



COVID-19 - FSC Weekly Situation Update

20th April 2020 – 24th April 2020

RBP UPDATES

Colombia

COVID cases: 4,561

Situation update:

According to a FAO analysis, the impact of COVID 19 is reflected in disruptions of food supply chains, as well as supply and demand speculation, reduced food availability and consumption, shortage of inputs and other assets, as well as high costs and low supply of fuel and transportation. All this begins to affect agricultural production – with the planting season starting. Increased costs for transportation and storage also cause an increase in the price of the products, and the agribusiness can also be affected by decreased productivity and high production costs. The illegal armed groups have the control about population compliance with COVID-19 related norms and decrees. Forced eradication actions have increased taking advantage of the quarantine, which has also generated anxiety among the communities. The most vulnerable / affected are the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population (including migrants, displaced people, those suffering from conflict and the isolated rural population). Physical and economic access to food and agricultural inputs in areas of high vulnerability and food and nutritional insecurity prior to COVID-19 is very critical.

Humanitarian access: NTR compared to previous week

Operation coverage and changes: WFP has adapted its operations to ensure continuity and will start providing double distributions to avoid unnecessary movements and prevent infections. WFP is expanding its operational area to new urban areas and it is preparing to support additional 20,000 Venezuelan migrants with cash transfers in Bogotá. In recent weeks, WFP received requests to assist over 900,000 people, and has already prioritized support to some 50,000 of these through cash-based transfers.

Coordination: weekly meetings are taking place to facilitate the revision of the C19 National Response Plan and the RMRP.

HRP and funding: NTR compared to previous week

Haiti

COVID cases: 72

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 current HRP is not yet finalized but OCHA has launched its revision to include the impacts of COVID-19 (process currently ongoing). If the current situation (restrictions) continues for

several months, it is the whole of the populations in IPC phase 3 (2.9 million people) who could switch to phase 4, in addition to those 1,2 million already in phase 4.

Venezuela

COVID cases: 311

Situation update: People in rural areas are most affected by food availability issues. There is information on looting in rural areas. Urban areas are mostly affected by access issues, prices are rising. The Govt estimates between 40,000 to 70,000 returnees since the beginning of the quarantine in March 13th. To reduce pressure on the borders, the health protocols changed: there will be two tests, the rapid and the PCR, if it is negative the person will follow the quarantine at home. The problem of gasoline scarcity continues, with high impact on overall food production, menacing the next harvest because the planting season is starting and there are no means (inputs, fuel) to do that. Harvest of short cycle products is also reduced.

Humanitarian access: Lack of “safe passage” and gasoline continue preventing delivery of food and agricultural inputs for humanitarian projects. As organizations used canteens and schools to deliver food, now that those structures are shut down, not all partners are reaching their beneficiaries. Borders closure reduce the availability of products from other countries, especially from Colombia.

Operation coverage and changes: 40k to 70k returnees at the border need food assistance - the humanitarian system is prioritizing the assistance in the border region. Shift in programming in terms of slow increase of cash assistance modality.

Coordination: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding: HNO and HRP not published yet. OCHA published an appeal for COVID-19 on April 10th (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ven_covid-19_plan_intersectorial_2a_edicion_04102020.pdf); 2.7 million for food assistance is in the line multisectoral support (aimed to support the returnees).

RBJ UPDATES

DRC

COVID cases: 377

Situation update: According to a VAM analysis (end of March - beginning of April), prices remained stable at country level and compared to February 2020 and March 2019 figures. Some exceptions, mainly represented by Eastern Provinces (firstly: urban contexts such as Goma, Bukavu and Lubumbashi). According to few stakeholders, in the very last days prices went down in the above-mentioned cities. Info to be confirmed. The first joint (VAM, CAID, FEWSNET, SAFER partners, REACH) bulletin will provide confirmation on trends to better evaluate supply chains functioning.

Humanitarian access: Some FSC partners (non-WFP IPs) are still waiting for official authorisation from local authorities

Operation coverage and changes: NTR compared to previous week

Coordination: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding: The HF just launched a COVID-19 related reserve allocation. Three clusters have been prioritized: health, WASH and protection – no funds for FS response despite a dire impact on food security and livelihood is already perceived and will be further perceived in the coming months.

Mozambique

COVID cases: 46

Situation update: NTR compared to previous week

Humanitarian access: food prices increases have been reported in some locations, affecting recipients of voucher programmes, while at the same time vendors are mandated by law to charge VAT for oil which is also affecting voucher-based responses.

Operation coverage and changes: Some partners still working on SOPs to be able to resume their programmes. There was uncertainty as to what would be the right number of people per distribution since emergency decree mandates by the president of Mozambique put it at 10; Parliamentary ratification decree increased the number of people per gathering to 20 people.

Most FSC partners are exploring shift in programming from in kind to cash based transfer (however this is limited by the fact that CBTs are not officially approved by GoM). Shift/prioritization of urban/peri urban areas (new caseload) is expected as per COVID appeal.

Coordination: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding: COVID related HRP has been finalized and submitted to OCHA HQs. FSC PIN: 2,500,000; Targeted PIN: 1,055,000 (755,000 people for food assistance, 300,000 for livelihoods support); Duration: May to December (2020); Budget is US\$ 37.5million (Food assistance-US\$ 32.5million and Livelihoods-US\$ 5million). The general funding situation doesn't look good: the COVID19 HRP was initially estimated at about US\$195million but it had to be reduced to US\$ 99.335million as result of donors' initial feedback on the resources outlook. In addition, there is another non-COVID Rapid Response for Cabo Delgado province (dire humanitarian needs arising from insecurity, remoteness, residual effects of the cyclone Kenneth) - the food security component in the RRP is US\$ 10.8 million (Food assistance-US\$ 9.3million while livelihoods-\$1.5million). CERF Rapid response window for Cabo Delgado projects approved and CERF secretariat requesting agencies for an earlier start date.

Zimbabwe

COVID cases: 28

Situation update: The biggest open markets across the country remain closed during the day and open only during the night to continue activities clandestinely, which leads to ignoring all COVID19 mitigation measures. The Government seems to be aware of these clandestine activities and thinks about relocating and reorganizing the open markets. However, the timeline of this reorganization has not been shared yet. Meanwhile, these open markets keep operating under poor hygiene conditions and disrespecting COVID19 mitigation measures. Below some findings from WFP VAM Weekly market assessment covering April 13th-17th: maize grain is generally available in rural districts, unavailable in urban markets due to the challenges in moving the commodity from rural markets as a result of the lock-down; maize meal availability increased week on week (from 28% to 32% in rural districts, from 51% to 55% in urban areas) but there was also a further price increase (17% -18% in rural areas, 8% for urban). In terms of the economic conditions: the exchange rate has been relatively stable over the past week fluctuating between ZWL49:1USD and ZWL49.5:1 USD for electronic transfers on the parallel market. The official exchange rate however remained unchanged at ZWL25:1USD. An analysis of nominal and real prices in the market suggests that prices are being pegged to parallel market rate for electronic transfers. This means that most households without access to USD are likely to see their incomes increasingly eroded aggravating their vulnerability if salaries are not reviewed to meet the gap caused by the increasing rate of devaluation of the local currency.

Humanitarian access: all FSL Cluster partners continue food or cash distribution while implementing comprehensive COVID19 prevention and mitigation measures.

Operation coverage and changes: Despite operational constraints as a result of the new protocols for operating during the COVID-19 outbreak, the FSL Cluster partners managed to reach 95% of their total targeted population for March. The government introduced relief cash transfers to the most vulnerable in both rural and urban areas in an effort to ease the pressures of COVID 19 on livelihoods. About 1million people are expected to benefit from this scheme. The transfer value is announced to be 200RTGS/HH.

Coordination: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding: HRP 2020 addendum (for COVID) was submitted on the 16th of April with a total of 25 amended projects requesting 44M USD as additional budget. Zimbabwe was also included into the GHRP update. In terms of funding mechanisms, the absence of a full OCHA office in the country prevents the establishment of a Country Based Pooled Fund.

RBD UPDATES

Burkina Faso

COVID cases: 629 (565)

Situation update:

- forecast 1 Million additional people food insecure for secondary effect of COVID-19
- prices on the markets are globally still stable, availability and access to food still good, except some exception in Loroum (Nord) and in the Sahel.

Humanitarian access:

- Djibo in the Sahel Region is isolated for the third week. The humanitarian operations are discontinued. Prices of food have started to increase; lack of food has been reported in the market.
- Extension of the quarantine to all the municipality with one case on COVID-19

Operation coverage and changes:

- FSC have assisted 438K IDPs out of 838K, the coverage rate is 62%, the response has been 81% in kind and 19% in cash and coupons. The sector has assisted 11K people for livelihood in March out of 1M people targeted by the sector, the coverage rate is 2%, 46% in kind and 54% by cash and vouchers.
- The Cluster has decreased the response in comparison with the trend of planning, four partners didn't respond due to the COVID-19 crisis. The partners have integrated the adaptation and planned 100% of IDPs for April.
- The FSC partners will support the city council from 27 April to implement the COVID-19 SOP for food assistance to 8 000 vulnerable households (42 000 people) in Ouagadougou, impacted by the closure of markets in the capital.
- Djibo continue not accessible

HRP and funding

- GHRP COVID-19: 12M USD for the FSC for adaptation measures and response to people in quarantine.
- The FSC members have decided that the adaptation costs to the COVID-19 represent 12,5% of the ongoing response, disaggregated as following: 5-7% for CBT by electronic means, 7-9% for CBT by Cash and vouchers, 12-20% for in kinds.
- funding in the FSC is enough to respond until September

Challenges:

- Sensitisation note for underlining the impact of the COVID-19 on food security and nutrition
- Integrating the impact of COVID-19 on the ongoing SOP process for the FSC

Cameroon

COVID cases: 1,518 (1,017)

Situation update:

- no new assessments.
- WASH and Health clusters, as the leading clusters in the fight against COVID-19 disease, with support of Food Security and OCHA, will conduct a series of trainings for all clusters' partners

Humanitarian access: Currently most partners can access beneficiaries and there are no reports on COVID 19 impact on access

Operation coverage and changes:

- delays in responding to beneficiaries to allow organizations re-strategize however the projects are already preparing to continue
- an estimated of 35,000 people have been added to the target for FS response in NWSW Cameroon
- about 15,000 new beneficiaries are also being targeted to receive cash based food assistance for 6 months

HRP and funding: The HRP revision: not been finalised. FSC: additional funding around 15% increase. FSC will maintain the current scope with a small addition of the caseload being added for COVID specific activities

Challenges: Revising the HRP in the context of a large increase in the PiN and the COVID 19 situation against limited funding has been a major challenge in Cameroon

Central African Republic

COVID cases: 16 (12)

Situation update: NtR;

Humanitarian access: NtR.

Operation coverage and changes: NtR

HRP and funding: 204k new beneficiaries and 10.4 million USD in addition for the GHRP but TBC.

Chad

COVID cases: 46 (33)

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
- An analysis on the socio economic impact of coronavirus in Chad to support the "Plan National de Réponse au covid 19": 2.1 million of people were estimated as food insecure in need of food assistance.
- WFP is putting in place the mVAM

Humanitarian access: NtR (curfew remains, border closed)

Operation coverage and changes: NtR: no new area, no shift in programming

HRP and funding: HRP being revised

Challenges: IT access for many FSC members

Mali

COVID cases: 370 (216)

Situation update: NtR

Humanitarian access: NtR

Operation coverage and changes:

- Strategy adopted on adaptation measures for critical activities and to accompany health response with food aid
- Set up of a mechanism led by SAP, with FSC, WFP, FAO, FEWSNET to follow the vulnerability of the population and market monitoring:
- 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: 684 (639)

Situation update: NtR

Humanitarian access: NtR

Operational coverage and changes: NtR

HRP and funding: NtR

Challenges: NtR.

Nigeria

COVID cases: 1,182 (542)

Situation update:

Yobe State and Adamawa State: NtR

Borno state

- This week, food prices are significantly increasing. According to traders, among other key factors for the recent price increases are due to **high cost of transportation** linked to control measures **leading to panic buying**
- IMPACT initiatives will start weekly Remote Price Monitoring. IMPACT initiatives will start data collection next week. This will complement mVAM
- Ramadan will likely increase price of food

Humanitarian access: With lockdown imposed this week for the next two weeks including on humanitarians, which applied to transporters and vendors, **there will be no food assistance operations going forward until further notice, potentially putting at high risk about the 1.6 million people in need**

Operation coverage and changes: high likelihood of receiving new arrivals/returnee refugees including LGAs such Gwoza, Pulka, Ngala, Monguno and Ngala. The FSS will go ahead to make a call for interest for partners who may be interested to provide food services at isolation centres.

HRP and funding: HRP revision was completed. For FSS, 104, 414, 990 USD is the Additional funding requirement as a result of COVID-19, meaning the Total Funding requirement summary for non-COVID-19 and COVID-19 is **327,710,680 USD**.

Challenges: lockdown in Borno state has put a **pause on all activities including FSS activities**, as movements have been restricted. Therefore, food assistance partners, vendors, transporters, financial service providers will only resume when lockdown is lifted. This will surely affect food assistance program delivery

RBB UPDATES

COX's Bazar –

Situation update: [FAO assessment on food and agriculture system in Cox's Bazar](#) – there was a pre-existing gap in production vs demand for following agricultural commodities - vegetables (35-40%), eggs (44%), meat (24%) and milk (61%) - while production of rice and fish were in surplus; [COVID-19 Multi-](#)

[Sectoral Anticipatory Impact and Needs Analysis report by National Needs Assessment Working Group \(including Cox's Bazar\)](#); According to FAO assessment above, negative effects anticipated in the agriculture sector in Cox's Bazar are: disruption in harvesting, planting due to lack of seeds or fertilizers, lack of transporters, closure of markets.

Humanitarian access: Shift from value voucher to commodity voucher (pre-packaged food basket) for refugees; Limited access and footprint in camps to critical staff and services. Vehicle access pass system in place; One feeding cycle per month both in-kind and e-voucher for refugees

Operation coverage and changes: Partners have reached host community households in Ukhiya (37% of population), Teknaf (26%), Cox's Bazar Sadar (7%), and Ramu (5%) with food assistance, cash support, and agricultural inputs which is equal to 8% of total host community population in the district; and plan to extend support to extremely vulnerable Bangladeshis in all upazilas in the District. 24,263 households received high energy biscuits, 5,000 households received vegetable seeds, 4,905 households received in-kind food baskets, 4,091 households received cash for food, and 3,105 households received hot meals. Trends will be analyzed and shared in the next update – thus far, 71% of assistance have been through food distribution, 15% through cash for food and 13% through agricultural inputs ([CXB FSS COVID-19 Response Dashboard](#))

Coordination: Partners have been requested to a) focus on areas with lower expected coverage based on the partners' planning information submitted on the [online tracker](#) which is visualized on the [dashboard](#); b) coordinate with local authorities and c) coordinate among partners to cross-check beneficiaries

HRP and funding: JRP 2020 prioritization and COVID-19 Response Plan for Cox's Bazar as an addendum to JRP process has been launched, is underway and is scheduled to be finalized in mid-May ([timeline](#)). Preliminary funding requirements appeal released – 29 mln for FSS – will be incorporated in the COVID-19 Response Plan. Food support to health facilities and support to vulnerable Bangladeshis affected by the COVID-19 measures. Out of all planned interventions for 197,985 HH out of a total of 428,338 HH, interventions for 21% of targeted HH are fully funded, interventions for 54% of target HH are partially funded, and interventions for the 24% of target HH are not funded according to partners' plans on the [response tracker](#)

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 in this assessment. As per recent data released by the Govt of Pakistan, around 16% of population in Pakistan is food insecure based on FIES.

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.
- WFP has developed special SOPs in light of COVID- 19 for the delivery of in-kind as well as cash assistance in conditional and unconditional food assistance to Drought, Snowfall, and Conflict

affected people. Special permission were taken from the government to resume these activities as lockdown has been imposed across the country.

- 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.
- Awareness and safety programmes as per WHO standards are proposed for FSL projects in the country by active members including FAO and WFP.
- As for as the supply chain is concerned, it is possible to deliver the food and agri inputs across the country smoothly except some parts of the country which are sealed.

The availability of food varies by locations and most of the country, as such there is no supply shock in terms of availability of food.

Operational coverage and changes: The data on 4W matrix is being collected to see COVID-response. A quick response shows that around 20 members organizations are active at this stage and have already planned/planning COVID-19 response across the country and most of them plan to do interventions for both urban and rural households. Cash is also being considered as preferred modality for areas where there are logistics issues due to movement restrictions.

Coordination: Active partnership is likely to increase as usual in such emergencies. In coming weeks, more active participation from other organizations is expected. 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. Information on focal points is being collected and these working groups would be activated soon which will improve coordination.

HRP and Funding: Previously, no HRP was developed for Pakistan country. However, last week OCHA in collaboration with sector lead organizations have prepared HRP for Pakistan.

The Food Security & Agriculture Sector (FSA)'s funding requirement is \$45 million to target around 1.2 million people out of 6.65 million people in need from vulnerable groups. 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. FS&A member organizations who have funds available or recently resourced additional funds for COVID-19 response programming 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 required considering the large vulnerable population
- Lack of/limited funding for the coordinated response

Myanmar

Situation update: The sector is planning food security and agriculture livelihoods vulnerability needs assessment and monitor the impacts of COVID including aspects of imports/exports, food value chains and market dynamics of common commodities.

IDPs in the camps, vulnerable households living in urban areas, and rural communities etc.

734,000 people are in need of food security sector in HNO 2020

613,000 most vulnerable targeted include IDPs and host communities, and farmers and IDPs 50,000 returning migrants increasing the caseload of those in need

Humanitarian access Restriction on mass gatherings and festivities may affect the asset creation activities, access to distribution Points and markets, local chain food and inputs supplies.

Major Challenges in local procurement: As most of the economic activity in the country shuts down, suppliers cannot provide the food with packaging as per the WFP standard spec (i.e. 120 gram PP bag with donor marked and shortage of plastic raw material in the market caused by the unstable border trade with the China. (Source: Suppliers and Shan Herald News)

International purchases would be affected for example High Energy Biscuit sourcing from Oman, Indonesia and Malaysia, if the production completely stop or not fully running due to imposing the city lockdown policy and the production staff cannot go to the factory. The inspection of supplies may be delayed and/or some parameters in the specs may not be analysed if the laboratories close due to lockdown; vessel booking, port closure may would be other challenges to face.

The similar impact to source WSB+/++ and vegetable oil was observed. 76 MT veg oil was under PR 10544725 by HQ and no offer received from Indonesia.

Operational coverage and changes: Around 50,000 migrant workers are returning from Thailand in coming months and will be under quarantine for 21 days in the facilities following the government policy. The food and nutrition gap will be covered by FSS/WFP during quarantine period at the designated centers; in Kayin and Mon states including Yangon Region as well as other states and regions, as requested by the government. Distribution Cycle: Shifted to a 2-month cycle from April (CBT) and May (in-kind), 3-month cycle in hard to reach areas. In CBT: There is ongoing monitoring of commodity prices to inform the purchasing power for potential adjustments of the value of the entitlement. The sector, used COVID-19 guidance notes in revising the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and adapted prevention measures to minimise exposure to the risk of COVID during in-kind food and cash distributions as well as agricultural inputs. The measures included emphasis on hygiene practices; provision of hand sanitizers at distributions points and personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers and cooperating partner staff; the awareness-raising at all distribution sites. On hygiene practice and social distancing during distributions as far as possible. The messages disseminated and practices are based on the standards of World Health Organization (WHO) and /Ministry of Health and Sports regarding COVID-19.

Coordination: The number of partners participating in meeting The FSS meetings currently conducted on line also reduced in April. The invitations will continue to encourage and emphasize the importance of attending coordination meetings to share information.

HRP and funding As of 14 April 2020, according to the Financial Tracking System (FTS) \$ 1.9 M received representing 3% of \$ 61.4 M 2020 HRP FSS requirements. HRP: currently revised and requiring additional \$ 5.1 M funds related to COVID. The number of partners participating in meeting The FSS meetings currently conducted on line also reduced in April. The invitations will continue to encourage and emphasize the importance of attending coordination meetings to share information.

Main Challenges Continued armed conflict in Rakhine and parts of Chin resulting to increased displacement o population in the midst of COVID19 Pandemic prevention measures at the same time remains a big challenge in humanitarian access. Accessing population in need in communities and camps remains a significant challenge, including landmine contamination and other procedural challenges.

RBN UPDATES

South Sudan

Situation update: REACH has developed a vulnerability mapping tool that is yet to be finalized but it is very useful for prioritization (this will evolve over time to continue to capture new emerging vulnerabilities). For now the greatest vulnerability (from FS perspective) is expected to be with the market dependent households (especially at this time as we move ever deeper in the lean/ hungry season) which will affect the especially the urban poor, the existing rural IPC3+, and a section of IPC 2 (highly market dependent) expected to shift into IPC 3+. The food security cluster did an online survey asking both the NNGO and the INGO 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. Once the survey is done, the cluster will be more than happy to share it with the gFSC.

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 (as per last week). In addition to what was reported last week, FAO advocating and having dialogue with the government on the importance of response to Desert locust; new SOP/ guidance from WFP/ FAO/ CWG on food/ livelihood/ CBT distributions now being adopted. 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; in our needs analysis for the revised COVID HRP this is identified and a very big potential risk to worsening food insecurity (already very much on brink with David Beasley at the UNSC talking about possible 'food shortages of Biblical proportions' referring to South Sudan and a number of other countries).

Operational coverage and changes: Emerging vulnerabilities around market shocks (higher food prices): especially 70% of urban population not included in any social safety net support (approx. 1 million); and IPC 2 & 3 populations who are highly market dependent approx.. 0.5 million). No huge change in target locations since the FSL cluster already target all the 79 counties. Existing response to IPC planned IPC 3+ populations already experiencing higher levels of food insecurity: food (delivery of 2 – 3 month rations per HH ahead of any restrictions) and on-going main season emergency cropping support (plus veg & fish kits) both in-kind and CBT.

2020 prior to COVID 19 saw a dramatic shift towards greater hybrid rations: in-kind + CBT in locations with functioning markets including POC and refugee camps.

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 not cover the new health related extra cost. Same 91 HRP partners operational + additional 90 other smaller operational partners operating; yes, some how at reduced capacity: many international staff out of the country (often still in the region) and restrictions on movements in delivering services and conducting assessments; Yes, more virtual meetings; and more a challenge at the sub cluster (state and county) level where internet connections get progressively less effective; more decongestion; smaller meetings; we should find out from our sub cluster colleagues more about their challenges.

HRP and funding Revision of HRP is currently on-going: very confusing at present re: (1) re-prioritization and no increase in PiN (which is very clear); but then (2) the COVID 19 addendum inviting 'new COVID

impact related projects' that are urgent & immediate – FSLC will increase the caseload about our current PiN by 1.6 million (approx.. 1 million urban and 0.5 million rural not previously included in the initial HRP). Bleak: both FAO & WFP significant funding shortfalls going into 2020; NGOs make up the balance 12% of the HRP (donor fatigue affecting many NGO partners too in South Sudan which is seen by the steady decline in funding year on year through the FTS)

Somalia

Situation update; In Somalia, first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was confirmed in Mogadishu on 16 March 2020. As of 24 April, the number of confirmed cases had risen to 328. In order to contain the pandemic, a night curfew in Mogadishu was imposed. As reported earlier, schools and universities had already been closed. FSNAU, in collaboration with its technical partners conducted preliminary analysis of the likely impact of COVID-19 (as well as other shocks such as Desert Locust and flooding) on food security outcomes in Somalia, Apr-Sep 2020. Considering the cumulative impact of all shocks (COVID-19, Desert Locust, flooding, etc.) between April and September 2020, and based on the most likely scenario, over 2.2 million people will face severe food insecurity (IPC 3 or worse) with an additional 2.9 million in IPC 2. This effectively means the number of people in IPC 3 or worse have increased from the previous estimation of 1.6 million.

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 a 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: As already reported last week, 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 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). Figures for April will be available at the end of the month.

Coordination: FSC is part of Intercluster ongoing review of Humanitarian Response Plan analysing the impact of COVID-19 on programmes to inform maintenance of critical programmes and re-programming of those which are either not feasible or no longer relevant, while scaling up COVID-19 response. Based on initial review, to be further validated through the partner's own review and re-submission of project, FSC requirements for HRP 2020 may increase by USD54.2 million from USD384,420,835 to USD438 million. The increased requirements are related to:

- Desert locust monitoring, surveillance and control operation going on across the country in collaboration with federal /state ministry of agriculture (USD26. million). This component is not part of the current 2020 HRP
- Livelihood support for desert locust impact(USD10 million)
- Livelihood support for COVID 19 impact (USD7 million)
- COVID additional costs related to PPEs and hygiene items (USD10 million)
- Provision of cooked meals/clinic deliveries to person hospitalised (1,200,000)

HRP and funding: In Somalia the 2020 HRP is being revised and timelines have already been elaborated. The revision entails revision of PiN, Strategic/Specific objectives framework, Clusters monitoring frameworks (RPM) and partners projects. FSC is part of Intercluster ongoing review of Humanitarian Response Plan analysing the impact of COVID-19 on programmes to inform maintenance of critical programmes and re-programming of those which are either not feasible or no longer relevant, while scaling up COVID-19 response. Based on initial review, to be further validated through the partner's own review and re-submission of project, FSC requirements for HRP 2020 may increase by USD54.2 million from USD384,420,835 to USD438 million. The increased requirements are related to:

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- COVID additional costs related to PPEs and hygiene items (USD10 million)

Provision of cooked meals/clinic deliveries to person hospitalised (1,200,000)

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:

The food cluster is participating in analysis of humanitarian needs that will likely result as a result of COVID-19 related shocks. This process is being coordinated by OCHA, with support from the clusters. Some of the most vulnerable food insecure people are the displaced, returnees and households in areas affected by the desert locusts.

Humanitarian access:

- No reported case of access restriction.
- Partners are distributing food rations/ cash transfers for two double allocations that are planned to cover the food needs in March, April and May.

Operational coverage and changes: Double allocation and distribution of round 1 and round 2 of 2020 HRP is in progress in the country. Assistance to beneficiaries is being given by applying different preventive measures to avoid potential spread of COVID-19. No major shift in programming;

Coordination: No reported impact on number of partners and staff. Coordination is being done remotely using platforms like zoom, Microsoft teams, and WebEx meetings.

HRP and funding: 2020 HRP was finalized on January 28, 2020 ([LINK](#)) however discussion are on-going with partners to review the 2020 PIN and targets taking into account the impacts of desert locust and COVID-19 to reflect additional needs. According to Financial Tracking Service ([LINK](#)), 28% of the total requirement of the food cluster is unmet.

RBC UPDATES

Iraq

COVID cases: 1,820

Situation update: Wheat and barley harvesting is underway in the south, with the Iraqi government announcing that wheat prices at government silos will be like previous years. Approximately 2.5 million people have self-registered to receive the government's planned COVID-19 response programme, the programme is called Minha and aims to provide cash-based assistance to COVID-19 affected people. The package would provide 30,000 IQD per person – MoLSA is working to develop targeting criteria to reach the neediest people. Wheat and barley harvesting is underway in the south, with the Iraqi government announcing that wheat prices at government silos will be similar to the previous years

Humanitarian access: Movement restrictions designed to prevent COVID-19 transmissions remain the main challenge faced by partners. Movement between governorates highly affects partner activities and the delivery of goods. Provision of assistance to IDP camps has been severely affected by access; most of the distributions were delayed or conducted at a slower pace.

Operation coverage and changes: Partners have reported gaps in funding and advocacy. Emergency food distribution is ongoing in IDP and refugee camps with plans to increase targets based on needs and resources.

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.

Libya

COVID cases: 61

Situation update: According to the recently released JMMI April report, the overall MEB in Libya increased by 28.9% and the food MEB by 26.6% from March 2020. In the south, MEB increased by 42.6%. The highest price increases for commodities were; tomatoes (+100%), peppers (+75%), flour (+50%) and eggs (+45%). Moreover, Since December, unofficial liquified petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder prices rose 177% in the west, 233% in the east and 344% in the south. In the south, LPG is only available on parallel markets. With such an increase in food prices, even previously food-secure populations are becoming food insecure. As a result, there are more food requests including from the local authorities. According to requests for assistance from several local authorities in the West to OCHA, 300 households in Ain Zara, 503 households in Hay Al Andalus, more than 620 households displaced from Tarhouna to garabolli, and 1,952 migrants and refugees in Hay Al Andalus, Gergarish and downtown Tripoli need urgent assistance. FSS is coordinating with partners for a rapid response. WFP's mobile VAM data collection continues to assess household-level food security and poverty. Some challenges, such as blackout, network coverage issues and recent armed clashes delayed the data collection process. The analysis will be done jointly by WFP and the World Bank.

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. Food dispatches for 32,735 beneficiaries in the South for the April 2020 round are still underway due to security and COVID-19 access challenges. Monthly distributions are as well affected by the intensified clashes in Tarhouna and Bani Waleed, which is increasing the wave of displaced populations in and around those areas. The 10-day 24-hour lockdown/curfew imposed since 17 April in GNA controlled areas is greatly affecting FSS partners April monthly distributions, as well as the Rapid Response mechanism (RRM) and the Migrants and Refugees Response Mechanism (MRRM). If a full curfew is declared in Libya, many beneficiaries could not come to

FDPs at designated time/dates. Local authorities in border cities such as Al Kufra and Al Jaghub have implemented stricter COVID-19 measures by implementing municipal entry restrictions into their cities. COVID-19 precautionary measures have been implemented by all partners. While enhancing the protection of beneficiaries and staff from COVID-19 infection, the distribution process is taking a longer time and less beneficiaries are reached, thus breaking the monthly distribution cycles. Due to COVID-19, there has been an increase in the number of food assistance appeals from local authorities/Ministries. The challenge to prioritize very vulnerable groups for food assistance is even harder not only for people affected by COVID-19 lockdown but also existing beneficiaries.

Operation coverage and changes: Through RRM, WFP will provide food to more than 620 recently displaced households from Tarhouna to Garabolli and 308 displaced households from Ain Zara staying in the university dorms in Frunaj. Monthly food distributions are continuing, and expanding to Alkufra, Ejdabiya and Sirt due to increased needs. Numbers are being verified according to needs and vulnerabilities through quick needs assessments. WFP also recently resumed food distributions in Aljufra to 378 vulnerable IDPs and host communities. RRM is also being used as a quick response to displacements. In April so far, IOM distributed 1,066 of WFP-provided Ready-to-Eat food rations to migrants outside detention centres in Algatroun, Bani Waleed, Sebha, Tripoli, and Zwara. FSS partners continue to receive a high number of requests for food assistance from the Ministry of Social Affairs and mayors of several municipalities. These requests are increasing the caseload for emergency food assistance. As food suppliers are stopping the supply of food to Detention centres, there is a gap that will increase in the near future.

HRP and funding: nothing new to report

oPT

COVID cases: 342

Situation update: WB - Many market transactions are limited as traders and producers can't physically meet. Poultry and livestock markets continue suffering by low demand and small poultry farmers are coping by selling at a loss. Herders and traders report of falling sheep prices in the attempt to face a virtually non-existent demand. Some farmers/traders are limiting production and supply lookout, due to reducing prices and demand. Weak demand for milk and dairy products. Low demand of cow's milk in West Bank and mainly in the North. 520 tonnes of cow's milk are produced daily in West bank, of which 100 tonnes are produced in the north. 420 tonnes used to go for factories and the rest is processed at home level. Due to the movement restrictions imposed by PA, sweets shops are closed which led to low demand on cheese and excess of milk. The sweets shops used to consume more than 50 tonnes of milk /cheese on daily basis. Herders are attempting to shift production to longer shelf life products. However, those that do not possess the needed know-how are experiencing losses. Gaza: The lack of agricultural inputs for farmers/herders/fishers continues to represent a major constraint factors for the continuity of food production. People hosted in the quarantine centres require support for the provision of lunch meals. MoSD managed to secure breakfast and dinner light meals for approximately 2,000 quarantined persons who came back to Gaza. So far, lunch meals are provided in collaboration with the Qatari fund, but MoSD reported that there is high risk that Qatar may stop providing lunch meals.

Humanitarian access: nothing new to report

Operation coverage and changes: WB: Home garden distribution is taking place, with around 80 percent of the activities already completed – around 1 million vegetable seedlings have been distributed across the West Bank. In order to integrate efforts of governmental bodies, organisations are raising awareness about the Covid-19 disease and related infection control practices among farmers and cooperatives. The FSS partners are approaching them and disseminating key instructions to keep the production place and

other working places safe. Gaza: 3,000 daily waged workers received cash assistance (100\$) as part of DFA grant to those workers affected due the CO-19 pandemic provided to 10,000 workers. In the coming weeks the number will raise up reaching the target (10,000 workers HHs). The DFA assistance to agricultural sector started; 427 poultry breeders received fodders with a value ranged from \$250 to 600 each; in quantities (400-1,000 kilograms of broilers fodders. It is expected that in the next week a similar number of broilers' breeders receive the same next week as well as farmers who will receive agricultural inputs. Community initiatives started in the southern governorates to distribute vegetables parcels into households affected due to Covid-19. It is expected that these initiatives will cover other governorates in the coming weeks. Additional activities implemented by the FSS partners: Delivery 1 Kg bread to affected and vulnerable communities to 21,000 HH in Jerusalem; Provision of food vouchers for the most vulnerable affected due to CO-19 in Gaza Strip to 2,000 HH; Provision of vegetables parcels to most vulnerable HHs affected due to CO-19 to 850 HH in Khan Yunis and Rafah; Support and distribute e-voucher to 16,000 people non refugees' people in both West Bank and Gaza Strip – most vulnerable groups by COVID 19 – disabled, elderly and pregnant and lactating women; Food distribution for 1,145 HH in Bedouin communities

HRP and funding: ongoing through a dedicated Country Response plan. Total plan value: \$42m. Total FSS value: \$11.7m to reach 450,000 individuals. Currently under monthly revision.

Ukraine

COVID cases: 9,009

Situation update: Extension of COVID-19-related restrictive measures until 11 May 2020. Provision of additional payments of social benefits during quarantine to private entrepreneurs with children and people who lost their jobs and registered at the employment centre. Introduction of state regulation of prices on goods of social importance, which include some types of food, personal protection items, medicines and sanitizers. Additionally, the Cabinet of Ministers clarified provisions on one-time financial support to vulnerable groups during quarantine. It is expected that the following groups of people will receive a one-time payment of UAH1,000 (\$37) in April: retired persons with pensions under UAH5,000 (\$184), recipients of public social support, people with inborn disabilities and children with disabilities.

Humanitarian access: Work of Exit-Entry Checkpoints: only unrestricted exit from NGCA is permitted. Return to NGCA from GCA for communities and organizations is restricted by de-facto authorities. This exposes the risk for timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to NGCA. Source: UNDSS. Accreditation for operating on NGCA now is not prolonged for the majority of UN agencies by de-facto authorities.

Operation coverage and changes: Food security humanitarian assistance in Luhansk NGCA: PiN, one of the most FSL Cluster active partners, continues providing support on NGCA for the most vulnerable in forms of vouchers to ensure immediate access to food. Together with food vouchers, the organization distributes Informational leaflets on COVID-19 prevention. During a recent week, conducted needs assessment of over 60 elderly people residing in Luhansk NGCA closely to the contact line to define potential beneficiaries for the next round of voucher assistance planned for May 2020. Source: update on GCM meeting Luhansk (NGCA). Food security humanitarian assistance in Donetsk NGCA. FSL Cluster partners' access remains limited in Donetsk NGCA. Charitable Organization "International Children's' fund "Mira" (is not currently FS Cluster member) distributes food kits and vouchers for food for the most vulnerable. The source of funding is unknown. The organization has registration in both Ukraine and the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" and cooperates closely with de-facto authorities. Source: update on GCM meeting in Donetsk (NGCA). Access to food in isolated settlements in Eastern Conflict Area, GCA. As mentioned in the previous weekly report, prior to the quarantine, 29 isolated settlements

remain with no access to transportation and grocery shops and are not covered with humanitarian assistance (https://www.unhcr.org/ua/wp-content/uploads/sites/38/2020/04/UNHCR_Ukraine_Protection_Report_n2_20200410_UKR.pdf). IOM, being one of the Cluster partners, considering the possibility to address the needs of the affected population in the isolated settlements. Source: UNHCR monitoring report, developed in partnership with Proliska, communications with Proliska and IOM

HRP and funding: nothing new to report

WoS

COVID cases: 43

Situation update: NES: Market Assessment: REACH weekly market monitoring assessment to understand the impact on vendors capacity, supplies, commodities and accessibility by REACH and FSL partners. Regular price monitoring April monthly assessment by WFP VAM team during COVID19. REACH conducted Market monitoring assessment (6-9 April) in NES with support from the CWG to understand the impact of COVID-19 on functionality of markets to supply basic needs related to food and hygiene products in communities across Northern Syria, as well as community-members' access to markets, findings were on Vendors for the most part were considered essential only 8% (54 of 710) of surveyed vendors across NES reported their shops being closed as a result of COVID-19. Also, Barriers to Markets results like avoiding markets due to COVID19, 82% responses, low purchasing power 72%, limited opening hours 59%. 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 on a daily basis, 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/Operational Coverage: NES: Previously reported restrictions on lockdown/ curfew remain with following changes observed: New exemptions announced by local authorities on April 21st, The curfew due to the Corona pandemic is extended for ten days, starting from Wednesday Morning 22 April 2020 till the end of Friday 1st May 2020. While continuing to apply the previous relevant decisions, except for the following: All pharmacies (human, agricultural, veterinary) and vegetable and fruit shops, meat and sweets shops and all mobile vendors are allowed to operate throughout the ban. Food stores (malls, groceries, and shops) are allowed to operate throughout the ban. Money exchange and remittance shops are allowed to operate on Friday and Tuesday throughout the ban period. The construction sector, building material shops, and the equivalent labour, and all shops in industrial areas are allowed to operate throughout the ban period. The movement of farmers is facilitated with workers working with them to and from agricultural lands. However, the number must not exceed ten workers per vehicle. Cars of (foodstuffs, medicines, infant formula, health supplies and sterilization, fuel and fuel) are permitted between cities and within a single city. Employers in all fields that are allowed to work must provide personal protection methods from masks and gloves to wear them during the work period, taking into account the principle of social separation. *Impact on programmes:* Previous report impact remains, with additional following impacts observed: During this reporting period, the continuity of agriculture activities has improved, on average 65% 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. 35% 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. Possible COVID19 Impact after the low prices of Wheat announced which is strategic in the area on farmers profit, considering the increased operation costs, Last year the price of one KG of Wheat 165 SYP, the USD equals at that time about 600 SYP this year we have the price of Wheat one KG 225 and the USD equals about 1250 SYP. The AWG will be working on analysis to understand better the economic impact on the agriculture Market. Also the FSL is running the wtb assessment currently. NWS: *impact on programmes:* Previous report impact remains, with additional following impacts observed: Increase in the flour price from 285\$ to 300\$ because of the delay in the transporting from Turkey to Syria, the delay was for three weeks which affected around 1,500 HHs. Under the subsidize flour projects there was a decrease in the weight of the bread bundle from 1,200 gram to 1,000 gram and the price now for one bundle (1,000 gram) is 275 SYP in Idleb. One partner reported that there was an increase in the cost of the production of the bread because of provision of sterilization items to the bakeries, vehicles, and distribution points. There is a concern from the Bakery and bread coordination group related to the fuel price which may be increased in the coming days.

HRP and funding: Three plans are in the process of being established/updated, as follows: 1) Damascus: Syrian Arab Republic, Operational Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19; estimated cost 28 million. 2) NES: Emergency Readiness and Response Plan for COVID-19 in North East Syria; estimated cost: 700,000. 3) NWS: COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for Northwest Syria; estimated cost: \$30 million. Total estimated requirements: 10 million.