



COVID-19 – 5th FSC Weekly Situation Update 27th April 2020 – 3rd May 2020

RBP UPDATES

Colombia

COVID cases: 7,285

Situation update: WFP is developing an analysis of the indirect impacts of COVID19 on food security in Colombia, including the impacts in urban areas where poor and vulnerable people depend on the informal economy. WFP and FAO will carry out an evaluation of the functionality of markets in 14 Colombian departments. This will be the first time that it will include both urban and peri-urban and rural areas. According to a FAO survey in 20 departments (April 12th - 18th), the products showing greatest supply shortages are rice, banana and eggs. The most common impacts reported by producers are related to the increase in prices of agricultural inputs, transportation problems to get the products for sale, and agroclimatic events such as droughts. 92% of merchants surveyed report impacts from the Covid-19 crisis.

Humanitarian access: NTR compared to previous week

Operation coverage and changes: WFP keeps expanding its operational area to new urban areas and it is preparing to support 29,000 Venezuelan migrants and host community members in Bogotá, Cali, Palmira and Pasto. Moreover, WFP will assist 51,000 Colombian people affected by COVID in the departments of Antioquia, Córdoba, Caquetá, Chocó, Nariño, Cauca and Valle del Cauca. WFP is in the process of expanding its base of implementing partners to continue to ensure an effective response and is conducting food purchases to ensure distributions of in-kind assistance to affected populations.

Coordination: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding: NTR compared to previous week

Haiti

COVID cases: 85

Situation update: COVID-19 is expected to lead to a further increase in food insecurity across the country due to a rise in food and agricultural inputs prices and a decrease in the purchasing power of most rural households. While the extent of this impact is currently being estimated, concerns were raised, as there is already a significant response gap in this sector. Disruptions of global supply chains could contribute to a further increase in food prices. Haiti does not produce enough food to feed its population, and is therefore highly dependent on food imports, and vulnerable to volatility in international food prices. At the entry points of Ouanaminthe and Belladere, the strengthening of protocols for the detection of COVID-19 cases among migrants who return from the Dominican Republic is ongoing. The centers identified to serve as a quarantine spaces are being / will be rehabilitated; water and sanitation installations, hygiene kits and sensitization materials made available.

Humanitarian access: NTR compared to previous week

Operation coverage and changes: Regular response activities have been adapted to the new context by introducing hygiene measures and carrying out sensitization on the spread of the virus with the beneficiaries. According to the latest updates shared by partners, current funding will make it possible to cover in 2020 approximately 40% of the target for food assistance, initially set at 1.2 million people, and less than 15% of the target for support to livelihoods and agriculture, set at 1.41 million people. If additional funding is not mobilized quickly, the impact of COVID-19 in Haiti could significantly increase this response gap.

Coordination: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding: While the HRP is almost finalised (HPC tool process ongoing), the revision is ongoing at the same time. For FS, tentatively additional 50M USD will be required, based on a target increase from 1,41 to 1,56 million people (tentatively, without new assessment available).

Venezuela

COVID cases: 345

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: 674

Situation update: VAM and CAID (Cellule d'Analyse d'Indicateurs de Développement), a Governmental body, released the April 2020 market analysis bulletin. For more info: https://www.caid.cd/mkengela/mKengela-49_r.pdf, and <https://www.caid.cd/mkengela/mKengela-49.pdf>. Main points: in April 2020, five of the ten products monitored experienced an increase in prices (cassava flour + 10%, salt + 8%, vegetable oil + 6%, sugar + 6%, imported rice + 6%) and five experienced stable prices (cornmeal, beans, palm oil, local rice and goat meat); Covid-19 has had an impact on the prices of manufactured goods coming from outside the country. The increase in cassava prices is due to the rains that spread throughout most of the country during the month of April. With the rains, the cassava hardly dries and the availability decreases in the markets. Nineteen of the twenty-six provinces in the country experienced an upward trend in prices for the majority of the products monitored. The areas most affected are in order of importance: Kinshasa, the western provinces of the country, the three Kasai, the two Kivus (especially the South) and the Maniema; In particular, Kinshasa experienced a price increase of at least 20% for all ten products monitored in this month of April; These upward trends in product prices are explained by measures to restrict population movements, close borders and increase the cost of transporting products decreed by the Government to counter the spread of the Corona Virus pandemic. Other consequences: increase in the cost of the household basket of corn and cassava and deterioration of the purchasing power of households for around 30% for the basket with corn and by 45% for that with cassava. On average, households lost almost 40% of their purchasing power as a result of this pandemic.

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 HRP 2020 review process is ongoing and should be finalised by 15th May. In terms of FSL, both PIN and targets increased, respectively from 15.6M to 19.8M people, and from 8.1M to 10.7M

people). Activities under SO1 (food assistance) and some activities under SO2 (support to the emergency agricultural production) are planned to be upscaled, while other SO3 activities (support to livelihoods) remain unchanged.

Mozambique

COVID cases: 79

Situation update: Most C19 cases are concentrated within 2 provinces of Cabo Delgado (46 cases) and Maputo urban and peri-urban areas (30 cases); Cabo Delgado is the province with the worst humanitarian situation due to conflicts and remoteness. 41% of the population (11.8million people) are using crisis or emergency coping strategies while 32.2% of the population (9.3million people) are reporting challenges to accessing markets. The major livelihood coping strategies in order of importance include: spending savings, borrowing food on credit or borrow food, reduce non-food expenses, sell of female animals and borrowing money or food while barriers to accessing markets include markets/grocery stores are too far, concerned about going out because of the outbreak, markets/ grocery stores are closed, all adults' members are quarantined in the house. The most vulnerable due to current diseases outbreak are low income and informally employed urban and peri-urban population, shock affected population in particular IDPs and refugees. This week, the Agriculture WG, led by FAO, initiated the preparatory meetings for the upcoming Land (Agricultural) Access Survey for populations living in Resettlement Sites. This is an FSL and CCCM inter-cluster exercise with the participation of provincial authorities.

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 COVID emergency appeal (HRP) has been further revised down based on feedback from OCHA HQs, with the total funding requirements reduced to US\$ 68M from US\$ 99M. For FSL, budget has been reduced from US\$ 37,5M to US\$ 15M (Food assistance: US\$ 12.5M and Livelihoods: US\$ 2.5M). With an FSL PIN of 2,500,000, target has been reduced from 1,055,000 (755,000 people for food assistance, 300,000 for livelihoods support) to 435,770 (405,770 for food assistance and 30,000 for livelihoods support).

Zimbabwe

COVID cases: 34

Situation update: According to Child Protection and GBV Sub-Cluster, negative coping mechanisms will likely worsen including early marriage and child labor due to loss of livelihoods. The early closure and late opening of schools could lead to increased incidents of SGBV, teenage pregnancy and child marriage, and may result in more permanent school dropout rates, particularly of girls, as well as an increase in domestic and GBV. The second Crops and Livestock Assessment verification exercise is being undertaken by teams in the field, involving individual farm visits and meetings with extension staff at various levels and key informants such as District Coordinators on the overall district food security situation. Private sector companies engaged in agriculture are operational as the 'exemption permit' process is working well. However, most companies are operating with skeletal staff and reporting a large slowdown in business due to fall in demand for products. Some companies are reporting difficulties in accessing raw materials from China and other places due to air freight restrictions. The micro – finance operations are facing huge challenges and defaults on repayments are becoming more evident. This will have a knock-on effect for farmers obtaining credit for next season. Some extension officers have also reported resistance of farmers in allowing extension officers onto farms. There is thus need to support the government extension workers on a larger scale, as well as to try to strengthen dissemination of COVID19 crisis communication.

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

Operation coverage and changes: Implementation of agriculture and livelihoods projects is continuing on limited scale with regard to input distributions which were prepositioned before the lock down. However, there is a break in the pipeline due to tender delays as suppliers are battling to collect stock. To be able to ensure continuity of planned projects, FSL Cluster partners are developing remote extension options such as the use of WhatsApp platforms and radio.

According to data reported in the March 5W, a total of 1.6M beneficiaries targeted with in-kind or cash distribution are at risk of discontinued support due to upcoming end of projects. In addition, the COVID-19 outbreak has led to the suspension of emergency agriculture and livelihoods support projects benefitting 220 000 vulnerable farmers. For the April 2020 cycle, delayed by two weeks due to the implementation of COVID-19 protection and mitigation measures, cluster partners reached a total of 2.01M beneficiaries with in-kind food or cash distributions.

Coordination: interest of new NGOs in joining the FSL Cluster

HRP and funding: NTR compared to previous week

RBB UPDATES

COX's Bazar –

Situation update: Cox's Bazar VAM unit assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on urban poor is planned (National level [assessment on impact on food insecurity, coping mechanisms, income and employment, and preferred support](#) was released)

Humanitarian access: No major changes from last week. Plan is underway to reach vulnerable groups (elderly) and people in homecare in the refugee camps with packages (home delivery food and cloth masks from FSS)

Operation coverage and changes: Local authorities approved resuming self-reliance activities (cloth mask making, micro gardening) in the camps and they have resumed at small-scale. 170 HH have received vegetables seeds from 1 partner and cloth mask making initiatives are implemented by 2 partners

Coordination: Partners are targeting existing beneficiaries and therefore concentration of target beneficiaries in JRP targeted locations is reported – [HC interactive dashboard](#); Advocacy to reach other sub-districts of Cox's Bazar to fill coverage gaps; Partners recommended to cross-checking beneficiaries list among themselves and with the local authorities; [Factsheet](#) on livelihood support to health response (GoB approved CfW activity) was released to coordinate and guide new partners

HRP and funding: Ongoing – to be finalized on 5 May – see [narrative and monitoring framework](#) Estimate ask above \$50 million, still awaiting project proposal submission; At least 256,000 host community individuals (700,000 PIN – 444,000 existing); On average, JRP partners' projects are approx. 53% funded.

Bangladesh

Situation update: Joint Needs Analysis is done and endorsed by the Government. FAO is conducting Food market assessment; Agriculture labour is not sufficiently available and lack of operational agriculture machineries are creating a panic situation for farmers. Both Value chain and Supply chain for agriculture products and inputs are challenged. Household level food stock is now reduced. Most of the poor people, e.g. daily laborer, rickshaw puller, small businessman are suffering due to limited work/no employment and movement restriction. Food price, especially for rice, vegetables, cooking oil, milk,

poultry, fish is increasing gradually as supply chain is disrupted. Negative coping mechanisms are reportedly observed. Extreme poor HHs already spend their little savings on food and currently suffering from liquid money crisis for availing food items. For Muslims the food crisis in Ramadan also creates big sufferings. Food prices are 19-20% higher than pre-lockdown averages. However, unless you examine each product's price fluctuation, you miss the real story. For instance, the +46% onion price increase reveals challenges with importing vegetables. Whereas, the -26% fall in broiler meat prices tells a very different story: a sudden need among poultry producers to unload a lot of product at a loss. Meanwhile, Ramadan will stoke increases in the prices for fruits, as juices and smoothies are coveted iftar ingredients.

Humanitarian access: Access to beneficiaries are limited due to lockdown beneficiaries' access to distrib. Points, market and to national safety nets; limited access due to lockdown. Chain of food 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. Some mobile markets are implemented this week as trial basis with support from the Department of Livestock for Milk, Egg and poultry.

Operational coverage and changes:

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has allocated (up to May 03, 2020) a total of 123,800 MT of rice, BDT 535 million cash and particularly BDT 127 million for child food under the COVID response. MoDMR is preparing to support 5 million HHs with 20 kg of rice per Household. MoDMR has deployed 55 officials to monitor division/district wise relief monitoring. Department of Livestock Services (DLS) has opened a control room to address issues around fisheries, livestock, milk and poultry production. DLS has issued order to keep the livestock services at field level operational to ensure production. DLS has also instructed their field level officials to support the marketing initiatives taken by the milk and poultry producers. But there is no specific guideline for that. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has opened a monitoring cell to monitor the COVID situation since 26 April 2020. MoA has called for LCG agriculture meeting on 28 April 2020. To reduce the rice production cost, DAE is distributing combined harvester, rippers, rice planters and other agricultural tools with a subsidy of BDT 2,000 million. The lack of operational agriculture machinery is creating a panic situation of anxiety for farmers. To support this Ministry of Agriculture is bringing agriculture labors to Haor area and 77% rice harvesting is done till 2 May 2020. Department of Agriculture Extension will distribute Aush seeds to vulnerable farmers to ensue production. Each farmer will receive 5 Kg of seed per bigha of land.

Planned:

- ✓ Distribution of Fortified Rice through Open Market Sales (OMS) for poor and vulnerable people in urban slums (Technical and financial assistance to Ministry of Food). This will support 40000 households in Dhaka North and South.
- ✓ Food assistance for 10,000 households most affected by COVID-19 in selected at-risk low-income urban areas of Dhaka.
- ✓ Distribution of Cash to vulnerable 24,263 households in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar

Coordination: Active partners: increase or decrease? (staff reduction) participation increased rapidly. WFP has assigned one person to the FSC team for a month with a volunteer from a university. Main Consequences for 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: Not yet finalised

Afghanistan

Situation update : Daily price monitoring that the price for staples continue to be over 20% for wheat flour with other staples such as cooking oil and pulses showing important increases; The IPC analysis has been concluded with 13.2 million people in IPC 3&4 for current and 12.4 million people for the projection period from June-November 2020 with the final report and government endorsement being sought this week

Flooding and variable rainfall patterns continues to create concerns in regards to the spread of pests and diseases including locusts and wheat rust, although the expected increase in temperatures may decrease the soil oversaturation and stabilize the risk of landslides in highland areas and increase water basin levels which will ensure a successful spring cultivation season

Humanitarian access: Movement restrictions of producers have been resolved on a province by province level although a national level agreement is lacking, and producers are often blocked or slowed down in their access to major urban markets.

The limited lockdowns have had a temporary but important impact on the economic activity within urban spaces with some urban centers restarting activities in defiance of official lockdown restrictions however the volume of commerce has been significantly hampered particularly for those involved in vulnerable employment categories.

Food distributions have not been significantly affected and continue as per pre-C19 plans. The supply chain has been disrupted by Afg-Pak border closure although this situation will likely resolve in the coming weeks as the border re-opens on a 5x per week schedule although the movement of time sensitive poultry and dairy continues to be difficult.

Access of Afghan exporters to the Pak markets continues to be blocked, an aspect that will increase in impact as spring and summer cash crops are harvested.

The movement of seasonal pastoralists is currently blocked which will impact on the viability of the livestock herds if they cannot access their summer pasturelands.

Operational coverage and changes: The asset creation projects continues to be postponed with no clear start-up date along with the agricultural training sessions. It will be necessary to see how to restart these key agricultural training sessions while respective health guidelines and ensure that small holders access the inputs they require to have a successful harvest.

Partners are planning how to scale up their emergency response to nomads, urban/peri-urban IDPs, urban poor and small holders with several exploring how to increase their emergency cash aid footprint.

Development actors, in particular WB is planning to conduct a large scale “universal coverage” assistance project that will target approximately 80% of the population with a one-off cash distribution to cover emergency food needs. In order to complete this distribution the WB will likely have to rely heavily on humanitarian partners.

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

HRP and Funding: Additional funds under the COVID-19 response plan not yet materialized; Official announcement for 4 million USD under AHF; Partners actively and independently sourcing new funds for COVID-19 responses with several partners already securing commitments for over 8 million for C19 specific top up responses

RBN UPDATE

Somalia

Situation update;

Humanitarian access: In Somalia, first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was confirmed in Mogadishu on 16 March 2020. As of 30 April, the number of confirmed cases had risen to 601. In order to contain the pandemic, a night curfew in Mogadishu was imposed. As reported earlier, schools and universities had already been closed.

As reported last week, 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.

Meanwhile, the 2020 Gu' rains (April-June) intensified in the Ethiopian highlands and across Somalia, triggering flash flooding in several regions and along the Juba and Shabelle river valleys where water levels rose sharply. Thousands of people, including IDPs, have lost their homes and farms. The River levels along the Shabelle River which increased sharply in the last few days are expected to remain high, with a high likelihood of flooding.

Operational coverage and changes:

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.
- Some partners switched from cash distribution via banks to e-vouchers to avoid overcrowding at the bank.
- Partner reported that registration and verification of the beneficiaries also required more time as to along with the precautions with the COVID-2019 on maintaining social distancing and working more with the Village Committees to avoid crowd in the communities.
- In general the COVID-19 is affecting the implementation of the projects due to limited movement/field visit to supervise the ongoing project activities
- 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.

Coordination: 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).

HRP and funding: 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)

Regarding coordination meetings

- The FSC is coordinating with partners to map out the needs, coverage and gaps in light of the projected upcoming flooding. A meeting was conducted on 30 April 2020 with all the 15 regional FSC Vice coordinators to put in place the procedure and tools for the mapping exercise. The SWALIM Somalia Floods Update Issued 27 April 2020 reported that there was a significant increase of rainfall in most parts of Somalia as well as the eastern Ethiopian highlands. As such, some parts of the country already experienced flash flood. Flooding has also begun in the Juba and Shabelle rivers.
- The FSC conducted a meeting with partners who are tasked with collecting data at a local level as pertains desert locust. The data collection is done through a simple form in the Open Data Kit (ODK). The information collected complement Government surveillance system in place with DL units established in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug. The main challenges partners raised as affecting timely reporting include poor internet connectivity in certain locations as well as movements restrictions in place due to COVID 19.

- The FSC conducted a meeting with the 81 partners who have approved projects in the 2020 HRP. The objective was to discuss the upcoming project revision to consider impacts of COVID 19. During the meeting, the procedure, tools, criteria and tools were discussed. The deadline for partners to submit revised projects to the FSC updates is 3 May 2020.
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 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. The Taskforce aims to amplify risk communication of COVID-19 through the ICCG/clusters and reach out to other stakeholders who can effectively engage the community to arrest/delay community transmission by proactively involving communities through two-way communication.

Ongoing discussions on HRP revisions: 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

RBC UPDATES

Iraq

COVID cases: 2,296

Situation update: Cluster partners have conducted impact of COVID-19 on Food Security assessment in Ninewa. The results of the assessment will be shared next week. Wheat and barley harvesting continue in the south, with the government announcing prices of wheat and barley at the government silos.

Humanitarian access: Emergency food assistance distributions are ongoing both in and out of camps for vulnerable populations. Compared to the early weeks of the outbreak, households have better access to markets and livelihood sources as curfew is now only imposed starting at 6pm.

Operation coverage and changes: Partners are covering out of camp populations through food assistance. Figures will be updated in the coming days and reflecting on the FSC Dashboard

HRP and funding: There is a significant gap within the HRP funding as only 20% of FSC requirements are funded under the HRP and all of those funds are directed to the emergency response in the IDP camps only. All out-of-camp responses, including cash modalities and agriculture-focused activities, remain unfunded. The COVID19 response document has been finalized and submitted to OCHA. FSC has asked for \$21.16M for the COVID-19 response

Lebanon

COVID cases: 737

Situation update: multisectoral partners are currently planning an assessment on COVID related needs. No assessments planned on the impact on agriculture, but a presentation will be given by FAO on the socio-economic crisis on agriculture.

Humanitarian access: Exponential increase in calls requesting food assistance to WFP/UNHCR call centre: Out of 2106 callers, 1,796 were non WFP/UNHCR beneficiaries; around 60 % (1,088 callers) asked for only food assistance; 35% (627 callers) asked for a combination of food and other assistance, such as rent, cash and hygiene products. High concerns with regards to the free fall of the local currency on the parallel exchange market, impacting inflation of food items and purchasing power. Availability of stocks is being regularly monitored by WFP and latest update points to a decrease in the percentage of WFP-contracted shops that have availability of stocks for more than 2 weeks.

Operation coverage and changes: As in previous weeks, regular programme activities for partners implementing agriculture related projects are still on hold but might resume in next week's following government 5 phases plan to ease the lockdown. 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. Regular food assistance programmes mostly CBT continue and redemption rates at last monitoring on 28 April showed 97% redemption rates.

2. Increase of organizations not previously under the FSS that are planning to provide food assistance as well as non-LCRP partners. Partners outside the sector reprogramming their funds to provide in kind food assistance to their targets including education sector partners.

HRP and funding: LCRP 2020 finalised: link <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-crisis-response-plan-2017-2020-2020-update> . 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. They are included in the GHRP

oPT

COVID cases: 522

Situation update: The World Bank forecasts a contraction in the Palestinian economy in 2020, which could reach 7%, in case the crisis resulting from the outbreak of the COVID-19 is exacerbated. West Bank: The Palestinian economy is facing a very dangerous situation with the suspension of various sectors due to pandemic measures, at a time that lacks any tools for financial stimulus, liquidity pumping, or borrowing. Heavy losses are expected for the livestock sector in West Bank. This sector has been subject to complete paralysis since the start of the current crisis. According to the appeal launched by UAWC recently, there was a great decline in the consumption of red meat, the demand decreased to more than 15%. There are more than 1,600 small farmers in addition to about 500 medium-size farmers working on fattening sheep and calves. Hebron Governorate is the largest in terms of numbers of sheep and fattened calves, followed by the Governorate of Bethlehem and then the governorates of the northern West Bank. The continued rise in the weights caused an increase in the costs and inputs of fattening with a decrease in the selling prices of live weight. Prices are constantly falling and there is no marketing. The cost of producing 1 kg of lamb meat is 4.5 dinars, while now the selling price has fallen below 5 dinars. There is no consistent demand, and the price is expected to decline during the coming period, even below 4.5 dinars. Gaza Strip: MoL in Gaza completed the registration of daily-waged workers who lost their source of income due to the measures imposed by the local authorities in response to COVID-19 pandemic. Out of 130,000 registered workers, MoL mentioned that around 38,000 workers (hence HHs) are on the top of being eligible for receiving urgent humanitarian assistance based on the poverty status and other socioeconomic conditions. With the new wave of arrivals to Gaza last week from Egypt, quarantine centres are hosting approximately 2,000 persons. MoSD mentioned that there are some concerns about the continuation of food assistance to people in these quarantine facilities. While Qatar has so far been able to support the provision of daily meals, there is no certainty that this assistance will continue. MoSD highlighted that much more predictability is required especially during the holy month of Ramadan. There is also a considerable number of people in quarantine facilities with health conditions and/or with special food requirements.

Humanitarian access: West Bank: In response to last MoSD and MoA appeal about helping and supporting poor and vulnerable families and farmers due to the COVID-19 pandemic by including agriculture commodities in the food parcels. Local NGOs in West bank during last week started the process of distribution of more than 60 tonnes of vegetables and 5 tonnes of dates as direct support for both poor farmers and families. Home garden distribution is taking place, with around 90 percent of the activities already completed – around 1.1 million vegetable seedlings have been distributed across the

West Bank. Gaza Strip: Additional 7,000 daily waged workers received cash assistance (100 US\$) as part of DFA grant to those workers affected due the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching the target announced by MoL. Responding to COVID-19 impact at household level food security, WFP is engaged in the assistance of additional new 254 families (nominated by MoSD), equivalent to around 1,200 individuals, with CBT assistance. The new families will receive this temporary assistance for a period of three months (April – June 2020). This assistance comes on top of the current caseload in Gaza Strip, which is equivalent to around 256,000 beneficiaries.

Operation coverage and changes:

HRP and funding:

Ukraine

COVID cases: 12,331

Situation update: Small and medium business representatives have announced a protest action/moto of the rally “I Go With You!” on April 29, 2020, near the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and in vicinities of other regional administrations throughout Ukraine. The protesters demand governmental actions/decisions allowing small and medium businesses, representatives/entrepreneurs to work while observing health and safety regulations. The rally organizers refer to the solutions adopted in other countries and blame Ukrainian leadership in “killing small and medium businesses are the main contributors to Ukrainian budget”. Source: UNDSS. The COVID-19 crisis has further disrupted limited economic activity in eastern Ukraine, which has already been devastated by over six years of armed conflict. Humanitarian organizations’ ability to organize humanitarian aid convoys through the ‘contact line’ to NGCA remains limited, with only two UN-organized convoys reaching Donetsk (NGCA) since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis in March. Source: OCHA sitrep. Government will permit a number of food stores to open

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. Source: update on GCM meeting in Luhansk (NGCA)

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. IOM being one of the Cluster partners, considering the possibility to address the needs of the affected population in the isolated settlements.

HRP and funding:

Sudan

COVID cases: 592

Situation update: A comprehensive socio-economic assessment exercise using multiple scenarios is under preparation by a joint interagency team composed of the African Development Bank, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP

Humanitarian access: Borders/flights: All land borders closed. On 20 April, Sudan Civil Aviation Authority extended the closure of airports for international and domestic flights until 20 May 2020. This excludes scheduled cargo, humanitarian aid and technical and humanitarian support flights; airlines operating in the oil fields; and evacuation flights for foreign nationals. UNHAS passenger flights have stopped, while cargo is still operational. Containment measures: Khartoum State is under three-week lockdown since 18 April. Bridges linking Omdurman and Khartoum North are closed. People can access neighbourhood shops, bakeries and pharmacies between 6 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily. In addition, the Ministry of Awqaf (Religious Endowments) has suspended prayers in mosques and church services in the state during the three-week lockdown period. Some states in Darfur Region have closed borders and have imposed curfews to limit the movement of people. All bus travel between states has been banned as of 26 March 2020 with the exception of humanitarian, commercial and technical shipments. Bridges linking Omdurman, Khartoum and Khartoum North are closed.

Operation coverage and changes: WFP has adjusted food distributions to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission while ensuring life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable populations across 13 States in Sudan. In April, WFP is conducting distributions implementing COVID-19 precautionary measures for over 2 million people aiming to deliver a two-month ration for April and May. Distribution of double rations is done in an effort to reduce the number of times beneficiaries have to come to the distribution sites. At the same time in cooperation with other partners WFP intensified community messaging at the distribution points on COVID-19, including on the importance of physical distancing and hand washing

HRP and funding:

WoS

COVID cases: 44

Situation update: NES: Overall most food security activities are ongoing, including the distribution of monthly food assistance in camp/ out of camp locations, daily bread distributions, food voucher/ cash for food distributions, Ready to Eat Ration (RTERs) distributions and wheat flour distributions to bakeries. In addition, household agriculture interventions such as provision of home garden/ kitchen garden kits, cash for seeds, polytunnel kit distribution and fodder voucher distributions are ongoing. Over the last week, the SA Economic and Agriculture Department announced an extension to the exist exemption that farmers would be allowed to continue their work and are exempt from the lockdown restrictions until May 1st. Specifically, farmers and agriculture workers are permitted to move during the day (with no restrictions) as long as they have their ID card and trucks are carrying no more than 10 persons. Agriculture pharmacies will also be permitted to be open according to determined hours (5 PM to 1 AM). Food stores (malls, groceries, and shops) are allowed to operate throughout the curfew. The authorities have agreed that agriculture-based sector activities will be permitted, with approvals to be issued through normal HAO process. The recent exemptions enabled many of Agriculture inputs type activities to resume in NES, Lastly, the wheat prices for this season have announced by the SA and price for Wheat KG is 225 SYP, after the price determined an economic impact will be noticed on communities particularly their income rely on wheat and barley harvest and the highest percentage is in Hassakeh governorate, the AWG working with two partners conducting particular assessment to look into the economic side of wheat market in 2 months' time and link it with COVID19 challenges currently. The

weekly market monitoring assessment results showed, 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 COVID-19, 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-Hasakah and Qamishli markets, 12% in the Ar-Raqqa market and 16% in the Ain Issa market. with a 10% increase since March on SMEB food component value recorded at 89,582 SYP / 72 USD, the main sectors affected are: waged labourers, taxi drivers, skilled labourers, NFI/ small retailers, and technicians in industrial areas. There are concerns that disruption to livelihoods could have a further inflationary impact, reducing HH purchasing power as incomes decrease. Other challenges include the ongoing disruption to Hawalas in NES and the delays in granting approvals/ inconsistent approval processes from some HAOs. The Food Security sector is planning to arrange a second COVID-19 mitigation measures training for partner focal points in the next week. In addition, FS partners have discussed the impact of COVID-19 on Markets and particularly food and agriculture commodities/items prices, on that partners have agreed to add 5 additional agriculture items to the price monitoring exercise, in addition to the food commodities identified, this will give better understanding on the agriculture market linked to the harvesting coming soon. 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 of 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: Previously reported restrictions on lockdown/ curfew remain with following changes observed:

Border access for personnel: international NGO staff are currently not permitted to cross from KRI to NES. Authorities in KRI and SA have indicated that they are open to discussing the crossing of medical personnel only at this point. NGO staff are permitted to cross from NES to KRI, provided that this is pre-arranged, and the staff undergo a 14-day quarantine period in KRI upon arrival. An emergency modality for INGO staff to leave NES in case of medical or other emergencies has been confirmed by the authorities, with the appointment of a dedicated focal point to oversee this mechanism. The NES Forum is currently clarifying the details / process around the activation and use of the emergency mechanism, including the advance notification period required. In terms of Movement restrictions inside the current curfew extended until 1 May. Procedures relating to the movement of personnel and supplies have become clearer, with more consistent implementation contributing to a decline in reported access or movement issues. In terms of Movement of supplies: Following a new directive from the authorities last week that non-medical supplies are able to cross into NES, several partners have received permissions to bring in items such as hygiene kits and food baskets. Partners are awaiting the outcome of high-level conversations in KRI regarding the procedures for the import of medical supplies. Although the airport is reportedly open for cargo flights, partners are struggling to navigate a complex system of approvals, with government office closures a further complicating factor. NWS: Deir Ballut and Ghazawiah gates are open - between Idleb and olive branch and Euphrate shield areas. 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 the Health sector). Damascus: Number of confirmed cases as confirmed by the Ministry of Health to have COVID-19 as of 26 April: are 43 (including 3 fatalities). Related to restriction of movement and curfew as of 26 April 2020, the Government decided to continue the curfew from 7.30 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. with the suspension of public transportation. Also, the Cabinet allowed citizens to move among provinces on next Thursday, Friday and Saturday for one-time travel to facilitate movement among the Syrian provinces. Another decision allowed all shops and markets to reopen every day from 0800 hours to 1700 hours. The Government decided to lift travel restrictions for citizens commuting between provincial, urban centres and surrounding rural areas starting from 29 April 2020.

Operation coverage and changes: NES: On food assistance response, 18,795 HHs (93,975 beneficiaries) facing an average delay of 45 days in receiving their assistance. And the highest percentage is in Raqqa city, The Food Security Sector and partners in Raqqa have designed an immediate response plan to this delay as most the assistance will be provided the first week of May, some partners will be shifting modalities to meet the needs. The authorities are not providing approvals for certain Agriculture activities as they consider it not priority with the current situation now, and activities suspended/ interrupted up to now for some 5,755 Farmers/HH's (28,775 inds) including agriculture business, farmers grants, vaccination programmes and crop production activities. The AWG continues coordination closely with the SA Economic and Agriculture Department to ensure all procedures and details can be communicated the soonest and on suspended activities status. NWS: Previous report impact remains, with additional following impacts observed in addition to: increasing the awareness sessions to the beneficiaries, plans to create insolation centres for people who may be affected by COVID-19, WHO has sent more equipment to health centres in NWS, One partner reported that they have shifted their activities from poultry distribution to cash distribution, One partner reported the postpone receiving around 400 HHs to newly established camp in Afrin, Delay in receiving the instalment for the project implementation between Turkey and Syria. Concerns related to COVID-19 transferring between the government and opposition areas because of the intention to open a new gate between the two parties either in Saraqib in Idlib or Marrat Nassan in rural Aleppo. Concerns related to the fuel scarcity in the coming days,

HRP and funding: three plans are in the process of being prepared/updated. Damascus: USD 26M to target 4.5 M beneficiaries. Funding for WFP remains very critical in order to sustain life saving food assistance. WFP requires \$550 million to continue sustaining food assistance to at least 4.5 million people in the absence of which the agency could start cutting food rations as early as May 2020. Some NGOs have also indicated delays in funding which could further affect the normal delivery of assistance to communities already facing high levels of food insecurity as well as those newly in need of assistance due to loss of livelihoods from the COVID-19. NES: 700,000 USD. NWS: USD 10 M

RBD UPDATES

Burkina Faso

COVID cases: 662 (629)

Situation update:

- Functionality and availability are good in the markets. Prices are stable for cereals and moderately higher in vegetables and livestock.
- Access is globally good to distribution points, market and national safety nets
- The most vulnerable are in the order: the IDPs, the Host Families, the people impacted by the mitigation measures as the closure of markets. The Impact on the IDPs and Refugees in the formal camps is less strong than out

- The interdiction of travel has affected strongly the seasonal labour and has impacted the trade of seeds and other agricultural inputs. Meanwhile the interdiction will be suppressed from the 4 May.

Humanitarian access:

- Djibo in the Sahel Region has been reached by humanitarian assistance after three weeks of isolation. The humanitarian operations are renewed. Prices of food have increased; 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:

- CONASUR has distributed 15 000 TN of food to the most vulnerable affected by COVID-19 in Ouagadougou and in the Centre Region. The same operation is scheduled for the next week in the Hauts Basins. FSC has supported coordination and reporting with partners
- The members have shifted to remote coordination without relevant problems

HRP and funding

- 12M USD in the GHRP COVID-19 for adapting the ongoing response and assisting the people in quarantine
- 20 000 people in quarantine have been added to the sectorial target

Challenges:

- Doing advocacy for the donors and decision makers on the COVID-19 impact on food security
- Doing fund raising for continuing the response and integrate the new food insecure people
- Coordinating intersectoral response with the others Clusters and partners

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: 72 (16)

Situation update:

- IPC conducted last week, report being written. A one pager will be shared soon
- Weekly market price monitoring in Bangui (mVAM) and in the country with REACH

Humanitarian access: NtR.

Operation coverage and changes:

- 6900 hygiene kits (mask, solution and gloves) distributed to partners on the distribution sites
- Installation of washing areas on the distribution site set up social distancing during distribution

HRP and funding: 76 million USD in addition for the GHRP

Chad

COVID cases: 117 (46)

Situation update:

- The FSC with the WFP and the SISAAP is trying to organize a Cadre Harmonisé revision
- WFP is putting in place the mVAM
- An analysis on the socio economic impact of coronavirus in Chad to support the “Plan National de Reponse 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
- The FSC is negotiating with the Wash cluster the possibility to distribute wash kit during the food distribution. Unicef will provide the Kits and the training for the sensitization on the field
- The FSC with the lead agencies worked on a National response plan on the socio-economic impact of the covid-19.

HRP and funding: HRP being revised

Challenges:

- IT access for national NGO and government structures for their participation at meetings.
- Government of Chad is preparing the election and is trying to use the covid 19 response for election propaganda, so politics is coming in targeting, modalities of assistance, etc.

Mali

COVID cases: 563 (370)

Situation update:

- The Fonds Spécial created by the Government was credited of 5,8 million de dollars to support the response to Covid.
- FMI provided 200 millions USD to help Mali for COVID-19

Humanitarian access: Humanitarian access has not been impacted negatively by C19. The humanitarian actors continue monitoring the humanitarian access. Good coordination between the GoM and the humanitarian team

Operation coverage and changes: NtR

HRP and funding: 1,352,000 extra target for population and extra funding for COVID 19 155,643,599 USD

Niger

COVID cases: 750 (684)

Situation update: NtR

Humanitarian access: NtR

Operational coverage and changes: NtR

HRP and funding: 86,000 extra target (people), 32,690,252 USD extra requested

Challenges: NtR.

Nigeria

COVID cases: 2,558 (1,182)

Situation update:

Lock downs have come at a very heavy economic cost

Yobe State: Within the state people no movement restriction, only inter-state movement restriction – food movement is not included in the restriction of goods.

Adamawa State: NtR

Borno state

- In Maiduguri Metropolitan and the neighbouring urban Local Government Areas (LGAs), the lockdown was strictly implemented. However, in the rural or distant LGAs from the capital, activities went on normally in most of them
- In the urban LGAs where the lockdown has been strict including on humanitarian workers, partners both implementing through CVA and In-kind are not able to implement food assistance activities given the lockdown

Humanitarian access:

Lockdown in Borno state has continued 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

Operation coverage and changes:

Partners also continued to plan for the upcoming rain season cropping. This includes enhancing access to inputs to farmers. The restriction on fertilizer movements in Borno State have also persisted. This was before COVID-19 though. The Restriction in Borno State also affects the movements of Agricultural inputs.

HRP and funding: Total Funding requirement summary for non-COVID-19 and COVID-19 is **327,710,680 USD**. Following the finalization of agreement on COVID specific addendum, partners have started entering the figures and details into the online platform

Challenges: Lockdown in Borno state has continued 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 delivery