



COVID-19: Weeks 10 & 11 Situation Update 1st – 15th of June 2020

Summary

Asia & Pacific

In Cox's Bazar (Rohingya response), a pilot food distribution to protect older people is ongoing. Together with the Gender Hub and FSS gender focal points, an awareness-raising session on the gender-based impacts of COVID-19 was held on the 8th of June for all partners. In Afghanistan, border and cargo movements continue to improve for imports, with some price stabilization seen in markets; however, the export situation remains complicated in particular for official eastern crossings. There are still some gaps in coordination between the private sector and government distributions, although some high-level commitments were recently secured to improve information sharing.

East Africa

In South Sudan, a combination of protracted crisis, higher levels of already alarming food insecurity moving into the lean season, desert locust swarms and COVID-19 have created a perfect storm. A new Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) addendum for the COVID-19 caseload of 1.57 million people in need (PiN) has been added to the existing 6.3 million, which includes the urban poor across the 19 main urban centres and 10 percent of the rural population in IPC2 and who have a high level of market dependency. In Ethiopia, the Government and humanitarian partners released the revised HRAP on the 9th of June, which includes emergency food and non-food humanitarian needs for 16.5 million people at a cost of USD 1.65 billion.

Latin America

In Haiti, food insecurity has considerably increased in recent months due to the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current emergency food response is significant but insufficient: if new funds are not mobilized, the gap will be around 60 percent. In Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), the quarantine has fuelled hyperinflation while the main planting season of May-November remains at risk due to a lack of agricultural inputs. In Colombia, food security remains a critical priority in the current emergency response, as 3 million people could be at risk of acute food insecurity. Guaranteeing that supply centres and markets are aligned with biosecurity measures imposed by the Ministry of Health has become a challenge.

Near East and Eastern Europe

In Iraq, According to WFM mVAM, around 5.7% of the population (2.2 million) reported insufficient consumption as of June 9th compared to 5.5% reported last week. Additionally, 12% of the total respondents used negative coping strategies and the most common strategy was “relying on less expensive food”. Food prices remain relatively stable, with small variations between governorates. In Lebanon, the price of the food component of the SMEB continues to increase, reaching a cumulative inflation of 109% between September 2019 and May 2020. The highest month to month increase has been recorded between April and May 2020, reaching 34%. This increase can be attributed to the COVID 19 measures and steep depreciation of the LBP against the USD on the unofficial exchange rate market. In oPT, Consumer Price index continues its decline for the second consecutive month, as a result of the decrease in the prices of some basic commodities in food and fuel prices. The overall CPI for Palestine during May 2020 decreased by 0.91% compared with April 2020 (by 1.29% in Gaza Strip, by 0.88% in the West Bank and by 0.41% in Jerusalem. In Ukraine, certain restrictions have been lifted or eased. In Syria, Market monitoring by WFP’s VAM unit in early June indicates that the informal SYP/USD exchange rate further worsened in early June shooting up from SYP 2,000/USD to SYP 3,200/USD in a couple of days after which plummeting to SYP 2,200/USD in two subsequent days. The cause for the rapid volatility is believed to be related to weakening trust in the Syrian economy with big investment projects being put on hold due to the upcoming new sanctions through the Caesar’s Act which should be enacted on 17 June 2020. This comes after months of financial crisis in Lebanon as well as political turbulences in Syria which have reduced the supply of US Dollars in Syria and have further undermined trust in a recovery of the Syrian economy.

Southern Africa

In Mozambique and Zimbabwe, national production estimates for main food crops point to an improvement in production compared to the previous agricultural season. However, an overall cereal deficit persists of 24 percent in Mozambique and 100 percent in Zimbabwe.

West and Central Africa

Cadre Harmonisé reviews are ongoing in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. In more and more countries, lockdowns are being relaxed or removed (Burkina Faso, the Niger, Mali) although the number of cases continues to rise. Countries in the region are preparing for the lean season while seed availability is being impacted by supply chain issues. FAO’s Desert Locust Information Service confirmed the risk of swarms appearing in the Sahel, starting from eastern Chad, which could have a disastrous impact on the livelihoods of the farmers.

ASIA AND PACIFIC UPDATES

Cox's Bazar

Situation update:

- Regulation regarding zoning of the Cox's Bazar district introduced. See the Emergency Announcement by the District Magistrate, UNO Ukhia and Teknaf on the 9th of June (Bengali) (English) and map of the "Red Zone" in Cox's Bazar Paurashava.
- NGOs experiencing incidents with humanitarian access have been asked to contact the NGO Platform and report any related issues through forms in Bengali and English.

Operational update:

- A WFP pilot food distribution to protect older people is ongoing in Camp 4, Camp 20 Ext, Camp 23 and Kutupalong RC.
- Together with Gender Hub and FSS Gender focal points, FSS hosted an awareness-raising session on 8th of June for all partners on gender-based impacts of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods.
- FSS/LHWG organized two livelihoods workshops, one on agricultural activities on the 10th of June and another on non-agricultural activities on the 11th of June. The aim was to discuss challenges faced due to COVID-19, link up with other partners and Government of Bangladesh counterparts, and to establish further intersectoral linkages and lessons learned. The workshops concluded with an exercise on exploring and discussing activities for the second half of the year.
- Mask-making initiative: 22 partners (donors and implementing partners) will be engaged in the production/procurement of an estimated 2 million reusable cloth masks in camps and host communities over the next two to four months.

Afghanistan

Situation update:

- Movement restrictions have largely been lifted due to economic pressure to keep the economy moving, however this has been accompanied by an increase in confirmed and suspected cases.
- The increase in cases is affecting the workforce required for humanitarian emergency food and livelihood distributions, with more staff having to self-isolate at home, many with poor internet connectivity and a corresponding drop in productivity.
- Staff are increasingly becoming ill and having difficulty accessing timely testing or reliable health services, improved medivac or in-house care procedures by UN medical services for both international and national staff.

Humanitarian access:

- The lack of social distancing practices over the Eid holiday created a spike in both confirmed and suspected caseloads, with social media replete with anecdotal stories of people losing relatives due to COVID-19.
- Border and cargo movements continue to improve for imports, with some price stabilization seen in markets. However, the export situation remains complicated, particularly for official eastern crossings.

- There are continued coordination gaps between the private sector and government distributions, although some high-level commitments were recently secured to improve information sharing.

HRP and funding: No change

Challenges:

- Coordination remains a challenge between government/private sector efforts.
- Planned World Bank funding for a government-led assistance package for nearly 90 percent of the population could require additional clear guidance, mechanisms to ensure transparency and an improved understanding of the capacity of government actors in each district to carry out this intervention.
- There is a lack of updates on monitoring or assessments of vulnerable groups who are peripheral to municipal authority interventions, including IDPs and nomadic pastoralists.

Myanmar

Situation update:

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, as of the 9th of June 244 COVID-19 cases with six fatalities and 159 recoveries have been confirmed in the country. A total of 5 281 patients have been tested, using a total 39 211 test kits. As of the 7th of June, 48 255 people have been quarantined in facilities across the country.

Operational update:

WFP continued food assistance for migrant returnees in government quarantine centres in the main states and regions along the border with China and Thailand. In light of COVID-19, WFP planned to provide 100 percent entitlements to all vulnerable IDP households in Kachin, given the restrictions on movement outside the camps and an increase in prices of some main commodities in local markets. Previously, less vulnerable families received a 70 percent entitlement.

Challenges:

There have been some difficulties in different sources estimating the number of returning migrants, which affects planning for the provision of food assistance in quarantine centres.

NEAR EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE UPDATES

Iraq

Situation update:

The Public Distribution System is an in-kind, social safety net programme that reaches the majority of the population with four staple items (wheat, rice, sugar and vegetable oil) although these are occasionally limited due to budget availability. The wheat flour distributions are expected to be consistent throughout 2020 thanks to successful 2019/2020 local wheat harvests. For rice, the Ministry of Trade has 190 000 MT available for the coming public distribution systems (PDS) (monthly requirements are 100 000 MT per cycle). Oil and sugar stocks remain limited and will only be distributed to the most vulnerable families registered under Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs social safety net programmes.

According to WFM mVAM, around 5.7 percent of the population (2.2 million people) reported insufficient consumption as of the 9th of June, compared to 5.5 percent reported last week. Additionally, 12 percent of respondents used negative coping strategies, with the most common “relying on less expensive food”. Food prices remain relatively stable, with small variations between governorates.

FSC Operational update:

WFP and partners continued to increase assistance to vulnerable IDPs and refugees affected by COVID-19, reaching up to 33 000 new refugees and IDPs residing in formal camps, which is in addition to continuing assistance for more than 305 000 IDPs and refugees. Access remains an ongoing issue, particularly between governorates.

Lebanon

Situation update:

The price of the food component of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) continues to increase, reaching a cumulative inflation of 109 percent between September 2019 and May 2020. The highest monthly increase was 34 percent, recorded between April and May 2020. This was attributed to COVID-19 mitigation measures and a steep depreciation of the LBP against the USD on the unofficial exchange rate market. By the end of May 2020, one US Dollar was traded above the LBP 4 000 barrier, which is 165 percent above the official exchange rate. Food imports also decreased by 14.4 percent between October 2019 and March 2020 compared with October 2018 to March 2019. This added to upward pressures on prices, as availability is starting to reduce in the country. High inflation on both food and non-food products and services, combined with losses of income from rising unemployment and salary cuts, continues to reduce households’ ability to afford adequate and sufficient food, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the economic crisis: most economic activities have stalled while inflation continues to rise, with the weekly average price of the food component of the SMEB increasing by 51 percent from the start of the general COVID-19 response.

FSC operational update:

In April 2020, WFP increased the transfer value for food assistance to LBP 50 000 to keep up with inflation, and implemented a commensurate increase in the non-food transfer value (to LBP 320 000) in May 2020. The transfer value for food assistance was further increased in June 2020 to LBP 60 000, based on the average SMEB price measured in April and the continuing upward trend observed throughout the month of May. This assistance is due to continue until November, before a planned retargeting exercise and depending on pipeline funding availability. School feeding programmes had been suspended in previous months, but these have been resumed for two months through family parcel distributions. Sector partners resumed or plan to resume livelihoods and agriculture activities, in most cases by adopting a soft start/phased approach. The approach entails rolling out activities that can be started with a minimum amount of risk, and which should be: 1) small in scale (in terms of number of participants); 2) low risk (activities with social distancing); 3) include appropriate mitigation measures (sanitation); and 4) in sectors not restricted by COVID-19 measures (e.g. essential sectors such as agriculture and forestry) with limited physical contact with farmers and staff (not exceeding two to three people).

Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

Situation update:

- **The Palestinian Authority (PA) is unable to pay Government employees' salaries for May.** This is a consequence of the annexation plan, as the PA refuses to accept tax money collected for it by Israel and that comprises 60 percent of the Palestinian leadership's budget. These financial restrictions have now affected more poor people, who due to a combination of this and COVID-19 restrictions will no longer be able to receive any financial assistance.
- **Food consumption levels stabilized and capacity to cope improved, but some still need to borrow food.** Food consumption levels are still poor or borderline, but coping mechanisms are being employed such as skipping meals or buying cheaper food. Meanwhile, one-third of consumers reported borrowing food, eating pulses fewer than three times per week, fruit less than twice and sugar and fats every day.
- **Costs of production are still high amid a lack of crucial inputs.** Producers reported a continuous increase in prices for seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, with some reporting interrupted production as they could not afford the cost. However, for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic farmers reported improved access to fodder, although somewhat limited by higher prices and liquidity constraints as traders continued to request payments in cash.
- **Livestock sector:** herders continued to access central markets to sell dairy products. However, those that had ceased production earlier could not resume it fast enough to meet market demand.
- **The consumer price index (CPI) continued its decline for the second consecutive month, as a result of lower prices for some basic commodities in food and fuel. The overall CPI for Palestine during May 2020 decreased by 0.91 percent** compared with April 2020 (by 1.29 percent in the Gaza Strip, 0.88 percent in the West Bank**, and 0.41 percent in Jerusalem J1)
- **Sharp decrease in the number of new building licenses,** which dropped by 23 percent during the first quarter of 2020, coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total number of building licenses issued in the first quarter of 2020 decreased by 17 percent compared with the fourth quarter of 2019, and decreased by 16 percent compared with the first quarter of 2019.

FSC operational update:

Consumers reported that the price of the local food basket continued to increase compared to pre-COVID-19 prices, particularly for poultry, meats, eggs and dairy.

Ukraine

Situation update:

Certain restrictions have been lifted or eased, such as: trade in non-food goods; household (consumer) services; organization of events with up to 10 participants; working in cafes in an open-air format; use of parks and recreational areas; shops and trade centres (with certain restrictions); notary, psychologist and law practices; and planned hospitalization and medical interventions (on certain conditions). As regards social protection, formally employed individuals are currently entitled to assistance for a temporary loss of ability to work, so long as they have completed the minimum one year of social insurance contributions. Employees who are not eligible due to non-completion can now receive social protection at 50 percent of the rate if they undergo medical treatment, self-isolation, or obligatory observation of COVID-19 measures. The Cabinet has announced a National Economy Recovery Programme designed to respond to the economic challenges caused by COVID-19 and the consequences of quarantine measures. The programme has been proposed for public review (no timeframe indicated). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the cancellation of a temporary ban on crossing the state border of Ukraine and the opening of 15 crossing points, including 13 for international passenger air services and amendments to procedures for mandatory observation and self-isolation of people crossing the border. In particular, the requirement for mandatory observation will apply only to those arriving in Ukraine from countries with a high prevalence of COVID-19, and citizens of those states. According to monitoring conducted by the local NGO "Vostok SOS", most observation places in the conflict-affected Luhansk region for COVID-19 contaminated people are in inappropriate technical conditions and do not meet the agreed standards. The first UN-organized convoy through the Stanytsia Luhanska crossing point to the non-Government controlled areas (NGCA) of Luhanska oblast on 28 May hand-carried 9.3 tonnes of COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance.

Whole of Syria

Situation update:

Northeast Syria

- No more COVID-19 cases reported, curfew end date set for the 16th of June.
- There are over 225 000 IDPs and refugees living in last resort sites, without reliable or sufficient access to essential services such as health, WASH and shelter. This comprises 118 879 people in 10 formal/informal camps, 41 165 people in over 200 collective centres and 65 264 people in 142 informal settlements. Inadequate services limit the impact of population-level prevention measures, such as hand washing, and are likely to contribute to high infection rates if the virus is introduced to these settings.
- In addition to the long-term economic impacts of COVID-19 on income rates, lower capacity to secure basic food security at household level has been reported as exchange rate fluctuations have impacted food availability in some areas, with traders closing their shops to avoid losing profits. In other areas more people are unable to afford food, such as in Hasskaeh and Raqqa. In Kobani, Jawadieh the

countryside of Hassakeh and in Raqqa FSS partners have reported closures of an estimated 90 percent of food shops, making it very difficult to find food at all.

Northwest Syria

- According to the FSL Cluster, as of the 1st of February 2020 there are 562 600 IDPs (114 000 of them returnees) still in need of emergency assistance. Of these, 251 100 were reached last month through food baskets, ready-to-eat-rations, cash programmes and cooked meals, while 311 100 were not reached.
- The wheat harvest runs from now until the end of June and is the most important period for farmers still looking for buyers for their yield at subsidized prices. This allows them to continue cultivating and engaging in other livelihood activities related to agriculture, livestock and irrigation.
- As a result of the collapse of the Syrian pound, a bag of bread was priced in Turkish lira according to the following specifications: 600 grams (8 loaves) for 1 TL, while the unsubsidized bread price is equivalent to USD 0.39 for 1 kg of bread.

Damascus

- Market monitoring by WFP's VAM unit in early June indicates that the informal SYP/USD exchange rate shot up from SYP 2 000/USD to SYP 3 200/USD in a couple of days, after which it plummeted to SYP 2 200/USD in the following two days. The cause for this rapid volatility is believed to be related to weakening trust in the Syrian economy, with big investment projects put on hold due to upcoming new sanctions that are due to be enacted on the 17th of June. This comes after months of financial crisis in Lebanon as well as political turbulence in Syria, which have reduced the supply of US Dollars in the country and further undermined trust in a recovery of the Syrian economy.
- A number of traders, particularly in Damascus, are experiencing a drop in stock levels, with some commodities not available on shop shelves. For example, while the majority (80 percent) of shops visited were open, vegetable oil and sugar were out of stock and all traders were complaining that wholesalers are waiting for the informal exchange rate to stabilize before operating again. Many traders interviewed highlighted serious concerns about the spiralling exchange rate.

FSC operational update:

Northeast Syria

- Access: Movement restrictions remain in place across Northeast Syria, with activities being adapted to comply with restrictions while maintaining response capacity. Although partners have continued to face ad hoc challenges with the movement of staff and supplies, procedures communicated by authorities inside Northeast Syria have gradually become clearer, with more consistent enforcement across different areas. Challenges around accessing cash in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and transporting this into the northeast remain a concern.
- Coverage: most food security activities are ongoing, and the agriculture response has largely resumed following the Syrian Authorities' decision to waive curfew restrictions on farmers and agricultural workers.
- Change in programming: partners have started in-kind modality contracts as a plan B should any liquidity issues arise again.

Northwest Syria: no new updates

Damascus: since the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, partners have reported increased access to operational areas. However, insecurity in some locations continues to affect access, such as in Dara in southern Syria, which has delayed implementation of food security and livelihoods projects by some partners.

HRP and funding situation update:

Northeast Syria: total funding gap is USD 6.7 million (HRP non-COVID-19 related is USD 1 950 105 and COVID-19 related critical funding is USD 5 097 193 for 4 months).

Northwest Syria: An extra USD 2 million has been added to the FSL envelope (USD 15 million) under the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) first standard allocation for 2020, to cover the problem of increased bread prices.

Damascus: The HRP funding gap for partners operating from the Damascus hub including key UN agencies, FAO, WFP and UNRWA is USD 389 million. Of this, the WFP funding gap is USD 288 million while FAO and UNRWA have a funding gap of about USD 9 million and local NGOs a gap of USD 3million.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA UPDATES

Burkina Faso

COVID-19 cases: 894 (up from 881)

Situation update:

- A national assessment of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 and an updated CH is ongoing, with the participation of the FSC. The ToRs have been shared with members.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- All national mitigation measures and the curfew implemented by the government have been removed.
- For the lean season in June, FSC Partners and Observers have planned for a total of 1.65 million vulnerable people out of the 2.2 million in the CH. The coverage rate is 75 percent, 80 percent of which in kind and 20 percent in cash and coupons. For the IDPs, the members have planned for 810 000 out of 848 000 officially registered (as of the 1st of June the new data is 921 000), with a coverage rate of 96 percent – 61 percent in kind and 39 percent in cash and coupons.
- Humanitarian access is overall good. Markoye, Oursi and Tin-Akoff in Oudalan (Sahel), Ouindigui in Yatenga (North), and Namissiguima in the Centre-North are not accessible for security reasons unrelated to COVID-19.
- No change in programming has been registered in the last two weeks in relation with COVID-19.

HRP and funding:

- Revision of the HRP 2020 is ongoing: the sectorial PIN has increased from 1.6 million vulnerable people to 2.5 million, and from 1.1 million food-insecure people to 2 million.

- New projects for food security and the COVID-19 addendum will be presented and validated by the 17th of June.
- The food sector budget will be finalized following validation of these projects.

Challenges:

- Food security sector funding will only enable response until September.
- National assessment on COVID-19 impact must be finalized.
- Increasing the funding for the sector by doing a consistent advocacy

Cameroon

Total COVID-19 cases: 9 864 (up from 5 904)

Situation update:

- The number of cases of infection is increasing in regions already affected by humanitarian crises.
- In April-May, an analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the epidemic was carried out under UNDP leadership. According to the results, almost 83 percent of business leaders reported experiencing a drop in production, a situation more pronounced in formal sector enterprises than in the informal sector. In terms of impact, almost half of the negatively affected companies say they have recorded a drop of over 50 percent in their production. Meanwhile household impacts report nearly 63 percent of households experiencing a deterioration in their living standards. Although most of the people surveyed have not lost their jobs, many are experiencing critical slowdowns in their activity (74 percent) and a dramatic drop in incomes (65 percent).

Humanitarian access and operational update:

International commercial flights to and from Cameroon have resumed since May 25th.

HRP and funding: NtR

Central African Republic

Total COVID-19 cases: 2 222 (up from 1 011)

Situation update:

It is now the lean season, which is characterized by an exhaustion of household food stocks when:

- there is a generalised increase in food prices;
- there is an increased number of vulnerable households and scarcity of resources to cover the food needs of these households. This can lead to high tension during food distributions, due to the fact that some vulnerable households do not have access, or the quantity distributed is low, such as Batangafo and Kaga-Bandoro, in Nanangribizi prefecture.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- The agricultural season has started, but in some areas planting is late due to problems accessing seeds because of logistics chain and transport interruptions from COVID-19.
- Low coverage of agricultural inputs for the campaign.

- Limited or suspended training activities or supervision of producers.
- Some partners are carrying out trainings by telephone, but in areas not covered by phone networks this is not possible.

HRP and funding: GHRP is being updated

Challenges:

Increase of COVID-19 cases and capacity of partners to deal with these during the lean season.

Chad

Total COVID-19 cases: 846 (715)

Situation update:

- Reopening of shops and restaurants with systematic mask wearing and social distancing required.
- The curfew between 8 pm to 6am has been extended until the 18th of June.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- Vehicles and people are not permitted to enter or leave town. Only vehicles transporting goods are allowed in and out from 10pm to 5am and must go directly to their warehouse.

HRP and funding:

- The World Bank provided USD 22 million in funding to WFP for food assistance.
- The World Bank provided USD 8 million to FAO for livelihoods support.

Challenges:

- Difficult to organize field missions and assessments due to restrictions on movement.
- Trainings, targeting and monitoring and evaluation are the most difficult activities to implement.

Mali

Total COVID-19 cases: 1 809 (up from 668)

Situation update:

- More relaxed restrictions than neighbouring countries;
- mVAM has been set up.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- Monitoring of the food security situation: results from mVAM and market monitoring point to a significant drop in availability of imported food products (milk powder, sugar, wheat flour, pasta and couscous) in border areas.
- Situation of the 2020 agricultural campaign: average and constant the rains have started. Compared to a median year (2009-2018), the start of suitable conditions to launch the agricultural season is one or two weeks early.
- FAO's Desert Locust Information Service has confirmed the risk of swarms appearing in the Sahel (eastern Chad) from breeding areas in Saudi Arabia and East Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia) from June 2020.

- The level of planning for food assistance needs during the lean season is medium to good in the central and northern regions. However, it is low to very low in the rest of the country, especially in the Kayes region, where no humanitarian agencies have yet positioned themselves despite the region's level of food insecurity (Crisis).
- In general, response planning for livelihoods support is far below expectation, with an average of less than 15 percent coverage.

HRP and funding:

The review and approval of projects is planned from the 3rd to the 10th of June.

The Niger

Total COVID-19 cases: 995 (up from 904)

Situation update:

More relaxed than neighbouring countries, with infection rates declining, schools reopened, and lockdowns between cities removed.

Humanitarian access and operational update: NtR

HRP and funding:

USD 582 million against an initial USD 316 million planned. The revised Support Plan determined a target of 5.6 million people to support during the lean season, of which 2.7 million for emergency food assistance and unconditional cash transfers (such as social and/or conditional nets) for 2.9 million people.

Nigeria

Total COVID-19 cases: 15 682 (up from 5 445)

Situation update:

- Prices of most food commodities in Borno and Yobe states are still more than 10 percent higher than the same period in 2019. The combined effects of seasonality, persistent insecurity, prolonged disruptions in market supply and loss of employment - including daily labour - due to COVID-19 have put further stress on market-reliant households in the northeast, according to the WFP-VAM May Monthly Monitoring report. However, according to the REACH bi-weekly price monitoring report from the first week of June, in the main markets of Maiduguri and Jere (Borno State) the cost of the food SMEB had dropped by 2 percent during the week of 2-5 June compared to 12-16 May. This was predominantly driven by lower prices for local rice, maize, groundnut and sugar.
- Final preparations and input distributions for the main rainy season are ongoing as the main planting season starts.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- CH food security monitoring: most of the expected data has now been submitted from government and non-government partners. The next step is to analyse whether the latest data indicate a change in the food security and livelihoods situation compared to the March 2020 CH projections and if so to call for an update.

- Partners are carrying out an assessment to update the Household Economy Analysis and understand how household livelihoods (and hence income and food access) in urban areas of Konduga, Maiduguri and Jere have been affected by COVID-19. This will determine whether households can still meet 30 percent of their own food needs as they did before COVID-19 in urban areas, and whether guidance is needed to review programming.
- Applications are now open for the Nigerian Humanitarian Funds and eligible partner applications being submitted. This includes the food security sector, where partners will be asked to provide wet feeding facilities at quarantine centres focusing on returnees from Cameroon, Chad and the Niger.

HRP and funding:

The GHRP/COVID-19 was released on the 12th of June, with USD 103 million requested for food security (however this should be USD 104.4 million, which has been communicated to OCHA).

Challenges:

- Prices for food and agricultural inputs are still high.
- Security remains a major concern on roads and in communities. Access to agricultural land remains limited and in some local government areas (LGAs) as low as 13 percent, mainly due to insecurity. In 2018, only two LGAs were totally inaccessible, while in 2020 this has doubled to four and another eight are partially inaccessible. This also implies reduced access to land for agriculture. There was also a report of an explosion in a garden injuring three people.
- Fertilizer movements are still restricted, especially in the LGAs in Northern Borno.

SOUTHERN AFRICA UPDATES

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Total COVID-19 cases: 4 778

Situation and context update:

No further updates. Still waiting for a consolidation of May 2020 data related to market assessments, food availability and access.

FSC operational update:

To better track the COVID related and non-related operations put in place by DRC FSC partners and have a clearer idea on current and future gaps, the DRC FSC developed the following gap analysis tools:

<https://fscluster.org/democratic-republic-congo/document/rd-congo-csa-analyse-des-gaps-t1-2020>

<https://fscluster.org/democratic-republic-congo/document/rd-congo-csa-analyse-des-gaps-t1-2020-0>

Despite date were related to 2020 T1, they already showed some relevant gaps in terms of FS response (against what was established through the first version of the HRP 2020). Given the COVID outbreak at the beginning of March 2020 and taking both the increase of humanitarian needs and, at the same time,

the slowdown humanitarian actors suffered in April 2020 into account, by the end of 2020 T2 above mentioned gaps could be even bigger.

HRP and funding situation update:

The following revision has been submitted to OCHA and validated by the Humanitarian Coordinator:

People in need: 19.5 million; targeted for assistance: 9.1 million; budget: USD 888 million.

Mozambique

Total COVID-19 cases: 583

Situation and context update:

- The number of COVID-19 cases almost tripled in the past two weeks, with those in Nampula province increased by more than 10-fold; this is now the second most-affected province after Cabo Delgado.
- An estimated 40 000 job losses were reported as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER) released a report on the performance of the main agricultural season (October 2019 to March 2020), which stated that based on satellite meteorological observations, there had been a significant increase and well above-average rainfall in the central and northern regions of the country, which had favoured crop development. However, in the southern districts of Tete, Manica and much of Sofala (central Mozambique) the rainfall was considered medium, and in the southern region had been irregular and accompanied by high temperatures (except in the coastal strips of Maputo and Gaza in November 2019). The combined effect of drought and floods affected a total of 222 819 ha of different food crops and 191 976 producers in Mozambique, representing about 3.7 percent of the total planned area for agriculture.
- National production estimates for main food crops indicate improved production compared to the previous agricultural season. However, there is an overall cereal deficit of 24 percent, especially for rice (54 percent) and wheat (98 percent) to meet national food demands.

FSC operational update:

A verification exercise and land access survey for resettlement sites has concluded in Sofala and is currently ongoing in Manica.

HRP and funding situation update:

The Emergency Flash appeal for COVID-19 and the Cabo Delgado Rapid Response Plan were launched by the Resident Coordinator and the Government of Mozambique (GOM/INGC) on the 4th of June 2020.

Links to the plans:

<https://fscluster.org/mozambique/document/cabo-delgado-rapid-response-plan>

<https://fscluster.org/mozambique/document/mozambique-appeal-covid-19>

Zimbabwe

Total COVID-19 cases: 383

Situation and context update:

- According to a WFP Food Security Update, food insecurity in the country has been rising consistently over the years due to a combination of natural shocks (drought, floods, cyclone, fall armyworm, foot and mouth disease, livestock deaths) and economic challenges (falling GDP, overall inflation (576 percent), food inflation (above 800 percent), cash liquidity problems, foreign currency shortages, high unemployment rates, lack of direct foreign direct investments, price volatility), human epidemics (malaria, diarrhoeal diseases) and now the arrival of COVID-19.
- Prices of basic food commodities increased by an average of 33 percent during the month of May, with unrefined maize meal recording the highest increase at 50 percent.
- Maize grain availability marginally improved with harvest, a situation that is likely to continue into May as the A1 and A2 farmers start selling their produce on the market. The Second Crops and Livestock assessment indicated that estimated maize production is 907 628 MT, which is 17 percent higher than the 776 635 MT produced during the 2018/2019 season. Further, traditional grain (such as sorghum and millet) production for the 2019/2020 season is estimated at 152 515 MT, which is 103 percent higher compared to 75 209 MT in 2018/2019. However, total cereal production is just over 1 million MT against a national cereal requirement of 2.2 million MT for human and livestock consumption. Cereal requirements for livestock are estimated at 450 000 MT.
- Given the information above, WFP estimates that the number of people requiring food assistance in rural areas will reach 3.7 million from July to September 2020, 5.3 million from October to December 2020, and 6.4 million from January to April 2021. Furthermore, as a result of inflation and the impact of COVID-19 in urban areas, WFP estimates that 3.3 million people will be classified as food insecure between July 2020 and March 2021 in urban areas.
- Regarding the current situation, according to the latest Weekly Market Assessment Monitoring Report, maize grain was available in 3 out of the 25 surveyed districts monitored this week. The price of unrefined maize meal increased by 10 percent week-on-week, while availability (45 percent) remained relatively unchanged. The availability of sugar beans (50 percent of surveyed markets) remained relatively stable and prices increased by 17 percent week-on-week.
- ZIMSTAT stated that the annual inflation rate had increased from 676 percent to 766 percent. The increase is mainly driven by the ever-rising food prices. The price of food commodities increased from a reported 710 percent in March 2020 to 807 percent, as a result of increasing inflation and acute market food shortages due to COVID-19, as well as poor harvests induced by prolonged mid-season dry spells. The OMIR exchange rate points to a declining economic environment, with the old mutual stock rate increasing from ZWL 83.13 to the US Dollar last week to ZWL 121.63 to the Dollar in the current reporting week. The bond note exchange rate is at ZWL 51.80 to the Dollar and electronic transfers at ZWL71.00 to the Dollar.
- An assessment of Covid-19 quarantine facilities in Zimbabwe conducted by WHO and IOM was published on the 11th of June. A total of 37 out of 46 facilities were assessed. According to the report, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is mainly responsible for provisions and distribution of supplies, including food and other non-food items. According to the assessment tool, the question of food access was included, however no findings were presented in the report. The FSL Cluster continues to investigate the question of food access.
- As of the 13th of June 2020, at least 8 783 migrants have returned to Zimbabwe from 48 countries since the start of COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020. As of the 12th of June 2020, 2 220 individuals are in quarantine in Zimbabwe.

FSC operational update:

- For the May 2020 cycle, a total of 1.72 million people have been reached with either cash or in-kind food distributions by FSL Cluster partners.
- For the June cycle, a total of 200 000 beneficiaries have been reached so far with either cash, vouchers or in-kind food distributions.
- WFP plans to begin its 2020/21 emergency operations in critically food-insecure areas as early as July 2020, with a target of reaching 2.4 million people through both rural lean season assistance and urban social assistance between July and September 2020.

LATIN AMERICA UPDATES

Colombia

Total COVID-19 cases: 48 896

Situation and context update:

- Food security remains a critical priority in the current emergency response. Preliminary WFP projections indicate that severe food insecurity in Colombia could reach 3 million people, including Venezuelan migrants, for whom food insecurity could increase from 55 percent (WFP, 2019) to 80-95 percent. Access to food is reported as a main concern (GIFMM, 2020). If people who may be in moderate food insecurity are included, the figure rises to 10 million people, including almost 80 percent of migrants in the country. However, the real impact of the crisis on indicators of poverty and food insecurity will depend on a complex combination of factors, including the duration of isolation measures, and can only be adequately measured in the coming months.
- According to FAO, the lack of food and/or economic assistance (access to basic agricultural inputs to support production) has increased in communities in the departments of Chocó, La Guajira, Nariño and Putumayo as a result of the emergency. In La Guajira, effects on livelihoods have been noted, specifically in agricultural and livestock assets due to prolonged drought, with cases of losses in goat herds and difficulty in sowing and/or managing systems. In the department of Chocó, the survey showed that family and community production have persisted, which has made it possible to respond with basic food minimums in the midst of a difficult situation for families due to a notable reduction in income from the sale of agricultural products. The decrease in river transport has led to losses for producers, food shortages, and an increase in the price of products coming in from other areas. Finally, in the department of Nariño, losses in *pancoger* crops were identified in the communities of the upper part of the municipality of Barbacoas due to increased rains, which have led to floods.
- Guaranteeing the alignment of supply centres and market squares with the biosecurity measures required by the Ministry of Health has become a challenge, both for the wholesale and retail distribution of food. Data are beginning to be seen of people infected with COVID-19 and who have some links with these shopping centres, generating a high risk when purchasing food.

FSC operational update:

Since the beginning of the crisis, WFP has received requests for assistance from more than one million people in 13 departments of the country and the capital district. WFP plans to serve an additional 300 000 people, depending on the level of resources available, and will focus on serving those who may fall outside of state safety nets, in order to effectively complement the state response.

Some 50 000 people prioritized for immediate attention are receiving assistance (unconditional vouchers and in-kind food baskets) in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Córdoba, La Guajira, Nariño Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca. Among those prioritized, in close coordination with local authorities, are people who depend on day labourers, smallholder farmers, indigenous communities in urban areas, families with female heads of household, and people with disabilities.

Moreover, WFP is rapidly increasing its response to vulnerable indigenous communities with immediately available resources. After a rapid needs assessment in Leticia, capital of the Amazonas department, WFP will implement an initial emergency response for more than 4 800 prioritized people in a first phase of response.

Haiti

Total COVID-19 cases: 4 165

Situation and context update:

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Haiti is increasing exponentially, with a 2 400 percent increase between the 2nd and the 31st of May. The continuity of life-saving health services can't be guaranteed due to a lack of protocols to prevent the spread of the virus in non-COVID-19 health centres.
- Cases of discrimination, social stigmatization and violent incidents against people with suspected or confirmed cases and against facilities treating patients remain a concern. So far, 27 incidents of stigma and discrimination, including seven lynching attempts, have been recorded since March. At the end of May, the former MINUSTAH base, which is being upgraded by the MSPP to receive COVID-19 patients, was burned by local residents, and in Les Cayes, a voodoo priest used a local radio station to ease tensions caused by one of his patients being suspected by the local population of having COVID-19.

FSC operational update:

- As food security is expected to deteriorate rapidly with the COVID-19 crisis, WFP is supporting the Government's response by distributing food and cash to vulnerable populations. WFP's emergency food and cash distributions, organized in close coordination with the Ministry of the Interior's Directorate for Civil Protection (DCP) and the Ministry of Health (MSPP), reached 150 000 people in April and May. WFP is preparing to scale up its emergency assistance further, to reach 1.3 million people over 12 months.
- In total, distributions of cash and food reached approximately 380 000 of the most vulnerable people over April and May. WFP's response accounted for almost 40 percent of this emergency response; the remaining 60 percent was reached by around 20 international NGOs, in collaboration with several national NGOs.
- Food insecurity has considerably increased in recent months due to the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current response to food insecurity is significant but remains insufficient, given the deterioration of the food situation in the country. The revised targeted number of people to be reached is 1.56 million in 2020. Still, according to funding confirmed by sector partners, only 634 000 people received the necessary food assistance. If new funds are not mobilized this year, the gap will be around 60 percent for emergency food response in Haiti.

HRP and funding situation update:

The HRP review process has been finalized. The updated HRP/COVID-19 will be launched by the Government on the 17th of June. For the food security sector the budget is USD 250 million (an increase of USD 50 million, and the number of people targeted for assistance is 1.56 million (an increase of 150 000 people).

Venezuela**Total COVID-19 cases:** 2 978**Situation and context update:**

- Urban areas are the most affected by access constraints and prices are rising. According to the Documentation and Analysis Centre for Workers (CENDAS), during the month of April the family food basket had a cost of 46 million Bolivars, an increase of 52 percent compared to the previous month. Quarantine has fuelled hyperinflation in Venezuela.
- Between the 7th of April and the 4th of June, the Government reported that 55 451 people had returned to the country.
- The main planting season (May-November) remains at risk from a lack of agricultural inputs. While fuel has now become available, economic sanctions are preventing the Government from buying inputs that used to be sold subsidized. Restricted financial capacities of farmers are also making it difficult to buy inputs on the private market.

FSC operational update:

The humanitarian system is prioritizing the border region, where 40 000 to 60 000 returnees are in need of food assistance. There is a slow shift in programming towards cash assistance. Overall delivery of humanitarian assistance continues to be restricted.

HRP and funding situation update:

The 2020 HRP is still under revision, with the inclusion of COVID-19 assistance for returnees.

EASTERN AFRICA UPDATES

South Sudan**Total COVID-19 cases:** 1604 (19 deaths recorded)**Situation update:**

- WFP in conjunction with health and transport authorities is establishing COVID-19 testing facilities at border posts to screen for COVID-19 among truck drivers and other workers.

Operational update:

- COVID-19 has created a perfect storm in South Sudan, added to the protracted crisis, high levels of food insecurity moving into the lean season, the arrival of desert locust swarms and generally eroded resilience.
- While calculating the MEB it was observed that COVID-19-related needs had not been addressed under the food security sector response (e.g. face masks).

- A food security and nutrition monitoring system (FSNMS) survey provided inputs for the August/September 2020 IPC analysis that helps understand the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods, markets, and food and nutrition security in the country.

HRP and funding:

- A new HRP addendum for the COVID-19 caseload of 1.57 million people has added to the existing HRP people in need number of 6.3 million, which includes the urban poor across the 19 main urban centres and 10 percent of the rural population from IPC2 who have a high level of market dependency.
- The national COVID-19 Response Plan (NPR) has a requirement of approximately USD 150 million and is expected to be finalized this week in parallel to the launch of the HRP addendum.
- The COVID-19 National Steering Committee has identified 16 prioritized border points for screening. Currently, only three points of entry are funded (Juba International Airport, Nimule border crossing and Wau airport).

Challenges:

- Much of the lawlessness and seizing of resources by armed groups stems from an absence of authority, as political parties have failed to agree on the appointment of governors and local authorities in the ten states. Appointments must now be made to help restore order and prevent conflict, build peace, and assist with the COVID-19 response, which is vital given the rising number of cases across the country.
- There were reports of people issuing fake COVID-19 “negative” certificates to travellers, so the Ministry of Health has suspended the issuance of these until further notice.

Ethiopia

Situation update:

- The Government and humanitarian partners released the revised HRP on the 9th of June, which includes emergency food and non-food humanitarian needs for 16.5 million people at a cost of USD 1.65 billion. FSC financial requirements have increased from USD 399.5million to USD 773.4 million, and the number of estimated food-insecure people has increased from 5.9 million to 15 million.
- There are indications of additional food needs in the country due to the floods in low-lying areas, such as the Afar, Dire-Dawa, Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions. Food/cash response is being prioritized for the affected communities.

Operational update:

- Food dispatches/cash transfers are ongoing in targeted locations to assist the most vulnerable households. Food security sector partners agreed to provide double allocations of cash/food to cover the emergency food needs of beneficiaries up to August 2020.
- The distribution of double allocations of cash/food for March/April and May are almost completed. Food/cash distribution guidelines are being followed by partners, including various measures (social/physical distancing, provision of good hygiene facilities) to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

HRP and funding:

- The revised HRP for 2020 was officially released on the 9th of June, 2020 ([LINK](#)). The food security cluster target is 15 million food-insecure people, which includes additional food needs due to COVID-19 and desert locust-related shocks.
- According to the Financial Tracking Service ([LINK](#)), there are still significant funding gaps for food sector requirements in 2020.