



## COVID-19 - FSC Weekly Situation Update 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### RBP UPDATES

#### **Colombia**

**COVID cases:** 3,233

**Situation update:** WFP is preparing an analysis of the impact of the crisis among the most vulnerable groups and, in conjunction with FAO, an assessment of market functionality to inform plans to increase assistance with CBT. The needs assessment carried out by the IMMFG for Venezuelan migrants and refugees found that food intake (# meals per day) in the migrant population worsened: % of HHs having 3 meals/day went down from 59.3% to 15% (especially in Atlántico, Nte Santander, Bogotá, Nariño and Valle del Cauca), two meals/day increased from 36% to 57.6% and one meal/day from 4.8% to 23.3%. In terms of diet diversity, consumption of meat, chicken and milk reduced (respectively only 4.8%, 8% and 8.5% of respondent). According to WFP price monitoring report, there is a risk of food shortage due to isolation measures and hoarding phenomena, border closures, interruption of the cold chain, increased external demand, shortage of labor, loss of crops and products. Prices increase due to speculation and low supply; the most affected products are eggs, bananas, chicken and beef, oil, cereals and grains, with price increases ranging between 10% and 15%. According to FAO's monitoring and analysis of the agribusiness chain, prices of fruits and vegetables have also increased, with a potential negative impact of the nutritional status of the most vulnerable people. Since the beginning of 2020 increases in prices were recorded at the wholesale level, due to climatic factors such as frost and forest fires, which affected crop productivity. In rural communities, the low supply of fuel and transportation is causing a price increase of food and basic NFIs. Additionally, the shortage of fertilizers, veterinary supplies and other assets, as well as the high costs / low supply of fuel / transportation begin to affect agricultural production.

**Humanitarian access:** NTR compared to previous week

**Operation coverage and changes:** WFP has revised its assistance modalities and plans a significant increase in cash transfers as a safer method of distribution. School feeding programs have been adapted with the provision of take-home rations for families of children affected by the suspension of school activities. Food is being prepositioned to ensure continued assistance in areas where support with cash transfers is not possible. Health protocols have also been implemented to ensure that distributions are made safely for WFP beneficiaries, partners, and staff. In addition, WFP is providing emergency response to new populations in need due to COVID-19; in recent weeks, WFP received requests to assist 800k people, and is conducting a targeting exercise to prioritize the most vulnerable with the available resources. Major gaps between needs and financial resources are of concern for the FSC partners.

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

**HRP and funding:** NTR compared to previous week (COVID 19 National Response Plan and RMRP revision still ongoing)

## Haiti

**COVID cases:** 41

**Situation update:** No new assessments so far. Strong concern that the measures taken by the GoH to contain the spread of COVID-19 threaten the livelihoods and food access of the most vulnerable Haitian populations. Vulnerabilities: 322 detainees have been released from Haitian prisons, including 21 women and 12 minors. Most of these detainees were in prolonged pre-trial detention while others were convicted for minor crimes, nearing the end of their sentence, or had co-morbidities linked to the COVID-19.

**Humanitarian access:** Some NGOs reported that their operations were affected by restrictions of movement as a preventative measure to limit the spread of the virus, at the departmental level. Efforts are underway to establish “Laissez passer” protocols to enable movement of humanitarian staff. The municipality of Pétionville (one of the 6 municipalities of the capital Port-au-Prince) adopted new measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, including a ban on sidewalk sales and a reduction in the opening hours and days (3 days/ week) of public markets where now only food vendors are allowed to operate. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, surveillance activities for other diseases, including those with elevated incidence and high epidemic potential (e.g., malaria, diphtheria), have been significantly reduced. Furthermore, numerous activities related to reproductive health and gender-based violence, including mobile clinics, have been suspended.

**Operation coverage and changes:** NTR compared to previous week

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

**HRP and funding:** The current HRP is not yet finalized; discussions ongoing on possible additional PiN and extra funded needed due to COVID19.

## Venezuela

**COVID cases:** 204

**Situation update:** NTR compared to previous week

**Humanitarian access:** NTR compared to previous week

**Operation coverage and changes:** NTR compared to previous week

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

**HRP and funding:** NTR compared to previous week

## RBJ UPDATES

### DRC

**COVID cases:** 267

**Situation update:** NTR compared to previous week

**Humanitarian access:** NTR compared to previous week

**Operation coverage and changes:** NTR compared to previous week

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

**HRP and funding:** The DRC COVID-19 response plan has been approved by the HCT. The HRP 2020 will be revised by 15/05. The FSC will be part of a restricted working group (made by DFID, ECHO, UNICEF, 1 NGO representative, another cluster) to further work on scenarios and to better understand how to turn the COVID-19 response plan into reality. It seems FSC scenarios could be kept at country / intersectoral level.

### Mozambique

**COVID cases:** 31

**Situation update:** Preliminary estimate of the number of people expected to be affected by COVID-19 in Mozambique for flash appeal is approximately 500,000 people (this number is under review and may change depending on how the situation evolves)

The Agriculture Working Group (AWG) will be resuming preparatory activities on a survey to assess the access of agricultural land for households living in resettlement sites in the Provinces of Sofala and Manica. The consequences of COVID-19 pandemic will disproportionately affect urban and peri-urban population more severely because of reliance on informal employment sector and high dependency on daily income for livelihoods.

**Humanitarian access:** there is no movement restriction therefore people can easily access market and supplies. The delivery of humanitarian assistance is allowed.

**Operation coverage and changes:** Partners have access to beneficiaries, but to comply with disease control strategy limited number of beneficiaries can be served at a time, increasing the cost of operations. In some cases there has been a slowdown in food security responses for partners (e.g. ICRC closed operations in central region in March 2020 and concentrating in Northern part - Cabo Delgado Provinces). Discussion ongoing about the shift/prioritization of urban/peri urban areas (new caseload); exact number of people to be targeted still to be defined. Partners are making deliberate efforts to shift programming toward social protection and CVA. The Social Protection Working group (WFP, UNICEF, ILO) in collaboration with development partners (WB, DFID and Sweden) is discussing ways to support GoM Multisectoral Preparedness and Response Plan to COVID-19. WFP COVID-19 responses under the above initiative include UN support to social protection and WFP cash transfer under emergency response.

**Coordination:** Participation in cluster is getting better at the national level and there is higher interest. Overall the National COVID-19 Responses are structured under (1) Ministry of Health National Plan for Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 (for the health sector) and (2) the GoM Multi-Sectoral Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 (for non-health sectors) led by National Disaster Management Institute (INGC). The FSC falls under component 2. The GoM Multi-sectoral plan is being finalized

**HRP and funding:** The Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 developed earlier for non-health multi-sectoral response was adjusted into Flash appeal (May to October 2020). It contributes to Multi-Sectoral Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 (for non-health sectors) currently being prepared by the INGC and its partners. The flash appeal will be the basis for country inputs into gHRP. First draft is under review by inter cluster group. The Food Security component foresees (to be confirmed): a) duration: 6months (May to October 2020); b) People Targeted: 0.5M for food assistance and 1.1M for livelihood; c) Funds requirements: USD 40 million.

## **Zimbabwe**

**COVID cases:** 23

**Situation update:** findings from FSL Cluster partners regarding formal markets indicate that big supermarkets remain operational (hours reduced between 9am and 3pm, and special measures in place to mitigate against the spread of COVID 19 such as limiting the number of customers in the shop per time and applying hand sanitiser on customers hands as the entrance), price have increased for basic commodities (due to high demand not supported by supply), USD has been introduced into the basket of currencies, traders are still accepting Ecocash, Swipe and cash. As far as the informal markets are concerned, tuck-shops and informal markets (including areas for maize grain, small grains and dried vegetables) remain closed, while fresh fruit and vegetable markets remain in some places. Vendors are setting up their stalls in their homes and selling to neighbours. The closure of markets has contributed to an increase in prices with those having an opportunity to sell taking advantage of commodities shortages.

**Humanitarian access:** people in rural are not allowed to take transport to urban areas where shops remain open and supplied (affecting impact of Cash / mobile money activities).

**Operation coverage and changes:** NTR compared to previous week

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

**HRP and funding:** HRP 2020 addendum (for COVID) under preparation (FSL submitted its part on the 16th of April).

## RBC UPDATES

### Iraq

**COVID cases:** 1,482

**Situation update:** WFP VAM has conducted a market monitoring to highlight the impact of the disease outbreak on the market, prices and supply chain. FAO, WFP and World Bank have issued a Food Security Monitor, highlighting access for farmers and livestock owners to their lands, Government's measures taken to ensure the normal functioning of food supply chain. Barley harvesting has begun in the southern governorates – the Ministry of Agriculture has been facilitating the movement of machinery and labourers. Until now, no issues have been reported. Farmers continue to be able to access their fields and herds despite the continuing curfew.

**Humanitarian access:** Movement restrictions designed to prevent COVID-19 transmissions remains the main challenge that partners face. Movement between governorates highly impacts partner activities and the delivery of goods.

**Operation coverage and changes:** Partners have reported gaps in funding and advocacy

**HRP and funding:** The COVID19 response document has been finalized and submitted to OCHA. FSC has asked for \$21.16M for the COVID-19 response, \$3.27M is already under the 2020HRP while an additional \$17.8M has been included in the FSC requirements

### Lebanon

**COVID cases:** 668

**Situation update:** The same information applies from last week with addition from HCR protection monitoring results during 20 March to 5 April. They confirm that especially older refugees/people with disabilities/ people with critical medical conditions report an even greater need for food and they are reducing their food consumption to cope with the situation. 78% of respondents reported difficulty to buy food due to cost, especially in the South. WFP continues to monitor market functionality and food access and next results will be ready first week of May.

**Humanitarian access:** Overall same as last week but in certain regions, access to ATMs for beneficiaries to redeem their assistance has been affected by municipalities measures closing ATMs. The Ministry of Agriculture will soon share an emergency package on agriculture where food reserves are going to be tackled

**Operation coverage and changes:** As in previous weeks, regular programme activities for partners implementing agriculture related projects are still on hold. Some partners implementing cash for work projects are considering providing unconditional transfer to the caseload. School feeding has been suspended as well although alternative modalities are being currently explored. Increase of organizations not previously under the LCRP of the FSS are planning to provide food assistance. Overall, the main modality proposed for assistance among partners is in kind due to the different isolation scenarios envisioned by the Inter-sector coordination.

**HRP and funding:** 2020 LCRP was finalized but not yet launched. The sector is advocating for more resources through 3ERP appeal. COVID-19 related needs are expected to be included in the 3ERP appeal. For the FSS, needs related to COVID-19 amount to a total of \$46,543,000 for 3 months, additional to the 2020 LCRP budget and covering agriculture and food assistance.

## **Libya**

**COVID cases:** 49

**Situation update:** REACH will publish the Weekly JMMI this week. However, it was noted that the price of the MEB has significantly increased across Libya, with a median of 29% increase and reaching 50% in the south. FSS partner IOM/DTM will conduct an assessment on migrants in urban areas, based on FCS and coping strategies. Around 1,000 interviews will be conducted before Ramadan. According to IOM, migrants are in dire need of food assistance, in detention centres and urban settings

**Humanitarian access:** Obtaining the official authorizations continues to need huge coordination and time which is delaying the Food distributions. Many areas are reporting food availability problems. In addition to border closures and import restrictions, movement of food supplies is disrupted among the 3 areas due to conflict, several government controls and militias. Starting 17 April, there will be a 10-day 24-hour lockdown/curfew in GNA controlled areas, which will greatly affect FSS partners' April monthly distributions, as well as the Rapid Response mechanism (RRM) and the Migrants and Refugees Response Mechanism (MRRM).

**Operation coverage and changes:** Monthly food distributions are continuing, and will expand to Alkufra, Ejdabiya and Sirt due to increased needs. Numbers are being verified according to needs and vulnerabilities through quick needs assessments. RRM is also being used as a quick response to displacements. FSS partners continue to receive several 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. As food suppliers are stopping the supply of food to Detention centres, a gap is expected soon. WFP is looking at the COVID-19 response with a conflict sensitivity lens. WFP Libya is reviewing the PROs & CONs and cost implications of the COVID-19 precautionary ways of food distributions, including the new options of door-to-door food distributions and food distributions by mobile units.

**HRP and funding:** No plans yet to revise the HRP; it was agreed by the ISCG to have the COVID-19 Health Response Plan (which also includes prioritization of activities) as an addendum to the HRP. Several donors have noted that they will reduce or withhold funding and re-channel it to their respective country. FSS has received 4.8% of its USD 15 million ask in HRP2020. USD 2 million were received through CERF specific for the COVID-19 response

## **oPT**

**COVID cases:** 402

**Situation update:** WB and Gaza - According to MoSD, approximately 53,000 families are considered falling into poverty. The driver of vulnerability is loss of jobs due to COVID-19 restrictions and further closures. MoSD conducted a quick survey only on the number of families who lost their sources of income according to the type of work of the family breadwinner. MoSD is expecting that the number of new poor families will reach to one hundred thousand within a month. Figures are expected to further increase if the emergency period is prolonged

**Humanitarian access:** WB and Gaza - Due to movements restrictions, the medical herbs market in the Jordan Valley was affected significantly. The harvesting season has already begun, farmers were not able

to export their production at all. Similarly, the commercial, industrial and agriculture chamber in Tubas, during the last 10 days, only 2 certificates of origin were issued - document needed for moving goods inside/outside WB - compared to 50 used to be issued in this period for the same group of farmers. Currently, the volume of sale has reduced compared to the period before the COVID-19 crisis in both West Bank and Gaza Strip since the number of customers has decreased.

**Operation coverage and changes:** The MoA and NGOs partners highlight the importance of ensuring the continuity of Palestinian agri-food value chain as a crucial goal. Preventing its disruption is a top national priority at the immediate, medium and long term. MoA called international partners to give priority to that concern in their planning and programming. MoA is looking forward at the short and medium term to help and sustain production and stabilize the local agri-food market. Which includes: Provision of time critical inputs for small scale farmers, Support to home-based food production, Support to small scale food processor, Support to innovative marketing facilities and Boosting food basket initiatives (including fresh vegetables, olive oil, dairy production, etc...). To prevent deterioration, and ensure adequate level of food security of poor and marginalized households, as stressed also by the MoSD. New emerging groups of poverty are reported, due to loss of jobs, especially those who were living out of daily wages from informal works. The major challenge is represented by the time gap between the immediate needs and the availability of required resources to address these needs.

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

## Sudan

**COVID cases:** 33

**Situation update:**

**Humanitarian access:**

**Operation coverage and changes:**

**HRP and funding:**

## Ukraine

**COVID cases:** 4,662

**Situation update:** Prior to the national quarantine measures announced on March 16, 54 out of 119 isolated settlements had no grocery shops and depended on mobile shops. Residents travelled on buses to the nearest settlements or towns to purchase food and other basic commodities. But the quarantine and restrictions measure limited the only market access. Intercity and interregional transport, including rail, buses, and air were ordered suspended by the government. Urban transport is allowed but with some restrictions. Therefore, access to food for 2,395 people in isolated settlements is restricted. 29 isolated settlements have no access to mobile grocery shops (UNHCR). 6 FSLC partners identified 11 assessments linked to COVID-19. They planned to conduct a needs assessment of the vulnerable population, mostly the elderly, food and livelihood assessment and impact of COVID-19 on business and self-employment activities. Others are assessing the capacity and vulnerability of UN recovery and peace-building initiatives and response to COVID-19 and challenges, a rapid survey of food supply chains in Europe and Central Asia and the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) express survey.

**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:** 4 UHF projects were approved. Partners are seeking funding from donors and the public to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population

## **WoS**

### **COVID cases: 38**

**Situation update:** NES: Market Assessment: market monitoring every 2 weeks to understand the impact on vendors capacity, supplies, commodities and accessibility by REACH and FSL partners. Regular price monitoring monthly assessment by WFP VAM unit during COVID19. WFP's VAM market monitoring report shows an increase in prices for food commodities in the last week of March compared to the first and third weeks. Increase in the informal exchange rate by 21% in Al-Hassakeh and Qamishli markets, 12% in the Ar-Raqqa market and 16% in the Ain Issa market. Food commodities are still available in the markets, though with less volume for vegetables and fruits. Due to the operational restrictions the flow of vegetables and fruits from source markets to NES markets have been affected as these commodities cannot be stored in the markets and require frequent replenishments daily, dry foods and dairy products are still available. There is significant Impact on financial access as wide sections of society have no/ limited access to income due to the current curfew/lockdown in place. The main sectors affected are: waged labourers, taxi drivers, skilled labourers, NFI/ small retailers, and technicians in industrial areas. Public sector employees are facing difficulties in getting their salaries especially those who are based in rural areas as many of them were already working two jobs to try to make ends meet. Lack of cash liquidity is impacting part of the regular programming as Hawalah's don't have the usual capacity to carry on. also challenges in access to people in need in Deir Zor Governorate due to security challenges. NWS: REACH assessment shows in March, the regional SMEB food component value increased by 5%, of which the vegetable component increased by 12%. Price increases may reflect Emergency Needs Tracking findings which shows food was the second most commonly reported priority need of IDP communities, and that 17% and 32% of IDP populations were eating one meal or less per day in both Idleb and Aleppo governorates, respectively. HNAP assessment conducted at the sub-district level during this reporting period shows the bakeries, health services, and markets are open in nearly all the assessed communities. Damascus: VAM Market assessment shows COVID-19 has stressed the market in Syria further as some staple commodities are running low such as lentils and wheat with high prices reported for different modalities, reduced operating hours leading to reduced income many traders of non-food items forced to shut business. While decreasing on international markets, fuel (diesel & gas) prices continue increasing in Syria, on the informal market diesel is 168% of the official price & butane gas is 248%. The government will start distributing bread using the smart cards which are operated through private sector companies

**Humanitarian access:** NES: Following last week's exemption announced by local authorities to allow farmers to continue to work as well as agricultural vendors to be open according to determined hours (5 PM to 1 AM). Ongoing advocacy and communication by the AWG with the local authorities has meant there will be an extension of 15 days for the exemption starting from 7/4/2020 until 21/4/2020 inclusive. The FSL sector with the local authorities to clarify details of the exemption as below: Farmers are allowed to move during the day with no restricted hours, the only condition they must have is an ID Card obtained by the agriculture union office unit where they registered which was cleared by internal security forces in NES as well; Farmers to carry the ID Card in all travels and to show at check point's; Agricultural and veterinary pharmacies and stores specialized in repairing and selling spare parts for agricultural machinery (harvesters, tractors, and everything related to agricultural machines) only allowed to be open from 5 pm to 1 am the following day; Partners to follow the same producers regarding providing any humanitarian assistance in NES, Agriculture support will require similar procedures for obtaining the approval; Allowing agriculture workers to travel to the farms and to stay with the land area continuing the regular work.;

During transportation, travel permission only allowed trucks with 10 workers or less workers travelling to the work farm or land. NWS: 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 (Deir Ballut will be opened today according to FSL partners update), 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. The government of Syria announced that the suspension of services at school, universities, civil affairs, criminal records, immigration and passports, traffic will be extended till 02nd of May. And the same for the movement among provinces.

**Operation coverage and changes:** Door-to-door guidance notes on food assistance with collaboration from CWG finalised this week and will be disseminated to all partners working in Syria. This is a living document that will be updated as and when needed to improve operational guidelines for partners reference. 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. following the impact on regular programming in NES, most of the food assistance suspended or still delayed are in Raqqa city; a 25 day delay so far in the planned distribution cycle distribution for March, impacting 14,451 HH's (77,225 beneficiaries). FSS is working with operational partners to ensure the gap is filled appropriately in the short and long term. During this reporting period, the continuity of agriculture activities has improved, on average 60% of the agriculture activities have resumed in NES. Including agricultural activities such as support for kitchen-garden, Cash for agriculture and CFW, agri inputs, fodder distributions and fungicides. 40% of the agriculture activities remains suspended (delays in approvals and cash liquidity). The harvesting season preparation has started in NES and with the new agriculture farmers exemption by SA in NES access to lands have been improving. AGRICULTURE: Mitigation measures in place since last week by local authorities allowing agriculture farmers and workers to move during the curfew hours thus supporting the preparations for the upcoming harvest season. However, barley production and livestock keeping will be impacted this season due to the delay in treatment of agricultural diseases such as yellow rust (which has already been observed in the region) as well as localised flooding reported during this period in two sub-districts' (Tal Hamis and Bear-Al Helo). The agricultural areas most impacted by both the military offensive in October and the COVID19 crisis are Al Hasakeh district (Tal Tamer subdistrict) and Ras al Ain district in Al Hasakeh governorate and Tal Abiad district Ar Raqqa governorates. Farmers have lost access to their land causing losses in income, and increased reliance on humanitarian assistance for household food needs. Damascus: 1804 HH (9,020) will not be receiving supplementary food vouchers due to funding and restricted movement. 1605 HH (9630) will not receive agriculture / 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. Most of the partners who suspend their distribution, will try to start the distribution in April pending talks and approvals with local authorities.

**HRP and funding:** WOS: waiting for WoS ISG to roll out the process. NWS: Reserve allocation has been launched by SCHF to be implemented by WHO and IOM. Damascus: Response for COVID-19 outbreak still ongoing, an agreement was made with OCHA to determine the indicators which more relevant for FAS response.



## Yemen

### **COVID cases: 1**

**Situation update:** The district level Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) in the areas under the Defacto Authorities (DFA) is still ongoing and expected to be completed before the start of Ramadan (end of next week). The FSLA has already completed in areas under the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) in February 2020. The FSLA is conducted jointly by FSAC, WFP, FAO, Nutrition Cluster, and UNICEF. FAO is conducting a weekly market monitoring on the impact of COVID-19 on food security. Discussions are ongoing with WFP to develop a common analysis platform. The updates are shared with the HCT and other humanitarian actors on a weekly basis. The planting season is underway in Yemen but could be impacted by the current COVID-19 movement restrictions. Initial reports from FAO indicate that there are significant price increments for agricultural inputs which could make them inaccessible to vulnerable farmers. Some farmers might also have limited access to their farmlands leading to lower acreage planted this season. Daily casual labour opportunities have decreased sharply in the past week. This has led to lack of income for the most vulnerable segments of the population e.g. landless and destitute, IDPs (especially in collective centres), vulnerable farmers, vulnerable fisher folk etc.

**Humanitarian access:** Movement restrictions (for humanitarian and commercial commodities, staff, and supplies) in place but have not yet adversely impacted ongoing food security programs. Emergency Food Assistance by FSAC partners (with approximately 95% response undertaken by WFP and partners) is ongoing for 13 million individuals per month. Beneficiaries still have access (through restricted) to distribution points and markets. Movement of commodities between the DFA and IRG areas is becoming challenging with incessant delays. Some transporters are using longer routes to circumvent checkpoints, leading to additional costs that result to price increments for basic commodities

**Operation coverage and changes:** FSAC has developed a preparedness and response plan in the context of COVID-19 (led by WFP and FAO as the cluster lead agencies). This has included the development of detailed standard operating procedures to continue critical food security activities while minimizing the risk of transmission to staff, beneficiaries, implementing partners and suppliers e.g. staggering distributions; undertaking double distributions (where feasible); waiving thumbprints from beneficiaries; avoiding physical contact between partners, service providers' staff and beneficiaries or between beneficiaries; making adjustments in the food basket composition due to potential supply chain disruptions that may affect the availability of specific commodities, adjusting assistance modalities etc.

**HRP and funding:** The 2020 Yemen HRP yet to be finalized. Discussions currently underway on FSAC contributions to the Yemen COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Potential reduction and/or suspension of critical humanitarian programs in the country due to a defunding decision from the main Yemen donors, until conditions allow for a principled humanitarian assistance

## RBB UPDATES

### COX's Bazar –

**Situation update:** [Flash Market Update by VAM](#) – increase in rice prices (20%) caused by high transactional costs and unfavourable terms of trade, other items increased by 5% or less. Lockdown is impacting agricultural support activities (distribution of seeds and inputs) even if agricultural activities exempted from lockdown as per PMO directive.

**Humanitarian access:** Refugees – no change from last week report; Host Community – partners reached 40,145 HH with HEB (60% of all assistance), vegetable seeds (12%), In-kind food (12%) cash for food (10%) and cash for work (5%) Refugees – Humanitarian Access project: Log Sector, WFP set up a

vehicle access passes system through QRL codes in support of RRRC and security agencies to control movements and access to the camps. HC – lockdown has impacted mobility of partners working in HC. FSS advocated with ISCG for a similar access system to be implemented for critical activities in HC. ISCG will discuss with local authorities (DC). this is expected to become available to all partners planning to distribute food, cash, and agricultural inputs in line with Prime Minister’s Office directive. ; HC – WFP started distribution of HEB for over 20,000 vulnerable HHs in Ukhiya and Teknaf. They will distribute 50 kg of rice and 4.500 multipurpose cash; Challenges with supply chain - Scarcity of transporter throughout the country, labourers accessibility to the warehouses, warehouses run with minimal number of staff.

**Operation coverage and changes:** HC in sub-districts of Cox’s Bazar district outside of JRP areas – Ukhiya and Teknaf (331,686 HH in total) are receiving minimal assistance from humanitarian actors – this is expected to improve as WFP expands its coverage to target at least 20% of population in each sub-district. FSS partners reached 40,145 HH in total – 30% of population in Teknaf and 37% in Ukhiya (JRP target sub-districts) were reached and 5% in Ramu and 7% in Cox’s Bazar Sadar. 48% of all planned assistance is through in-kind food distribution, 36.5% through cash support including cash for work and 16% through agricultural inputs based on FSS COVID-19 Emergency Response Tracker.

**Coordination:** Increase of actors in HC – government, INGOs, National NGOs; Partners are targeting existing beneficiaries who are in 2 sub-districts targeted by JRP, causing overcrowding in only 2 sub-districts out of 8. IM products will be released within a few days to inform partners of gaps and potential overlaps – next bi-weekly coordination meeting is planned for next week

**HRP and funding:** WFP received launched a new programme for host community

**Main CHALLENGES:** Coordination of assistance for HC and with GoB authorities -

### **Bangladesh:**

**Situation update:** Joint Needs Analysis finalization ongoing. There is a flash flood early warning issued by the FFWC while the harvesting season is approaching in week. Agriculture labour is not sufficiently available and lack of operational agriculture machineries are creating a panic situation for farmers. Street Vendors, Transport labours, Market labour, Sex worker, Bedey and trans gender community, Returnee labour, 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. Household level food stock is now reduced.

**Humanitarian access:** supply is challenged more in this week as tightening of lockdown. 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. Limited access to beneficiaries due to the lockdown.

### **Operational coverage and changes: NTR**

**Coordination:** FSC has conducted FSC has conducted a TWG meeting to revise the FSC Food Assistance Package also working on food distribution guideline considering the COVID-19 situation. FSC is supporting the members to map the FS capacity. Assessments, business continuity of Government agencies and members, response planning, resource mobilization

**HRP: NTR;** Very limited resources.

**Main challenges:** Access to community and physical movement. Situation is still considered as Health emergency with multi sectoral impact. Not classified as humanitarian crisis. National coordination mechanism and complementarity is not clear yet. Lack of experience on pandemic or epidemic response. No or limited resources.

### **Afghanistan**

**Situation update:** Daily price monitoring continues for staple and high value goods, current improvements in supply and drops in demand have stabilized prices along with government and social pressure to mitigate price gouging. However the staples continue at higher levels than pre-COVID crisis with wheat prices at 14% higher than mid-March and Cooking oil at 7%.

The impact on agricultural season of COVID-19 not yet clear as flooding continues but needs assessment are not specific to impacts on arable land. Impact on agricultural activities has affected supply lines with producers having to reduce the amount of goods being moved while movement restrictions get implemented and developed.

**Humanitarian access:** Pause of agricultural training and support activities. Slowdown in food distributions due to different distribution schedules; Beneficiaries cannot access urban markets due to movement restrictions or can only access markets during certain times with unclear impacts on beneficiary access to a diversified diet; Supply chain has been disrupted by intermittent border closures and export restrictions and internal restrictions which may be causing a level of spoilage/wastage

**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 due to an unclear funding window

**Coordination:** Remote coordination happening on an ad-hoc basis with regional focal points – plans to implement a virtual cluster meeting depending on when the current IPC analysis is completed

**HRP and funding:** Additional funds under the COVID-19 response plan not yet materialized Start of planning for 4 million USD under AHF; Partners actively and independently sourcing new funds for COVID-19 responses

## **RBN UPDATES**

### **South Sudan**

**Situation update:** No assessments done yet. However FAO is planning to do an online capacity assessment on humanitarian agencies on all the 79 counties; Farmers, IDPs, people living in Urban areas especially in slums. REACH has developed a vulnerability mapping tool that is yet to be finalized but it is very useful for prioritization; The food security cluster did an online survey asking both the NNG and the ING on how covid19 is affecting their current activities and what measures they have put in place. The response was that Covid19 has affected their programming in terms of budget for new covid19 activities such as buying soaps, masks and gloves. Hiring a covid19 focal point who will ensure all the safety measures are followed. Furthermore FAO is planning to do Covid19 impact assessment on agriculture and food security.

**Humanitarian access:** Since the lockdown and restriction of movement and interstate flight suspension, the impact is seen in procurement restrictions, boarder closure for humanitarian cargo, isolation

measures imposed on driver, discontinuation of school feeding activities following the closure of schools and generally a slowdown in operations for all the partners; Nothing much to add on what reported last week on the staff access to beneficiaries and having to isolate for 14 days; In addition to what was reported last week, FAO advocating and having dialogue with the government on the importance of response to Desert locust. Adding to what was reported last week on WFP pushing to preposition food, FAO is also pushing to distribute the seeds that are already prepositioned.

**Operational coverage and changes:** No new gap, however given that there is possibility of revising the HRP, new related health activities will be covered to those who are already vulnerable. No huge change in target locations since the FSL cluster already target all the 79 counties. However the need to reconsider certain vulnerable groups that were not looked at prior to Covid19 is now being advocated for such as people who live in the slums. There is no major shift in programming however the modality of delivering services has changed and it takes now longer, therefore a slow in delivery is what is being seen currently.

**Coordination:** Most of the partners are both FAO and WFP partners and both are operational but at a very slow pace and are unable to do otherwise since the budgeted activities for intervention didn't cover the new health related extra cost. There's just so little they can do at the meantime. Coordination is at its toe, especially with the SSHF partners, the cluster together with OCHA trying to speed the process to meet the timeline set dates. More virtual meeting which is good but then not everyone can afford/have a good internet access. A challenge for subnational clusters at field level where the internet is not really up to the standard of our current coordination ways.

**HRP and funding** Revision of HRP is currently ongoing. Discussions around the pin and vulnerability is still sketchy. The food security cluster target for HRP2020 is 5.3 out of the 6.5 in need and we are looking to increase the pin given that the initial pin did not cover the urban poor population. Funding generally has been decreasing and with covid19, it is highly unlikely that it will improve knowing that it is a global crisis and most donors are already stretched.

## **Somalia**

**Situation update:** Based on WFP Joint Markets and Supply Chain Update of 12th April — 19th April, 2020: Livestock prices are decreasing in North West and Central markets as well as declining of livestock export volumes (Berbera port), affecting livelihoods that depend on livestock. Export Restrictions in source markets (India, Oman and Malaysia) is having ripple effect within markets in Somalia. The closure of Somalia / Ethiopia border has affected trade especially in the border towns like Dolow. Prices of food fresh foods e.g. Potatoes and tomatoes have increased due to demand-supply imbalance. Wholesale and retail prices of food commodities mostly imported food items (Rice, pasta, vegetable oil, wheat flour and sugar) are increasing throughout Somalia markets due to both increased demand because of approaching Ramadan and panic buying (COVID-19). Continuous decline of remittance from diaspora affecting purchasing power of majority of households who economically depend on remittances due to restrictions and COVID-19 outbreak.

**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: Following the closure of schools, all onsite school meals activities are on halt. Vocational skills training activities supported via either cash for training/vouchers for training have been put on hold. This is in line with closure of schools. Partners are however planning to continue supporting beneficiaries through unconditional transfers given the fact that the beneficiaries affected are food

insecure. 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). Objective 2 (provision of seasonal livelihood inputs), the number of peopled 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:** Intercluster meetings are being convened weekly online; Monthly, the cluster conducts 14 regional cluster meetings. FSC is working with the regional Vice Coordinators on ensuring that the meetings continue to take place but online; The FSC national level meeting has now been scheduled for 21 April online. The meeting is Co-Chaired by the FSC Co-Coordinators and two line ministries; The FSC is participating at the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce which was established as a result of a joint effort between the MoH, UNICEF, OCHA, WHO among other agencies.

**HRP and funding:** 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.

**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. This may subsequently lead to biases and increase inclusion and exclusion error. 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:** COVID-19 is projected to contribute to increased food insecurity in the country, particularly in areas where households are relying on market purchases. It is projected that 30 million people ([LINK](#)) are vulnerable to food insecurity in rural and urban communities. This includes some of the vulnerable population groups including displaced and returnee who still require sustained food assistance. The urban poor including the destitutes, homeless, those engaged in informal sectors of the economy are likely to experience food consumption gaps. Out of these projected needs, bout 15 million are being assisted though the HRP and safety net activities.

**Humanitarian access:** There are no reports of delay in food assistance due to COVID-19. Partners are implementing measures that avoid the spread of COVID-19 during food distribution process including social/physical distancing. The Food cluster and partners agreed to provide double rations in April/ May and partners have started food deliveries for these two rounds. This measure is expected to reduce the number of visits to cash/food distribution points, thereby preventing the spread of COVID-19.

**Operational coverage and changes:** No new update from the previous week – double allocation and distribution of round 1 and round 2 of 2020 HRP is on-going.

**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](#)); COVID-19 related needs are expected to be included in government contingency plan and there are discussions to have a review to the HRP. According to the [fts](#), the funding for the food cluster is 29% of the overall requirements. Any pipeline shortfalls will negatively impact delivery of food/ cash assistance

## RBD UPDATES

### **Burkina Faso**

**COVID cases:** 565 (515)

**Situation update:** The pandemic spread at Gorom-Gorom, Sahel Region, spot of humanitarian intervention

**Humanitarian access:**

- Curfew hours reduced to protect the livelihood of people.
- The access for food actors is generally good
- Djibo (145K IDPs) in the Soum Province, Sahel Region, is isolated for the second week. GOA control the nearby zone; army block the access. The humanitarian operations are discontinued. Prices of food has started to increase, lack of food have been reported in the market

**Operation coverage and changes:**

- FSC have planned 905K IDPs out of 838K officially registered in Avril with 65% in kind and 35% in cash and coupons.
- FSC has planned 21K people for livelihood in Avril out of 1M people in need in the Cadre Harmonisé, the coverage rate is 2%,
- The FSC facilitated coordination with city council for food assistance to 8 000 vulnerable HH (42 000 people) in Ouagadougou, impacted by the closure of markets in the capital.
- The FSC have been invited to a special meeting with the GoBF for coordinate the response for people in quarantine

**HRP and funding** The FSC have requested 12M USD for adapting the ongoing response to COVID-19 and evaluated the additional in 40M USD

**Challenges:** Drive the humanitarian community, the UN system, the HCT to consider correctly the impact of Covid-19 on food security and consequently allocate the part for food security in the GHRP Integrating the impact of COVID-19 on the ongoing SOP process for FSC

### **Cameroon**

**COVID cases:** 1,017 (848)

**Situation update:** NtR

**Humanitarian access:** NtR

**Operation coverage and changes:** NtR

**HRP and funding:** NtR

**Challenges:** NtR

### **Central African Republic**

**COVID cases:** 12 (8)

**Situation update:** high price increases noted in Bangui W(WFP) as well as in the markets in the country (REACH) ; increase of number of IDPs due to insecurity in areas with armed groups;

**Humanitarian access:** humanitarian access is very limited in the area due to armed groups.

**Operation coverage and changes:** No changes so far: no new area, no new benf. IDPs are going back to their previous displacement site. New IPD sites may be created. Multiplication of distribution sites to mitigate C19

**HRP and funding:** HRP is being revised; 1 million USD for the FSC with the HPF, targeting 6,000 HH

**Challenges:** strengthening the capacity of the partners to deal with bnf during distribution.

## Chad

**COVID cases:** 33 (23)

**Situation update:** The FSC with the WFP and the SISAAP is trying to organize a Cadre Harmonisé revision to update the figures of people in need

**Humanitarian access:** NtR (curfew, border closed)

**Operation coverage and changes:**

- 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:** The FMI gave 115 millions USD to Tchad for the covid-19 response; The European Union Delegation gave 50 million as budget support to Chadian Government; The AFD (Agence Française de Développement) gave 7.5 million to Chad

**Challenges:** IT access for many FSC members

## Mali

**COVID cases:** 216 (123)

**Situation update:** Mali FS Cluster initiated an online survey to collect data about market monitoring system in place. 10 organizations reported having a market and vulnerability monitoring system and agree to share the information collected with the Malian early warning system (SAP)

**Humanitarian access:** NtR

**Operation coverage and changes:**

- The cash distribution is maintained as a food assistance provision for most of the response. Some organisations still continue with in-kind provision

**HRP and funding:** HRP revision on going

## Niger

**COVID cases:** 639 (548)

**Situation update:** 1.6 million people were in need food assistance in 2019 (source OCHA) with 50,000 people; price increase in urban area

**Humanitarian access:** transport is limited by GoN as well as meeting/gathering.

**Operational coverage and changes:** NtR

**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 webpage or outdated information.

## Nigeria

**COVID cases:** 542 (343)

**Situation update:**

- The President also directed the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Security Adviser, the Vice Chairman, National Food Security Council and the Chairman, Presidential Fertiliser

Initiative to work with the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 to ensure the impact of this pandemic on our 2020 farming season is minimized

- During this time of the year towards Ramadhan prices begin to increase as demand for food for the Ramadhan starts to increase (FEWSNET).
- Overall, partners are expecting prices of food and non-food items to start increasing going forward given that the stocks of the different vendors will have run out and will have to restock.
- To scale up the Vulnerability Analysis, the FSS in coordination with the Cadre Harmonize stakeholders is establishing a special task force: analysis is expecting to start next week (ToR, preparatory work ongoing)

**Humanitarian access:**

- lock down of Yobe state borders with neighbouring states except for movement of goods or essential services for a period of two weeks
- Adamawa State: Lockdown continues but doesn't affect movements of food and critical non-food items
- Borno State: only those on essential duties and vehicles carrying food items, petrol, drugs and other essential commodities are allowed.

**Operation coverage and changes:** No significant change in operations

**HRP and funding:** HRP (Addendum) to be reviewed this week