



COVID-19 – 6th FSC Weekly Situation Update 11 – 17th of May 2020

Summary

Asia & Pacific: In Cox's bazar (Rohingya response) humanitarian needs are concentrated in camps and host communities around it. WFP resumed its school feeding programme (door to door distribution of HEBs) targeting host community students. HRP/COVID: To be finalized end-May, after first revision was submitted; Cyclone Amphan is expected to intensify further to become Very Severe Cyclonic Storm according to BMD; BMD has indicated a 4-5 feet average storm surge height in low lying areas across the whole coastline; while in low lying areas of Cox's Bazar about 1 feet of storm surge above normal is expected during the passage of the storm.

in Afghanistan, price volatility and ongoing lockdowns in urban spaces remain at higher levels with an average of 15-20% higher than pre-C19 levels; Movement restrictions and people's access to shops have improved although the food supply chain is still adjusting to the disruption of lockdowns and border closures;

East Africa: In South Sudan all distributions are following COVID 19 compliance (based on SOPs & guidelines circulated): WFP completed first round of nationwide targeted distributions providing 2 – 3 month rations; main season response emergency crop & livelihood kits only in the Green Belt (bi modal/ 2 seasons) with pre-positioning for main season (unimodal/ 1 season) to commence May/ June. Reduction in training: focus on pests: FAW & especially Desert Locust: surveillance & impact assessments on-going; In Somalia, "multiple shocks" as well as protracted crisis, are having a huge impact on food security and overall deterioration is expected. Food security projections signify a rapid deterioration with 2.7 million being in IPC 3 or worse (April to June) and then surging further to 3.4 million for the period July-September. In addition, 2.6 million people are in IPC 2 through September 2020.

Latin America:

In Colombia, where the number of COVID 19 cases continues to grow, major funding gaps persist, with FS actors only able to provide emergency food assistance to less than 10% of the people in need. In La Guajira and Nariño departments, water scarcity and recent floods respectively are exacerbating the crisis.

In Venezuela and Haiti, COVID 19 preventative measures (number of cases remains low) are worsening the food security situation, which is already critical due to, respectively, the economic and fuel crisis and major drought and inflation.

Middle East and Eastern Europe:

In Iraq Inter-governorate travel remains restricted, unless humanitarian organizations receive approval from the government or there is transport of (non-)food items. In Lebanon, the External guidance for FSS partners on referrals and complaints has been finalised and circulated. Appendix on FSS SECTOR response to the 4 levels of isolation in the Intersectoral Guidance on home isolation for overcrowded setting revised. Targeting and prioritization criteria have been developed for the emergency response. In Libya, under the COVID19-related restrictions and intensified armed clashes, humanitarian entities need special arrangements for food dispatches to several locations within Libya, such as agency-issued movement letters, OCHA letters, and approval from deconfliction cell. In oPT, sharp increase in the number of settler attacks on Palestinians and their properties, farmers suffering from lack of export, decreased demand of retail food items and poultry farmers require support. In Ukraine, the Government presented and approved a series of crisis response programs. It is planned to attract 154,000 employees (Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture) and ensure selling coal and return 25,000 miners to work this month (Acting Minister of Energy and Environmental Protection). In WoS, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL) reported that approximately 320,000 people registered online by end of April for the National Campaign for Emergency Social Response for assistance due to work lost as a result of COVID-19 preventive measures. In Yemen, the increasingly constrained operational environment has been worsened by the COVID-19 restrictions leading to delays in delivering assistance. Most INGOs and NNGOs have shifted their programming to cash or vouchers modalities considering the COVID-19 restrictions.

Southern Africa:

In eastern DRC, social distancing, border closures and internal movement restrictions have reduced demand and imports of products, with 84% of food traders reporting re-stocking problems and consumers reporting consumption of unsafe drinking water due to the high prices of mineral one, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. Limited food availability and prices increases continue to be reported also in Zimbabwe, where FSL cluster partners reduced their beneficiary caseload due to the end of the lean season. For the remaining operations, FSL Cluster partners are considering adapting their mobile money program into vouchers due to continued difficulties with mobile money service providers and low market functionality. In Mozambique, difficult humanitarian access in Cabo Delgado province continues to create response gaps.

West Africa:

According to World Bank assessments (WB, 2020), the pandemic of Covid-19 will create an economic crisis for sub-Saharan Africa and social with a recession which would be in 2020 between - 2.1% and - 5.1%, against economic growth observed in 2019 of 2.4%. It will have repercussions on governance, peace and security, politics, social and the economy. Covid-19 will also rub off on access to social services basic, with effects on existing cooperation programs which contribute to the achievement of the SDG.

African cities have 600 million inhabitants and represent more than 50% of the region's GDP. As such, the economic contribution of the cities of the region is much greater than their weight in the population. The urban sectors of the economy (manufacturing and services) which currently account for 64% of

Africa's GDP will be hit hard by the effects linked to COVID-19, resulting in substantial job losses productive (Source: *African Commission for Africa*).

- In Burkina Faso and Niger, the trends which started from 7-10 days ago continue with some rules being relaxed. This has positive impacts on market functionality, including prices.
- However, in the other Western African countries, situation remains dire, especially in terms of livelihood activities. Prices remains high compare to previous years, impacted also by the Ramadan.
- C19 – combined with the insecurity in many country – is having major impact on the supply chain of agricultural inputs, seeds especially.
- The lockdown in Borno State in Nigeria has been finally lifted; humanitarian response has resumed.
- Planning for the up-coming lean season is underway.

RBB UPDATES

Afghanistan

Situation update: Price volatility and ongoing lockdowns in urban spaces remain at higher levels with 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 has received government endorsement, important to note that government population tables are different from humanitarian population tables.

Major urban centers have begun reopening shops, markets and public areas even as confirmed cases rise causing concerns about further spread of the virus.

Initial wheat harvest has started in the eastern region although concerns exist as to the freedom of movement of seasonal labour.

Operational update : Movement restrictions and people's access to shops have improved although the food supply chain is still adjusting to the disruption of lockdowns and border closures. The impact of the lockdown on the port of Karachi and the backlog of trucks at the Afg-Pak crossings continue to slowdown the overall movements of goods. Asset creation projects have been partially re-started as movement restrictions are relaxed. The levels of AoG and terrorist violence continue to cause impacts to the overall security situation with specific minorities being targeted for high-profile attacks.

HRP and funding: FSAC HRP is 9% funded. Proposal finalization and disbursement for 4 million USD under AHF WB working towards a "universal coverage" plan to cover close to 90% of the population with a one-off \$80-100USD cash/in-kind disbursement although the involvement of humanitarians with this initiative not yet clear. In addition their proposed plan to funnel all funds through municipal level entities may require additional work to ensure transparency in beneficiary selection and distribution.

COX's Bazar –

Situation update: [REACH's qualitative study](#) on vendors in Cox's Bazar was released, key findings are:

- a. noticeable increase in purchasing using loan or credit
- b. community-held beliefs of certain food items leading to virus infections affected the demand of these products since the outbreak
- c. restocking and transportation concerns in rural or remote areas without warehouses
- d. unemployed or day labourers who had lost their sources of income lead to increase in new informal vendors

Operational update: WFP resumed its school feeding programme (door to door distribution of HEBs) targeting host community students.

1. New partners are joining FSS as they plan cash distributions in host communities
2. Government approval process is now shorter, allowing partners for faster implementation

HRP and funding: To be finalized end-May, no update since last week.

JRP 2020 prioritization of funding gap and new COVID-19 response plan (as addendum to JRP) nearly finalized and to be included in June revision of GHRP

Main challenges:

- More demand for FSS to coordination at field-level – not feasible given current FSS capacity and lack of mobility
- Partners targeting beneficiaries in areas with already high expected coverage despite FSS continually advocating to address gaps in other areas
- FSS cross-checking beneficiaries lists by partners to avoid duplications
- Social distancing is enforced inside distribution points, but not outside
- Agricultural inputs distributing during lockdown

RBC UPDATES

Iraq

COVID-19 Cases: 3,404

Situation and Context update: On May 7th, Iraq formed a new government, with the Iraqi Parliament swearing in Prime Minister Mustafa Al Kadhimi. The majority of the appointed ministers have been approved; however, candidates for the Ministries of Trade, Justice, Agriculture and Immigration were rejected and appointments for the Oil and Foreign Ministry were postponed. COVID-19 related movement restrictions have eased. Based on WFP mVAM data, 75% of households with poor food consumption were employed; however, those same households reported that their main concern was a loss of livelihoods

FSC Operational Update: Inter-governorate travel remains restricted, unless humanitarian organizations receive approval from the government or there is transport of (non-)food items. Partners are continuing to conduct emergency food basket distributions

HRP and Funding Situation Update: FS requirements under the GRHP v2 are USD 21.1M targeting 252,000 individuals.

Lebanon

COVID-19 Cases: 911

Situation and Context update: A decrease of 56.8% in the unloaded imports weight is registered between June 2019 and April 2020 (Port of Beirut). Approximately 97% percent increase in the weekly food price (SMEB basket) between the week of the 14 October 2019 and the week of 27 April 2020 (WFP retail data)

FSC Operational Update: The External guidance for FSS partners on referrals and complaints has been finalised and circulated and a follow up training for FSS regional coordinators and protection focal points in the field offices has been organized. Appendix on FSS SECTOR response to the 4 levels of isolation in the Intersectoral Guidance on home isolation for overcrowded setting revised. Targeting and prioritization criteria have been developed for the emergency response.

HRP and Funding Situation Update: Lebanon Intersectoral COVID Response Plan 2020 requirements have been published with a total of USD 70.7M.

Libya

COVID-19 Cases: 65

Situation and Context update: A crippled national income and a global economic crisis is already having a negative impact on the Libyan market as shadow marketers devalue the dinar. The implications of the devaluation are already taking a toll on food prices and market prices in Libya. Wholesale companies are keeping a close eye on the black market, and often see their rates fluctuate throughout a given month as black-market inflation continues to grow out of control. The Central Bank and Presidential Council reforms were put in place this month in order to try and decrease the economic blow this would have on Libya in such an unstable time, but those reforms will likely mean more inflation, and will not be taken kindly by the population amidst already delayed salaries and a pandemic slowly sweeping through the country. Food Security Sector partners continue to receive a number of requests for food assistance from the MoSA and mayors of several municipalities. IDPs, refugees and migrants are being reported as the most vulnerable population groups impacted by COVID-19, mainly because their “temporary” employment situation is impacted, losing their revenue sources, their overall health situation is already weak as they do not have needed access to health services, and their lack to access to safety nets and overall lack of support system. WFP conducted through its third-party monitor a quick needs assessment in Sorman City. As a result, WFP will be providing one-off emergency food assistance. Moreover, following DTM verifications, WFP will provide one-off food assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism to 331 vulnerable displaced households in Qasr Alkhayar. On 09 May, WFP concluded the data collection for the second round of WFP-World Bank scaled-up mVAM on food security and poverty in Libya. The data will be analysed by WFP Libya and then by World Bank Washington. FAO and WFP in Libya are currently finalizing the concept note for a joint assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and livelihoods in Libya. After the finalization of the concept note as well as the questionnaire, WFP plans to proceed to the data collection in May – June 2020.

FSC Operational Update: Under the COVID19-related restrictions and intensified armed clashed between GNA-affiliated groups and LNA-affiliated groups, humanitarian entities need special arrangements for food dispatches to several locations within Libya, such as agency-issued movement letters, OCHA letters, and approval from deconfliction cell. The highest security and deconfliction measures are currently required to dispatch food assistance to the southern part of Tripoli. The COVID19-related restrictions have also delayed the arrival of food shipments and clearance process in Tripoli port. Food distributions were cancelled in Alkufra, Bani Waleed, Ghadames, Harawa, Sirt and Tarhouna, due to access constraints resulting from security risks and other programme-related challenges which local implementing partners had encountered. WFP Libya has adjusted its programmatic interventions. While implementing COVID19 precautionary measures for all interventions at all phases, WFP Libya has prioritized its resources for its unconditional food assistance to vulnerable populations, newly displaced populations and migrants in urban settings over conditional food assistance programmes. The redemption process for the WFP-launched commodity e-voucher general food assistance is running smoothly, with great turnout on the first day. Each family is currently receiving entitlements sufficient to cover two months of assistance in a dignified manner and with their choice from pre-selected commodities. Approximately, 4,580 beneficiaries out of the planned 5,015 have received their food entitlements for April 2020 and May 2020 from the designated retailers in Tripoli. Despite COVID-19 and access-related challenges, in April throughout its modalities WFP Libya reached 102,076 out of the prioritized figure of 121,289 (84 percent). IOM is scaling up its humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants with food insecurity challenges attributed to the current COVID-19 situation in urban settings particularly in Tripoli and Misrata with

provision of food baskets. IOM and WFP are looking into possibilities to extend the timeframe of the joint RTE project to vulnerable migrants in urban settings. With the COVID-19 halting most activities, thousands of refugees relying on their daily work are unable to provide for themselves and need assistance. On 11 May, UNHCR started distributing food baskets enough for one month to over 100 refugee families living in downtown Tripoli. UNHCR is aiming to reach about 4,000 by the end of Ramadan. In response to the RC's request, WFP Libya as the UN Libya Programme Management Team chair has taken lead in the mapping and gap analysis of programmatic interventions against the UN Framework for Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. The analysis is ongoing in close coordination with all PMT members, especially UNRCO, UNDP (the Technical Lead) and OCHA.

HRP and Funding Situation Update: FS remains underfunded with only 4.8% of financial requirements being met.

oPT

COVID-19 Cases: 381

Situation and Context update: Sharp increase in the number of settler attacks on Palestinians and their properties in the West Bank have increased despite the movement restrictions, lockdowns and social distancing. The attacks have been physical, involved the torching of Palestinian cars, theft of livestock and destruction of trees. Farmers suffering from lack of export: Farmers produce about 1,000 tons of cherries per year, of which about 150-200 tons are exported to Israel and the rest to Jordan, which is not possible now. The price of cherries last year reached 18-20 ILS/kg, compared to 6-7 ILS/kg now. It is expected that the losses will be more than 2 million ILS. Decreased demand of retail food items: The volume of food retail sale has reduced compared to the period before the COVID-19 crisis in both West Bank and Gaza Strip. Increased customers asking to buy food on credit. The main challenges that the shops will face if the current emergency situation continues, are closure of crossing borders, depletion of commodities stock, and further decrease of volume of sales, reduction in liquidity. Poultry farmers in need of support: Continue the support to broilers breeders who have been hit by the fodder crisis in Gaza Strip. 1,080 breeders all over the Gaza governorates received 2 tons of fodders This assistance comes as part of the DFA assistance to agriculture sector as a response to COVID-19 pandemic. Support to other categories should follow in the coming weeks. WFP administered a survey to food shops to assess the impact from the current crisis: Most of interviewed shops reported that currently the volume of sale has reduced compared to the period before the COVID 19 crisis in both West Bank and Gaza Strip, this is due to the number of currently customers has decreased; In both West Bank and Gaza Strip, the half of interviewed shops reported that the number of customers who asking for credit increased during the emergency situation; and More than half on interviewed shops reported that the price of these commodities; cereal, pluses, vegetable oil, sugar, dairy products, eggs and cleaning material has not changed during the emergency period.

FSC Operational Update: The governmental solidarity fund secured some \$17m to support the most affected households due to COVID-19 pandemic in West Bank and Gaza Strip. Around 8,000 affected households will benefit from cash assistance support during the coming few weeks. This monetary fund was announced by the prime minister and meant to be donated through private sector in Palestine. West Bank: As part of the Response Plan to COVID-19, to reduce the impact on the food security of most vulnerable households, UNRWA Area Staff contacted more than 136 beneficiary families by phone to provide instructions regarding the collection of their food baskets and on disease-preventive measures. The staff has prepared the list of beneficiaries for a second round of food baskets distribution and to start

food assistance through e-vouchers. Quick and safe cash-based interventions is confirmed to be a successful approach, as reported by PUI and their partners UAWC. This approach also brings reduction of paper transactions in favour of electronic ones, including for the tendering process. Gaza Strip: In response to the needs of 'new poor' daily-waged workers, those who lost their source of income due to COVID-19 safety measures and temporary closures of some facilities, ICRC is going to provide multipurpose cash assistance to 1,700 workers for three months. Each beneficiary will receive an amount of 350 NIS for three rounds. MoA continued its support distribution of fodders to broilers breeders in Gaza Strip. Some 1,080 breeders all over the Gaza governorates received 2 tons of fodders with a total value of ~\$400k. This assistance comes as part of the DFA assistance to agriculture sector as a response to COVID-19 pandemic. During the coming few weeks, the MoA will start the second phase of the governmental assistance by distributing agricultural inputs into vegetables' farmers. This type of support will serve farmers to enable them to start the coming cycle in August.

HRP and Funding Situation Update: FS requirements under the GHRP v2 were published with the amount of USD 11.8M.

Ukraine

COVID-19 Cases: 18,616

Situation and Context update: Since the closure of all entry/exit crossing points (EECPs) on 21 March through the end of April, over 325 people were granted humanitarian exemptions to cross the 'contact line.' Crossings took place in both directions at EECPs in both Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, which were put in place in part due to advocacy efforts of the UN and humanitarian partners. Unemployment and vulnerability are increasing across Ukraine as quarantine measures remain in place. Unemployment is feared to be much higher in the conflict-affected oblasts of eastern Ukraine compared with the rest of the country (Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine). Transition to the second stage of quarantine relaxation is possible starting May 22. Government presented and approved a series of crisis response programs: Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture Ihor Petrashko gave a presentation of the 500,000 Workplaces Program. It is planned to attract 154,000 employees, in the field of urban development – 150,000, and in agriculture – 85,000; and Acting Minister of Energy and Environmental Protection Olha Buslavets presented the plan of Crisis Response Measures in Energy. "The first step that has been taken is a real energy balance. This allows for stable operation for all types of generation. The current targets on the agenda are to ensure selling coal and return 25,000 miners to work this month (Source: [Governmental Portal](#))

FSC Operational Update: UNDP has launched a business grant program aimed at supporting existing businesses and creating new private enterprises to revitalize local economies. Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducts continuous monitoring and assessment of the private entrepreneurs' business continuity to provide support if needed. IOM is paying for online courses and purchasing IT equipment for IDPs and young people aged 18 to 30 living along the 'contact line'.

HRP and Funding Situation Update: FS requirements under the GHRP v2 were of USD 9.2M to reach around 100,000 individuals. The Ukraine Humanitarian Fund has launched an allocation to support the COVID-19 response in NGCA. The allocation will provide \$1.75 million to support elderly and other most vulnerable people with life-saving supplies and assistance and support the healthcare system and needs assessments in NGCA to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

WoS

COVID-19 Cases: Syria 58

Situation and Context update: NES: Results from a recent assessment on the Impact of COVID-19 on Markets, indicates that only essential shops are open in most areas. 20% of vendor KIs reported stockpiling behaviour by customers in their shops. Vendors faced supply challenges, such as price inflation, with over half of assessed vendors in NES reporting financial challenges related to limited cash flow. Another recent Rapid Needs Assessment on COVID-19 highlighted the further impacts on access to markets and foods, including reduced market functionality, disruption to food sourcing patterns, and an increase in food prices. In March 2020, the 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, households are likely to face increased challenges in purchasing food. Damascus: The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL) reported that approximately 320,000 people registered online by end of April for the National Campaign for Emergency Social Response for assistance due to work lost as a result of COVID-19 preventive measures.

FSC Operational Update: NES: Challenges around accessing cash in KRI and transporting this into NES remain a concern. Movement of humanitarian supplies across the border: NGOs continue to be able to move humanitarian supplies across the border once a week. Although challenges remain for organisations to gain permissions to move items within KRI, this is leading to delays rather than blockages. Import of humanitarian supplies via cargo plane: Although cargo flights into Erbil International Airport are not officially suspended, gaining permissions for cargo shipments to land has proven to be a challenge for NGOs. This is largely due to the closure of government offices in KRI due to curfew and unclear bureaucratic procedures. In addition, NGOs have reported that customs taxes have been levied on imported supplies. While this is not itself problematic, the rate of tax has varied considerably for different NGOs with no overall clarity on the process/ rate. Curfew inside NES: The confirmation of a further 2 COVID-19 cases originating in Hassakeh City in late April led to the extension of curfew arrangements across all governorates until 11 May. Although NGOs remain exempt from movement restrictions, authorities have stressed that these exemptions must not be exploited for non-work purposes. 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: In addition to the previous restrictions; there is a ban on irrigation pumps from the Turkish side which will lead to an increase in their prices in Syria and affect the irrigation projects in the future. Damascus: The delivery of assistance improving as most of the partners re-started on previously suspended projects, with no further information on future suspensions.

HRP and Funding Situation Update: under Syria Humanitarian Response Plan 2020, the FS requirements to respond to COVID-19 need was set at USD 37.8M. For NES: USD 700,000; for NWS: USD 10M and Damascus complete hub response pan: USD 29M.

Yemen

COVID-19 Cases: 128

Situation and Context update: There have been price increments of between 3 -6 % for main food commodities which will lead to access issues for vulnerable populations that have already had a significant

reduction in their incomes (especially for daily wage labourers). The supply chain has been slowed down by COVID-19 related mitigation measures e.g. at check points clearance and passing duration has increased, adding to costs. As compounding factor to COVID, a continued deterioration of the USD/YER exchange rate because of continued depletion of foreign currency reserves may weaken the import capacity and henceforth lead to food price increases. High prices of key agricultural inputs and lack of access to them will impact farming with possible reductions in the areas under production. This is especially critical considering that it is the rainy season in most parts of the country. Projected reduction in remittances to Yemen by a minimum of 20% due to COVID related impacts and the economic slowdown in the GCC countries

FSC Operational Update: The increasingly constrained operational environment has been worsened by the COVID-19 restrictions leading to delays in delivering assistance. Most INGOs and NNGOs have shifted their programming to cash or vouchers modalities considering the COVID-19 restrictions. FSAC has developed a preparedness and response plan in the context of the covid-19 outbreak which highlights: the compounding vulnerability factors, impacts of COVID-19 on Food Security, Mitigation measures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/Recommendations for continuation of food security assistance by cluster partners in the context of COVID-19

HRP and Funding Situation Update: FSAC is 27.3% funded as of 14th May 2020 (USD 121.4 Million received)

RBD UPDATES

According to World Bank assessments (WB, 2020), the pandemic of Covid-19 will create an economic crisis for sub-Saharan Africa and social with a recession which would be in 2020 between - 2.1% and - 5.1%, against economic growth observed in 2019 of 2.4%. She will have repercussions on governance, peace and security, politics, social and the economy. Covid-19 will also rub off on access to social services basic, with effects on existing cooperation programs which contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

African cities have 600 million inhabitants and represent more than 50% of the region's GDP. As such, the economic contribution of the cities of the region is much greater than their weight in the population. The employment effects of COVID-19 are likely to be serious in urban areas. The urban sectors of the economy (manufacturing and services) which currently account for 64% of Africa's GDP will be hit hard by the effects linked to COVID-19, resulting in substantial job losses productive. These risks are compounded by a likely increase in the cost of living, such as show, for example, some initial reports of increase ranging up to 100% of the price of certain food products in certain African cities (Source: African Commission for Africa).

Burkina Faso

COVID cases: 796 (748)

Situation update:

- The ANAM-BF forecasts that the rainy season will start early this year, so the FSC response must be as quick and consistent as possible to support the millions of vulnerable people who may not have access to the tools work and food in the more difficult months.
- 2.2M people in food insecurity according to the March CH, plus the possible 1 million people for the secondary impact of COVID-19
- Functionality and availability are good in the markets. Prices are stable for cereals and moderately higher for pulse and livestock (VAM).

- The interdiction of the restaurant business and catering activities has been removed, a positive impact is expected in the employment and livelihood of the population.
- The urban transports have renewed the activities, the prices have raised, and a negative impact is expected on the vulnerable people.

Humanitarian access:

- Access is globally good to distribution points, market and national safety nets
- The availability is good, and the supply chain functions in the country

Operation coverage and changes:

- Response planning for the lean season has started
- CONASUR has distributed food to 45 households in quarantine in Ouagadougou, distributions will continue during this week.

HRP and funding:

- The HRP and GHRP COVID-19 are still underway.
- FSC has added 217K vulnerable to be assisted for the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19
- 12M USD have been assigned to the FSC in the GHRP COVID-19
- The FSC has shared with donors an analysis on COVID-19 response.
- The funding in the FSC is enough to respond until September.

Challenges:

- 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 Coordinating an intersectoral response with the other Clusters and partners

Cameroon

COVID cases: 3,05 (2,579)

Situation update: NtR

Humanitarian access: NtR

Operation coverage and changes: NtR

HRP and funding: NtR

Challenges: NtR

Central African Republic

COVID cases: 327 (143)

Situation update:

- Imported products such as rice, palm oil and meat are up by 22%, 12% and 18% respectively on average, due to the closure of land borders with Cameroon or most transit imported products, and the tensions observed in the livestock sector due to insecurity and the Ramadan period.
- However, movements and rising transport prices impact farmers who can no longer sell beans and cassava in urban centers. They are forced to sell off these products locally. This is the case in Baou and Bozoum compared to May 2019, the prices of beans and cassava register a drop
- The majority of contamination cases are those imported from neighbouring Cameroon. Beloko, near the border area with Cameroon is the most affected place.

Humanitarian access: NtR

Operation coverage and changes:

- Access continues to be impacted: both supply chain and humanitarian access

- The supply chain for agricultural inputs is disrupted following the measure put in place. Some seeds like peanuts are difficult to find in some locations like Baboua

HRP and funding: The overall envelope for the GHRP-Covid 19 is 152.8 M, don't 76 M for the FSC. Added to the initial HRP which is 154 M, have an overall figure of 230 M. The cluster plans to cover an additional 632,000 people. Added to 1.4 M people as the initial target of HRP for a total of 2,032,000 people

Challenges: Ability to carry out critical activities in the event of an overflow; Resource mobilization for responses; an additional humanitarian emergency

Chad

COVID cases: 373 (170)

Situation update: 6951 persons are quarantined in 14 province

Humanitarian access: NtR (curfew remains, border closed)

Operation coverage and changes: There is not shift of programming (e.g. from in-kind to cash) at the moment. The food assistance modality will be decided upon the market assessments

HRP and funding:

- The WB gave 22 million USD to WFP for food assistance;
- ECHO gave 1 million euro to NGO and UNICEF/WHO for sensitization and Supply of medical equipment and consumables.

Mali

COVID cases: 668 (563)

Situation update:

- Food security situation increasingly difficult for vulnerable households during this Ramadan period when the prices of certain imported products (sugar, milk, wheat flour) are increasing in certain areas of the North of the Country (Kidal, Gao, Ménaka , Timbuktu)
- It is estimated that during the lean season (June to September) taking into account the results of the harmonized framework (CH) of March 2020 and the impact of COVID that approximately 1.6 million people will be in urgent need of food assistance in the country.

Humanitarian access: NtR

Operation coverage and changes:

- Planning of the response to the 2020 lean season by humanitarian actors, the ICRC and the Government (coordination matrix). Need coverage is relatively low (around 50% for food assistance and 20% for livelihood support)
- Contribution of the Cluster to the socio-economic impact study of COVID sponsored by UNCT.
- Organization of the bi-monthly cluster coordination meeting: presentation of analyses on the MEB, coordination matrix, mVAM monitoring.
- Draft in progress of a joint note (food security and nutrition) of advocacy for the EHP for resource mobilization.

HRP and funding:

- The intervention of the SA cluster is limited to food assistance support for people directly affected by COVID. Thus the target is 252,000 people for a required budget of 4.4 million USD.
- Launch of the HRP 2020 mid-term review process. The cluster planning figures (PIN and targets) are revised on the basis of the March 2020 CH results and the expected impact of COVID on insecurity food. The overall target of the cluster is estimated at 2.46 million people.

Niger

COVID cases: 904 (821)

Situation update:

Economic growth in Niger could be 4.1% in 2020 against 6.9% in 2019, due to the pandemic of the new coronavirus, "according to the Nigerien Minister of Finance

Humanitarian access:

- The government has made two important decisions: the lifting of the curfew in Niamey and the reopening of places of worship throughout the extent of the national territory always as of May 13.
- However, the government which demands strict observance of the measures barriers on these places of worship
- Reopening of schools despite Covid-19: May 11

Operational coverage and changes:

Since April 14, 2020, the government plans to mobilize 81,500 tonnes of grain for sale at moderate prices and 56,000 tonnes for the free distribution of food to the poor.

HRP and funding: NtR

Nigeria

COVID cases: 5,445 (2,558)

Situation update: Lockdown in Borno lifted. All three States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe have free movement inside state. However, Inter-State movements still restricted. Partners resumed and/or continue operating in delivering food assistance while making final plans, procurements and beneficiary selection for the main rain season.

With the increase in prices, partners continue monitoring prices in the respective localities as the lean season starts as well especially for the vulnerable households. 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:

- With the lockdown in Borno lifted, partners deliver through inkind and CVA will now have the access to restock, given that partners had reported running out of stock in the deep field locations

Operation coverage and changes:

- Food Security Monitoring Taskforce together with CILLS working on data collection for reviewing and potentially updating the March CH data which did not significantly include COVID-19.
- The CH State focal points continue to collect data for reviewing the March 2020 CH
- Sector continued with discussions between government and non-government on coordination on LGAs for potential scale up and targeting for food assistance

HRP and funding: COVID HRP submitted with an updated total of the latest **total COVID ONLY** for the Food Security Sector is **178,604,242 USD** targeting **2,593,193 people**

RBJ UPDATES

DRC

COVID 19 cases: 1,242

Situation and context update: According to the joint market bulletin covering March and April 2020, in eastern DRC COVID 19 has had an impact on demand for food, water, fuel and cash. The drop in purchasing power is influenced by COVID-19 prevention measures. Formal and informal cross-border trade is the livelihood of many people in the region – severely affected by the closure of the borders.

Consumers reported that due to rising prices, they are consuming more and more unsafe drinking water, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. In the assessed cities of eastern DRC, social distancing, border closures and movement restrictions have reduced demand and imports of products: 84% of food traders have reported resupply problems. This is confirmed by the Goma Rapid Market Assessment (https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/82ca4db4/REACH_DRC_Factsheet_Evaluation-rapide-des-march%C3%A9s-de-Goma_Avril-2020.pdf): 72 % of traders interviewed selling basic foodstuffs (cereals, beans, lentils) said they would be able to replenish their stocks if demand increased by 50% in one week. The restocking difficulties are mainly due to a lack of money, to transport difficulties inside the DRC as well as to resupply abroad.

FSC Operational Update: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding situation update: Figures for the HRP update and GHRP have been revised downwards. New tentative ones (still to be validated): PIN = 19.5 mil. people (+ 3.9 mil. people); Target = 9.7 mil. people (+ 1.6 mil. people); Budget = 929 mil. USD (+ 127 mil).

Mozambique

COVID 19 cases: 115

Situation and context update: FAO jointly with district agricultural authorities is conducting a crop yield assessment in Cyclone Idai affected districts of Sofala and Manica Provinces. In the same provinces, FAO-led Land Access Survey in Resettlement Sites (RS) is being merged with WFP’s Verification and Registration Exercise also in RS, and FSC partners, provincial and district authorities and other actors (IOM, UNHRC, UNDP and other clusters) will engaged in this joint exercise.

FSC Operational Update: Humanitarian access remains limited in Cabo Delgado province due to security concerns especially in Palma, Mocimboa Di Praia and Nangade districts, resulting in major gaps in the food security response.

HRP and funding situation update: 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 19 cases: 37

Situation and context update: The week of the 4th May 2020 saw industries and formal businesses reopen although with limited operations - this will help to restart Zimbabwe economy after the shutdown. Statutory instrument (SI) 80 of 2020 was enacted into law, introducing a formal licencing framework for mobile money operators. Any financial transactions by mobile operators is now regulated by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe like for any other financial institution in the country; these changes will likely result in an increase in cost when transacting with mobile money, which in turn could result in an increase in mobile money prices going forward, which will impact all FSL Cluster partners providing mobile money. Over 3,500 migrant returnees have arrived to Zimbabwe. Due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in neighbouring countries, higher numbers are expected to return in the coming months. According to the WFP VAM Market Assessment Report for the period from the 4th to 8th of May, maize grain remained unavailable on most markets monitored across the country with 99% of the markets not having the commodity. Week on week maize meal availability remained stable being available in 38% of the markets from 34% reported during the previous week. Prices increased on average by 14% this week in both urban and rural markets. Sugar beans prices increased by 11% week on week, while its availability slightly

improved from 38% to 42%. Cooking oil availability was relatively stable with 82% of the monitored markets reporting availability compared to the 85% reported last week.

FSC Operational Update: Due to the end of the lean season, the FSL cluster partners reduced their beneficiary caseload to a total of 1.8M in rural and urban domains. Due to continued difficulties with mobile money service providers and low market functionality, many FSL Cluster partners are considering adapting their mobile money program into vouchers.

HRP and funding situation update: ECHO call for 13M EUR

RBN UPDATES

South Sudan

Situation update:

- 5 week lockdown (not widely observed by wider population; strictly observed by most humanitarian agencies) - somewhat lifted after Presidential & National Task Force (NTF) decree: permission for casual workers to operate, opening of restaurants & bars (with social distancing)
- Needs Analysis Working Group (NAWG) finalized vulnerability mapping: based on existing inter sectoral vulnerabilities and risk of spread/ entry of COVID 19; focus on monitoring direct & indirect effects; and honing in on special locations – initial vulnerability mapping of Urban Juba completed (with 82% confirmed cases: 167);

Operational update:

- All distributions: in kind/ cash/ livelihood support & livestock vaccinations ALL follow COVID 19 compliance (based on SOPs & guidelines widely circulated)
- CO1: WFP completed first round of nationwide targeted distributions providing 2 – 3 month rations to 3.1 million persons;
- CO2: Main season response emergency crop & livelihood kits only in the Green Belt (bi modal/ 2 seasons) with pre-positioning for main season (unimodal/ 1 season) to commence May/ June
- Revised CO3: reduction in training/ capacity building/ mass gathering; focus on pests: FAW & especially Desert Locust: surveillance & impact assessments on-going; pesticide in country (focus on 5 counties in Eastern Equatoria); but awaiting sprayer plane & pilots to complete 14 day quarantine;

HRP and funding: Existing HRP at less than 20%; WFP & FAO able to pre-position with carry-over from 2019; Partners including CLAs to update FTS. COVID 19 & DL Addendum: FSLC totals \$179.7 million; with \$4.6 million for Desert Locust.

Challenges:

- Ensuring the supply routes remain open from North (sorghum) and South (maize & sorghum); resolving the inevitable bottlenecks and slowdown in movement;

- Public compliance to the key COVID 19 mitigation measures to be observed across the board; much effort by almost all agencies/ businesses/ Govt departments in disseminating risk communication messaging;
- Foreseen challenges difficult to resolve if rate of transmission increases especially self-isolation in dense urban neighbourhoods of Juba and in the POCs (2 cases in Juba and 1 case in Bentui so far) and refugee camps;

Somalia

Situation update

The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and FEWS NET Somalia has released of their joint Food Security and Nutrition Quarterly Brief with a Focus on the 2020 *Jiaal* Impact and *Gu* Season Early Warning. The impact of the 2020 dry Jilal (January-March) season was moderated by availability of water and dry pasture due to the favourable 2019 Dyer season. This was followed by timely and abundant GU season rainfall since March 2020. However, Somalia's population is currently experiencing multiple shocks: Desert Locust, riverine and flash floods, insecurity and COVID-19. The overall food security because of these "multiple shocks" as well protracted crisis is worrisome and showing an overall deterioration. Food security projections signify a rapid deterioration with 2.7 million being in IPC 3 or worse (April to June) and then surging further to 3.4 million for the period July-September. In addition, 2.6 million people are in IPC 2 through September 2020. Flooding situation in Somalia has worsened this week as the preliminary report indicates. The number of people affected has increased to 546,103, of whom 216,895 people have been displaced from their homes and 16 others killed since the GU rains started in early April. At least 27 districts are inundated; the worst being Belet Weyne in Hiran region where riverine flooding has displaced more than 115,000 people, according to the district flood taskforce. The flooding resulted from a sharp rise in the level of the Shebelle River following heavy rains in Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands. According to the taskforce, more people were fleeing their homes as river levels rise.

Operational update: FSC collated and analysed April 2020 response as planned; there was a significant increase of the responses in April across the response objectives even though the number of people reached remains significantly below the target. FSC assisted 1,552,612 people out of 2,736,733-targeted (57% achievement) in improved access to food and safety nets objective (Objective 1). The number of people assisted in this objective increased compared to previous months. Nevertheless, coverage remains significantly below the revised target. FSC target revised based on the recent IPC population figure shared by FSNAU incorporating the "triple risks" affected population faced with. WFP was one of the partners provided two months rations (April/May) in April as measures minimizing contact in the context of COVID 19. About 193,110 beneficiaries out of the total assisted in April were among people affected by River and flash flooding across Somalia.

Provision of seasonal livelihood inputs and livestock asset protection (Objective 2), the number of people assisted to date is 23% of the seasonal target. About 72,666 beneficiaries out of the total assisted in April were among people affected by River and flash flooding across Somalia. FSC advocating to partners increase level of response to beneficiaries to maximize the GU season favourable climate and given the risk of losing planting material (own or provided) due to flooding and desert locust. Supporting

livelihoods through conditional transfers (Objective 3): FSC partner's assisted 290,596 beneficiaries (or 20%) compared to a target of (1,455,102).

HRP and funding:

FSC has finalised the initial review of 2020 HRP with the 81 partners. FSC revised funding has increased by 32% to USD 506,061,606. The increase is consistent with the latest IPC projections, released on 4th May at the ICCG, which indicates that IPC 3&4 is now 3.4 million compared to 2.1 million at the time when we prepared the 2020 HRP. As well, when planning for the 2020 HRP last year, the desert locust response was not considered: this has now been included. FSC partner need to mobilize additional resources to respond to increased need (acute food insecurity) because of the prevailing "triple risks" in Somalia. Partners so far planned and mobilized resources to assist about 1.6 million acutely food insecure people per month and have a gap of resources to about 1.1-1.8 million people between June-September to prevent worsening of food insecurity. The cluster so far funded only 21 percent of the 384 million before the revision and incorporating additional need related to the prevailing risks as financial tracking system shows

Main challenges:

In general, the COVID-19 is affecting the implementation of the projects due to limited movement/field visit to supervise the ongoing project activities. Registration and verification of the beneficiaries required more time for some of the partners due to precautions measure of COVID-2019 on maintaining social distancing and working more with the Village Committees to avoid crowd in the communities.

RBP UPDATES

Colombia

COVID 19 cases: 13,610

Situation and context update: According to a FAO rapid survey (April 17-24), there was an increase in prices, mainly for rice, eggs, brown sugar, onion, and peas. The impact on the purchasing power of families and on economic access to food is critical in La Guajira and Nariño (Barbacoas and Tumaco), where water scarcity and recent floods (April 2020), respectively, have exacerbated the crisis. WFP is working on the development of an interactive geographic vulnerability analysis tool and to identify populations most affected by the COVID-19 crisis based on official information from the Colombian government. The analysis variables include multidimensional poverty, employment rate, informal work, water quality, nutrition, and violence crises. The tool will work for both urban and rural population.

FSC Operational Update: Major funding gaps persist: WFP received assistance requests for almost one million victims of the indirect effects of COVID19, and to date 51,000 Colombians and 34,000 migrants are targeted – of the 51,000 people prioritized for immediate assistance, almost 14,000 have started receiving unconditional vouchers in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Córdoba and Nariño, and 7,000 received food baskets in Norte de Santander. FAO is preparing "Technical guidelines to strengthen Territorial Development Plans 2020-2023 in a COVID scenario" that incorporates specific actions for coordination and concurrence of public policies to guarantee the human right to adequate food in these local planning instruments.

HRP and funding situation update: For the GHRP update, budget for Food Security and Nutrition was reduced to \$ 22.8M (about 50% of original requirement).

Haiti

COVID 19 cases: 273

Situation and context update: NTR compared to previous week

FSC Operational Update: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding situation update: NTR compared to previous week

Venezuela

COVID 19 cases: 455

Situation and context update: NTR compared to previous week

FSC Operational Update: NTR compared to previous week

HRP and funding situation update: NTR compared to previous week