COVID-19 – 7th FSC Weekly Situation Update
18 – 24th of May 2020

Summary

Asia & Pacific
In Bangladesh Cyclone Amphan made landfall at western Bangladesh on 20 May – see update by RC’s office. In Cox’s bazar (Rohingya response) distribution of support for host communities including multi-purpose cash grants ongoing in Ukhia and Teknaf in sub-districts targeted by JRP. Partners are increasingly engaging host communities and refugees with livelihoods initiatives such as mask making and production of hand sanitizers, following guidelines and specifications by health authorities,

East Africa
In Somalia the Desert Locust situation is now classified as dangerous with bands of hoppers reported in the breeding grounds in Galmudug, Somaliland and Puntland. Swarms are laying eggs that will soon hatch as the fourth generation of breeding in Somalia. In Burundi, the restrictive measures on the cross-border movements of people as a COVID 19 prevention have particularly affected the Eastern (bordering Tanzania) and in the Western (bordering the DRC) parts of the country which are highly dependent on cross-border activities including informal trade and economic migrations (e.g. in Gatumba, a small border centre with the DRC, 80% of the small trade has closed.

Latin America
In Haiti, misinformation and denial among the population, expression of hostilities towards COVID-19 treatment structures and stigmatization towards affected people remain a concern. A rapid market assessment indicated reduced availability of products, in particular those locally produced, an increase in prices of around 5%, as well as low purchasing power of the households. Concurrently the depreciation of the local currency against the USD is pushing up the price of staples such as rice, mostly imported.

Middle East and Eastern Europe
In Iraq, according to WFP mVAM data from April 18 to May 16th, 2.84 million people had insufficient food consumption. In Lebanon, WFP VAM/retail weekly price monitoring shows that food prices continue to increase at higher rate. In oPT, Food shops owners confirm the steep decrease in their businesses’ volume, due to limited purchasing power of customers. In addition, customers continue
to demand buying on credit. In Gaza Strip, borders limitations continue to disrupt the market. In Ukraine, food prices will be regulate. In NW Syria, Out of 42 sub-districts, the bakeries are available in 100%, markets are available in 95%, health services are available in 69% and private health services are available in 98%.

**Southern Africa**

In Mozambique, lean season food assistance responses is being concluded at the end of May, but interventions will continue to target resettlement centres and IDPs in central Mozambique and Cabo Delgado province, as well as COVID-19 affected population in urban and peri-urban areas. Equally in Zimbabwe, FSL partners will continue providing food assistance to particularly vulnerable rural districts, and they will scale up assistance in urban areas. In DRC, while access to the field in the South-East continues to be a challenge due to local authorities’ derogations / movement clearances, FSL partners have started the first interventions in Kinshasa, with CBT the most common implementation modality.

**West Africa**

In more and more countries, the lockdown is now relaxed with shops, schools, airport, place of worship opening. This is not a result of the C19 pandemic improving but more livelihood issues as the lockdown impacts prices and livelihood of the poorest. Though schools are re-opening, it does mean that school feeding will resume in order to prevent the spread of C19; instead take-home rations are distributed. We have noticed that in most of the countries now remote monitoring is being established (Chad, Mali) with will allow a proper monitoring of the food insecurity of the most vulnerable. Finally, in three countries, the FSC partners are providing food or coordinating or planning the food response in quarantine place or in capital city (Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria).
**RBB UPDATES**

**COX’s Bazar**  
**Situation update:**  
First COVID-19 case was identified in the camps on 14 May and there are currently 10 positive cases as of 19 May – total of 1,220 beds for isolation and treatment are planned to be operational by mid-June. Cyclone Amphan made landfall at western Bangladesh on 20 May – see update by RC’s office. Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment #3 was released by WFP VAM (report) (summary)  
**Operational update:**  
Distribution of support for host communities including multi-purpose cash grants ongoing in Ukhia and Teknaf in sub-districts targeted by JRP. WFP distributing cash support BDT4,500 together with in-kind and HEB. Partners are increasingly engaging host communities and refugees with livelihoods initiatives such as mask making and production of hand sanitizers, following guidelines and specifications by health authorities. Operationalization of home delivery of food and NFIs to households with elderly persons (31,500 over 59) and persons with special needs (potentially 340,000 individuals over 9 months) is ongoing with WFP and relevant Sectors in the camps  
**HRP and funding:** same as last week

**Myanmar**  
**Situation update:** FAO and WFP in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) are conducting Covid-19 Rapid Situation Monitoring in seven States and Region of Myanmar. The objective of the assessment is to measure impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihood opportunities, and on food production, availability of agricultural inputs and food prices in highly vulnerable areas. Starting in May 2020, WFP is collecting fortnightly prices of main food commodities via mVAM from 60 townships in 10 States and Regions.  
**Operational update:** In May, WFP and its partners have reached 787 returnee migrants who will undergo facility quarantine for 21 days and distributed one-time meal box at Myawaddy border gate, as requested by the Kayin government. WFP and its partners have also reached 455 returnee migrants in facility quarantine centers in Kayin State and provided 3 cooked meals a day in May. To date, WFP provided food assistance to over 12,700 returnee migrants in Yangon, Kayin, Mon and Shan State. WFP is planning to provide food and nutrition assistance to returnee migrants in Kachin State.  
**HRP:** no update

**RBC UPDATES**

**Iraq**  
**COVID-19 cases:** 4,632  
**Situation update:** Iraq has imposed stricter movement restrictions for the Eid holiday. According to WFP mVAM data from April 18 to May 16th, 2.84 million people had insufficient food consumption (i.e. those with poor or borderline food consumption scores) and approximately half of those individuals relied on social safety nets for their cereal goods, including the PDS, gifts/charities and humanitarian aid. From April
21, 2020 to May 18, 2020, the Civil Defence Directorate reported 121 fires in 16 governorates, with 658 ha of cropland burned and 9,917 ha rescued.

Operational update: FSC partner hotlines responding to COVID-19 affected populations through food provision report that request for food needs have significantly decreased over the past week, mainly due to households being able to access their livelihood sources.

HRP and funding: FSC has received 1.1 million USD from the Iraq Humanitarian Fund to implement two activities.

Lebanon

COVID-19 cases: 1,119

Situation update: After stricter lockdown measures as of May 15, on May 18, a cautious reopening of the country resumed. WFP VAM/retail weekly price monitoring shows that food prices continue to increase at higher rate. In April 2020, the national food basket price, monitored by WFP, was approximately LBP 58,868. This represents a 53 percent increase from October price levels. 80 percent of WFP-contracted shops reported that they have stock for more than two weeks while only 20 percent reported that they have stock to cover a timeframe between 1-2 weeks. All shops reported that since October 2019, the cost of food supplies have increased more than 60 percent. 83% of Syrian refugees (1,245,000) are estimated living below SMEB due to inflation and loss of income (WFP VAM). The World Bank estimated that extreme poverty could affect 22 percent of the Lebanese population in 2020 as a result of the ongoing economic crisis. MoA issued an emergency plan for agriculture, which has been presented to the FSSWG on agriculture on 12 May, including a list of urgent actions in support of the sector.

Operational update: Alternative modalities for school meals distribution are being examined and WFP plans to deliver family parcels as take-home rations in May and June. Regular food assistance through cash-based transfer is continuing with 74 percent redemption rate at shops and ATMs. In line with government gradually lifting restrictions on COVID-19, a number of partners working on agricultural livelihoods are planning for a “soft start” and gradual resumption of activities, pending precautionary measures are in place and with government approval. A number of partners are considering shifting towards or adding emergency interventions in support to farmers. The sector is preparing a guidance/standard for sector partners on Cash & Vouchers support to farmers with FAO lead, through a small dedicated sub group.

HRP and funding: same as last week

oPT

COVID-19 cases: 423

Situation update: Workers receiving cash assistance by MoL - Workers affected by COVID-19 are receiving cash assistance by the Ministry of Labor. First round should include 40,500 workers, with a support of 700 NIS. Approximately 275,000 workers have submitted request of support. Low volume of sales for food retailers - Food shops owners confirm the steep decrease in their businesses’ volume, due to limited purchasing power of customers. In addition, customers continue to demand buying on credit. In Gaza Strip, borders limitations continue to disrupt the market. Cost of production still high, amidst lack on crucial inputs - Limited availability of Inputs and movements between governorates are still affecting production costs and causing delays. Broilers producers report that high costs of feed and low sale (if any) prices make the cost of production unsustainable. Traded fodder is poor in quality, as it
cannot be checked at the source, due to movement restrictions. In West Bank, cash-only payments continued to limit bulk purchases, causing liquidity concerns, although suppliers partially resumed informal credit to producers with a positive debt repayment record. Livestock sector - remains hardly hit for both red meat and dairy markets, while export of certain agricultural production (avocado, lemon and guava) are showing signs of recovery. Sharp decrease of revenues at all levels - Government official expect a significant decrease on the revenues due to the drop on the transactions of commercial crossings and challenges in collection of local taxes and VAT. The public revenues of the local governments (Municipalities) has dropped by more than 60% due to the stop of customer collection services. The owners of fuel stations mentioned that the consumption of fuel has dropped by 50%, with impact on both the service deliverers and the governmental revenues.

**Operational update**: Food processing women cooperatives were supported to present their products online, due to difficulties in reaching physical market places. Also, some developmental funds have been re-directed to purchase items essential to ensure the production cycle. Households already benefitting from food assistance interventions are receiving additional cash top-up via e-voucher.

**HRP and funding**: no new updates

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**Ukraine**

**COVID-19 cases**: 21,584

**Situation update**: The number of officially confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ukraine has reached 20,148 as of May 22, according to Ukraine’s health ministry. In total, 588 people have died from the disease in Ukraine and 6,585 patients have recovered. The cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has decided to move to the second stage of quarantine easing from 22 May. According to the Government's decision in those regions where epidemiological indicators meet the criteria set by the Ministry of Health for new cases of coronavirus disease (not more than 12 per 100 thousand population), number of tests (not less than 12 per 100 thousand population) and bed occupancy in hospitals (not more than 50%), public transportation will be restored. From 25 May, the work of the subway and kindergartens will be resumed. Interregional transportations have not opened yet. The agrarians submitted proposals to the Prime Minister on the development of the industry, in particular proposed to determine it as one of the priorities in working with the EU, which will allow attracting additional funding from European partners. While amending the budget, the Government and the Verkhovna Rada had initiated to preserve UAH 4 billion funding to support agricultural producers. "Especially for micro- and small businesses, those people who work directly on land. These UAH 4 billion are distributed into a number of programs, directly for support, to repay interest on loans. Moreover, on April 22, the Government amended the procedure for using the funds provided in the state budget to support the development of farms. This important document will be signed in the near future," the Prime Minister. Ukraine will regulate food prices (source: Unian; 15 May) - Starts from 18 May sellers obligate to declare prices if they are increased by more than 5 percent. The list of socially significant products includes: mineral water without gas, poultry meat, chicken eggs of category C1, rye-wheat bread, pasteurized milk (2.5%), buckwheat, granulated sugar, wheat flour grade, butter (72.5%), pasta of domestic production. As for anti-epidemiological products, the Cabinet of Ministers included to this list antiseptics and disinfectants, as well as other medicine. In addition, twenty items of personal protective equipment are subject to state regulation, including medical masks, gloves, suits, goggles, FFP2 and FFP3 respirators, boot covers, mask filters and more.

**Operational update**: no new updates
**HRP and funding:** FSLC had 4 projects approved by UHF (Country-Based Pooled Fund) allocation for NGCA area. The partners will be addressing the immediate access to food and preserving livelihoods. FSLC partners are respond to the humanitarian needs in Eastern Ukraine.

**WoS COVID-19 cases:** 121

**Situation update:** NWS - The main results from HNAP assessment that were done on May 18th: data collection was undertaken at the sub-district level on 17 of May, via 137 face-to-face key informant interviews in 42 sub-districts. Out of 42 sub-districts, the bakeries are available in 100%, markets are available in 95%, health services are available in 69% and private health services are available in 98%. And for applying the mitigation measures against covid-19; just 2 of them have done tests against covid-19, 7 of them have distributed soap, disinfectant, and masks, one of them have applied the community lockdown, and 30 of them have applied awareness campaigns

**Operational update:** NWS - In the last week, one partner reported an issue with access, so they have changed the location from Aleppo (Al-Bab district) to Idlib to support 114 families of orphans. Another partner has reported that they shifted the bakeries that are working inside Syria to provide bread instead of the bakeries that were providing bread from Turkey. Damascus - Some agencies have reported suspension or delays in the delivery of food assistance in Dara in Southern Syria due to the deterioration of the security situation. The sector is in the process of accurately establishing the number of people affected and will report in the next update.

**HRP and funding:** no new updates

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**RBD UPDATES**

**Burkina Faso**

**COVID cases:** 832 (796)

**Situation update:**
- regional joint assessment on food security and nutritional situation and the impact of COVID-19 of WFP and UNICEF for the lean season
- The International Airport will renew activities from 27 Mai, including UNHAS activity

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

**HRP and funding:** 3 main scenarios for PIN revision and impact of COVID-19 have been drawn by the ICCG: the most probable forecast for FSC is 2,5 M in food insecurity until the end of 2020

**Challenges:** advocacy for the donors and decision makers on the COVID-19 impact on food security

**Cameroon**

**COVID cases:** 4,890 (3,205)

**Situation update:** NtR

**Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes:**
Schedule of international commercial flights to and from Cameroon from May 25, 2020

**HRP and funding:** HRP COVID US$ 101.1 Million requested US$ 2.4 million funded (2.4% funded)

**Challenges:** NtR

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**Central African Republic**

COVID cases: 604 (327)

Situation update: NtR

**Humanitarian access and 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
- Take-home rations in the Far North, South-West and North-West regions albeit schools remaining closed have resumed

**HRP and funding:** NtR

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

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**Chad**

COVID cases: 565 (373)

Situation update:
- following a government’s statement shops, restaurants, travel agencies have opened
- The FSC with the WFP and the SISAAP are starting the organization of the Cadre Harmonisé.
- WFP has put in place the mVAM here in Chad, remote market assessment will be done with main actors through phone call

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

**Operation coverage and changes:**
- There is not shift of programming (e.g. from in-kind to cash)
- The FSC in Chad is coordinating with the health cluster during the ICC meetings both at National that at Provincial level. Bilateral meetings are organized with the health and wash cluster to plan and implement intersectoral COVID response.
- WFP and UNICEF are preparing a joint response that will combine food and nutritional assistance with WASH awareness

**HRP and funding:** The HRP revision including the COVID-19 interventions is launched

**Challenges:** NtR

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**Mali**

COVID cases: 668 (563)

Situation update:
- Under the lead of the SAP (Early Warning System), a technical committee including the FSC, WFP, FAO, Fewsnets, l’Observatoire du marché cerealier (the Cereal Market Observatory) have implemented a vulnerability mechanism of the population, market monitoring with mVAM
- Prices remain stable overall, except for the imported products

**Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes:** food assistance targeting 50,000 COVID-19 affected people including patients and confined families is ongoing, based on a request from the Ministry
of Public Health. WFP plans to further scale-up crisis response activities to reach an additional 450,000 people affected by the economic impact of COVID-19 over the next six months upon available funds. **HRP and funding:** the FSC is working on the HRP revision, which include the impact of C19

**Niger**

COVID cases: 904 (821)

Situation update: NtR

**Humanitarian access and Operational coverage and changes:**
- WFP has decided to not resume in-school meals despite the reopening of schools in June, to minimize risks of further spreading. WFP is already in the process of providing take-home rations for the months of April-June to cover for the rest of the school year.
- 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.

**HRP and funding:** NtR

**Nigeria**

COVID cases: 5,445 (2,558)

Situation update:
- Lockdown was lifted in Borno last week. Activities returning to normal although partners have reported that prices are still high
- With the lockdown having affected the livelihoods of the vulnerable households, partners have agreed to review the planning guidance note that concluded the vulnerable HHs in the urban areas are able to meet 30% of their food needs. This is set to be reassessed to guide further planning and designing future projects. Currently in the urban areas, partners cover only up to 70% of the MEB food needs on the assumption that the vulnerable HHs can cover the other 30%.

**Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes:**
- With the lockdown in Borno lifted, partners deliver through in-kind and CVA will now have the access to restock, given that partners had reported running out of stock in the deep field locations
- The CH State focal points and partners finalized collection of data for reviewing the March 2020 CH
- Joint plan to support the 5 upcoming quarantine centres in the deep field locations.

**HRP and funding:** Last week, after a request from WFP to increase the COVID ONLY HRP for the Food Security Sector to 178,604,242 USD targeting 2,593,193 people, this was updated and submitted. However, it was not approved by the Humanitarian Coordinator. Therefore, the **FSS Nigeria COVID-19 GHRP goes back to the original figure of 104,414,990 USD targeting 2,593,193 people**

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**RBJ UPDATES**

**DRC**

COVID 19 cases: 1,835

**Situation and context update:** Despite the worrying evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Gov, based on socio-economic considerations (risk of social unrests and Kinshasa population unable to afford a medium / long term lockdown), seems to be about to partially ease restrictions imposed on 24.03.
From a FS point of view, prices continue to increase across the country and the average purchasing power got already lower by 30% - 40%.

**FSC Operational Update:** Partners still face some challenges in getting local authorities derogations / movement clearances, to have access to the field and ensure a full continuity of operations - particularly in the SE part of the country. In Kinshasa, according to the first interventions put in place and / or still in a negotiation phase, CBT would be the most common implementation modality - given the availability of financial services, the pretty significant number of people in need vs the small amount of resources potentially available, the fact that – so far – food availability is assured. At the same time, robust market analyses are encouraged.

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

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**Mozambique**

**COVID 19 cases:** 162

**Situation and context update:** The Combined Resettlement Sites Exercise (FAO-led Land Access Survey and WFP-led Verification & Registration) kick-started on 18 May 2020 with the engagement of provincial (DPASA and INGC) and district authorities (SDAE) as well as other actors (IOM, UNHCR, UNDP and CCCM Cluster). It is planned to be concluded by 20 June. The survey questionnaire covers not only FSL topics, but also Education, Shelter and CCCM, and social protection.

**FSC Operational Update:** Lean season food assistance responses is being concluded at the end of May 2020 however WFP will continue to provide food assistance to residual caseloads, resettlement centres and IDPs in central Mozambique and Cabo Delgado province between June to October 2020. In response to COVID-19 impact, additional affected population will be supported in the urban and peri-urban areas. FSC partners submitted 14 projects for the emergency appeal for COVID-19 (HRP) on top of two projects from CLAs (US$ 15million). FSC partners’ projects total value is US$ 10.3million (out of which US$ 7million for livelihoods and US$ 3.3million for food assistance) and currently under review.

**HRP and funding situation update:** There seems to be some donor’s reservations about funding interventions aimed at supporting communities in areas with safety and security issues. The scope of the emergency appeal for COVID-19 (HRP) in terms of budget (US$ 15million) is very limited however this is a live document that will be reviewed on monthly basis.

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**Zimbabwe**

**COVID 19 cases:** 51

**Situation and context update:** Prices of basic food commodities increased by an average of 21% over the month of April, with vegetable oil recording the highest percentage increase of 45%. These price increases are against potentially decreased income due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Maize grain has not been available on formal markets during the month of April, and as most households reported to be expecting poor harvest, the situation may not improve. According to IOM, in May 2020, 3,756 Zimbabwe migrants returned from neighbouring countries, a significant increase compared to 1,314 in April. Remittances in Zimbabwe are one of the most important sources of income for 13% of the households in rural and 7% for urban context, however this source has been affected by the lockdown in neighbouring countries and returns. The routine health information data are showing that the incidence of pellagra, particularly among adult women, has increased, which is indicative of very poor household dietary diversification (already pre-COVID, as data are related to Q1 2020). The national GBV Hotline has recorded a total of 1,757 GBV calls from the beginning of the lockdown on 30 March until 13 May, with an overall increase of over 70% compared to the pre-lockdown trends.
FSC Operational Update: While FSL cluster partners have finalised the 2019/20 Lean Season Assistance programme, WFP and partners will continue providing food assistance to particularly vulnerable districts through June 2020. Additionally, WFP continues to provide cash assistance to 100,000 people across 8 urban domains via Econet mobile money transfers under WFP’s Food Security and Resilience-Building Programme. WFP is planning to expand its Urban Social Assistance programme to reach 124,000 new beneficiaries (reaching a total of 224,000)

HRP and funding situation update: NTR compared to previous week

RBN UPDATES

BURUNDI

Situation update: While the number of COVID-19 cases declared in Burundi remains very low1, the numbers are expected to increase, as social distancing is not been practiced, schools are open, large social and political gatherings continue and repatriation of Burundi refugees from Tanzania continues without quarantine measures upon arrival.

Following the rise of the waters of Lake Tanganyika and the overflowing of the rivers which feed the latter, the floods continue to affect new spaces in particular, the western part of the county alongside the lake where the number of displaced persons is increasing (more than 80,000 people are affected).

Due to high promiscuity IDPs currently located on the sites, churches, schools and host families are currently at high risk of COVID19 infection.

The restrictive measures on the cross-border movements of people as a COVID 19 prevention have particularly affected the Eastern (bordering Tanzania) and in the Western (bordering the DRC) parts of the country which are highly dependent on cross-border activities including informal trade and economic migrations (eg. in Gatumba, a small border center with the DRC, 80% of the small trade has closed. And Rumonge, an urban port center, the activities of the port have decreased from one boat per day to one boat per month).

Operational update: During the month of May 2020, FS assistance mainly focused on returnees from Tanzania as well as some of the victims of the floods in the western plain (Gatumba). Resources remain extremely limited compared to the food assistance needs of nearly 80,000 people victims of floods for at least 3 months. Due to COVID 19 outbreak, food security actors have limited their assistance to critical activities (saving life) and shifted to COVID19 preventive activities.

HRP: While the whole HRP 2020 is currently funded at 7% the FSC is at 3% Here

Main challenges: While the whole HRP 2020 is currently funded at 7% the FSC is at 3% Here

South Sudan

Situation update:

- New caseload 481 (203 last week); with 6 deaths (no deaths last week); exponential growth curve commencing!
- New study by LSHTM mathematical modelling TWG suggest up to 2.8 – 3.4 million people in South Sudan could become infected; and it may lead to 23,000 to 31,000 deaths;

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1 42 cases officially declared until mid-May
• Resumption of first UNHAS flights to Addis for international travel onwards;
• No new emerging C19 vulnerabilities but intensification of inter/ intra communal conflict (death of 1 MSF staff)
• New study by RVI (attached) looks at the big challenges of responding to COVID 19 in South Sudan; West Africa Ebola #1 lesson is to gain community trust ahead of any intervention; in SSD: “Community mistrust in government is often underestimated. As locals put it: ‘when the SPLM is united, they eat us, and when they disagree, they kill us.’ Because the virus is effectively attacking the rich— South Sudanese and internationals—first, the lockdown appears to be a sacrifice of the poor for the sake of self-protection” RVI, 2020.

Operational update:
As per May 14th;
• 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 prepositioning 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 Equatorial); but awaiting sprayer plane & pilots to complete 14-day quarantine;

HRP and funding:
• Existing HRP 27.7% funded; WFP (53% funded) & FAO (6% funded) as reported on 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 Gu (April-June) season to date has seen significant rainfall across Somalia with many areas recording more than twice their average rainfall over the period. The rains which intensified since mid-April have been well distributed in terms of space and time. The heavy rains have left many areas water logged for weeks. In particular, the Juba and Shabelle basins have had excessive flows that will keep flood risks high during this week and at moderate risk in the coming week. On the down side still, the wet conditions and ample vegetation have created favourable conditions for the spread of desert locust infestation across Somalia. On the up side of the rains, there has been tremendous improvement of vegetation conditions and overall water availability throughout Somalia.
In most parts of Somalia, Gu season rainfall usually start to decline starting in mid to late May. The rainfall forecast for the week ending on 24 May 2020 shows a significant reduction of rains across Somalia, with rainfall of up to 50 mm cumulatively confined mostly to coastal parts of Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle regions. The Juba and Shabelle rivers’ high to moderate flood risk is likely to persist during this week due to continuing high flows from the upper catchments. SWALIM (FAO) preliminary estimation (satellite based) indicate that about 336 sq. km of agricultural land were affected by River flooding in Belet Weyn, Jowhar, Gedo, Bualle, Jamaica, Kismayo and Saakow. The Desert Locust situation in Somalia is now classified as Dangerous with bands of hoppers reported in the breeding grounds in Galmudug, Somaliland and Puntland. Swarms are laying eggs that will soon hatch as the fourth generation of breeding in Somalia. In the coming weeks, another wave of adults may invade Somalia from across the Gulf of Aden, which could result in further breeding and an escalation of the current crisis. The impact of the swarms is being assessed while air and ground control operations are ongoing to prevent a further increase of Desert Locusts in Somalia. Despite these efforts, locust populations remain high in parts of Somalia with young nymphs (hoppers) reported at the Somaliland border with Ethiopia, the coastal region of Somaliland and the north east of Puntland.

Operational update:
The inter-cluster flood response plan triggered by river and flash flooding finalized will be published soon. FSC reported 12 million financial gaps to address the need of Riverine farmers their crop production affected. The estimated resources expected to help for replanting and recessional / late planting activities. Based on the latest OCHA update, the number of people affected is 918,667 with 411,905 displaced. Fatalities reported 24. Based on categorisation being used by OCHA, these numbers are disaggregated as follows:
- Riverine flooding: 568,636 affected and 322,006 displaced
- Flash floods: 282,661 affected and 85,669 displaced
- Overlap of Riverine and Flash floods: 10,000 affected and 2,000 affected
- Not classified by OCHA as either Riverine or flash floods: 57,370 affected and 2,230 displaced.

In addition to regular responses, FSC partners are scaling up support to flood affected households. FSC partners have far reached over 96,200 people with improved access to food responses. Additionally, 158,900 people had already received seasonal agricultural inputs in the affected riverine areas. Further FSC responses are expected during the week once ongoing registration and verification of beneficiaries is completed. The Food security and Nutrition clusters discussed with Inter-Cluster Nutrition Working Group (ICNWG) on TOT on Inter-Cluster training package postponed due to COVID 19 challenge. Inter-Cluster Nutrition Working Group (ICNWG) has adapted the training so that it can be delivered online. The two clusters believe it will be great opportunity to strengthen joint Food security and Nutrition response in Somalia given the prevailing multiple shocks including COVID-19 impacts. The training proposed to take place (online) from June 2-11, 2020 (Tuesday-Thursday) for two hours each day (using Zoom) as main online training platform. Similarly, FSC holding discussion with potential SPHERE trainer to facilitate training to selected partners using on line training platform. The IPC global support team facilitated discussion on possibility and ways forward of conducting virtual IPC analysis for the upcoming post Gu seasonal food security and nutrition analysis. FSC part of the discussion and contribute its part in the virtual analysis to be led by FSN.

HRP and funding: FSC has received feedback from HC following HOHA meeting and requested all agencies to revise and reduce their current HRP funding requirements, not increase the overall financial requirements, from 2019 estimated when finalizing the 2020 HRP. FSC has further consulted six partners
including the lead agencies to further review and reduced the financial requirement. FSC revised funding has decreased by 10% to USD 345 million. FSC has also revised PIN and target for the HRP revision. The PIN of the cluster in a given district is the sum of IPC 3 and 4-projection estimate provided by FSNAU taking into consideration “triple” shocks / risk (desert Locust, increased flooding and COVID-19). It only IPC 3 and 4 phases considered in determining PIN and totally removed IPC 2 from the humanitarian need as advised. FSC PIN overall determined to be 3.5 million a much lower than the inter-cluster PIN that estimated to be 5.1 million. FSC target proposed to be target 3.1 million. In relatively accessible area cluster aimed at reaching the entire IPC 3 and 4 while in hard to reach area to reach area 50% of IPC 3 and above.

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. Most partners either postponed / suspend or in the process of reprogramming project activities involve gatherings of people and in close contact that increase the risk of exposure for beneficiaries and staff (adhere to the Humanitarian Principles of Do No Harm). Cash for Works, Vocational trainings and in-kind distributions were the most affected. 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 Riverine and flash flooding. The restricted flights imposed also significantly affected key project staff mobility for implementation of activities. FSC partners planned food security and nutrition assessment affected by COVID 19 challenges and partners exploring ways of adapting to the challenge. Delayed approval of some of the submitted proposal to donors due to global pandemic / changing priorities and availability of resources.

RBP UPDATES

Colombia
COVID 19 cases: 18,330
Situation and context update: According to FAO, indigenous and afro-Colombian communities are strongly affected by COVID 19: they present problems of access to food, difficulties in obtaining their traditional food, and do not have equipment, personnel and supplies. As far as black communities are concerned, the agriculture, fishing and aquaculture sectors have been affected by the restrictions on tourism, the closure of restaurants and cafeterias, and the suspension of school lunches. WFP is coordinating with the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM) in Norte de Santander, following the Government expressing concerns about the increase in needs, particularly in 2 regions of Ipiales and Villa del Rosario.
FSC Operational Update: during the last cluster / sector meeting, the impact of COVID19 in the Amazonas department, bordering Brazil and Peru, has been highlighted: contagion continues to increase, while access to health care and emergency response capacity remain low. According to Action Against Hunger, there are risks of not applying mandatory preventive isolation because of the needs to search for food. Although some partners have indicated that they have planned a response in FSL, they face logistical
difficulties due to distance. WFP collaborates with the MIRE consortium and some UN agencies to carry out a rapid assessment of multisectoral needs in the department, with a view to providing an immediate response emergency in the face of the current crisis.

WFO increased the caseload of beneficiaries receiving unconditional vouchers in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Córdoba and Nariño, i.e. 26,000 (up from 14k) out of the 51,000 people prioritized for immediate assistance.

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

**Haiti**

**COVID 19 cases:** 734

**Situation and context update:** Misinformation and denial among the population, expression of hostilities towards COVID-19 treatment structures and stigmatization towards affected people remain a concern, with at least four episodes of hostilities reported in the last month by the Human Rights Unit of UNIPSH. These elements, alongside the current lack of COVID-19 health materials and adequately trained staff, increase the possibility of spread of COVID-19 in Haiti over an extended period of time and across large swathes of the country. Over 10% depreciation of the local currency against the USD has been recorded in the last month, in a context where rice, a staple food, is imported for more than 80%, leading to high inflation on local markets (more than 34% increase in rice price over the last 12 months). A rapid market assessment conducted by the CNSA (National Food Security Coordination) in collaboration with WFP in 11 communes through phone calls to vendors and key informants, indicates reduced availability of products, in particular those locally produced, and an increase in prices of around 5%. Vendors also reported increased limitations for the functioning of markets namely the low purchasing power of the households, the lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene and handwashing materials and the liquidity shortages.

**FSC Operational Update:** While FS sector partners were able to provide food assistance equivalent of one month's food ration to 331,000 people in the first trimester of 2020 (40% in-kind assistance, 60% direct cash transfers or vouchers), the FS response continues to be underfunded for the coming months.

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

**Venezuela**

**COVID 19 cases:** 882

**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