted from regular workshops on women's rights, leadership, non-discrimination, child rights, and different Fairtrade values.

"I am not the same as when I started working at Sorwathe. I feel empowered and focused in finding solutions for my family now that I can discuss with my husband and make decisions," she affirms.

Uwingabiye Albertine

I will use the goat I received from the project to start a herd

Fidele Mbazumutima is a 30 year old father of two, a fruit and coffee farmer and a member of a Fairtrade certified cooperative - Abahuzamugambi ba Kawa ya Maraba. He received goats from the Project to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on workers' income.

"I will use the goat I received from the project to start a herd and sell the bucks for profit at the market," Mbazumutima affirms.

Goat farming is a very profitable business, and it does not require much investment. Mbazumutima will also use goat droppings as plant manure for higher yields.

Fidele Mbazumutima





Page 59 Uwingabiye Albertine is a 32 year old mother of two and has been working in the Green Tea Factory at Sorwathe in Kinihira in the northern part of Rwanda since 2009.

Left Uwingabiye received food support from Fairtrade through the RECOVER Africa project and was able to survive the confinement caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

Right Veneranda Mukakarega, 57 years old, owns several coffee farms and also ran a bridal shop. Unfortunately, her bridal business closed due to COVID-19 restrictions of wedding ceremonies. She received a goat from Fairtrade's RECOVER Africa project as support.

Page 62 Bosco Tuyisenge was born in 1992 in Maraba in the South of Rwanda. He owns a coffee farm in Simbi region and is a member of the Abahuzamugambi cooperative of Maraba.

Page 63 Tuyisenge cherishes the support he received from Fairtrade through the RECOVER Africa project that gave him a goat. His plan is to rear more goats and sell the male goat to get money to invest in coffee farming.









Page 64 Epiphanie Nyiratabaro is a 32-year-old woman working as a tea plucker in Sorwathe tea plantation.

Page 65 Nyiratabaro was the sole breadwinner of her family. The couple don't own a farm to grow their own food, so they survive on daily purchase of foodstuff at the market. The food support from Fairtrade gave her family a sigh of relief.

Left Fidele Mbazumutima is a 30-year-old father of two. He owns a coffee farm in Simbi region and has accomplished a lot from coffee farming including investing in fruits and vegetable farming.

Right His fruit business was heavily affected by COVID-19 restrictions because he could not sell the fruits. However he was very happy to receive a goat from the Fairtrade RECOVER Africa project as support. He will care for the goat for profit but also for manure for his fruit farm.





SOUTH AFRICA



145,553

11,373 WOMEN

134,180 MEN

17

**PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED**

A hopeful future ahead

At 19, Safwaan is one of the many young farm workers at Bussel Boerdery in the Western Cape. The farm employed him in November 2020 and at the outset of the pandemic, Safwaan received food relief.

He believes the work environment on Bussel Boerdery is conducive and envisions being on the farm for a couple of more years. Safwaan hopes to one day become a teacher. He doesn't mind being in the classroom or out on the sports field as a Physical Education (PE) teacher. But it doesn't take long to realise that sports are his passion. "I can do all sports," he says cheerfully. He loves playing a variety of them, from cricket, to soccer, to basketball.

With any luck, Bussel Boerdery will be a great stepping stone for Safwaan and maybe someday soon he will be able to realise his dreams.

Safwaan

We're in this together

Angelique Wentzel, Merchelle Williams, Valery Maarman and Mariska Julius are four women who work on sister fruit farms - Mont Piquet and Rietkloof. The close-knit community relied on each other to keep things going during the pandemic.

While most companies could not afford to safely have their workers on site, Mont Pique and Reitkloof received support to maintain the required COVID-19 safety regulations, thus unburdening the farms. This kept hope alive for many families.

The four ladies are all in agreement that the pandemic taught them to value people and the community around them.

Angelique, Merchelle, Valery Maarman and Mariska





Page 69 Nikiwe Ngcebetsha a Hostel Officer at Bergendal Boerdery cleaning and disinfecting a hostel. This allowed for work to continue at the farm, even as the COVID-19 pandemic persisted.

Left Freda Fortuin, General Worker at Mouton Citrus.

Right Tsepo Lekoeneha, a General Worker at Bergendal picking citrus. During the COVID-19 pandemic, workers were sensitized on prevention tips to stop the spread of the virus.







Page 72 Liezl Van Rhyn, Human Resource Manager at Lutzville.

Page 73 At the back; Jan Links, persons greeting; Liezl Van Rhyn, Joseph Olivier and Maxwell Stewe, all farmworkers at Navada.

Left Sister Sybal Steenkamp of Mouton Citrus, South Africa taking temperature checks of a community member as part of COVID -19 protocols.

Right A typical day for worker at Mouton Citrus farm.





Left Josephine Basson, Litlallo Selo and Madery Booise all Packers at Bergendal packing Rooibos Tea. Working in shifts is one of the measures introduced to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the farm.

Right Yolanda Nkone, a packer at Bergendal packing Rooibos Tea. The RECOVER Africa fund reduced the financial burden on the business. It allowed for the right protocols to be set up, so workers could continue working through the pandemic.





TANZANIA



263,561
85,358 WOMEN
178,203 MEN

3

PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED

Fairtrade in Tanzania

In Tanzania, the government's recognition of the COVID-19 pandemic had been slow up to mid-2021. Community interventions were therefore needed to ensure that the farmers and their families do not suffer unnecessarily from the lack of a systematic response to curb the pandemic.

The RECOVER Africa Project aimed to target 3 Producer Organizations in Tanzania with activities that provided emergency and relief interventions from COVID-19. The interventions were targeted at protecting the farmers and their families from community transmission of the virus through purchase of facemasks, PPEs, handwashing stations and conducting radio programmes for awareness and sensitization.

Due to COVID-19 related impacts, the Producer Organisations experienced a decline in product demand with huge stocks of crops trapped in the warehouse, unexpected low price of coffee with losses for the season ending April 2020. This brought about high operation costs resulting in inability to pay tax to their primary cooperative societies, workers being retrenched and experiencing job uncertainty. For instance, women and youth faced a decline in income and job opportunities and hence inability to meet basic needs, especially towards the elderly and children.

The RECOVER Africa COVID fund cushioned selected Producer Organisations by creating an opportunity to create jobs through diversifying sources of income to reduce dependence on their common source of income; coffee. The grant provided by Fairtrade was ploughed into training women and youth on soap making, establishment of improved coffee tree nurseries for the youth, capacity building on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), batik making projects for women as well as setting up of vegetable green houses.

Besides an added entrepreneurial skill, the women and youth trained in soap making were provided with certificates of participation ideal for introduction to other national organizations of standardization like the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) or other local authorities for future recognition.

A total of 1,447 beneficiaries from 3 Producer Organisations have directly benefitted from the project, with 71% of the total comprising of women and youth. The project has since supported Producer Organisations in the establishment of sustainable economic projects to help rescue the economic decline in coffee business in the future.





Page 79 Elizabeth Fulko Kinunda, 43 years old, shows a piece of batik she made. Her future plans are to have a batik factory as part of her income-generating business.

Left Elizabeth participating in budding training. She said, "In the past, we used to uproot unproductive coffee trees, but after the budding training, we no longer uproot the seedlings and instead we do budding."

Right Lauriano Mapunda, 59 years old from Mbinga, is one of members who benefited from the tree planting training and put into practice the knowledge he acquired. He said, "Previously we used to plant all kinds of trees regardless of whether the trees are environmentally friendly or not."

Page 82 Flora Felix is a widow who is engaged in coffee farming from Karagwe Tanzania. She is holding a bottle with soap that she made after receiving training from the Fairtrade RECOVER Africa Project. The soap has helped them improve hand hygiene, especially in this period of COVID-19.

Page 83 After farm work, Restistuta Constatin, 42 years old washes her hands with clean water and soap. "Through the RECOVER Africa project we have been trained on how to protect ourselves from COVID-19," she says.







Left Ms. Zidina Tyebwa Murushid, a 67 year old widow from Karagwe Tanzania washes her hands to protect herself and others from COVID-19. She says the soap they use to wash their hands is the results of the trainings offered to them by the Fairtrade RECOVER Africa Project.

Right "Since the outbreak of COVID-19 I was terrified whether my family was safe. But since Fairtrade funded our trainings on how to protect ourselves, peace returned to my heart and we are all safe. Through this training, our group makes soap and sells them to the community. The market is good." Furahisica Andrew Paul, a 60 year old woman from Karagwe Kagera, Tanzania.







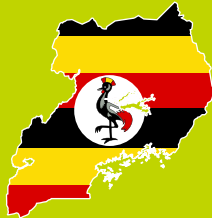
Page 86 Farmers from Bukoba Karagwe involved in the making of stoves as a way to supplement their income during the COVID-19 hardship. The training to make stoves was provided by KCU and Fairtrade Africa.

Page 87 "Before training on economical stove making we used traditional stoves, which used a lot of wood and endangered the environment. Today we use economical stoves and our environment is safer. In addition to environmental protection, these stoves have become a source of income especially in this time of COVID-19" Audax Laurian, 48, from Bukoba Kagera, Tanzania.

Left Elizabeth Lucas, 65, a coffee farmer from Bukoba Karagwe is involved in the making of stoves as a way to supplement her income during the COVID-19 hardship.

Right This is the new house that Elizabeth has built from coffee income. "I sleep in my good house which I built after selling my coffee at a good price. Thanks to Fairtrade!"





UGANDA



2,165

**567 WOMEN
1,598 MEN**

9

**PRODUCER
ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED**

Mushrooms restoring hope for Bunyangabu coffee farmers

Lilian Kyaligonza is a member of the Kiboota - Katebwa Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd where she received financing to venture into mushroom growing.

"We constructed an indoor structure for farming mushrooms," she says. "Mushrooms act as food security because they are very nutritious. I earn money from them and they have connected me to a number of people, especially the buyers." she weighs in.

In fact, Kyaligonza sees a bright future ahead. She hopes to get exposed to foreign markets and earn more from the mushrooms, which supplements her coffee, a perennial crop.

"Currently, I am sensitizing coffee farmers to join cooperatives and benefit from the opportunity. I am teaching, especially the women, about the benefits of coffee and mushrooms." says Kyaligonza.

Lilian Kyaligonza

Wedding plans off, focus now is on making money

Edwin Tugume, a 31 year old coffee and vanilla farmer from Ngunyu 11 village in western Uganda, had just finalized his wedding plans, only for the lockdown to rudely interrupt them. For now, with the wedding on hold, Tugume is focusing on boosting his income.

"When COVID-19 came in 2020 and the government imposed a lockdown, most of us were affected in different ways. Our co-operative selected us to receive popcorn machines. I was given one machine and it has helped me a lot. Ever since I received it, I have managed to increase my income."

"My plan is to expand this business by buying more popcorn machines and employ more youth into this value chain." He says.

Edwin Tugume





Page 91 Zilian Biira, a member of the Kabonero Mountainous Coffee Growers Co-operative Society Limited (KAMCOS), was able to engage in basket-making to supplement coffee growing, which had been hit hard due to the effects of the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Left "We received funds as a cooperative and ventured into mushroom growing. We used the money for the construction of an indoor mushroom farming structure as well as capital to start the business which was an alternative income-generating activity to supplement our coffee farming," Lilian Kyaligonza.

Right Justine Namayanja, Fairtrade Africa's Senior Project Officer for Coffee in Uganda shows one of the motorbikes used by Kibinge Farmers Cooperative Society in the delivery of value-added coffees to distribution centres and clients.







Page 94 Kyankunda Irene, 22 years old is a Secondary Five student in Ntungamo. She has not attended school for a whole year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she was lucky to hold a job at Pearl Flowers Limited.

Page 95 Irene harvesting flowers at Pearl Flowers Limited in Ntungamo. During the lockdown, she was given masks together with handwashing soap to keep herself safe from COVID-19 as well as relief funds to help her back at home.

Left During the COVID-19 lockdown, Bagonza Alforce, 48 years old, was one of the farmers in the foothills of Rwenzori Mountains in Kasese who benefited from the RECOVER Africa Project. He and his family received masks and handwashing soap which they equally distributed among themselves.

Right "Alforce is a Secretary Manager for one of the Coffee Micro Washing Section based in Kasese. He has served for two years now and has also actively been part of the Bukonzo Organic Farmers Cooperative Union as a member majorly growing coffee as well as vanilla and beans.



Support Messages



Despite the hardships and isolation COVID-19 has imposed upon all of us during the course of the pandemic, our human bonds and commitment to building a better world have persevered. Only by combining our strengths, efforts and thinking as one truly global community, can we rise above the COVID-19 crisis and confront other global urgencies like it. In this way, it is imperative that we continue to work together to tackle the global challenges of today and tomorrow.

Farmers and workers across the world have been an example and an inspiration for how we can adjust to and navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In the challenging environment created by the pandemic, they have demonstrated that crises can also be a starting point for innovation, diversification and the discovery of new solutions. These are exactly the kind of stories we uncover in this magnificent book – a show of true resilience.

At Fairtrade, we are proud to support and be a part of this challenging journey – a journey that we continue together with farmers and agricultural workers from around the world.

Dr. Nyagoy Nyong'o, Fairtrade Global CEO

Find out more at: www.fairtradeafrica.net



The two great crises of our time, Covid and climate, show clearly that we need global solutions for global problems. As every single region of the world feels their effects, we realize more than ever that we're all in the same boat.

We need a joint effort and borderless solidarity to row this boat to the shore – together. Fairtrade shows the way and delivers a basis to offset the effects of the pandemic and of climate change for millions of people worldwide.

Dieter Overath, Fairtrade Deutschland CEO

Find out more at : www.fairtrade-deutschland.de



Corona makes it clear how closely connected we are in the world and how vulnerable we are. The poorest in developing and emerging countries need our solidarity – especially in times of crisis. I am grateful that, together with our long-standing partners in Fairtrade, we have managed to quickly support sustainably producing smallholder farms.

Dr. Gerd Müller, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

Find out more at: www.bmz.de/en



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