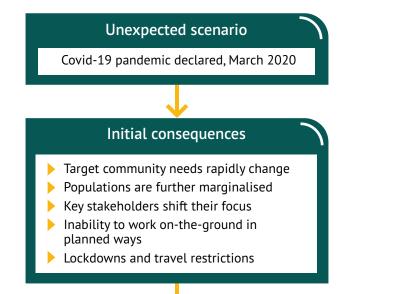


# How consortia adapted to Covid-19

## Overview

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on all the UK Aid Connect consortia. This document provides an initial snapshot of the effects of Covid-19, as well as examples of how the consortia adapted, and challenges and benefits associated with those adaptations. It also outlines the factors that enabled the consortia to adapt in response to these changing circumstances.

## Adapting to Covid-19



# Adapted work with target communities\*

- Covid-19 awareness building
- Delivery of humanitarian aid and distribution of hygiene and safety kits
- Impact and needs assessments
- Context and rumour tracking
- Development of new resources and needs-based interventions
- Pivoting activities to remote and online media
- Implementation of new health, safety, and security standards for on-the-ground activities
- Prioritisation and pause of activities

# Adapted work with key stakeholders\*\*

- Awareness raising of the impact on communities
- Convening of stakeholders to discuss impact and response
- Facilitation of dialogue and development of partnerships between diverse stakeholders
- Identification and documentation of innovative strategies and practices
- Development of policy briefs
- Prioritisation and pause of activities

# Adapted work with consortium partners

- Shift to remote and online working
- Increased emphasis on sharing and learning among consortium partners
- Increased reliance on in-country partners
- Partner training to facilitate adaptation

\*Target communities are the populations consortia are ultimately aiming to impact, such as disabled persons or LGBTQI+ groups

\*\*Key stakeholders include entities consortia are working with to improve conditions for target communities, such as local NGOs and Civil Society Organisations

## Potential challenges, benefits and enablers

#### Challenges

- Reduced quality and number of in-person interactions through the implementation of new protocols (e.g. small groups, social distancing)
- Lower quality interactions and lack of affective bonding normally associated with in-person work due to pivots to online media
- Low-quality virtual interactions and exclusion of people due to different time zones, and device and connectivity issues
- Reduction of planned activities due to prioritisation and pause of some activities

Community	Consortium
benefits	benefits
Addressing communities' most pressing concerns	Identification of potential interventions,
and strengthening relationships on-the-ground by	adaptations, and key programme priorities through
being flexible to emerging needs	knowledge collection
Increased community inclusion in communication	Development and strengthening of relationships
and response through raising awareness within and	and new forms of collaboration through convening
about communities	and dialogue
<ul> <li>Increased freedom of expression of community members through online interactions</li> <li>Greater reach and efficiency through online community engagements (e.g. virtual training)</li> </ul>	Increased inclusivity, equality and empathy among consortium members, as well as increased decolonisation and value for money, through virtual working

#### **Enablers of adaptation**

- A diverse range of partners, with different combinations of skills, experience, and resources
- Ethos of collaboration
- $\blacktriangleright$  Culture of learning and openness to challenge existing assumptions, approaches, and solutions
- Strong communication and trust among consortium partners
- Flexibility built into programme design
- Experience dealing with crises and rapidly changing external environments
- Access to capabilities and resources (e.g. for rapid intelligence collection and pivots to digital media)
- Good relationships with and support from donor organisations

### Learning from Consortia programme

The <u>Learning from Consortia programme</u> aims to improve international development practice by supporting and learning with UK Aid Connect consortia.

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