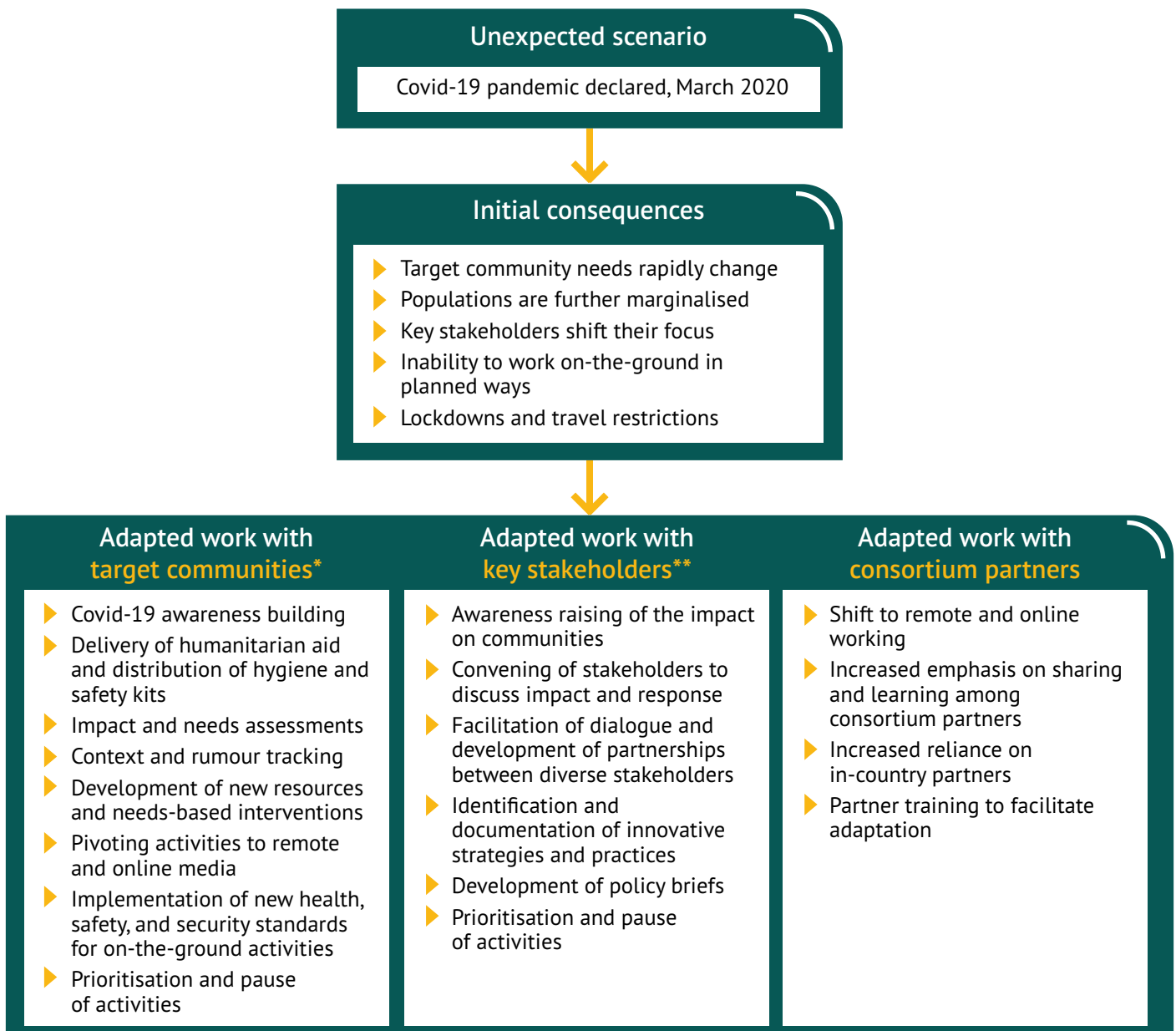


How consortia adapted to Covid-19

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



*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 benefits

- ▶ Addressing communities' most pressing concerns and strengthening relationships on-the-ground by being flexible to emerging needs
- ▶ Increased community inclusion in communication and response through raising awareness within and about communities
- ▶ Increased freedom of expression of community members through online interactions
- ▶ Greater reach and efficiency through online community engagements (e.g. virtual training)

Consortium benefits

- ▶ Identification of potential interventions, adaptations, and key programme priorities through knowledge collection
- ▶ Development and strengthening of relationships and new forms of collaboration through convening and dialogue
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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 [Learning from Consortia programme](#) aims to improve international development practice by supporting and learning with UK Aid Connect consortia.

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