COVID-19 – 6th FSC Weekly Situation Update
4 – 10th of May 2020

Summary

**Asia & Pacific:** In Cox’s bazar (Rohingya response) humanitarian needs are concentrated in camps and host communities around it. However with the COVID pandemic additional caseload of HC are added to the response while in camps only life-saving activities are allowed (many partners planning unconditional cash assistance). In Afghanistan, price volatility and ongoing lockdowns in urban spaces continue to impact the most vulnerable with key staple goods such as flour continuing to be at an average of 15-20% higher than pre-C19 levels. Myanmar Cluster reported the risk of a pipeline break (due to international supply chain possible disruption) while lockdown measures have reportedly begun to affect local trade as mills and other factories are temporarily closed.

**East Africa:** More than five million people in South Sudan rely on food aid to survive and the coronavirus pandemic is making their lives harder: the most vulnerable are the rural and urban poor, essentially the IDPs and host communities, and due to ongoing inter-communal conflicts, displacements could lead further spread or increased vulnerabilities. In Somalia, prior to a complete lock down the FSC is advising partners to transfer at least two months’ rations to existing beneficiaries. In kind and cash based on performance of the market in terms of price as well as availability of the basic goods and livelihoods inputs. In Ethiopia food distributions are ongoing for double allocations to cover requirements for March, April and May. Partners have secured resources needed to assist beneficiaries for the double distributions; however, the different preventive measures in the country, which are in place and adopted by food operators could contribute to the delay of food distributions.

**Latin America:** In Colombia, humanitarian needs and gaps are concentrated in the Pacific departments and in the border departments with Venezuela and Ecuador, with the vast majority of assistance requests coming from mixed populations. In Venezuela, indigenous people are particularly affected by the COVID related confinement measures, both those in the forest regions of Amazonas, Bolivar and Delta Amacuro, living far from urban areas and unable to access food / other basic needs, and those caught by the quarantine in urban areas, unable to go back to their villages. Access by humanitarian to the forest regions remain limited. The number of returnees from Colombia in the borders is around 50,000, in need of support.

**Southern Africa:** In Mozambique and Zimbabwe, the agricultural season is expected to be poor due to erratic rainfall and inadequate availability and unaffordable inputs; while crop estimates have not been
concluded, there are enough converging evidences pointing to a likelihood of below normal harvest prospects. Moreover, although prices of basic foodstuffs have not yet increased significantly due to the effects of COVID-19, there has been a reduction in the level of income and purchasing power – the most affected are urban and peri-urban households who depend on informal businesses and seasonal informal employment. In Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado, the spread of the ongoing conflict has driven displacement and loss of livelihoods that has resulted in Crisis - IPC Phase 3 (FEWSNET). In both countries, funding remains very limited, with projects winding up due to funding restrictions (end of Cyclone Idai response / lean season response).

**Middle East and Eastern Europe:** in Iraq, based on WFP mVAM, 42% of households are adopting negative coping strategies. Food assistance is continuing for in and out of camp populations. While agriculture related activities remain unfunded. In Lebanon, as the COVID-19 emergency is compounding a pre-existing economic and financial crisis and triggering high inflation, vulnerability is cross-cutting among population cohorts including host and refugee communities. 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. Vulnerability of migrant workers continues to increase in Libya. A total of 4,894 migrants outside detention centres have been reached with RTE to date in April 2020, with last month of the project being May. Funding is a major issue to continue with the project. In oPT, farmers, livestock producers and fishermen continue to face major constraints. In Syria, based on REACH assessments, reports on disruption in supply streams and increase in prices. Funding for food assistance remains a challenge.

Ukraine: Amid the pandemic, FSLC partners continue to implement activities both related to the COVID-19 pandemic and planned activities before the pandemic.

**West Africa:** in two countries – Burkina Faso and Cameroon, the situation tends to go back to normal; as a result, market functionality goes back to normal though vulnerable people in urban areas and IDPs remain at risk. In Nigeria, the lock down in Borno State has been extended by one more week. However, one extra day for markets/shopping has been given. Therefore, this should ease on the food security assistance.

The impact on the upcoming crop season is expected to be high in the region, especially in Niger, CAR, Burkina Faso, because of the limited supply chain of agricultural inputs and tools as well as the limitation of movement for the regional migrant workers.

Overall, no major changes have been observed regarding the operations.

Page Break
RBB UPDATES

COX’s Bazar

Situation update: Urban assessment in HC, and HH survey in camps and HC by WFP ongoing; WFP

Market Monitoring prices of food commodities increase from 10% to 50%

Humanitarian access: No change – WFP delivering commodity voucher – see WFP messaging on general food assistance

Operation coverage and changes: Please refer to Inter-active Dash-boards Host Community COVID-19 Response Dashboard (Planned) (Reached).

Coordination: Many partners are planning unconditional cash assistance; Staggering partners’ cash distribution by month to avoid duplication; FSS/WFP began deploying IM staff to local authorities’ office (UNO) for cross-checking of beneficiaries; FSS is cross-checking beneficiary lists to find duplication between partners distributing cash and food; FAO and partners are developing SOP for distribution of agricultural inputs in coordination with the Department of Agricultural Extension

HRP and funding: To be finalized in mid-May - $50 million in total for 1) food and cash assistance; 2) agriculture support; and 3) support for health response (food and livelihoods)- Additional 504,714 host community individuals living in sub-districts outside JRP-targeted areas (not final)

Myanmar

Situation update: WFP is conducting the first round of remote monitoring in all its operational areas. This includes relief and nutrition in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, as well as asset creation, nutrition and HIV/TB in Magway Region and the southeast. Remote Monitoring aims to assess the food security situation of the beneficiaries during Covid-19.

As well, FAO-WFP are going to conduct a Covid rapid assessment on agriculture and livelihoods. The assessment will look into the Covid impact on the food security and livelihoods, food chains and agricultural inputs flow. The assessment will target 2100 HH, retailers and agriculture inputs traders in 7 state/region including Yangon.

Humanitarian access, so if there is any issue with production or export supply chain from the supplier due to COVID-19, the risk of a pipeline break is high. Local Purchase Lockdown measures have reportedly begun to affect local trade as mills and other factories are temporarily closed (it is understood these closures will last until mid-May). The Union Government has extended the temporary shutdown of factories to 15 May 2020 and Yangon Regional Government imposed 10 pm to 4 am curfew in all 45 townships of Yangon Region, effective until 18 June 2020.

Operational coverage and changes: During the reporting period, WFP provided 3 cooked meals/day food assistance to 179 migrant returnees at 4 quarantine facility centers at Myawaddy township. WFP also provided food assistance to 182 migrant returnees (M -113, F-69) who will undergo quarantine for 21 days in quarantine facilities, with one-time meal box plus one water bottle at border gate (Friendship bridge 2), at Myawaddy township. WFP has completed the April distribution cycle for emergency relief activities (cash) in Kachin, central Rakhine and northern Shan with two- to three-month rations. WFP plans to start distributing a two-month ration (in-kind) in northern Rakhine in May.

HRP: Under the broader strategic framework of the 2020 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the United Nations and its local and international NGO partners have developed this COVID-19 Addendum to the HRP in support of Government-led nationwide prevention and response preparedness efforts, in support of various national frameworks including an Action Plan for the Control of COVID-19 in IDP Camps developed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. This COVID-19 Addendum reflects existing humanitarian programming that is being expanded or reoriented in light of
the COVID-19 pandemic as well as new health and non-health interventions to be implemented between April and June 2020. The Addendum requests an additional US$46 million to provide COVID-19-specific support for some 905,000 people (855,000 targeted in the HRP and 50,000 returning migrants).

**Afghanistan**

**Situation update:** Price volatility and ongoing lockdowns in urban spaces continue to impact the most vulnerable with key staple goods such as flour continuing to be at an average of 15-20% higher than pre-C19 levels. Cooking oil, pulses and rice continue at higher levels while purchasing power of casual labourers has dropped by over 18%. The IPC analysis should receive government approval soonest although this process has been slowed by the existing reduction in working hours of government ministries due to C19 and Ramadan. Flash flood conditions continue to affect the areas of the country with the highest landslide risks with impacts on sensitive fruit producing crop areas.

**Humanitarian access:** Movement restrictions continue to be complicated by the lack of a national approach to the movement of humanitarians requiring a province and sometimes district by district approach to resolve temporary movement blockages. Even in Kabul, UN marked vehicles have been turned around at checkpoints irrespective of provincial governor direction that humanitarians should be allowed freedom of movement. The limited lockdowns appear to have been partially relaxed due to Ramadan although the official lockdown guidance has been extended until the end of Ramadan.

**Operational coverage and changes:** Asset creation projects have been paused but partners are exploring how to conduct a phased re-start of these activities as delaying these activities for too many months would force these projects to potentially be postponed as the window to access the highland areas become less accessible during the fall/winter months. Although no formal announcement has been made of a spring offensive by the Taliban the rates of violence and attacks on government security points and institutions continue at similar levels as previous years. Along with a decrease in the coverage of close air support by coalition forces appear to have increased the operational latitude of Taliban forces with attacks occurring in areas that previously have not seen this level of violence and remote districts changing control. Outside of districts with active military operations this violence has not yet had a significant impact on the immediate activities of partners.

**Coordination:** Remote coordination happening on an ad-hoc basis with regional focal points – virtual cluster meetings held

**HRP and funding:** Additional funds under the COVID-19 response plan not yet materialized, although some partners receiving soft commitments from donors

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**RBC UPDATES**

**Iraq**

**COVID cases:** 2,767

**Situation update:** based on the WFP’s mVAM most of the surveyed households (93%) have acceptable food consumption; however, 42% of surveyed households are adopting negative coping strategies. Iraq’s April oil revenues were roughly $1.4 billion USD, approximately half of the March revenues (approximately $3 billion USD), which has implications for the state’s revenue
Humanitarian access: The Public Distribution System is continuing to function; however, the Ministry of Trade has expressed concerns about funding allocations for upcoming months. Ministry of Trade has announced that they will suspend the distribution of PDS rations to households that lack the required documentations. Food and agriculture inputs are still available, and prices appear to be stable.

Operation coverage and changes: In April, Food Security Cluster partners provided food assistance to 172,705 out-of-camp individuals and 87,210 in-camp individuals. WFP food distributions in camps are ongoing, an estimated 271,000 camp IDPs received food assistance through cash based and in-kind modalities. Partners have reported that request for additional food assistance has decreased in some districts. They speculate that this is due to relaxation of COVID-19 movement restrictions in those areas.

HRP and funding: FSC is tentatively receiving 1.1 million from the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) to conduct two activities – OCHA to publish the final figures this week. According to the FTS, the FSC has received 13M (18% of the FSC ask under the 2020 HRP). This amount is for emergency food distributions in camps, leaving agriculture related activities unfunded.

Lebanon
COVID cases: 845
Situation update: requests for food assistance from both Lebanese host communities as well as Syrian refugees. As the COVID-19 emergency is compounding a pre-existing economic and financial crisis and triggering high inflation, vulnerability is cross-cutting among population cohorts and hitting particularly already vulnerable groups such as refugees and at risks groups.

Humanitarian access: the concerning addendum about the free fall of the LBP on the parallel exchange market and consequent impact on inflation of food items and purchasing power of vulnerable populations. 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: The government has started a 5 phased plan to relax the lockdown measures and from next week some partners working on agricultural livelihoods are considering a soft, phased approach to the resumption of activities.

HRP and funding: under the 3RP, Lebanon FSC has requested USD 46.5 M to provide agriculture and food assistance.

Libya
COVID cases: 64
Situation update: more requests and information regarding the dire food security situation of migrants who predominantly depend on daily wages for their basic needs including food; DTM is being carried out for more information on this issue, preliminary results will be available soon (IOM). In addition, mVAM is being carried out on household food security and economy.

Humanitarian access: Due to COVID-19 access constrains and armed clashes, the planned distributions for 10,810 individuals in Alkufra, Bani Walid, Harawa, Sirte and Tarhuna have been delayed, and distributions at five other distribution points are still ongoing. WFP still did not reach Bani Waleed and Tarhouna due to access obstacles. FSS is coordinating with other sectors/agencies and other agencies to get there as one convoy in coordination with OCHA next week.

Operation coverage and changes: On 29 April, WFP Libya launched the commodity e-voucher transfer modality, with sensitization and generation of PIN codes, and beneficiaries of monthly unconditional food assistance started collecting their entitlements at selected shops. Each household is currently receiving commodities of their choice enough to cover two months. Safety measures to prohibit the spreading of the virus are being stringently implemented. The project initially aims to reach 5,000 people in need in
Tripoli. WFP assisted 33,600 vulnerable IDPs and non-displaced individuals in Algatroun, Aljmail, Alshati, Derna, Ghat, Ragdalin, Sebha, Traghin, Tripoli, Zolton, and Zwara. IOM distributed 1,711 of WFP-provided Ready-to-Eat food rations to migrants outside detention centres in Algatroun, Bani Walid, Sebha and Tripoli. A total of 4,894 migrants outside detention centres have been reached with RTE to date in April 2020. May is the last month to finalize this project. Funding is a major issue to continue with the project.

oPT
COVID cases: 375
Situation update: constraints from previous week still hold. In addition: Lack of fodder and its high cost remains the major concerns for herders. Spare parts for agricultural machinery are starting to run out of stock. Pest control may become problematic for incoming season, due to continuous price increase of pesticides. Commuting to fields implies risk of contagion, and this Is limiting farmers to reach their fields and attend to their crops. The FSS is supporting the National Statistics institute to conduct a country wide assessment on the impact of COVID-19. West Bank: Marketing the agricultural product is still one of the main concerns for farmers. Due to movement restrictions, more middle-traders are working in the value chain, which means less profit margin for farmers. There is severe lack of vegetable seedlings for home gardening. Gaza Strip: There is approximately 40% shortage of hatching eggs for broilers and turkeys due to global COVID-19 pandemic. As Gaza Strip usually imports hatching eggs from Europe, the month of April witnessed clear increase of broiler meat retail price, up to 13 NIS/kg. Dates and fish trade from Gaza to the West Bank has resumed. Fishers have some limited benefit from lower price of fuel.

Operation coverage and changes: MoSD plan to distribute 500 NIS for 9,500 informal workers during the incoming month, in order to decrease the impact of COVID-19 on the families who lost their main livelihood. MoSD registered 110,000 new families affected by COVID-19, among which around 100,000 in the West Bank, using a fast-track procedure (i.e.: no application of PMTF, but cross-checking with MoF, MoLG and MoI). West Bank: FSS Partners are continuing their support to limit the impact of marketing disruption. Local partners are facilitating direct contact between consumers and farmers/small scale herders. Gaza Strip: The DFA continues its support to breeders by distributing fodders to poultry/broiler breeders in North Gaza and Gaza governorates. By early next week, breeders from the other three governorates will be targeted too. The overall number of planned beneficiaries is 1,000 breeders who will benefit from 700 tons of broilers fodders. Cash assistance to poor families is a key immediate response that can help these families to cope with the impact of COVID-19 crisis. Local authorities are on the frontline of this type of intervention, as MoSD in Gaza Strip start distributing cash assistance (100 US$) to 100,000 poor families in Gaza Strip this week.

HRP and funding: FSS requirement under the GHRP are of USD 11.8M out of a total of USD 42.4 M

Ukraine
COVID cases: 15,232
Situation update: The quarantine has been extended with partial ease beginning on May 11th to lift certain quarantine restrictions. Notwithstanding, small business owners protest quarantine restrictions on May 6th in Kyiv demanding government support for small businesses and ease restrictions introduced in March to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The ongoing, unpredictable conflict along the contact line remains critical concerns given the frequent attack along the lines. State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection embarked on control over markets adhering by the anti-epidemic requirements. According to the decision of the Government, the functioning of the agro-food markets as operators of the food market in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Basic Principles and Requirements for Food Safety and Quality of Foods” is possible only if the requirements for anti-epidemic measures established by the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of Ukraine are met. In addition, during the quarantine period, the State

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Consumer Service will ensure that daily unscheduled inspections of compliance with agri-food markets meet the requirements for anti-epidemic measures established by the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of Ukraine. Resolution of the Government on relaxing quarantine restrictions published. Amongst others, the Resolution permits: - Activity of catering establishments for takeaway services (provided that the facility is the operator of the food market) - Trade in non-foods and shops (including those located in the shopping centres)

**Humanitarian access:** Restriction along the conflict line was in place before the COVID-19 pandemic and the quarantine measures further strained movement along the conflict line. An unusually high number of incidents affecting water treatment infrastructure have increased since February, with a recent incident report by the WASH cluster on May 7th. An incident of shelling unacceptably close to the Donetsk Filter Station, on the Line of Contact in eastern Ukraine. Heavy shelling lasted from 06:15 am to 06:50 am on 2nd May 2020. Eight people on duty at the time of the incident took cover and, fortunately, there were no injuries and no damage caused to the facility. Donetsk Filter Station supplies water to settlements on both sides of the line of contact: Avdiivka, Kruta Balka, Vasylivka, Verkhniortoetske, and western areas of Donetsk city. The filter station provides clean water to 378,983 people, and any disruption of such clean water would be unwise during the current pandemic. The infrastructure prevents the COVID-19 (such as plentiful clean water for hygiene) and response (medical facilities) has been weakened by the conflict.

**Operation coverage and changes:** Amid the pandemic, FSLC partners continue to implement activities both related to the COVID-19 pandemic and planned activities before the pandemic. April 24, IOM announced a call for applicants aimed at the professional development of youth in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA. The call is part of a larger project funded by the Japanese government, which aims to address the humanitarian and socio-economic needs of IDPs and conflict-affected populations along the contact line in Eastern Ukraine. In the coming weeks, IOM plans to award 100 grants in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (50 grants per each region). The grant will cover tuition fees for IT-related professional courses (online, 6 months max duration) up to 700 USD and will include the provision of IT-related assets worth of up to 1000 USD. Participants aged between 18 to 35 y.o. living on the territory of Donetsk or Luhansk GCA, with priority given to those within a 20-km zone from the Line of Contact are encouraged to apply. FAO continues its “Rapid Survey of Food Supply Chains” aiming at the identification of COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on agricultural supply chains directly from operators. FAO plans to conduct a joint “Socioeconomic Impact Assessment of COVID19 on SMEs and Vulnerable Groups” together with UNDP and UNWomen shortly. FAO has provided equipment for the laboratory of state service on food safety and consumer protection in Donetsk and Lugansk regions. The project is implemented under the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme with support from the European Union. Equipping the laboratories in Donetsk and Lugansk regions will allow the region to respond quickly to outbreaks of infectious diseases in animal husbandry, in particular diseases of cattle, poultry, and pigs.

**HRP and funding:** Even though Ukraine was not planned to be included in the GHRP, a total of USD 47.3M was requested of which USD 9.2 M for Food Security. The Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) has allocated $1,750,000 for the COVID-19 response in government-controlled areas of Eastern Ukraine to the implemented by NGOs in the Non-Government Control Areas (NGCA). A similar amount was allocated and disbursed to NGOs in the Government Control Areas (GCA).

**WoS COVID cases:** 47 (Syria)

**Situation update:** NES: Based on REACH COVID-19 assessment: only essential stores are open. 20% of vendor KIs reported stockpiling behaviour by customers in their shops. Vendors faced supply challenges, such as price inflation, over half of assessed vendors reported financial challenges of limited cash flow for vendors. Functioning markets were reportedly open only partially in 59% of assessed communities. KIs in 59% communities reported that food sourcing patterns have been disrupted by COVID-19, and among
them, 93% reported higher prices in markets. In March 2020, REACH monthly Market Monitoring Exercise recorded the highest Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) value since 2015, with a 41% increase from September 2019 alone. With prices reportedly rising and COVID-19 restrictive measures impacting livelihoods, this poses a risk of households being unable to afford basic commodities. Plans to monitor agricultural items in the coming rounds. **NWS:** REACH April Assessment - Functioning markets were reportedly open only partially in 59% assessed communities. KIs in 59% assessed communities reported that food sourcing patterns have been disrupted by COVID-19, and among them, KIs in 93% communities reported higher prices in markets. **Damascus:** Since February 2020, significant price increases and some shortages in basic goods (on average 40-50 per cent in food staples) and personal sterilization items (face masks, hand sanitizers – up to 5,000 per cent increase) have been reported across Syria. Fuel prices (diesel and gas) also increased, with the cost of diesel and gas in the informal market more than 115 per cent and 337 per cent higher respectively than the formal market. The exchange rate also further weakened since mid-March to the lowest point on record, closing at an unofficial rate on 25 March of SYP 1,325 to US $1, and is around SYP1,300 at the time of writing (representing a more than 126 per cent depreciation compared to a year ago). On 26 March, the Central Bank of Syria devalued the official rate from SYP 438 to SYP 704, and announced only the GoS Ministry of Trade would have access to the former rate to enable cheaper purchases of basic commodities. The recent devaluation of the Lebanese Pound, and the collapse of the Lebanon banking system could further increase the plummeting of the Syrian Pound. The increase in food prices due to COVID-19-related factors – including a worsening informal exchange rate, panic buying, disrupted supply routes, slow stock replenishment, reduced shop opening hours and movement restrictions – is likely to increase vulnerabilities, as will diminished employment opportunities. According to WFP VAM food security monitoring, in March 2020 increased levels of harmful coping mechanisms were reported. Around 50 per cent of assessed households reported lack of employment as the main cause, followed by high food prices. As the impact of COVID-19 continues, a substantial number of households are likely to become more vulnerable to food insecurity. **Humanitarian access:** **NES:** There have been no notable changes in terms of movement restrictions inside NES, with 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 can cross into NES, several partners have received permissions to bring in items such as hygiene kits and food baskets. 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:** No new updates, still the same impact as reported in the previous reports. **Damascus:** The delivery of humanitarian assistance is relatively stable compared to previous weeks. some NGOs have resumed previously suspended programmes. WFP that provides the largest share of humanitarian food assistance is continuing with the normal delivery of food assistance programmes apart from school feeding which is suspended due to the closure of schools. The government has been supportive with humanitarian cargo and staff exempted from movement restrictions which has facilitated the continued delivery of food assistance. The government has recently announced measures to ease restrictions which could further facilitate access to beneficiaries requiring assistance. **Operation coverage and changes:** **NES:** 18,795 HHs (93,975 beneficiaries) are facing an average delay of 45 days in receiving food assistance. Activities suspended/ interrupted are impacting an estimated 5,755 Farmers/HHs (28,775 individuals). These activities include agriculture businesses, farmers grants, vaccination programmes and crop production activities. some shifting from voucher to in-kind modality in Raqqa city to mitigate the delay of assistance provided. **NWS:** There are no new updates during the last week. **Damascus:** Food assistance covers at least 3.4 million people within Syria excluding cross border locations. WFP has increased the frequency of distribution to reduce crowding and promote social distancing measures. Due to an increase in the number of vulnerable people owing to the economic
impact of COVID-19, WFP is considering increasing the number of people for food assistance. However, funding remains a challenge for WFP with the agency needing at least $550m to continue sustaining regular food assistance.


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**RBD UPDATES**

**Burkina Faso**

**COVID cases:** 748 (662)

**Situation update:** VAM has shared weekly report: functionality and availability are good in the markets. Prices are stable for cereals and moderately higher for pulse and livestock. 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 markets have renewed the activities. The availability is good, and the supply chain functions in the country

**Humanitarian access:** The interdiction of travel has been removed, positive impact is expected for the seasonal labour and the trade of seeds and other agricultural inputs.

**Operation coverage and changes:** New gap is generally related to the most vulnerable in the cities and the regions out of humanitarian response. CONASUR has distributed 16 000 TN of food to the most vulnerable affected by COVID-19 in Ouagadougou and in the Centre Region and 7 000 TN of food in the Hauts Basins. The FSC partners have started to support the CONASUR to assist 100 households in quarantine in Ouagadougou. A document on joint response and joint kits has been produced by Health, NUT, WASH, FSC Clusters

**HRP and funding:** The HRP and GHRP COVID-19 hare still under revision, a more detailed program of activities has been asked to the clusters

**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 an intersectoral response with the other Clusters and partners

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**Cameroon**

**COVID cases:** 2,579 (1,518)

**Situation update:**

- RRM being established, with strong push from WFP
- mVAM to be established

**Humanitarian access:** some measures become more relax

**Operation coverage and changes:**

- no major changes in switching cash/in-kind
- insecurity has more impact on the operations than the C19

**HRP and funding:** NtR

**Challenges:** OCHA collecting information directly from the FSC members
**Central African Republic**

**COVID cases:** 143 (72)

**Situation update:**
- weekly market monitoring by WFP and ICASEES: market prices are relatively stable, except for meat (increase) in Bangui; however, prices increases outside Bangui due to slowing down of transportation
- the most vulnerable people in urban areas as well as the IDPs near the borders with Cameroon and DRC
- The crop season will be highly impacted as the resource for humanitarian response is used for C19; this will impact the access to inputs. In addition, the limitation of transport and the increase of its costs will limit the distribution as inputs and tools like sprayers are usually in Bangui’s hub. This will also impact the agricultural daily workers market as they will be under-used.

**Humanitarian access:**
- Number of C19 cases has increased from Cameroon which has decreased the movement of population as well as transport of goods

**Operation coverage and changes:**
- Lack of good quality seeds available on the markets with increase of costs
- Planning to distribute food for people in isolation centers along the Bangui axis
- No change observed in terms of responses
- The increase of prices may lead to the revision of the MEB
- Joint need assessment for the isolation centers (response and gap) is conducted

**HRP and funding:** HRP being revised

**Challenges:** respond to the needs of people in isolation centers; distribution of agricultural inputs on time

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**Chad**

**COVID cases:** 170 (117)

**Situation update:** 5472 persons are quarantined in 14 provinces

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

**Operation coverage and changes:** NtR:
- N’Djamena is a new area / people covered by food assistance related to COVID19.
- An analysis carried out to evaluate the socio-economic impact of coronavirus in Chad to support the “Plan National de RepONSE au covid 19”. After this analysis, baseline for the March Cadre Harmonisé results: 2.1 millions of people were estimated as food insecure in need of food assistance.

**HRP and funding:**
- Education can’t wait 300.000 USD WFP school feeding;
- WFP 700.000 USD for high-energy biscuits;
- The BID gave 20 million USD to ONASA (Office National de la Sécurité Alimentaire) for food stock.

**Challenges:**
- 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.
- Not easy to organize field missions and assessments
**Mali**

**COVID cases:** 668 (563)

**Situation update:** restriction of movement on going but no assessment on impact on the market; the current situation will impact the agricultural season

**Humanitarian access:** NtR

**Operation coverage and changes:** the FSC is working on the lean season response (July to August) for a joint response

**HRP and funding:** revision of the target in process for the revision of HRP 2020

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**Niger**

**COVID cases:** 821 (750)

**Situation update:**

- 4.2 million people would be potentially impacted during the period April-May 2020, and 5.6 million during the period June-August 2020. This estimate includes the populations in acute food insecurity (Phase 3 or more of the Cadre Harmonisé) for the April-May period (1.6 million people) and June-August 2020 period (2 million people). Of the 5.6 million
- 4.4 million people would be impacted in rural areas, and 1.2 million in urban areas (Niamey and other regional capitals).
- study on the analysis of the impact of restriction measures on food security and supply chain (FAO, Oxfam and ONG de l’Alliance)
- early start of the agricultural season: more humid with short period of drought: recommendations to farmers to choose long cycle crops
- increase of prices for cereals, linked also to Ramadan; Terms of trade for livestock going down due to limitation of importation, exacerbated also by the fodder deficit from season 2019-2020
- decrease of manpower due to movement restriction and border closure (migrants from Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire...), access to agricultural inputs can reduce the agricultural areas

**Humanitarian access:** NtR

**Operational coverage and changes:** NtR

**HRP and funding:** revision of HRP will start from 6 May, deadline 19 May

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**Nigeria**

**COVID cases:** 2,558 (1,182)

- **Situation update:** WFP-VAM report, between March and April, the food commodity market prices have increased, and the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 5% in Jere and Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (Borno). The SMEB increased by 7% in Damaturu. In the same vein, an increase of 11 and 15 percent was recorded in Yusufari and Gujba Local Government Areas (LGAs) respectively in (Yobe). But no decision to change MEB
- Increase in prices of agricultural inputs has also been reported especially in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States especially as a result of the interstate movement restrictions

**Humanitarian access:**
• The lock down in Borno State has been extended by one more week.
• However, one extra day for markets/shopping has been given. Therefore, this should ease on the food security assistance. Adamawa and Yobe states lockdowns are no longer in place and free intra state movements and people slowly getting back to their livelihoods

Operation coverage and changes:
• Partners are in final phases of coordination and procurement for inputs for the rain season 2020
• No shift in programming yet

HRP and funding: COVID HRP review ongoing and in final stages

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

RBJ UPDATES

DRC
COVID cases: 937
Situation update: ACTED and REACH conducted a market analysis in Goma (North Kivu) with around 40 traders – small / medium / big ones –to better understand their perceptions and perspectives in terms of COVID-19 main impacts. The document with results will be online by mid-May.

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.

Mozambique
COVID cases: 82
Situation update: Although prices of basic foodstuffs have not yet increased significantly due to the effects of COVID-19, there has been a reduction in the level of income and purchasing power – the most affected are households who depend on informal businesses and seasonal informal employment. More than 40% of households interviewed reported high inadequacy of food intake (WFP m-VAM). In Maputo and Matola cities, some 300,000 people are in need of food assistance. The population in rural areas affected by deficit and/or irregular rainfall (observed between Dec 2019 and March 2020) is also food insecure, due to lower production of staple foods such as maize. Households reported barriers that limit market access due to COVID-19 such as long distances to shops and grocery stores, store closures, restriction of people’s outlets for fear of contagion, and adults being quarantined at home. According to FEWSNET, many central and northern areas continue to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes as the ongoing harvest increases food availability and access, while in Cabo Delgado, the spread of the ongoing conflict has driven displacement and loss of livelihoods that has resulted in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). All other areas including those previously affected by cyclones and floods (Sofala and Manica provinces), will be facing either Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes. Despite the harvest underway, needs are expected to remain high as a result of multiple shocks during the 2019/2020 season, including the drought in the southern zone, the persistence of abnormally high prices, the escalating conflict in Cabo Delgado, and more recently the COVID-19 related restrictions impacting primarily poor urban households. FSLC in Beira is moving forward with the preparations and coordinated
efforts with provincial authorities and exploring partners’ engagement to conduct the Land Access Survey in Resettlement Sites (total of 57 between Sofala and Manica Provinces).

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

**Operation coverage and changes:** Humanitarian assistance continues to be delivered albeit at very low rate due to winding up of recovery phase of cyclone and complexity of delivery of assistance under the current COVID-19 situation. Major gaps noted for urban and peri-urban informally employed population affected by the COVID-19 outbreak impacts - main focus for emergency appeal.

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

**HRP and funding:** Within the COVID emergency appeal (HRP), FSC targets have been revised: total of 400,000, with Food assistance: 250,000; Livelihood: 150,000.

**Zimbabwe**

**COVID cases:** 34

**Situation update:** The 2019/2020 agricultural season is the third consecutive failed season due to poor rainfall, inadequate availability and unaffordable inputs, shortage of draught power, lack of extension services and agricultural mechanisation. While crop estimates have not been concluded, there are enough converging evidences pointing to a likelihood of below normal harvest prospects. The informal businesses, which support more than 70% of the urban population (Zimstats), remain closed. A situation which will likely increase the vulnerability levels of these households given the extended period without work or income.

**Humanitarian access:** Uplift of food imports are unaffected by the lockdown and although larger markets remain open, farmers are having difficulties in taking product to local markets due to lack of available transport in the rural areas.

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

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

**HRP and funding:** In the HRP2020 COVID19 Addendum FSL Cluster Strategic Objectives remain unchanged, but complementary activities to cover additional needs and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic will be undertaken. All existing and new programs will prioritize populations facing the highest risks and include a comprehensive COVID-19 sensitization campaign. As such, the FSL Cluster requires additional 15.1M USD for the Zimbabwe HRP 2020 Addendum. Although people in need remain 6M, the increased rural and urban caseload consequent to COVID-19 is 200,000 bringing the total target 4.6M people. A further revision of rural food assistance need will be undertaken when data from the forthcoming Rural ZimVAC 2020 and Second Round Crops and Livestock Assessments is available. While FSL Cluster covers the largest number of beneficiaries, food security and agriculture remain highly underfunded. Out of USD 483.3M requested to cover food insecure population only USD 56.4M have been pledged to provide planned assistance.

**RBN UPDATES**

**South Sudan**

**Situation update:**

1. No assessment has been done in South Sudan however, joint analysis by IOM/UNICEF/UNHCR/REACH on COVID19 scenarios on population movement and displacement was done, including COVID-19 Vulnerability Ranking.
2. More than five million people in South Sudan rely on food aid to survive and the coronavirus pandemic is making their lives even harder. The most vulnerable are the rural and urban poor,
essentially the IDPs and host communities who lack access to personal protective materials and there is a constant movement of people (especially asymptomatic COVID19 cases) from urban to the rural areas. Added to this, there are ongoing inter-communal conflicts in counties, and displacement could lead further spread or increased vulnerabilities to COVID19.

3. The outbreak is slowing down humanitarian operations that deliver essential food supplies. The impact on agriculture season and labor is not assessed/measured technically. There’s a raise in market prices as well as cost of living combined with lack of payment of wages for people in service sector, impacting on labor and agriculture.

Humanitarian access:
1- The high-level taskforce on the coronavirus pandemic protocol on quarantine and movement of members of the diplomatic corps, UNMISS, UN Agencies, International, Regional Organization and NGOs released by the GOSS, on 1st May, restricted movement of people, social distancing and imposition of curfew (7:00pm – 6:00am) all-over the country, including non-essential internal movement within South Sudan (inter-state movements).
2- GOSS has established a Joint Operations Room (JOR) to process internal and external flight permits and clearances issued, which might cause delay for FAO in obtaining pesticides, specialized plans, and other vital supplies have set back efforts to combat the desert locust outbreak in the country.
3- It’s less likely that people will not have access to distribution of goods and services. Partners ensure WHO advisory protocol and WFP’s SOPs on COVID19 while delivering services across South Sudan.
4- Supply chains for goods, food commodities, farm inputs supplies likely to be strained or heavily reduced. Restrictions of internal flights and road-movement, leading to the reduction in the provision of aid, services, and programming will likely reduced access to food and life-saving support in vulnerable communities and further weaken supply chain.

Operational coverage and changes:
1- FSL Cluster partners have either suspended or altered all their ITF activities, the seed fairs and activities that involve people to assemble in large numbers.
2- Few INGOs have initiated implementing food security response coverage in new areas and/or increased coverage of people in their operational locations, especially in various entry points across South Sudan.
3- FSL partners are working on major shift in programming, as there’s a fear that COVID may drive movement out of major cities into villages, urban to rural, leading to further spread of disease.

Due to high reliance on seasonal or livelihood-based migration, movement restrictions will likely force HHs to choose between livelihood movements that increase their chance of catching or spreading COVID19 or limit access to food and lead to the use of negative coping strategies, further exacerbating food insecurity. FSL partners are strategizing major shift in programming, considering these issues emerging in the ground.

Coordination: NNGO maintaining staffing levels and presence; General slowdown in activities in past weeks; especially around logistics and transport including increased costs); meetings moved online resulting in exclusion of many NNGOs; Partners adjusting to the ‘new’ normal and seeking information & advice on best practice and lessons from pandemic/ disease outbreaks in the past.

HRP and funding: The process of HRP addendum and reprioritization is nearing completion. Partners have revised their existing HRP with additional activities/ COVID19 enlargements. About 20 FSL partners have included new interventions on COVID19 and Desert Locusts eradication. HRP additional funds
related to COVID19 has been a challenge in general, but few INGOs take initiatives to pull resources through institutional / bilateral funding sources. Humanitarian assistance caseloads may increase substantially, as populations become increasingly vulnerable due to COVID19 and restrictions around it. FSLC has increased the caseload by 1 million urban and 0.5 million in addition to existing HRP.

New HRP addendum caseloads:
- 1.12 million urban poor across 19 urban centers that excludes those already being supported by safety net interventions; and
- 447,000 rural population: (1) difference in severe food insecure identified at January 2020 IPC and August 2019 IPC; and (2) 10% IPC 2 extremely dependent upon markets and likely to shift to IPC 3+

Somalia

Situation update

In Somalia, first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was confirmed in Mogadishu on 16 March 2020. As of 2 April, the number of confirmed cases had risen to five. An analysis of the Socio-economic impacts of COVID 19 has been provided by The Federal Government of Somalia¹. The impacts are linked to the underlying vulnerabilities.

- High concentration of IDPs (2.6 million) who are highly vulnerable
- 35% decrease in exports (mainly affected by livestock export to the upcoming Hajj) Agriculture, particularly the livestock sector accounts for almost 50% of Somalia’s GDP and provides the main source of Somali livelihoods. Impact on livestock export market affects both pastoralists’ income and other actors involved in the value chain.
- Dependency on remittances, which make a vital contribution to the household economy and the food security of many Somalis,
- 20% decrease in imports value (due to supply route closure and low demand)- stimulate demand and create/stimulate demand
- 40% decline of sales tax on imported goods (high value for sales tax items not coming anymore)
- High rate of un-employment (drawing from sectors effected by closure and construction)
- Lower demand of goods and services with high prices due to the supply routes closure
- Reduced government spending as result of lower revenues
- The country is bracing for impacts of desert locusts as well as projected seasonal flooding during the upcoming GU season.
- To contain the spread of the virus, the government has closed schools in Somalia.
- Somalia is considered among countries most at risk of an epidemic outbreak, underpinned by a fragile health infrastructure (WHO-JRC Epidemic Risk Index). An estimated 60 percent of the population do not have access to health care.

Overall, these vulnerabilities will directly impact on households’ income and access to food. Of note, food insecurity remains widespread in Somalia. From 2012 to 2019, an average of 3 million Somalis faced moderate food insecurity (IPC 2), and 1.6 million people faced severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above).²

² The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a tool for improving food security analysis and decision-making. It is a standardised scale that integrates food security, nutrition and livelihood information into a statement about the nature and severity of a crisis and implications for strategic response. IPC ratings are: 1) Minimal; 2) Stressed; 3) Crisis; 4) Emergency; and 5) Catastrophe/Famine.
The supply chain assessment by WFP logistics indicate that COVID 19 is negatively impacting on commodity prices and supply chains across Federal Member States (FMS). More information will be reported in successive reports as pertains impacts on retail prices.

**Humanitarian access:**
As part of measures to curb the spread of COVID 19, the Government closed all schools, universities as well as large public gatherings. As result, the following activities have been affected (stopped):
- School meals activities
- Some of the Food for assets/Cash for assets/Cash for training

For the activities that are still ongoing, partners have had to adapt delivery and distribution protocols to ensure appropriate social distancing while providing handwashing facilities.

**Operational coverage and changes:**
In addition to the existing 4.25 million experiencing various levels of vulnerability to food insecurity due to several shocks (e.g. Desert locust and other climate related shocks), the Clusters will target 520,000 IDPs who are likely to be affected by the pandemic. Internal displaced population (IDPs) estimated to be 2.6 million in the country particularly those reside in major settlement camps are among groups who are at risk of COVID19 due to lack of access to basic services such hygiene and sanitation as well as poor living conditions in general. Concentration and living condition believe to compound their vulnerability to COVID 19. Acute food insecurity and malnutrition among these population was high as trend analysis from FSNAU shows. COVID 19 risk expect to further exacerbate acute food insecurity faced by this group.

Majority of the IDPs depend on aid, petty trade, daily wage labour and other forms of informal employment and spend, in general, up to 80% of their income to buy food with such purchases done daily: thus, they do not have stocks of food nor savings to support them even over a short period.
Pastoral populations group is also believed to be at risk in addition to IDPs due to high degree of mobility in search of pasture and water for their livestock. Pastoral populations depend on mobility to sustain their livelihood: hence, any lock down or movement restrictions will directly impact ability to raise animals and earn income/food. Pastoral population particularly in Galgaduud, Mudug and Awdal regions either experienced less favourable dyer season or /and rangeland affected by desert locust invitation. Livestock production will be affected and aggravate existing acute food insecurity in the area. The total IPC 2 population in the three regions estimated to be about 200,000 and plan to target 20 % equivalent to 40,000 pastoralist additional case load to be included particularly for improve access to food and livelihoods support ( not part of the HRP) to prevent from worsening of acute food insecurity.

**Coordination:**
Modes of delivering of humanitarian assistance

Prior to a complete lock down (i.e. the current phase) the FSC will advise partners to transfer at least two months’ rations to existing beneficiaries

In kind and cash based on performance of the market in terms of price as well as availability of the basic goods and livelihoods inputs
Cash based transfers will be most preferable using mobile money transfer systems assuming that some of the retailers will be operational.

Mobile money transfers are preferable so as to minimize human contacts thus protecting beneficiaries as well as humanitarian workers.

The cluster advised partners to use the Cash working Group (CWG) recommended transfer values. Close monitoring performance of the market and CMB in collaboration with CWG and FSNAU to adjust the response modalities
Prior to a complete lock down (i.e. the current phase) the FSC is advising partner to transfer at least two months’ rations to existing beneficiaries.
The cluster advised partners through the regional monthly meetings to upscale protection and accountability to affected populations by ensuring that in spite of the pandemic, safety, dignity, access and information sharing reaches the most vulnerable through appropriate medium. Review the existing feedback and complaints mechanisms to enhance reporting on GBV whenever they occur.

**HRP and funding:**
- Intercluster meetings are being convened weekly online
- Monthly, the cluster conducts 14 regional cluster meetings. Starting end of March, the FSC is working with the regional Vice Coordinators on ensuring that the meetings continue to take place but online
- As for the national level meeting (were over 80 persons usually attend), it was postponed but the Co-Coordinators and Government line ministry focal points staff are conducting bi-weekly meetings online

There no, as yet discussion as regards revising the HRP. Nevertheless, the Somalia COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) already finalised is considered as additional to the HRP. As well, there are plans to launch the socio-economic component of the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) that is designed to mitigate the most extreme and negative socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 in Somalia. These two strategic plans will likely inform decision as pertain revision of the HRP.

**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 government and humanitarian partners are providing assistance to the returnees who are coming from neighbouring countries and Middle East, including food assistance in quarantine centers. The food cluster is also working with the Government and partners to estimate additional food insecure people, who are likely to be negatively impacted by COVID-19 related risks. This estimation is expected to cover additional vulnerable groups due to the negative impact of COVID-19 and desert locust. Vulnerable groups include IDPs, returnees and people living in urban areas under difficult conditions like home-less or street children.

**Humanitarian access:** No reported case of restriction of access; Distributions are ongoing for double allocations to cover food/cash requirements for March, April and May. Food operators have secured resources needed to assist beneficiaries for the double distributions; however, the different preventive measures in the country, which are in place and adopted by food operators could contribute to the delay of food distributions.

**Operational coverage and changes:**
Food operators are giving assistance to beneficiaries using double allocations for round 1 and round 2 of 2020 HRP.

No major shift in programming

**Coordination:** No reported impact on number of partners and staff. Coordination meetings are being held remotely.

**HRP and funding:** Discussions are ongoing to revise the 2020 HRP, with the coordination of OCHA and lead of the government, to take desert locust and COVID-19 related impacts into consideration, in the meantime operators are giving assistance to beneficiaries based on the needs in the 2020 HRP, which was officially launched on January 28, 2020 ([LINK](#)).

According to Financial Tracking Service ([LINK](#)), 30.2% of the total requirements of the food cluster, which is US$ 399.5 million, is covered. There are some changes in the overall requirements due to additional 1 million people who were included in the response.

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**RBP UPDATES**

**Colombia**

COVID cases: 10,051

**Situation update:** CWG and REACH shared the results of the rapid market assessment carried out in April 3-16 in departments such as La Guajira, Arauca, Atlántico, Vichada and Norte de Santander (528 consumer and 36 merchant). Consumers interviewed reported a high degree of economic vulnerability, as the majority saw its income decreased since the COVID-19 related measures were applied, impacting the (financial) ability to access the market. Both consumers and merchants reported an increase in the prices of food and NFI, with eggs, rice and chlorine the most affected by the price increase. 87% of small agricultural producers have been affected by COVID-19.

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

**Operation coverage and changes:** a FS&N cluster analysis indicates that gaps (and requests for support) are concentrated in the Pacific departments, the border departments with Venezuela and Ecuador and especially in Antioquia, Valle del Cauca and Caquetá (dept with no / low presence of FSC partners); the vast majority of assistance requests are for mixed populations. Since April 9th, FAO and Radio Nacional de Colombia are broadcasting radio spots targeting the rural population, with key messages on healthy eating, production of food for self-consumption, local purchases and supplies in the framework of the C19 emergency. Out of the 51k people targeted by WFP for COVID response, 7k started receiving assistance. WFP also supports the national government in strengthening its emergency-reactive social protection systems; a pilot to support 45,000 Colombians and Venezuelans in extreme poverty in Arauca has started, with an alliance between WFP, Prosperidad Social, UNGRD and the Border Management.

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

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

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**Haiti**

COVID cases: 146

**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
**Venezuela**

**COVID cases:** 388

**Situation update:** Indigenous people are particularly affected by the COVID related confinement measures. In the forest regions (Amazonas, Bolivar, Delta Amacuro) there are indigenous communities living far from urban areas who are isolated by the quarantine and cannot access food or other basic needs. On the other hand, there are hundreds of indigenous people in urban areas that cannot go back to their villages and are also food insecure.

**Humanitarian access:** The limited access by humanitarian to the forest regions (see above) reduce the possibilities of immediate assistance for the indigenous communities.

**Operation coverage and changes:** The number of returned people in the borders is around 50,000 and OCHA is mobilizing (multi-sectoral) support for them through the Global HRP.

**Coordination:** NTR compared to previous week

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