COX’S BAZAR
FOOD SECURITY
SECTOR

Food Security & Livelihoods Coordination Meeting
April 8th
Cox’s Bazar | 2020

Photo by Saikat Mojumder, ISCG
• Introduction
• Covid-19 response operational updates
• Key FSS updates
• Key Livelihoods updates
• Review of Draft FSS/LHWG Covid-19 Strategic Response
• FAO to present draft guidance notes on agricultural activities (including fisheries and livestock) during an emergency response
• AOB
Covid-19 response operational updates
As of 6 April:

IN BANGLADESH - 164 total cases, 17 deaths, 33 recovered cases

IN COX’S BAZAR - 1 total cases (transported to Dhaka), 0 deaths: 0 recovered cases

6 suspected in quarantine in HC. 22 people in quarantine in camps. Testing capacity is now available in Cox’s Bazar

Inter-sectoral updates

- The establishment of quarantine, isolation and treatment facilities is underway to prepare an initial 1,900 beds. Health partners are now preparing all possible beds in existing facilities, and are seeking appropriate sites to establish new isolation and treatment facilities in the camps and in the HC for additional 1,200 (6 facilities with 200 beds).
- Risk communication and community engagement messages rolled out across the District in the local communities and in camps (communication in the camps limited by absence of 3G/4G services)
- Handwashing, distribution of soap and other hygiene and sanitation supplies being scaled up
- Intersectoral COVID-19 distribution recommendations (link) introducing social distancing and hand washing
- Cooperation with Health, WASH, CwCWG at food distribution points and e-voucher outlets
- #4 ISCG weekly COVID-19 Preparedness update (link)
COVID-19 RESPONSE OPERATIONAL UPDATES CONT.

• **Critical services and mode**
  - In this modality, staff presence will be massively reduced, with many or most essential services to be provided by volunteers on the ground, or potentially by the Military.
  - Adequate measures and guidance must be given to volunteers delivering critical services and assistance. Modalities for ensuring the most vulnerable have their needs attended to in critical mode must be clarified.

• **Critical Activity**: General Food Assistance – WFP and its CPs - Self Reliance and DRR suspended

• **Critical staff**: total 5,000 – FSS  353 staff

• **Camps vehicles movement**: new system: list submitted to RRRC and Army. QR code scan to cross-check (sample)

• **HC vehicles movement**: ISCG is aware of emerging issues and is working to formalize a system with the DC to ensure continuation of life-saving critical activities. Partners are requested to be patient during this time – updates will be shared as they arise. Kindly note that the country of Bangladesh is on shutdown and we are asking for extra measures to continue critical actives in HC and this request will take time to formalize.
COVID-19 RESPONSE OPERATIONAL UPDATES CONT.

- Global Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19 2 billion
- Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) 300 mln USD – Bangladesh
- Preliminary funding requirements for COVID-19 response in Cox’s Bazar 116 mln
- Extra activities to JRP
  - Health (72), WASH (14), CwC (2), Food Security (22 mln WFP, 7 mln FAO)
    - Food to quarantine, isolation, treatment facilities
    - Support to poor Bangladeshis (food and cash support)
    - Support to agricultural production
- Next funding appeal
- Coordination with DC – UNOs (letter by DC to NGOs, letter to UN agencies)
FSS UPDATES
Ajmerry Hossain (ajmerry.hossain@wfp.org) has joined the FSS team as national IM officer

GFSC webpage on COVID-19 and webinar

Changes to General Food Assistance: messaging in English and Bangla

Change from value voucher to commodity voucher: pre-packaged list of commodity (based on nutritional value and preference)

One feeding cycle

Social distancing

Hygiene promotion

Communication with Communities

- The flexible item cannot be used for any commodity on the fixed food basket
- Retailers are encouraged to use the flexible item to sell potato
- Retailers have different items available so the flexible items may be different in each shop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity /p person</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>April 2020 Price</th>
<th>Total BDT</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>98.00</td>
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</table>

Total Transfer Value Per Person 976.05
FSS UPDATES

• Coordination of assistance to HC – GoB plan: allocation of BDT 727.5 billion worth of stimulus packages was announced, which amounts to 2.52% of total GDP. The packages will include financial assistance, widening the social safety net coverage, increasing public expenditure, and increasing monetary supply and subsidy for export-oriented businesses.

• DC appeal – 700,000 people impacted

• Value of food basket = approx. 1,800 bdt.

• 200 cooked meals in Cox's Bazar

• Cash assistance:
  • Dhaka Cash Working Group Guidelines
  • Transfer Working Group CVA Guidelines

• WFP/VAM analysis

• Different NGOs different values – 1,500 bdt (BRAC) to 4,500 bdt (SCI)

• Emergency Response Tracker for harmonization and spatial coordination

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Items</th>
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<th>Military</th>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Soap</td>
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Total Transfer Value Less than BDT 1,800
FSS UPDATES

- Emergency Response Tracker of WHO does WHAT, WHERE, and WHEN (4Ws)

Real-time, accessible data to identify coverage gaps, support operational coordination and harmonization of assistance packages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>WHO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Funding Status</th>
<th>Programme Partner</th>
<th>Implementing Partner</th>
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<td>ICCO</td>
<td>GIZ</td>
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<tr>
<th>Beneficiary Type</th>
<th>Division</th>
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<th>Upazila</th>
<th>Union</th>
<th>Ward / Camp</th>
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<td>Teknaf</td>
<td>Nilia</td>
<td>Ward 7</td>
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<td>Cox’s Bazar</td>
<td>Teknaf</td>
<td>Nilia</td>
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**WHAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Sector of Assistance</th>
<th>Activity Details</th>
<th>Activity Status</th>
<th>Modality</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Transfer Value</th>
<th>Transfer Frequency</th>
<th>Targeting Criteria</th>
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<td>Cash for Work</td>
<td>Planned</td>
<td>Cash (mobile money)</td>
<td>BDT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5500</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Vulnerable female-headed HH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash for Work</td>
<td>Planned</td>
<td>Cash (mobile money)</td>
<td>BDT</td>
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<td>Vulnerable female-headed HH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIVELIHOODS UPDATES
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• Joint FSS, SNFI, WASH request to Health Sector for amount of items needed at the isolation and quarantine centres. After amount totals are shared, FSS will inform partners on amounts needed. Food for these centres will be provided through WFP, however additional needs such as bed sheets could be supplied through livelihoods partners.

• **Prottyashi and NONGOR/MOAS mask making initiative:** Over 24,000 cloth masks completed as of today – partners are able to produce nearly 4,000 per day. Please see the following link to the ISCG Cox’s Bazar Update #4 highlighting this initiative.

• **Hand Sanitizer initiative:** IOM implementing partners have been identified to start production on an initial request of 35,000 L hand sanitizer.
REVIEW OF DRAFT FSS/LHWG COVID-19 STRATEGIC RESPONSE
• FSS SAG meeting held on April 1 – members discussed FSS Covid-19 priorities/strategy. This information was used to formulate Draft 1 of the FSS/LHWG Covid-19 Response Strategy Document.

• Draft 1 of FSS/LHWG Covid-19 Strategic Response Document was circulated to SAG partners on April 6th for partner feedback and will be recirculated through FSS mailing list once finalized. The key points are as follows:

1. Expanding support to the food security of the **poorest and most vulnerable Bangladeshis** in the District whose livelihoods will be impacted by the pandemic, **through food, cash support, and agricultural inputs** for the most vulnerable according to need across the District.

2. Ensuring food availability through food production As the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina noted in her speech on 31 March: ‘the **most important thing is food security**. Our food production must go on. We have to ensure that **not a single inch of agricultural land remains uncultivated** so that we can fulfil our food security. Efforts need to be taken to utilise whatever land you have; grow something in your yard; rear chicken, goats, etc. Aiming at the next season, **agricultural input and support needed should be ensured so that we can overcome the global recession**.’
   - Align with GoB and DAE policies and directives;
   - Ensure continuity of agricultural production and harvests
   - Support agricultural production at household level
3. In support of the District health response and in coordination with Health Sector, providing multi-sector support to the existing and planned isolation, treatment, and quarantine facilities, including WASH, shelter, logistics and food support for facilities in Ramu, Chakaria, Cox’s Bazar Sadar, Ukhiya and Teknaf. WFP has already insured provision of food to Ramu isolation facility and appealed for funding for this activity;

4. Reprogramming of activities to be in line with Covid-19 prevention and risk mitigation measures and to ensure that they support the Covid-19 emergency response. Donors are asked for maximum flexibility on re-programming activities that cannot be carried out due COVID-19 measures, and to allow operational adjustments in the new operating environment (i.e. monitoring through mobile, etc.)

5. Ensure that communities are informed/updated on key messages

6. Assessments to ensure re/programming initiatives are well informed/prioritized
Agriculture Livelihood Interventions in COVID 19 Context
(Recommendations and Restrictions)

FAO – Cox’s Bazar
Emergency programme
8 April 2020
Will COVID 19 have negative impacts on food security

• Lives and livelihoods are at risk from this pandemic.

• It affects significant elements of both:

(a) Food Supply

(b) Food Demand
What are the implications of the COVID 19 situation now and in the future for food production, agricultural supply chains, and market?

A. **The logistics**: involving the movement of food (food supply).
B. The impact on **livestock and fish sub-sector**.
C. **Seasonality**: Impact on harvesting and planting of crops.
D. **Access** to markets/food: Spikes in prices.
E. Reduction in **labour force** (work opportunities)

**FOOD SECURITY**
What are FAO's recommendations to mitigate the risks of the pandemic on food security and nutrition?

1. Provide productivity and enhance social safety net
2. Reduce post-harvest crop losses and improve food stocks along the value chain
3. Address basic energy and financial needs of smallholder and rural households
4. Change on consumption patterns and consumer behavior (Market Support)
Recommendations for Social Protection Programmes

- Support unconditional cash transfers

- Vertical expansion of Top-Up: Expand transfer amount to existing social assistance participants, through a one-off payment or multiple payments to meet basic needs and avoid negative coping mechanisms after the crisis to support time for recovery.

- Horizontal expansion of the social assistance programmes (cash or in-kind) to non-beneficiaries/participants of the existing programmes vulnerable to the impacts of the crises.

- Direct provision of food to avoid food insecurity.
Recommendations for Agriculture activities (Crop Production) 1/2

✓ Provide advice to the farmers on issues related to ongoing irrigation, fertilizer and pest management.

✓ Support small holder farmers with agriculture inputs package namely seeds, fertilizers, farm machineries, small farm implements, seed storage silos etc..

✓ Use harvesting and threshing equipment at the right time (save the labor cost).

✓ Provide advice to the farmers about the seed storage.

✓ Aus crops should be cultivated on this running season.
Recommendations for Agriculture activities (Crop Production) 2/2

- Encouraging homestead gardening to cultivate some vegetables possibly two rows of ginger and turmeric.

- Encourage farmers to cultivate vegetables along with the pond and road side (utilize common fallow lands).

- Encourage farmers to cultivate fruits at potential places in and around the homesteads and common community premises.

- Consider postponing non-essential training activities, such as field farmers schools, vocational trainings.
Recommendations for Market Support:

- Carry out rapid assessments of food stocks and yield forecasts to identify any gaps or surpluses that can arise due to import bans or shortages,
- Support food processors and retailers in particular Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs):
  - Food adhering to good postharvest handling and transport practices to maintain quality, freshness and food safety.
- Ensure the appropriate infrastructure is in place to maintain quality and food safety.
- Cash grant support to promote market aggregators and other LSPs.
- Markets should be monitored: Early warning system food security
- Develop rural market system engaging youth in agricultural value chain
Workers should receive awareness information of the virus and should know that they have to stay home if they have symptoms or being in contact with infected people.

CFW activities need to be safe and ad hoc protective equipment should be provided and changed regularly.

Work should be organized to permit social distancing and limited number of workers at one time.

Promote safe transportation from home to work (when possible)
Recommended activities (Fish Sector)

- Enhance pond aquaculture in promoting culture fish production.
- Risk reduction for capturing marine fish from Bay of Bengal.
- Cash transfer to support fish production systems and households’ nutrition.
- Re-excavation and restocking of pond fisheries (because farmers will sell their fishes during covid crisis), so restocking is urgent, besides there are many ponds are being unutilized, so re-excavation of those and pond fishery could be a good support.
**Recommended activities (Livestock Sector)**

- Promote poultry farming (with safety and healthy measures) in engagement of women to increase households’ income
- Promote cattle farming in engagement of women and increasing households’ income
- Cash transfer to support livestock production systems and households’ nutrition.
- Re-stocking of livestock – poultry, goat, milch cow, etc, - because farmers will sell their livestock during their crisis period
- Support for vaccination, immediate support with livestock feed, - for long run promote the cultivation of fodder – Napier grass, para grass etc for livestock.
THANKS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION