COVID-19 - FSC Weekly Situation Update
06th April 2020 – 12th April 2020

RBP UPDATES

**Colombia**

**COVID cases:** 2,776

**Situation update:** The FS assessments (WFP market monitoring, Inter-agency Mixed Migration Flow Group multi-sector assessment on needs of Venezuelans, Cash Working Group assessment on market access) are all ongoing, results will be available in mid-April.

Higher vulnerability is found among IDPs, people in confinement due to violence, people in rural areas with mobility restrictions and no income generation, daily workers who lost their jobs/earnings, indigenous and afro-Colombians with low access to crops and commerce.

Impact on agriculture: high prices (higher now, but high since January due to fires and frosts), low mobility (no transportation) is an obstacle for commerce – no income, interruptions in food supply chains, impact on food supply and demand because economic activity is paralyzed – speculation.

**Humanitarian access:** The delivery of humanitarian and food aid has been significantly affected since the beginning of the crisis. While FSC partners have no mobility restrictions when it comes to immediate response (thanks to an agreement with the national government), some communities do not allow humanitarian workers for prevention and mitigation from COVID19. Restrictions on mobility due to forced isolation have also made more people vulnerable, leading to a significant increase in requests for food assistance received by the sector. Access to school feeding has also been affected since the suspension of school activities announced on 15th of March. Partners in the sector are working in close coordination with national and local authorities to ensure the continuity of this service.

**Operation coverage and changes:** there are major gaps, due to the low level of funding of both the HRP and the RMRP, and only few actors able to respond to the requests for assistance. Advocacy will be done based on the National Response Plan.

**Coordination:** All meetings are online, and partners’ participation is good.

**HRP and funding:** The COVID 19 National Response Plan (soon to be published) includes funds requested by all humanitarian partners. The Food Security and Nutrition Cluster (FS & NUT are merged) requested more than USD 47 million. This plan includes complementary/additional activities to the ones included in the 2020 HRP (released at the end of March) – for people affected by conflict and natural disasters. In addition, the RMRP will be revised.updated because of COVID19 (additional funds may be requested for the FS&N sector). An online monitoring platform (OCHA 345w) is about to be launched to gather information on response/activities developed to mitigate COVID19.
Haiti
COVID cases: 33
Situation update: No news assessments so far. Higher vulnerability is found among people living in urban areas (population density in Haiti is among the highest in the Caribbean, with over 34,000 inhabitant/km³ in the capital - 1.2 million people). The agriculture season is already expected to be weak due to economic crisis, no further data on the COVID19 impact. In addition to loss of income in the country, increase in unemployment among the Haitian diaspora in the United States could have a negative economic impact through the reduction in remittances.

Humanitarian access: NTR

Operation coverage and changes: The Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) Working Group has asked members to adjust existing cash operations to minimize the risk of exposure of personnel, partners and beneficiaries. Through Lajan Cash, Mercy Corps has the ability to provide to the community a contactless payment between the beneficiaries and a selected network of markets. Adjustments may include an increase in the number of distribution sites to avoid large gatherings (ex: CRS), collapsing monthly transfers into a single up-front transfer (ACTED, Solidarités International), or set up a hand washing area with adequate supply of hand wash solution. Cash distribution activities are also leveraged to disseminate sensitization messages at community level, in alignment with the MSPP and local authorities.

Coordination: NTR

HRP and funding: The current HRP is not yet finalized; no discussions on HRP revision yet. So far, less than 20% cover in the HRP, out of the USD 200 million requested for the food security sector (officially 6% coverage in FTS).

Venezuela
COVID cases: 181
Situation update: No new assessments. The partial results of FSC/FAO survey are out: 76% of FSC activities have been affected, and 74% of the respondents (cluster partners) mentioned there is not enough food availability. People in rural areas are most affected by availability, while urban areas are mostly affected by access issues (prices are rising). The GoV estimates a return of 15,000 people since the crisis (500-600 people every day), especially through Colombian borders. The GoV is improvising shelters in schools or churches, but food deliver for those sites is restricted. People from the surrounding areas is becoming hostile towards them, first because afraid of the disease, second because newcomers are (still) receiving more food than the local population. As far as the agriculture sector is concerned, lack of gasoline is now acute, with a high impact on milk production (milk is not being transported) and on the next (and most important) planting season. Lack of gasoline prevents the purchase of food and inputs. Closed borders is also reducing the availability of products from other countries, especially from Colombia.

Humanitarian access: Lack of safe passage and gasoline is preventing delivery of food and agricultural inputs for humanitarian projects, as well as in general access to beneficiaries. As organizations used canteens and schools to deliver food, now that those structures are shut down, not all are reaching their beneficiaries. The main safety net for food security is the CLAP box that GoV distributes, but this system has its capacity reduced, GoV is delivering less food within longer intervals.

Operation coverage and changes: New needs (and gap) have emerged at the border, with the returnees (15,000) in need of assistance. No increase in response has been registered. Shift in programming is under discussion among organizations, but not yet started.

Coordination: people are adapting fast to remote meetings, it is facilitating communication and participation and increasing interest.

HRP and funding: No change (COVID-19 Intersectoral Preparedness and Response Plan with 61M USD appeal, but no extra funds for FSL; HRP funding already very limited).
RBJ UPDATES

DRC
COVID cases: 234
Situation update: No new assessments – slight delay in getting results for First half of March (see previous week). Higher vulnerability is found among: populations of the most populated cities, population in confinement, households with members tested positive and / or dead, populations already vulnerable (55% of those who were in IPC 3 had not been considered in the target of the HRP 2020). The agriculture sectors in being impacted through a low internal production (impacted agricultural season, restricted harvest) and access to inputs (due to the breakdown of supply chains), increase in post-harvest losses (due to restrictions on the movement of goods and people, combined with existing weak processing and conservation capacities), reduced purchasing power of all those who have lost work and those who - due to movement restrictions and the closure or downturn of economic activities key - have fewer daily job opportunities.

Humanitarian access: Some key partners such as WFP got the clearance from local authorities. Some others are still negotiating. In a couple of weeks at most all partners should receive authorisations. Still some slowdown must be foreseen, given movements restrictions, new SoP to be put in place (FSC developed and shared SoP related to distributions - https://fscluster.org/covid-rdc/document/rdc-congo-csa-covid-19-orientations-du - still waiting for a clearance from local authorities), all the other already mentioned challenges. The vast majority of food assistance related activities are in stand-by (waiting for discussions and ultimate clearance from local authorities). Around 1.2 mil. people depend on them.

Operation coverage and changes: Given the evolution of the pandemic, Kinshasa must be considered its epicentre, with new (increased) humanitarian needs. Through the DRC COVID-19 response plan, around 980.000 people should be targeted. At the same time, at country level, the top-up of existing activities (food assistance + livelihoods) should target 2.6 mil. people. In terms of geographical coverage - with the only exception represented by Kinshasa - all the other provinces, already targeted by the HRP 2020, have been confirmed (with an average 20% increase in caseload). Response not yet started.

Coordination: Slight staff decrease, but essential staff are still in the country. No major consequences for coordination, more meetings have been scheduled, but some difficulties in dealing with remote working (some FSC staff and partners do not have a reliable internet access).

HRP and funding: clusters have developed an intersectoral response plan to COVID-19 (now under compilation by OCHA), which will be annexed to the 2020 HRP. Preliminary FSC data submitted to OCHA indicate extra 212M USD for additional 2,6M people to be assisted with food assistance (cash & in kind) and emergency agricultural / livelihoods support. At ICN / HCT level, discussion should happen about some HRP 2020 activities that could be excluded and/or some unit costs revised.

Mozambique
COVID cases: 21
Situation update: So far, no new assessment conducted – some assessments planned for March/April are in stand-by to see if they can be done remotely (including assessment for IPC analysis). Preliminary estimate of the number of people expected to be affected by the impact of COVID-19 (for preparedness and response plan/flash appeal) is 300,000-500,000 people (this number is under review and may change depending on how the situation evolves). The GoM decree limits freedom of movement in the whole country.

Humanitarian access: the delivery of humanitarian assistance, especially food assistance, was paused to adapt distribution to COVID-19 context, but has now resumed (particularly for WFP). Cross border trade
flow continues with neighbouring countries especially South Africa. The Social protection working group composed of UNICEF, WFP and ILO is drafting a social protection plan.

**Operation coverage and changes:**

No major gaps in FS response noted attributable COVID-19 pandemic; however, there was a slowdown (to adapt distribution modalities) and some partners are planning to limit in kind food distribution as management of the crowd and cost involved will likely be challenging. CVA kept ongoing without issues (and actually in some areas switch from in-kind to commodity vouchers). In central region, some activities at the end of the projects + capacity building / trainings have been cancelled.

**Coordination:** Active partners remain the same. Some difficulties in accessing internet (slowing down coordination efforts) in central region.

**HRP and funding:** The Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 is being developed for non-health multisectoral response (expected to be finalized within coming week) and will be adjusted into Flash appeal for COVID-19 specific fund raising. For FSC, both food assistance and livelihoods activities are planned – figures still in the working.

**Zimbabwe COVID cases:** 14

**Situation update:** The current reporting period (30/03 to 03/04 2020) was marked by the first full week under the government mandated lockdown in response to Covid19. Traders of fresh vegetables were negatively impacted in most parts of the country where tonnes of products spoilt as markets were forced to close. According to the latest market assessment report (30/03 to 03/04 2020), the proportion of interviewed traders confirmed to have maize grain readily available to sell decreased further from 2% to 1.4%. However, maize meal availability in urban areas increased by 68% week on week while the availability in rural domains decreased by 21% week on week. The official exchange rate was stable at ZWL25:1 USD, on the other hand parallel market rates decreased by 4% from ZWL44.50:1USD to the closing rate of ZWL40.50:1USD at end of week. The OMIR however rose by 35% in the current reporting week closing at ZWL 69.09:1USD, indicating no significant changes on the macroeconomic environment. The gap between the official exchange rate and parallel market rate remains huge by 62%. The temporal stabilisation and the subsequent deterioration of the official and parallel markets respectively is attributable to the decrease in demand for hard currencies as a result of the lockdown. Apparently, the panic buying, and hoarding associated to COVID 19 lockdown seems to have created a “false” market demand resulting in higher prices of goods and services. These price increases could also be attributed to a delayed market reaction to the parallel market exchange rate increases. A more comprehensive market analysis would be required for evidence-based inferences and conclusions. In Zimbabwe the most vulnerable remain people in dense urban areas. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, and Rural Resettlement advises that the agriculture sector is an essential service and that the critical productive industries, activities and services must remain operational with critical staff and strict Covid-19 preventive measures.

**Humanitarian access:** So far, all food and cash distributions are considered as “essential” therefore all FSL Cluster partners are allowed to continue distribution while respecting all protection measures for both beneficiaries and personnel.

**Operation coverage and changes:** Despite operational constraints as a result of the new protocols for operating under COVID-19, including the guarantee of personal protection equipment (PPE), FSL Cluster partners resumed food and cash distributions on 30 March after a disruption of one week. As part of the FSL Cluster food distribution resumption, WFP provided food assistance to a total of 2.022M beneficiaries while INGOs implemented mobile money transfers to 98,000 beneficiaries. Other FSL Cluster partners are resuming their food and cash distributions during the week of 6-10 April.

**Coordination:** All FSL Cluster partners continue working from home. No major change noticed.
**HRP and funding**: The HRP was published on 03rd April, with an annex on COVID. In the annex, for FSL, 31M have been requested (21M for WFP to support the implementation of new SOPs, and 10M for FAO to scale up support to the commercial sector, small holder farmers and herders and nutrition awareness). Except of second 2020 CERF envelope exclusively to increase WFP’s urban cash distribution coverage and transfer, no additional funds.

**RBC UPDATES**

**Iraq**

**COVID cases**: 1,375

**Situation update**: The Federal Iraqi Government (GoI) and Kurdistan Regional government (KRG) have exempted farmers from the lockdown/curfew restrictions, allowing them to access their land to proceed with harvesting and planting activities - this is critical given the season. The government exemption extends to agriculture labor, explicitly for harvesting crews. Wheat and barley harvesting will begin soon in the south, and then later in the north (end of May). There are approximately 4 million ha of cultivated barley/wheat in Iraq, so the ability for the machines and trucks to transport the yields to collection and marketing centers will need to be monitored closely. Additionally, farmers normally sell their wheat/barley to the government; however, farmers have expressed concern that the government may not be able to purchase their harvest due to the drop in the price of oil – need to be monitored as it will have consequences on farmer’s financial health and ability to maintain their production systems. The borders to neighboring countries remain open to imports/exports. Although drivers are not allowed to cross the borders, Iraqi drivers transport the goods once it crosses the Iraq border. Thus, food supply remains consistent and prices have remained stable, though wheat flour and lemons have risen slightly and there are concerns that prices will increase in April. For agriculture inputs, KRG has allowed agriculture shops to be open every morning for 6am to 12pm. GoI has similarly allowed farmers to access markets to purchase inputs. There are also concerns availability of inputs will decrease if the lockdown and curfews continue, so the agriculture markets and their supplies will need to be monitored.

**Humanitarian access**: Movement has been restricted due to lockdown and curfew, which has limited the ability of organizations to access beneficiaries. Certain local organizations have been exempted from these regulations, although even these organizations could not do distributions during the total lockdown (i.e. the 48 hours in KRG from April 3-5). Camp distributions are ongoing by the government (double rations to IDP camps) and the cluster partners (complementing with cash-based assistance – at lower speed than usual). The in-camp distributions are taking place as per guidelines from the government and ministry of health, mass gatherings are not allowed, and distributions take place per sector within the camps.

**Operation coverage and changes**: More partners are inquiring about food security activities and guidelines (food basket designs, response strategies, advocacy, service mapping) on a daily basis. The local government in some governorates are also involved in food basket designs. Coordination is happening virtually and no face to face meetings have taken place since late February. The cluster is maintaining consistent communication with the partners and relevant stakeholders to ensure the coordination efficiency.

**HRP and funding**: no updates

**Lebanon**

**COVID cases**: 632
**Situation update:** Data collected through protection monitoring (IRC protection weekly sitrep 30 March – 3 April 2020) demonstrates it is essential to increase the focus on food security among refugees. 97% of households with a family member with disabilities reported ‘lack of food’ as a critical concern, versus 87% of households without a family member with disabilities. Factoring in inflation (25%) and the lack of income opportunities, WFP Lebanon estimates that Syrian refugees under the SMEB poverty line could increase from 825,000 (2019) to 1,245,000 now. This represents a 51% increase in extreme vulnerability and leaves 590,000 extremely vulnerable refugees unassisted. To match even the current coverage of assistance (80% of below SMEB), assistance should step up to reach an additional 341,000 extremely vulnerable refugees. The agriculture sector has already been disproportionately affected by the current economic and financial crisis. The increase in the costs of imported agricultural inputs (e.g. seeds, fertilizers, fodder) have put in peril the current cropping season. The current COVID-19 crisis is putting an additional burden on farmers as most organizations have stopped their field interventions and farmers are not able to sell their produce due to mobility restrictions.

**Humanitarian access:** same as last week. As of end of March 2020, 50% of WFP contracted indicated to have stock of at 4 weeks. Larger suppliers indicate to WFP Retail to have food stocks covering the demand for the next two months.

**Operation coverage and changes:** mapping of partners has been done along with capacities and needs

**HRP and funding:** The gap of vulnerable refugees that are neither assisted by WFP nor by partners currently implementing COVID-19 response could be estimated at 405,000 individuals for which there are not available funds. The sector is advocating for more resources through 3ERP appeal. Lebanese support is under priority 4 under OCHA led local appeal.

**Libya**

**COVID cases:** 26

**Situation update:** REACH conducted a Rapid Market Assessment in Libya to provide a brief city-level overview of market functionality, with a focus on shortages and price spikes for basic food and hygiene items and with information gathered between 30 March and 01 April from key informants in 21 cities across Libya. According to the assessment, food prices spiked in the majority of assessed cities directly after the COVID-19 measures were implemented, with some locations reporting temporary price increases reaching 500-900%. In some cities in the eastern and southern regions, authorities reportedly intervened to correct these price hikes. Shortages of basic food items, such as eggs, vegetables and wheat products were most frequently reported. 48% of assessed cities reported food shortages and 86% of assessed cities reported food price spikes. IDPs, refugees and migrants are expected to be the most vulnerable population groups impacted by COVID-19, mainly because their employment situation is most likely impacted, they are losing their revenue sources, their overall health situation is already weak they do not have needed access to health services. Already in the HRP 2020, around half of the people in need of humanitarian assistance are internally displaced, refugees and migrants in or transiting through the country. Migration Flow Monitoring surveys conducted by IOM and a joint report by IOM WFP on hunger, displacement and migration confirm that substantial humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities are identified among unemployed migrants, recent arrivals and female migrants.

According to IOM DTM update on displacement from Abusliem municipality, following the escalation of armed conflict, at least 3,725 individuals have been displaced from their homes over the past 72 hours.
Reportedly, these internally displaced moved to safer areas within Abusliem municipality and adjacent Hai Al Andalus (1,250 new IDPs), as well as to surrounding areas, including Tajoura (825 new IDPs), Suq Al Jumaa (675 new IDPs) and Janzour (425 new IDPs). Arrivals were also reported in locations along the coast further away such as Azzawya (375 new IDPs) and Al Khums (175 new IDPs). Most IDP families are reportedly staying with host families and in rented accommodations. Humanitarian priority needs in displacement locations include food and non-food items, followed by WASH and health assistance. Daily wage workers and low-income households have been highly impacted. FAO is conducting an assessment to see the impact and best approach for continuation of operations. WFP has initiated a Libya Conflict Sensitivity Forum to understand potential impacts on its beneficiaries as well as the general population. WFP mVam for April is ongoing.

**Humanitarian access:** The dispatch of food supplies to the planned locations has been hugely affected as formal authorizations are required to be able to send the trucks to the distribution points. Obtaining the official authorizations need huge coordination and time which delays the Food distributions. The Cooperating Partners on the ground are complaining about the lack of medical supplies needed at the distribution points (masks, sanitizers). The Cooperating Partners also raised needs for additional budget to arrange COVID-19 measures in accordance with the guidelines (e.g. social distancing, disinfection, door-to-door deliveries, Personal Protection Equipment for partners and beneficiaries). WFP is distributing April packages earlier to ensure all distributions are done before Ramadan. Food Suppliers are stopping the supply of food in Detention Centres. Some FSS partners are ready for such emergency activity.

**Operation coverage and changes:** FSS has received a number of requests for food assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs and mayors of several municipalities. Most of these requests will increase the caseload for emergency food assistance. WFP is prioritizing life-saving food assistance rather than regular food assistance. WFP is considering the option of the delivery at the beneficiaries’ residence which should be studied further to minimize the risk of contagion if the Government takes the decision to apply stricter confinement regulations. WFP is also looking into the potential for online classes and or conducting training in different mediums (radio, social media etc). FAO activities are postponed or delayed.

**HRP and funding:** it is not yet being revised. However, a separate COVID-19 response is ongoing in relation to the health response plan its pillars. FSS partners will eventually request additional funding from donors, CLAs and their headquarters due to the increased caseloads and budget related to COVID-19 for the requests for food assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs and many municipalities as well as the need for additional budget to arrange COVID-19 measures in accordance with all guidelines. WFP Libya is conducting a funding analysis to guide next steps

**oPT**

**COVID cases:** 273

**Situation update:** Small farmers/herders unable to buy inputs by credit. In West Bank, particularly Bedouin groups involved in livestock and dairy activities. In Gaza Strip, all small farmers/herders. Animal feed is the main issue. Already poor and food insecure households whose purchasing power is further eroded due to decreased opportunity of daily informal jobs. People who lost jobs due the measures in place. Approximately 134,800 Palestinian working in Israel and Israeli colonies are at risk. So far, 50,000 people already identified in need by the MoSD, to be further explored. Beneficiaries of cash-based programmes in Gaza Strip, due to disruption of the bank system. Elders, PWD, poor women head of household, as less able to cope with the crisis. Some of the people in the quarantine centres (so far only in Gaza Strip) who have special payments in cash requested to suppliers and producers. Suppliers, importing inputs from Israel, cannot resort to credit as they are increasingly asked to pay in cash up front.
This was reported as a major problem, as suppliers are then requesting herders and farmers to pay up front in cash for the inputs the purchase. The usual habit between suppliers and farmers and herders to resort on informal credit to be repaid during the marketing season is virtually discontinued at the moment. This might lead farmers and herders (especially the latter) to resort to destress and negative coping strategies, including destocking on their productive assets. This will also impact farmers for crucial inputs including fertilizers, plastic sheds and other.

**Humanitarian access:** Distribution of food-in-kind and modalities for food voucher requires adaption in order to put in place safe measures. Movement restrictions are partially waived by line ministries in order to ensure execution of most critical activities. Movement restrictions are limiting access to market. Distribution modalities are adapting to new approaches. Very critical: Inputs are less accessible due to credit system discontinued. price increases in food produces. Vegetables and other fresh foods were reported as those produces mostly affected. This indicated shortages in the amount of production reaching consumers. Notably, the cost of eggs was reported as increasing. However, a shortage of eggs was only reported in Jerusalem and whole Israel, with no specific supply chain disruptions observed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**Operation coverage and changes:** no major updates

**HRP and funding:** ongoing through a dedicated Country Response plan. Total plan value: $34m. Total FSS value: $4.3m. Currently under monthly revision.

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**Sudan**

**COVID cases:** 29

**Situation update:** Prices of wheat, mostly imported, increased despite the ongoing harvest, estimated to be more than 30 percent above the previous five-year average. (FPMA Bulletin). This was mainly triggered by a poor 2019 cereal output and the weak currency, coupled with fuel shortages and the high prices of agricultural inputs inflating production and transportation costs. (GIEWS Report). Prices reached record highs due to the poor 2019 harvest and the weak currency, coupled with fuel shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs inflating production and transportation costs

**Humanitarian access:** Frequency of food distributions will be reduced with a provision of 2-3-month rations in Central Darfur. Frequency of food distributions to be reduced with a larger ration provided at each distribution in South Darfur. Registration of NGOs has stopped; all meetings and assessments cancelled by HAC in South Kordofan. All sectors including FSL have seen limitations in field missions and monitoring activities.

**Operation coverage and changes:** Starting in April, partners in most locations are planning to organize advance food distribution and distribute 2-3 months of rations at one time. This will limit the frequency of gatherings of people and potential spreading of infections.

**HRP and funding:** country preparedness and response plan published:


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**Ukraine**

**COVID cases:** 3,372
Situation update: Issues raised in last week’s situation report remain relevant especially escalating food cost and basic commodities notably in the NGCA (nongovernment-controlled areas); disruption in the supply chain due to the national quarantine measure and effect on employment and daily wage labour. The referrals are few but we predict it will increase as the quarantine measures continues. The FSL has observed daily referrals from Eastern Ukraine (the elderly) and parts of the Roma communities to the cluster for food assistance. A direct effect of the quarantine measure to contain the COVID-19 pandemic by the government. Small shops and medium businesses are closed in some areas, thus limiting access to households to meet some of their food and basic needs through purchase. The economic and social consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic are being slowly felt. The UN, NGOS, ICRC and the social protection department of Ukraine are actively planning to respond to the needs of the vulnerable beneficiaries. OCHA is in the process of allocating 2 million dollars to NGOs through an integrated package (health, food security, protection and Wash) to meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable population. The FSL discussed with REACH on their assessment plans and they would conduct an integrated cluster assessment on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The food security and livelihood indicators will also be assessed, and phone interview would be their preferred method of conducting the assessment.

Humanitarian access: Access to NGCA remains limited and checkpoints are closed, thus affecting pensioners who cross the line monthly to receive their pensions and social benefits.

Operation coverage and changes: The partners are evaluating their modalities of assistance based on the local context. In-kind modalities are being preferred to cash due to access.

HRP and funding: a revision on the current HRP annex (COVID related) will be revised based on the new guidelines.

Yemen
COVID cases: 1
Situation update:
Humanitarian access:
Operation coverage and changes:
HRP and funding

WoS
COVID cases:
Situation update: NES: Assessment: market monitoring at every 2 weeks to understand the impact on vendors capacity, supplies, commodities and accessibility by REACH and FSL partners. WFP VAM market monitoring assessment report in NES at all March month the report flagged findings on commodities availability and prices after COVID19 announced in Syria. NES: Assessment: market monitoring at every 2 weeks to understand the impact on vendors capacity, supplies, commodities and accessibility by REACH and FSL partners. WFP VAM market monitoring assessment report in NES at all March month the report flagged findings on commodities availability and prices after COVID19 announced in Syria.

Humanitarian access: NES: The economic and agriculture department with NES Internal Security Forces announced an exemption related to the Agriculture sector: farmers to work, agricultural vendors/ services to open (5PM to 1AM). FSS continues to advocate for clearer guidelines from local authorities along with
other coordination units. FSS continues to advocate for agriculture/ livelihood activities to continue so that partners can provide support/ assistance during the agricultural season (May - July) and farmers start with Fungicides and cleaning the agriculture field to mitigate the impact of diseases such as yellow rust which reported recently in NES. FSS - AGWG to work on operational guidance with regards to operational constraints in So2/3 activities which will be in line with local authority’s specification placed for COVID19. Partners required to request special approval before implementing So2/3 activities. Mixed messaging between different local authorities and miscommunication of the NGO operations and exemptions when implementing food and livelihood activities. It is highly likely that commercial suppliers will find it increasingly difficult to import food and agricultural items that humanitarian actors usually procure locally in NES. NGOs have already reported vendors inability to provide certain items (such as health items, nutrition supplies and key WASH equipment), and this is expected to deteriorate as long as the border remains closed. difficulties in import commodities to the market can cause lack of certain food commodities in the market which can reflect on missing certain food items at HH level. Disruption to hawalas resulting in delays to all cash for food and food voucher programming, delay of regular food distribution through cash and voucher modalities. Cash for fodder distributions also delayed, Lack of temperature devices in NES, Lack of approvals from HAO delaying distributions in urban areas, Curfew impacting food distributions, with adapted approach required for urban areas, with the HAO pushing for implementation of door to door mechanism. NWS: To avoid any potential COVID-19 outbreak, the authorities in Idleb governorate announced the closure of borders between Idleb and olive branch and Euphrate shield areas; Deir Ballut and Ghazawiah gates from April 1st to 15th, there exception the urgent health cases to pass through the gates. The Government of Turkey asked partners to reduce the numbers of staff who can cross the border into Syria from 10 to 2 staff per organization. (Exceptions only for Health sector). Damascus: A curfew has been added on Friday and Saturday from 12:00 noon till 6:00 AM next day. As an additional precautionary measure against the Coronavirus, the Governor of Damascus, has announced a ban in using public parks in the city.

**Operation coverage and changes:** Developing door-to-door guidance notes on food assistance with collaboration from CWG. NES: Since 14 March impact on FSS activities in NES camps and non-camp areas has been observed. Most food assistance planned through cash and voucher is suspended due to restricted movement and liquidity of hawalas. Overall Food Assistance response planned in NES for INGOs in March to reach 91,576 HH’s with regular food assistance (Voucher, Cash and in-kind), positive low improvement on food assistance operation resumed with 6% during the 5 – 9 April. Which remains 16% (72,255 beneficiaries) suspended activities with 15 days delay so far from the overall caseload of 457,860 beneficiaries. (Only INGOs) Overall Agriculture response planned in NES for INGOs in March for 16,854 HH’s (84,270 beneficiaries) including support for kitchen-garden, Cash for voucher and CFW, agri inputs, fodder distributions and fungicides. 59% of the total livelihoods and agricultural activities have been suspended since the start of the COVID19 crisis response in NES (14 March), impacting 9,924 farmers / HH’s (49,620 beneficiaries). The anticipated delay to the distribution cycle at present is 15-20 days. (Only INGOs). NWS: FSL partners have minimized the delivery of cooked meals and shifted to RTEs, so one partner is shifting from cooked meals (500 HHs for 30 days) to RTEs (957 HHs for 4 rounds; each round/RTER for one week). Damascus: 1804 HH (9,020) will not be receiving supplementary food vouchers due to funding and restricted movement. 1605 HH (9630) will not receive agri/ poultry kits planned resumption for early April. Shift in modality of programming is difficult due to heavy GoS restrictions. Provision of services to 75HH (450) suspended until further notice.
HRP and funding: waiting for WoS ISG to roll out the process. NES: In addition to a strategic-level plan for NES developed under the leadership of WHO, coordination colleagues from across hubs also agreed on the need for a more operational integrated readiness and response plan. The NES Forum is currently taking the lead on compiling this, providing a detailed breakdown of capacity, coverage plans, gaps and funding requirements in relation to critical activities identified (consistent priority actions under the 8 WHO preparedness/ response pillars). However, with the removal of UN cross border response in NES under UNSCR 2504, NGOs have seen UN funding amounting to over US$20 million withdrawn (impact on FSS at USD 1.1M). An immediate solution is needed to ensure sufficient funding under the Global COVID-19 appeal will be accessible to NES NGOs. In many areas of NES, NGOs are the primary frontline responders: lack of access to COVID preparedness and response funding will severely jeopardize COVID-19 preparedness and response. The preparedness response plan exercise was developed to measure COVID19 impact on ongoing FSL activities, exercise based on WHO/Forum pillar structure not Project based approach as this will be carried at the sector HRP review. The FSS in NES received inputs from 9 cross border partners, the cost collected in terms of preparedness response planning distributed over 72 FSL activities/ projects currently on-going across NES. Common cost impact cross partners due to COVID19 cross partners as following: 1)Increased transport costs (more localized distributions), more days and supplier should provide small number of kits per day and daily dispatch, 2)Costs for pre-packaging of food (food) (no more scooping) as we will include IEC martials inside kits by CRM program so means more time and more cost 3)Increased transfer value to cater for inflation (cash). Estimate required funding 697,569, with secured funding 123,076, this indicates 581,393 USD as a gap of funding has been determined for now as an additional operational cost of COVID19 mitigation and prevention on regular FSS programming. As this exercise focused on operational agency level with mixed programming on Sector level and during the HRP revision soon the funding gap will be structured on Project based cost rather than operation mixed cost.

Damascus: A reserve allocation of $45 million has been launched for the COVID-19. The FSS expects to receive about $2 million to support feeding for populations under quarantine as well as support additional operational costs related to the employment of new distribution measures as well as the enactment of prevention measures during food distribution to ensure the continuity of food assistance. A preparedness and response plan for Syria (Damascus hub operations) has been developed under the coordination of OCHA which will see the FSS support institutional feeding for populations under quarantine and work closely with other sectors in particular, WASH, NFI, Shelter and Health to support public information campaigns on COVID-19 and the distribution of sanitary kits such as Soap as part of the food distribution kit with an expected coverage of up to 4.5 million people.

COX’s Bazar -
Situation update: Partners (2-3) are conducting small-scale assessments to identify target beneficiaries, Daily wage for workers, small-holder farmers, Rohingya refugees; Harvest season for rice is now (April – May), lack of labour is a major concern. Food security and food production is considered highest priority by GoB – situation is expected to improve; FAO’s assessment on food availability and supply chain is ongoing. 37% of traders interviewed don’t know how long it will take to restock if current stock run out (VAM interview)

Humanitarian access: 75% of refugees received e-voucher; 20% of refugees will be relying on GFD (rice,
lentils, oil) only due to restriction of fresh food provision by GoB; **Refugees** - Access to camps restricted to critical services – General Food Assistance. Staff and vehicles entering the camps limited by Authorities. Self-reliance (SO2) activities have been completely suspended; **Host Community** – mobility of partners providing livelihood support has been restricted due to lockdown measures **Refugees** – refugees access food assistance facilities once a month, shift from value voucher to commodity voucher. all markets are closed including tea shops; **HC** – HC individuals are receiving food packages through GoB safety nets (subsidized rice, food ration of 5 items)

**Operation coverage and changes:** Small scale tailoring activities in HC which was still ongoing has been suspended this week due to increased restriction on movement; **Refugees** – e-voucher beneficiaries (75% of all refugees) are now receiving pre-packaged food rations (9 fixed food items + 1 flexible item) which meets nutritional and energy needs – total value has increased by $1.5; **HC** – GoB and army started distributing food assistance to **poor households. Target in Cox’s Bazar 40,000 HHs.** Cash assistance is permitted by GoB for HC and partners are increasingly shifting to cash assistance. Distribution of food and cash by 6 partners are being planned/just started in all sub-districts, target # of HH not yet known

**Coordination:** No significant change in # of partners on the ground. Some international staff for UN agencies and INGOs relocated to Dhaka; New activities are being planned and implemented rapidly, mainly in response to affected HC;

**HRP and funding:** Preliminary funding requirements COVID-19 response for Cox’s Bazar 116 mln ($29m for FSS) was presented to donors in Dhaka; CPRS Bangladesh: 300 mln; $22m for food assistance in isolation/quarantine/treatment facilities, $9 to support HC through food, cash, and agricultural inputs. WFP has secured funding for food provision to quarantine/isolation/treatment centers; 763,329 individuals are in need according to District Administration; JRP 2020 is 1.7% funded

**Main CHALLENGES:** Coordination with local authorities, information on ongoing assistance by local authorities

**Bangladesh -**

**Situation update:** Joint Needs Analysis is done with data collection and the draft report is shared for feedback. Street Vendors, Transport labors, Market labor, Sex worker, Bedey and trans gender community, Returnee labor, Temporary House help, Agriculture, livestock and poultry producers, People with internal displacement. Both Value chain and Supply chain for agriculture products and inputs are challenged.

**Humanitarian access:** Lock down started since 25 Mar 2020 till 11 April 2020. Markets are not functioning, value chain is disrupted as the gap between Farm gate price and retail price is almost double which also limits consumer’s economic access to food.

**Operational coverage and changes** The situation is not still unfolded as humanitarian crisis. FSC is working on Needs Analysis, Response planning, supporting the policy level, supporting the UNCT country preparedness & response Plan.

**Coordination:** Cluster monthly meeting organized. 2 Inter-cluster meetings hosted by RCO, Preparing for an anticipator HRP;

**HRP and funding:** ongoing discussions on revision – but no HRP yet

**Main challenges:** Access to community and physical movement. Situation is still considered as Health emergency with multi sectoral impact. National coordination mechanism and complementarity is not clear yet. Lack of experience on pandemic or epidemic response. Very limited resources.
**Afghanistan**

**Situation update** Ongoing price monitoring on increases for staple and high value goods, increases anticipated to affect the urban poor first with wheat prices at 15% higher than mid-March and Cooking oil at 8%. The impact on agricultural season of COVID-19 not yet clear as flooding is the primary concern for arable land impacts this week. Impact on agricultural activities will become more pronounced should the restrictions on movement of produce and labour become more severe.

**Humanitarian access:** Slowdown or pause of agricultural training and support activities; Slowdown in food distributions and assessments; Beneficiaries cannot access urban markets due to movement restrictions; Supply chain has been disrupted by border closures and export restrictions

**Operational coverage and changes:** Training activities and agricultural support programs continue to be suspended, no scale up yet in the humanitarian response to meet COVID-19 specific needs or changes to program

**Coordination:** Partners have decreased their footprint with the previous evacuation of international staff however remote coordination ongoing

**HRP and funding:** Additional funds under the COVID-19 response plan not yet materialized; Anticipated release of limited funds under AHF; Partners actively and independently sourcing new funds for COVID-19 responses

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**Pakistan**

**Situation update** No assessment of FS&A sector conducted so far, however, government of Pakistan and UN Organizations have conducted an assessment on Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Population. FAO & WFP have contributed a chapter on Livelihoods, Food Security and Agriculture Supply Chain to this assessment; Between 20-30% population (40-62 million people in Pakistan) are food insecure depending upon different indicators of food insecurity. Due to lockdown and closures of wedding halls, restaurants, small shops and dairy products businesses, the livestock sector has been badly affected. The demand for livestock products (meat particularly poultry meat, eggs, milk and milk products) has decreased. The labourers working in on-farm and off-farm have been badly affected.

**Humanitarian access:** Due to Government restrictions, the ongoing activities have been affected but organizations have developed the strategies for the response interventions according to the WHO standards of safety and prevention and Government SoPs. Access to beneficiaries is possible in most parts of the country, however gatherings are not allowed. FS&A member organizations are collaborating with government and changing the response options accordingly. More cash interventions are being proposed for the response of COVID-19.

**Operational coverage and changes:** The data on 4W matrix is being collected to see COVID-response. A quick response shows that 17 members organizations at national level have already planned/planning COVID-19 response across the country and most of them plan to do interventions for both urban and rural households.

**Coordination:** Active partnership is likely to increase as usual in such emergencies. At the moment, around 20 members are active at national level, 21 in Sindh, 13 in Balochistan and around 20 in Newly Merged Areas (former FATA) of KP. The coordination work and level would increase in the context of COVID-19. Unlike previous frequency of monthly meetings, fortnightly meetings of the Food Security &
Agriculture Working Group are being planned. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has asked UN to activate working groups for different sectors including Food Security and Agriculture (which is already active) at the national and provincial/regional levels in the context of COVID-19. These working groups would be activated next week which will improve coordination.

**HRP and funding:** No HRP was developed in the country, as there was no active emergency since last few years. Based on joint Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the Government and UN, a response plan is also being developed which will be used to generate funds for COVID-19 response. Member organizations are reprogramming their activities considering the needs due to COVID-19.

**Main challenges:** Rapid rise of COVID-cases and possible continuity of lock down, and resulted logistics issues; Massive scale of emergency and response considering the large vulnerable population; Lack of/limited funding for coordinated response

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**RBN UPDATES**

**South Sudan**

**Situation update:** Additionally excellent COVID risk mapping of vulnerability paper – South Sudan country with highest vulnerability and risk to COVID in Africa: [https://africacenter.org/spotlight/mapping-risk-factors-spread-covid-19-africa/?utm_source=Media+Review+for+April+6%2C+2020&utm_campaign=Media+Review+for+April+6%2C+2020&utm_medium=email#density](https://africacenter.org/spotlight/mapping-risk-factors-spread-covid-19-africa/?utm_source=Media+Review+for+April+6%2C+2020&utm_campaign=Media+Review+for+April+6%2C+2020&utm_medium=email#density); Labour shortages + Desert Locust; current food insecurity due to high food prices (urban poor & poor/extreme poor food deficit HHs: post flood affected locations most people have had zero own production);

**Humanitarian access:** Regional trade affected; source market prices rising; despite borders still open to humanitarian and commercial trade there are delays, shortages, funding gaps, pipeline breaks; So far no restrictions on WFP distributions; advocacy and dialogue with GOSS on the importance of Food & Seeds for a country on the brink of very serious food insecurity in some locations; Big push on pre-positioning of both food and seeds;

**Operational coverage and changes:** No change in coverage; focus on life saving essential activities only; schools closed (no education projects); big focus on COVID-19 IEC/ messaging etc. Priority focus is for the camps: POC/ refugee etc. and urban programmes; plus the large number of IPC 4 counties (number increasing as we move into the lean season); COVID + Desert Locusts could not have come at a worse time; No major shift; attempt to support HHs with 2-3 month rations/ cash in case access/ shutdown does not permit distributions next month ..... ditto for the push to get emergency crop kits out (also closing in on the optimum farming window for the northern counties);

**Coordination:** No change; but several disruptions & uncertainty: staff locked out the country (national &; some international staff re-located to Uganda (before border and flights stopped); Coordinating SSHF partners (selected this past week) to support the national Emergency Livelihood Response programme (ELRP/ FAO) in place; not affected but must ensure that seeds are pre-positioned in time; Sub clusters operating as we all are: de-congested (working from home; decongested office; fewer face to face meetings; almost all meetings online; this creates challenges for national staff access internet etc.); some agency/ NGO with budget able to support staff & upgrade IT spec and infrastructure etc.
HRP and funding: No plans in place to make any revisions of HRP: too focused on business continuity planning now shifting to activating contingency plans since 1st positive case confirmed April 2nd; not yet on the HCT/ ICCG agenda; Some FSLC partners have received new COVID grants; funding for UN agencies from the Global COVID HRP;

Main challenges: #1 clearly to ensure food/ humanitarian goods are not blocked or restricted; South Sudan 100% dependent upon imported food at this time of the year (lean season) and will be the case for the next few months; healthcare system that is not prepared for pandemic like COVID-19; there are only two ventilators in the whole country; and there is no advanced medical care for COVID-19;

Somalia

Situation update: FAO in collaboration with FSC, is in the process of rolling out key messages related to the desert locust to the affected population; FSC participated at the first FSNWG sub working group meeting discussing on harmonizing desert locust impact assessment tools and methodologies. The harmonized tools will serve organizations and countries in assessing the impact of desert locust. It was agreed that there is need to incorporate module on the impact of the desert locust in the planned seasonal assessments. Teleconferencing and WFP’s mVAM, to be used for surveys given the COVID 19 pandemic. Most parts of Somalia will remain dry in the next seven days, apart from some areas in Gedo, Bay, Middle Juba and Lower Juba regions, in the south where light to moderate rains are expected. Moderate wet conditions are also expected in the Ethiopian highlands within the week. Other areas including Somaliland, Puntland and central regions will remain dry or receive minimal rains during the week (source: SWALIM); River levels along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers continued to rise gradually but still remain below normal at this time of the year. The levels may increase further towards the end of the week with no risk of flooding. (source: SWALIM)

Humanitarian access: As part of measures to curb the spread of COVID 19, the Government closed all schools, universities as well as large public gatherings. As result, the following activities have been affected (stopped): School meals activities; Some of the Food for assets/Cash for assets/Cash for training For the activities that are still ongoing, partners have had to adapt delivery and distribution protocols to ensure appropriate social distancing while provide handwashing facilities.

Operational coverage and changes: There was a marked decline of the responses in March across the response objectives. Under objective 1 (improved access to food and safety nets), FSC partners assisted 622,523 out of 1,655,504 targeted (38% achievement). There was a general reduction of responses in February and March 2020 compared to the previous months. Objective 2 (provision of seasonal livelihood inputs), the number of people reached to date is 9% of the seasonal target (1,510,650). Under Objective 3 (supporting livelihoods through conditional transfers), FSC partners reached 177,919 beneficiaries (or 12%) compared to a target of (1,455,102). This achievement is less than last month’s coverage where 14% of the target was reached; These trends are concerning to FSC. The FSC is reaching out seeking explanations for the decline. It is important for FSC to follow up with partners so that they adjustment implementation modalities to reach affected population even in the face of COVID 19.

Coordination: The FSC, as with other clusters, received a request from OCHA to provide inputs to the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP). The FSC has requested partners to review existing/approved HRP projects and provide feedback on which activities are still relevant as well as any additional activities that may need to be considered/included.

HRP and funding: The FSC is part of the additional requirements outlined in the Somalia COVID-19 Country
Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP). This is a joint effort by key UN agencies and cluster partners including NGOs; The FSC targets, that are additional to what is in the 2020 HRP, are as follows: 520,000 IDPs; 18,352 rural households; 2,840 Riverine households; 4,380 Pastoral households; **Total USD 71.18 million for 6 months**

**Main challenges:** Lack of interaction due to social distancing may lead to targeting challenges as partners reduce or desist from direct consultation and begin to rely on the local authorities and structures to target the most vulnerable. Closure of schools may increase child protection concerns exposing them to many dangers and the possibility of child labour. COVID 19 only compounds access challenges that have existed for a while in Somalia. Of note, this will make it challenging to effectively response (or even prepare) for the projected seasonal flooding during the Gu season.

**Ethiopia**

*Situation update:* The government is working on analysis of people who will require humanitarian assistance, due to the negative impact of COVID-19 related shocks. There are indications that the urban poor including the destitute, homeless and those in informal sectors will face food consumption gaps. The government is supporting some of the urban poor through cash assistance. The food cluster is following up with partners on response to communities that are already being assisted through the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). In 2020, the most vulnerable people in IDP and returnee commodities are being assisted. The economic shock as a result of the COVID-19 will likely contribute to increased food needs among these people. The country declared a State of Emergency [LINK under Article 93 of the constitution](https://www.legifrique.com/constitutions/constitutions/Ethiopia.html) on the 8th of April, to implement measures that will prevent the spread of COVID-19. This measure has not affected food cluster response.

**Humanitarian access:** There are regional level restrictions that were applied as measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Currently there are no reports that indicates delays in delivery of food rations to targeted locations. As reported last week, the food cluster and partners have agreed to provide two rounds of food rations to cover food needs up to end of May. This was considered as a measure to reduce the visits to and from food distribution points. Operational coverage and changes: No new major shift in programming so far except minor change in programme activities like double allocation of round 1 and round 2 of 2020 HRP.

**Coordination** No impact on number of partners and staff. Coordination is being done remotely as much as possible.

**HRP and funding:** 2020 HRP was finalized on January 28, 2020 ([LINK](https://www.ripple-effect.org)); COVID-19 related needs are expected to be included in government contingency plan and there are discussions to have a review to the HRP.

**RBD UPDATES**

**Central African Republic**

**COVID cases:**

*Situation update:* high price increases noted in Bangui due to border closure, increase of bureaucratic measures and travel restrictions. This will impact the IDPs. It will also impact the food crops as it is planned to start soon due to the limitation of agricultural inputs
Humanitarian access: humanitarian access is very limited in the area due to armed groups. Most of the security incidents happen in North East and South East (IPC 4); access to market become more and more difficult due to transport limitation

Operation coverage and changes: No changes so far: no new area, no new benf;

HRP and funding: HRP is being revised; considering HPF for this crisis

Challenges: communication with the members of the FSC; funds mobilisation; adaptation of the FSC members to respond adequately; intersectoral coordination

**Cameroon**

COVID cases: 848

Situation update: all assessments are on hold; exploring the use of WFP mVAM for the markets monitoring. The most vulnerable are the IDPs who are currently not able to access assistance due to the ongoing conflict crisis.

Humanitarian access: The delivery of humanitarian assistance is currently slow due to the COVID 19. The travel restrictions are currently impacting the beneficiaries' access to some distribution points

Operation coverage and changes:  
- There are currently no new gaps or suspended activities due to COVID-19 however the prevailing insecurity concerns have continued to hinder the delivery of humanitarian assistance by partners.  
- There has not been any case of new area intervention or increase in beneficiary numbers  
- Existing programming and modalities are still being practiced with increased sensitization among frontline staff and beneficiaries to ensure precautionary measures are being followed

HRP and funding: HRP in planning stage

Challenges  
- Lack of adequate PPEs, putting the frontline staff at risk.  
- Lack of adequate funding for the COVI19 adjustment measures e.g. handwashing kits etc  
- Lack of adequate IT capacity by local partners to adjust to remote working/working from home,

**Burkina Faso**

COVID cases: 515

Situation update:  
- market assessment and a special assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on food security (WFP). The market is stable and no major impact on food security. 40 markets have been closed in Ouagadougou.  
- The humanitarian assistance is slowing down because the adaptation measure,

Humanitarian access:  
- Still lockdown  
- In the East Region the talks with the governor have renewed the food assistance.  
- Djibo (145K IDPs) in the Soum Province, Sahel Region, seems to be isolated for complex reasons. The humanitarian operations are discontinued.

Operation coverage and changes:  
- for food assistance to 500 people in quarantine and to 2000 vulnerable people in Ouagadougou  
- All the usual humanitarian activities are going on  
- 23K people planned by cash will be assisted by in-kind in Kaya (Sanmatenga, Centre-Nord)

HRP and funding: The FSC is working on the revision of HRP Burkina Faso and the new GHRP COVID-19

Challenges: fundraising for food security with the donors
Mali
COVID cases: 123
Situation update: market analysis and households' vulnerability due the Covid-19 (results next week)
Humanitarian access: lockdown on
Operation coverage and changes:
• all training activities, workshop on the fields
• Some members maintain cash distribution and other switch to cash or in kind
HRP and funding: HRP revision on going

Niger
COVID cases: 548
Situation update: 1.6 million people were in need food assistance in 2019 (source OCHA) with 50,000 people
Humanitarian access: transport is limited by GoN as well as meeting/gathering.
Operational coverage and changes: due to transport limitation, impact on activities is foreseen but not yet evaluated; analysis of the criticality of each activity but so far, no activities are postponed yet.
Coordination: meetings are online; with issues for the LNGO to attend due to IT issues
HRP and funding: discussion on going
Challenges: no specific FSC staff for the FSC; double hatting staff; it is difficult to get information: from the FSS “team”, no update on OCHA on Niger or on WFP and FAO webpage or outdated information.

Chad
COVID cases: 23
Situation update: No assessments conducted recently
Humanitarian access:
• Closure of all non-essential shops, schools, etc.
• Border are closed for peoples;
• Curfew
Operation coverage and changes:
• The school feeding program is suspended.
• There are not new area / people covered (increase in response) related to COVID19
• There is not shift of programming (e.g. from in-kind to cash)
HRP and funding: nothing to report
Challenges: IT access for many FSC members

Nigeria
COVID cases: 343
Situation update:
• prices starting to increase and relative scarcity of some items, especially of imported rice and red beans due to forex fluctuations and import bans (prior to C19)
• Vulnerability Analysis: the FSS in coordination with the Cadre Harmonize stakeholders are in initial stages to establish a special task force
Humanitarian access: inter-state restrictions on movements still exist in the whole country. However, Adamawa State restrictions still exists as reported last week. Yobe State has also imposed inside state restrictions.

Operation coverage and changes:
- Increase coordination with WASH clusters and WASH partners for hygiene measures on distribution sites
- 3 tasks forces: food assistance; remote market monitoring and agriculture-livelihood taskforce
- Biometrics continues with extra measures
- In Adamawa, reports on significant impact on other livelihoods activities starting to show
- No significant change in operations so far apart from the challenges that partners are facing with implementing the precautionary measures mentioned in part one above

HRP and funding
The Humanitarian Coordinator approved $ 839 million as the funding requirement for the 2020 for Nigeria HRP. The HRP final figure was released yesterday as a total of 212 Million USD for FSS ONLY. About 3.8 million people are in need (FSS only) as per current/not yet updated HRP. However, targeted population is only 3.3 million because an estimated 0.5 million are estimated to be in inaccessible areas.