



Detailed Findings from Spark
Communities in Rwanda
During Covid-19



Rwanda
April 2020

About the Survey

This study was conducted on the **9th-10th of April 2020** to reveal how Spark communities are currently affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and to assess impacts on their livelihoods and social cohesion. It also analyzes the spread of information, communication channels, spread and symptoms, and how these effects present immediate and long-term challenges for community members.

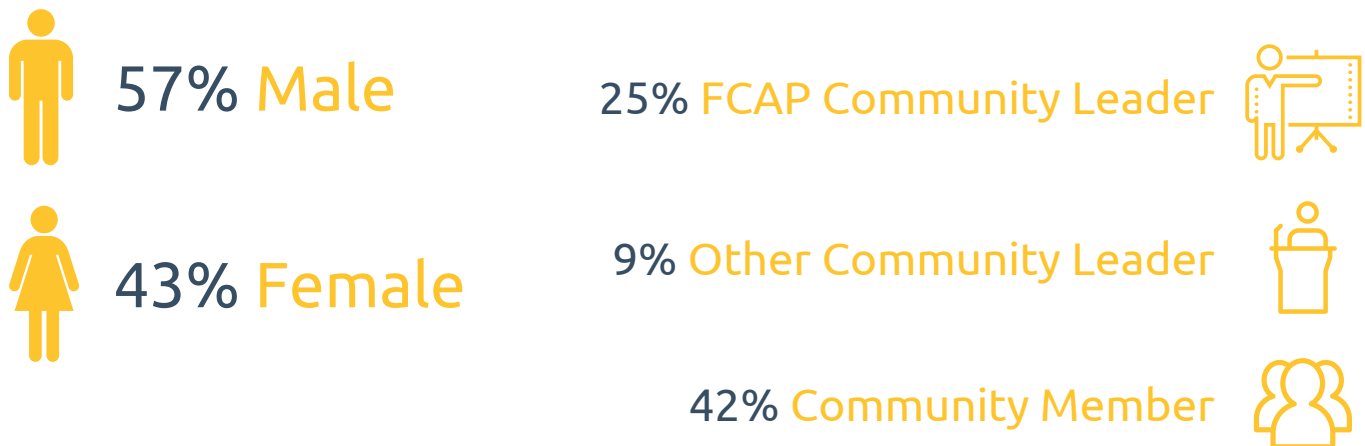
Study Demographics

This is a small sample size of **121** respondents from Burera, Gakenke, Gisagara, Musanze, and Rulindo Districts. It should not be considered representative of Rwanda's population, or Districts' population.

This data could be used to verify or sense-check other, larger data sets or observations, and inform targeted programming or additional research.

Respondents were people from Spark villages who already owned cell phones and had their numbers registered with Spark's SMS messaging platform, thus may not be representative of their broader community.

Survey Respondents



1 Social Cohesion

The biggest challenge at this time is changes to community institutions - for example no FCAP meetings, savings groups, or loss of social cohesion

What is the Biggest Challenge Facing Your Community Right Now?



M: 42%
F: 38%

Cost of Goods/
Lack of Food



M: 45%
F: 46%

Spark Savings
Group/ Cohesion



M: 19%
F: 21%

Unemployment



M: 6%
F: 4%

Conflict/Theft

"limited contact with people, when you get sick and no one can visit you get more affected, lack of trust, fear of your friend because you think they are infected"

- male, Gatwa

2 Livelihoods

Immediate concerns are around hunger and lack of ability to generate income. Over 60% of respondents report immediate economic changes in their daily life

How Has Your Day to Day Life Changed Due to the Current Crisis?



M: 64%
F: 63%

Economic



M: 22%
F: 23%

Food



M: 9%
F: 6%

Socializing



M: 3%
F: 2%

Church



M: 1%
F: 2%

Hygiene

45% of male and 24% of female respondents say the cost of goods/lack of food is the biggest challenge they face right now. Looking forward, 55% of male and 43% of female respondents are most worried about hunger, famine, and livelihoods.

"Most of our community member used to work for others, now they are jobless, hungry"

- male, Gatwa

"Staying home is becoming a challenge as most of us could earn a living by going to work for others, So getting food even paying for health insurance is not easy as there is no where we can work for money"

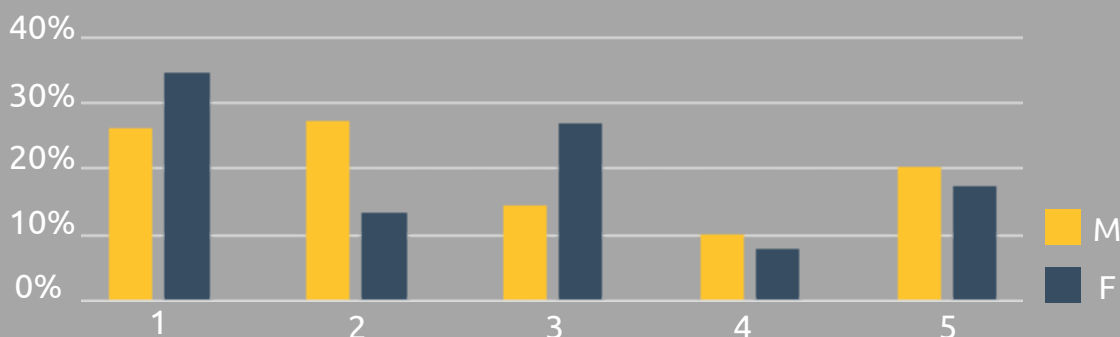
- female, Ruhuha

3 Spread & Symptoms

78% of respondents know that COVID-19 can be spread through **direct contact**.

75% of respondents know that COVID-19 can be spread through **droplets**.

How likely do you think you are at risk of getting sick with COVID-19?



Women have less fear of getting sick than men, and slightly lower levels of knowledge of how the virus can spread.

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Communication and Information Dissemination

"Due to avoiding meeting, we no longer have a way to solve community problems"

How have you received information about COVID-19? To what extent do you trust information from these sources?



99% of men and 98% of women report receiving information by radio. Radio is the most common method to receive information and is trusted by over 95% of respondents



There are lower levels of trust in messages received via social media (42%) and whatsapp (21%)



Over 90% of respondents trust information received from National Government, Local Government, over Radio, and from Spark.



Women report using, and trusting, social media and whatsapp less than men, but receive significantly more information from friends and family than men

Communication Channels:

Who Do You Communicate With?

M: 71%
F: 73%
Communicate with Family on a Daily Basis

M: 54%
F: 48%
Communicate with Neighbors on a Daily Basis

How Do You Communicate With Them?

57% Communication is Done Face to Face

Over 60% of Respondents are Communicating via Phone



M: 9%
F: 2%
Communicate on Social Media

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Long-Term Challenges for Communities



Hunger/Famine: *"It seems like many people will die from hunger instead of being killed by COVID-19...Really I am worried by the upcoming months"*



Livelihood: *"How are we going to survive without going to job? Once done with this pandemic we will start the life from zero"*



COVID-19: *"My worry is that these people are being discharged ...may not be found to have recovered because there is no cure or vaccines far"*



Education: *"I am worried about the schooling of my children. They cannot study online. Therefore, when they go back to school they will have bad notes compared to their fellow [students] who can study online"*

What Are You Most Worried About Over the Coming Months?

