



FSC monthly sitrep

COVID-19 Situation Update 19th October to 15th November 2020

Summary

Asia & Pacific

In **Afghanistan**, COVID-19 has led to a sharp increase in humanitarian needs as prices of staple foods continue to rise while income-earning opportunities diminish. In **Myanmar**, COVID-19 restrictions are drastically reducing humanitarian actors' access to communities, with many interventions on hold or adjusted.

Latin America

In **Haiti** the economic situation remains worrying, with the Dollar falling by nearly 50 percent against the national currency, resulting in a significant loss of value of the cash transfers provided to FSS beneficiaries (from 70 percent to less than 50 percent of the standard food basket).

Near East and Eastern Europe

In **Armenia**, a UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) application is in process to increase funding available for assistance. In **Libya**, the FSS estimates the number of people who food insecure and in need of assistance to have more than doubled. In **the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT)**, the estimated People in Need (PiN) for 2021 is 1.9 million. Around 30,000 refugees from Ethiopia have fled across the border into **Sudan** in the past ten days. Refugees are being temporarily sheltered in transit centres located near the border entry points of Ludgi in Gederef and Hamdayet in Kassala state.

Food prices continue to soar in **Syria**. WFP's national reference food basket (FB) price for October averaged SYP 88,138, increasing by 5 percent compared to the September price and the highest ever recorded in Syria. According to a comprehensive UNDP interagency socio-economic impact assessment in September, the pandemic is driving **Ukraine** towards its worst recession in decades and may push over 9 million people into poverty. More than 80 percent of households are reported to have lost their incomes, and over 40 percent have at least one family member who has lost a job since the beginning of the pandemic.

Southern Africa

An IPC analysis conducted in rural areas of **Zimbabwe** found a reduction in the numbers of acutely food-insecure people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) conditions during the lean season (October 2020 – March 2021) compared to the last analysis. The improvement is closely tied to large-scale ongoing and planned humanitarian food assistance.

In **Mozambique**, as the scope of the 2021 HRP covers the northern provinces (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa), the rest of the areas affected by drought and COVID-19 will need to be covered through non-HRP activities.

Eastern Africa

In **Ethiopia**, ongoing conflict between the regional government and Tigray regional forces is causing thousands of people to flee their homes. This is expected to lead to an increase in food insecurity in the region and in bordering Amhara and Afar ([LINK](#)). In **Somalia**, post-2020 *Gu* assessment results point to 2.1 million people likely to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) food insecurity outcomes between October and December without sustained humanitarian assistance.

West and Central Africa

More countries have finalized their IPC/CH assessments (**Mali, Cameroon, Nigeria, Central African Republic (CAR) and Burkina Faso**). All countries in the region are now updating their HNO with the latest CH figures and working on their HRPs, which should be finalized around the end of November/December. The security situation remains tense in many countries, especially in Cameroon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and CAR. The elections in Burkina Faso and upcoming in CAR (December 2020) are creating tension. In **Nigeria** and **Burkina Faso**, forecasts for 2020/2021 cereal production are expected to lead to slightly above-average prices.

ASIA AND PACIFIC UPDATES

Afghanistan

Situation update:

- COVID-19 has led to a sharp increase in humanitarian needs, as prices of staple foods continue to rise while income-earning opportunities diminish.
- Ongoing insecurity and conflict are causing continual displacements, exacerbating already limited social support networks and mechanisms in host communities.
- The onset of the lean season is accompanied by a drop in casual and daily labour, which vulnerable families depend on to meet their daily food expenditure needs.

Operational update:

- The lean season also marks the start of the support programming aligned to other sectors' winter interventions.
- Support is ongoing for COVID-19 affected people mainly in peri-urban and urban areas.
- There is an increased need to support vulnerable populations that have entered into higher levels of debt to meet their food needs, as well as to safeguard agricultural livelihoods to ensure a good staple harvest.

HNO/HRP: HNO process finalized. HRP framework/target finalized, narrative ongoing.

Cox's Bazar

Situation update:

- An FSS Joint Monitoring Framework [report](#) and [factsheet](#) on data gaps and COVID-19 impacts on food security were released. Key issues highlighted were that disruption to livelihoods/self-reliance activities has led to loss of savings, and suspension of non-life-saving activities increased the economic vulnerability of affected populations.
- [WFP market monitoring September update](#) reported:
 - Increase in prices of rice and onions due to monsoon rains and import disruptions. Traders expect rice to continue to increase gradually through the end of the year.
 - Wages remain unpredictable, varying based on supply and demand of labour across different markets.
 - Overall trade levels remain low due to lower purchasing behaviour in camps and host communities.
- [Joint multi sectoral needs assessment preliminary findings](#)

Operational update:

- WFP released its [factsheet on its food assistance for Rohingya refugees during COVID-19](#), outlining precautionary measures taken, improvements and changes made in terms of food provision and communications with communities, and highlighting the contribution of FSS partners.
- FSS/LHWG-coordinated mask distribution reached everyone aged 12 or over in the camps. Each beneficiary received two locally-produced, reusable cloth masks thanks to contributions from six sectors and Working Groups and over 40 partners.
- While food assistance to all refugee households is ongoing, livelihoods, self-reliance and emergency food and cash interventions decreased in October, partly due to the COVID-19 response decreasing.
 - Decrease of 128,935 people reached with livelihoods/self-reliance support since September;
 - Decrease of 330,184 host community people reached with food/cash support since August.
 - Resumption of programmes in camps: fresh food corners in WFP outlets, self-reliance activities.
- Process ongoing for the Joint Response Plan to the Rohingya refugee crisis
- Presentation of [RIMA](#)

HNO/HRP: HNO PiN completed, narrative and HRP ongoing

Myanmar

Situation update:

- COVID-19 restrictions are drastically reducing humanitarian actors' access to communities. Many interventions are on hold or adjusted (distributions conducted through cluster points as approved by the RSG).
- Escalating clashes between armed ethnic groups and Tatmadaw in Northern Rakhine, Central Rakhine and southern states are restricting access to communities

Operational update:

- COVID-19 restrictions are preventing FSS partners from implementing their projects in many areas.
- In many cases, the provision of WASH/Hygiene kits or other COVID-19 related activities is foreseen as FS partners' entry point to access communities (as was the case during the first COVID-19 wave).

HNO/HRP: HNO PiN and narrative completed, HRP ongoing

NEAR EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE UPDATES

Armenia

COVID-19 cases: 65,577

Situation update:

- According to official statements, at least 90,000 people have been displaced in and outside of Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of the conflict. Following heavy fighting over the strategic city of Shushi and alleged large movements of civilians away from Shushi and Stepanakert to safety (i.e. into the territory of Armenia), the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the President of the Russian Federation signed a 9-point peace agreement on 9 November. With timelines for territorial exchanges ongoing, it is too soon to predict detailed operational implications, but the needs of spontaneous arrivals remain unchanged, while growing humanitarian needs are reported due to additional recent movements out of NK.
- The UN system in Armenia has put in place a flexible coordination structure under the lead of the Resident Coordinator's Office and UNHCR. All UN agencies and partners have stepped up their response through the coordination structure and mobilized technical expertise. To date, 15 UN agencies, four foundations, one international organization, 20 international NGOs, and 19 local NGOs are part of the coordination structure and engaging across five working groups (Shelter and NFI, Protection, Food Security and Nutrition, Health, Early Recovery) and three sub-working groups (Child Protection, Education, Cash). Some working groups include a government representative.
- The findings of a Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted by WFP in 2020 before the conflict showed 15 percent of the Armenian population to be food insecure, while an official statistics show almost 25 percent living in poverty. COVID-19 has further exacerbated food insecurity by disrupting access to livelihoods and created challenges for food systems by affecting local supply and demand. Some 45 percent of respondents to WFP's Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment reported temporary interruptions in their jobs with 20 percent having permanently lost their jobs. Increasing numbers of spontaneous arrivals from Nagorno-Karabakh have increased food assistance needs, further stressing the situation.

Operational update:

- Six FSN Working Group members are in the field to respond to the needs of spontaneous arrivals and the communities hosting them. 54,059 people are targeted across Armenia with food assistance support, with 18,412 reached so far.
- A CERF application is in process to increase the funding available for assistance. Requesting agencies in the field of FSN are WFP, UNDP and UNICEF.
- SOPs for the distribution of breast milk substitutes have been developed and endorsed by Working Group members.

HNO/HRP: NA

Lebanon

COVID-19 cases: 65,577

Situation update:

- Between 28 October and 10 November, an additional 23,004 people were infected with COVID-19, bringing the total number of reported cases since 21 February 2020 to 98,829.
- An analysis of the latest available data from the Multisectoral Needs Assessment shows that cash, shelter repair and medication are the top priorities reported by residents affected by the Beirut Port explosion. Cash was reported as the top priority in Bachoura, Bourj Hammoud, Mazraa, Mdaoura, Msaitbe, and Zqaqel Blat while food is the main priority need in Sinn El Fil. Food is the second main priority need in all areas and third in Ashrafieh, Bachoura, Bourj Hammoud, Mdaouar and Rmeil areas. Cash is the third priority need in Mazraa, Msaitbe, Saifi, Sinn el Fil and Zqaqel Blat areas.
- A political deadlock continues to affect economic indicators, with the black-market exchange rate rising to nearly LBP 9,000 following the resignation of the designated Prime Minister.
- There was an approximately 185 percent increase in percent weekly food basket price (SMEB basket) between 14 October 2019 and the week of 2 November 2020. Some 78 percent of WFP-contracted shops reported to have more than two weeks of stocks, 10 percent reported scarcity in certain products, such as oils, fats and sugar, 36 percent reported suppliers not delivering the full ordered quantities, 94 percent reported having subsidized items at the rate of LBP 3,900, 81 percent reported that suppliers are accepting new orders for subsidized products, and only 5 percent that received subsidized items reported receiving the full ordered quantities.
- The government is planning to remove subsidies – wheat imports are partially subsidized at 85 percent of their cost by the central bank at the official exchange rate, combustible fuel imports at 90 percent of their cost. This will likely lead to importers having to cover the difference between exchanging the cost from dollars to LBP if they are using the informal exchange rate rather than the official exchange rate, a cost that they will most probably transfer to the end consumer, pushing up food prices.
- m-VAM Highlights (July-August 2020) on the Beirut blast affecting household priority needs reports 43 percent of affected respondents stating food as their top priority need. Employment was the top non-food priority need (17 percent). Medicine and healthcare access were reported as an essential priority by 15 percent of relevant respondents.

Operational update:

- In terms of access the increase in COVID-19 cases has led to a national lockdown in place from 14 November 2020 to Monday 30 November 2020. Exceptions from restriction of movement have been granted to NGOs, specifically those that assist in the food and health sectors. So far no major issues reported by partners.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs recently approved an increase in transfer value for NPTP and food transfer value for refugees (including food e-cards, cash for food, and food portion of MPC) to LBP 100,000 per person per month, as the price of the basic food basket has already reached LBP 100,000. This increase will be implemented by WFP in October for the NPTP and November for refugee assistance.
- The port explosion response has expanded some partners activities in support of food needs in the Beirut area in CBT and to support SMEs.
- In terms of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), the last months saw an increase of in-kind food assistance linked to referrals, isolation and quarantine due to the increase in COVID-19 numbers.

Response Plan:

The LCRP 2021 planning chapter strategy has been completed, and the Beirut Blast Flash Appeal has been extended till the end of 2020.

Libya

COVID-19 cases: 65,577

Situation update:

- A historic ceasefire agreement was signed by warring parties in Libya on 23 October 2020. Following that, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) announced the launch of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, and the parties agreed to hold elections in December 2021.
- The Libya FSS estimates that the number of people that are food insecure and in need of assistance has more than doubled. This is mainly due to Libya being heavily reliant on imports for food and other goods as well as diminished exports from other countries and movement restrictions due to COVID-19 that have negatively affected all components of food security. Higher prices, compounded by the impact of curfews and lockdown measures on people's access to work, particularly those in the informal sector or engaged in day labour, have resulted in an increase in food insecurity.

Operational update:

- Food assistance programmes continue across the country, with general food distributions and ready-to-eat meals to vulnerable refugees and migrants, along with emergency food assistance through the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism.
- WFP and UN Women are launching a joint initiative to support women and food security, aimed at increasing the resilience of women and youth across the Libyan-Tunisian border zone through strengthened programming, economic empowerment and developing projects on social cohesion.
- Vocational and soft-skill training sessions through the Food Assistance for Training programme were resumed, adapted to COVID-19 restrictions, and are continuously extended to other regions. In this reporting period, vocational trainings were conducted in Benghazi, Ghadames, Nalut, Tawergha and Zwara for approximately 150 participants. Trainees learned a variety of skills related to cooking, sewing, plastering, electrical and mobile phone maintenance. WFP continues to engage some 346 farmers and agricultural specialists through the Agriculture Information Network, and several virtual groups aim to strengthen connections within the agriculture sector.

HNO/HRP:

- HNO narrative and FS PiN submitted mid-October and awaiting HCT endorsement.
- HRP narrative and framework submitted beginning of November, while partners' project submissions were launched on 22nd of November. Final financial requirements and targets are pending project submissions and vetting.

Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT)

COVID-19 cases: 48,628

Situation update:

- The continued financial crisis related to the lack of a coordination policy between the Government of Palestine and the Government of Israel is limiting the Palestinian Government's ability to pay monthly salaries to employees or fully maintain the social safety network. The Government is therefore increasingly reliant on a strong and integrated national social protection system to identify, target and deliver a wide range of social benefits and services to the most vulnerable communities.

- The number of unemployed persons reached 373 thousand in the 3rd quarter of 2020; of which 208 thousand persons in Gaza Strip (49 percent) and 165 thousand persons in the West Bank (19 percent). As for the sex level, the unemployment rate for males in Palestine reached 25 percent compared to 44 percent for females. Comparing with the 3rd quarter of 2019, the percentage of unemployment Rate in West bank increased by 5.4 percent in Q3 of 2020, while in Gaza increased by 3.5 percent for the same period.
- Bedouin people in Area C reported not operating at full productive capacity due to not being able to purchase inputs on credit. In the Gaza Strip, both producers and consumers faced liquidity shortages due to reduced incomes compared to previous weeks. A high proportion of available income was used to pay debts. There has been an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases in the Gaza Strip, along with limited resources of the de facto authorities.

Operational update:

- There has only been a limited increase in funding by very few donors, which is insufficient to cover needs (only 60 percent met). The Ministry of social Development (MoSD) confirmed there is no precise date for disbursing third allocations targeting vulnerable families in both the West Bank and Gaza. Over the next weeks the MoSD will approach more donors to address this.
- WFP has available funding to maintain food assistance to regular beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank until January 2021. However it needs an additional USD 46.5 million to be able to continue providing food assistance to targeted beneficiaries (426,000) in the next six months (November 2020- April 2021).
- FSS coordinated with the MoSD to provide food assistance inside quarantine centers (QCs) in Gaza. The process has started this week with the provision of around 1,500 food meals to be distributed daily at 16 quarantine/isolation centers in the Gaza Strip governorates. The plan is to provide the food assistance for 90 days to those in QCs till the end of January.

HNO/HRP: HNO and HRP narratives and PiN submitted, pending final endorsement. Partner project submissions completed, discussions on targets ongoing.

Sudan

COVID-19 cases: 15,047

Situation update:

- Around 30,000 refugees from Ethiopia have fled across the border in the past ten days. Refugees are being temporarily sheltered in transit centres located near the border entry points of Ludgi in Gederef and Hamdayet in Kassala state.
- Around 12,300 IDPs and returnees (95 percent IDPs) in Central Darfur and South Kordofan State.

Operational update:

- FSS partners are providing lifesaving assistance to more than 7,000 Ethiopian refugees from the Tigray region. Cash interventions targeting 2,000 families in the Umrakuba refugee camp in Galabat will start on 15th of December and food baskets and RTE meals will be distributed to 20,000 beneficiaries in Gadaref.
- FSS partners and the government published the latest updated IPC for Sudan covering the period from October 2020 – December 2020, reporting 7.1 million people considered as the FSS PiN in the HNO.

- FSS partners reached 94 localities with 2 million people receiving food assistance and 1.1 million livelihoods support in Q3 2020.

HNO/HRP: HNO narrative submitted for endorsement, with PiN based on IPC analysis.

Syria (Whole of Syria)

COVID-19 cases: 1,733

Situation update:

- Food prices continue to soar in Syria, with the national reference food basket (FB) price for October averaging SYP 88,138, the highest recorded price ever for Syria and 22.8 times higher than the pre-crisis 5-year monthly average.
- The price of milk increased by around 25 percent in October, which will affect prices of dairy products. A further increase is expected with the increase in feed prices, the lack of fodder and delayed rains.

Operational update:

- To prevent a further reduction in national food production and particularly shortages of wheat flour and bread, the FSL sector is focusing on supporting small-scale wheat farmers by providing seeds and training on good agricultural practices.

HNO/HRP: 2021 HNO/HRP is expected to be undertaken in Q1. For the 2021 GHO, the following figures will be adopted based on the Mid-Year Review: 9 million to 9.3 million acutely food insecure and 10.1 million to 10.4 million PiN.

Ukraine

COVID-19 cases: 1,733

Situation update:

- As of November 20, in Ukraine there have been 598,085 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 10,598 deaths. The situation is particularly concerning in the Government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA) of Luhanska oblast.
- The number of COVID-19 cases is doubling every five weeks countrywide and every three weeks in the eastern part of the country (from 4,600 at the end of September to over 14,000 by the end of October). In response to this exponential rise, the Government extended the quarantine and emergency situation until the end of the year. Some additional restrictive measures are expected to be introduced in November as the number of new daily cases is expected to reach 10,000.
- Shchastia and Zolote entry/exit crossing points (EECPs) in Luhanska oblast opened on 10 November.

Operational update:

- COVID-19 is driving Ukraine towards its worst recession in decades and may push over 9 million people into poverty. More than 80 per cent of households reported losing income and over 40 per cent have at least one family member who has lost their job since the beginning of the pandemic.

- While disaggregated data on eastern Ukraine is not immediately available, the effects of this socioeconomic decline are likely to be devastating for populations in the conflict-torn region. In NGCA, 58 per cent of families reported adopting negative coping strategies to meet basic needs, up from 49 per cent in early 2020, with a larger proportion of households in debt (15 per cent in September, compared with 11 percent before COVID-19).
- Oschadbank – the state-run bank administering the payment of social entitlements – has extended IDPs’ expired bank cards until 1 January 2021. Due to movement restrictions, pensioners from NGCA have been unable to travel to GCA to collect re-issued bank cards. The bank has reportedly re-issued at least 200,000 bank cards that have not yet been claimed, likely due to COVID-19-related restrictions on movement across the ‘contact line’. Before COVID-19, NGCA pensioners, who have to be registered as IDPs to receive their pensions, had to travel to GCA to have their IDP status verified every 60 days. This requirement has been suspended until 30 days after the end of the adaptive quarantine in Ukraine.

HNO/HRP: HNO narrative and PiN submitted for endorsement. Partner project submissions completed with 17 projects submitted by 15 partners. With this, the overall financial requirement for the FSL sector is USD 21 million, targeting only 80,000 individuals as a result of limited in-country operational capacities

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA UPDATES

Burkina Faso

Situation update:

- Good rainfall is expected to have a beneficial effect on agricultural production and pasture.
- The worst of the flooding could be combined with the peak market gardening agricultural season and a recession. Serious flooding has affected nearly 100,000 people in the regions of Ségou, Kayes, Ménaka, Mopti and Sikasso.

Operational update: NtR

HNO/HRP: HRP requests USD 250 million for food security, of which USD 200 million for food assistance and USD 50 million for livelihoods, which is below the HRP 2020 target for food assistance but higher for livelihoods.

Cameroon

Situation update:

- Preliminary CH results validated around 16 November for North West South West region, reporting 1,076,769 people in acute food insecurity for the current period and 680,021 people for the projected period of June-August 2021.

Operational update: NtR

HNO/HRP: ongoing

Central African Republic

COVID-19 cases: 4,911

Situation update:

- Submission of candidacies and rallies for the presidential election of December 2020 carried out in defiance of any social distancing.
- Schools reopening without implementing social distancing could expose both students and teachers to COVID-19 contamination.

Operational update:

- Difficulty for the cluster to carry out interventions in areas affected by flooding (Vakaga prefectures, along the Oubangui river, etc.).

HNO/HRP: HNO completed, HPR financial requirement is USD 168 million for 1.8 million people.

Chad

COVID-19 cases: 1,350

Situation update:

- CH finalized with a projected 1.1 million people in Phases 3 and 4 – figures still to be officially validated, expected to increase due to flooding and COVID-19.

Operational update:

- Target lean season + Covid-19: 2.1 million people; reached 1.6 million (76 percent)
(Target lean season: 1 million people, reached: 808 224 – 79 percent. Target Covid-19: 1.1 million people, reached: 828 150 – 73 percent)

HNO/HRP: PiN for food assistance are CH Phase 3 and 4 and PiN for livelihoods are CH Phases 2, 3 and 4.

Nigeria

Situation update:

- CH was validated. The results indicate that about 9.8 (9.12 percent) million people of the analysed population require urgent assistance in the current period (October to December 2020). During the projected period (June to August 2021), these figures are expected to increase to 13.8 (12.9 percent) million people unless resilience driven interventions and humanitarian assistance in conflict affected LGAs is sustained.
- The main results for zones/LGAs affected by food and nutrition insecurity in the 15 states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Plateau, Taraba, Sokoto, Yobe and the FCT indicated that 146 Zones/LGAs in the fifteen (15) states and the FCT are classified under the minimal phase of food and nutrition insecurity in the current period. During the projected period, 58 LGAs in Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, and Sokoto States are either in the crisis or emergency phase of food and nutrition insecurity.

- Production forecasts of 2020/2021 for cereals is expected to be slightly above normal. Harvest of rice, millet and sorghum is ongoing in most parts of the country. Key staple prices (rice, maize, beans and peanuts) generally remained stable across the monitored markets of Borno and Yobe States. The price of maize and red beans decreased below its 3-year average in most of monitored states, with Borno currently between 15 to 25 percent.
- Between September and October, the cost of 70 percent of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), for a family of five decreased slightly from 19,245.87 Naira to 18,965.73 Naira in Maiduguri and Jere in Borno State. Likewise, the SMEB decreased by 9 percent in Yobe state
- The start of the early harvests in October and the stable or declining staple food prices are expected to lead to slight improvements in food security conditions. In the short run, the purchasing power and food security situation of market reliant households may slightly be relieved.

Operational update: NtR

HNO/HRP: HNO will be updated with CH figures; HRP is ongoing

SOUTHERN AFRICA UPDATES

Mozambique

COVID-19 cases: 10,258

Situation update:

- Food insecurity is worsening due to multiple shocks, including conflict and insecurity in the north, three consecutive droughts in the south and COVID-19 countrywide (hotspots in Maputo city and Cabo Delgado province). The most affected areas are Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia provinces in the north and Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo in the south.
- Nation-wide IPC analysis conducted in November, results not yet officially released.

Operational update:

- Due to the deteriorating situation in the northern Cabo Delgado province, access remains limited and there is an increased number of IDPs to southern districts and neighbouring provinces.
- FSC partners reached 781,755 people with food assistance in October, out of a planned 808,563.
- Assistance planned for 1,048,538 people in November.
- 271,092 people received livelihoods assistance during the winter and the start of the main agricultural season from July to October 2020; 63,412 people are planned to be assisted between November and December 2020.

HNO/HRP:

- The scope of 2021 HRP is northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces) with the rest of provinces affected by drought and COVID-19 to be covered through non-HRP.
- FSC PiN: 950,000 people. People targeted: 750,000, with a financial requirement of USD 136 million (food assistance USD 119 million and livelihoods USD 17million). Total reduced from USD 220 million by HCT/HC to keep the HRP at a manageable scale.

Zimbabwe

Situation update:

- The number of new daily COVID-19 cases remains below 30, although there are warnings of a possible resurgence of infection if proper measures are not followed, as there are concerns that people are becoming complacent and no longer respecting social distancing or wearing face masks.
- Annual inflation declined for a third consecutive month, from 838 percent in July to 761 percent in August and 659 percent in September. This downward trend is also reflected in food price inflation, which decreased from 977 percent in July to 761 percent in August and 724 percent in September.
- Prices of basic food commodities continued their upward trend but stabilized at around 10 percent per month, compared with over 30 percent before June. The relatively stable price trends in ZWL terms are in line with stabilized foreign exchange rates.
- Most parts of the country started receiving rainfall as of the first week of October, however not enough for the cropping season to start. Farmers have begun land preparation, leading to increased casual labour opportunities for vulnerable households.
- An IPC analysis in rural areas was conducted in October but has not yet been officially released. Initial reports point to a reduction in the numbers of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) conditions from October to December 2020 and January to March 2021, compared to the previous analysis. This improvement is very closely correlated to currently on-going and planned large-scale humanitarian food assistance.

Operational update:

- FSL partners reached 1.4 million people with either in-kind food distributions, cash or vouchers in October in both rural and urban areas.
- Among these, 986,000 received in-kind food assistance and 44,000 cash-based in rural areas, while the remaining 385,000 received cash-based support in urban areas. Concurrently, a total of 293,000 beneficiaries were supported with agricultural and livelihoods assistance. This includes 137,000 who received crop and livestock inputs, 65,000 supported with extension and advisory services to manage crop pests and livestock diseases, and 77,000 assisted with asset rehabilitation.

HNO/HRP:

- GHO PiN of 5.7 million people, target of 3.7 million and financial requirements of USD 350 million.
- While these are lower than 2020 figures, it should be noted that the PiN in rural areas assumes continued food assistance by humanitarian partners to 1.2 million people (as per IPC analysis) who will continue to be assisted, although not reported in the HRP targets or financial requirements.
- The overall FSLC target is driven by the food assistance target, with agricultural support being provided to a subset (around 50 percent) of those also receiving food assistance.

LATIN AMERICA UPDATES

Haiti

Situation update:

- The last month was very calm from the point of view of cyclones and hurricanes, and there is a low risk of more before the end of the hurricane season in December.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has also slowed down in the past month, with 232 deaths to date (+3 people in the last month) and 9,208 positive cases (+370 people, up 4.2 percent).

- The economic situation remains worrying, with the Dollar falling by nearly 50 percent against the Gourde yet imported food products have not fallen as fast as the exchange rate. FSS partners who maintained a fixed amount in USD for cash assistance to beneficiaries contribute much less to their food security: for example, before September a monthly transfer of USD 80 provided the equivalent of 70 percent of the standard food basket for targeted households, while now this does not reach 50 percent of the same basket. It will probably take several more months before the variations in the rate return to an acceptable level.

Operational update:

- With some new funding confirmed for activities in 2020, updated in the 4W matrix, the gap of targeted people by sector partners is slightly reduced but remains very significant.
- For sector objective 1 (food assistance) the gap is 47 percent, or 734,000 people out of 1.56 million, and for sector objective 2 (agriculture and livelihoods) the gap is 61 percent, or 950 million out of 1.56 million people.

HNO/HRP:

- The number of people in IPC 3 and 4 was confirmed by OCHA in Haiti as intersectoral PiN of 4.4 million.
- For FSS, the PiN is 4.4 million with a target of 1.3 million and a financial requirement of USD 156 million.
- A hybrid process of HPC tools is under discussion

EASTERN AFRICA UPDATES

Ethiopia

Situation update:

- Flooding and desert locust are contributing to increased food needs in some regions of the country, on top of increasing returnees from neighbouring countries.
- The government of Ethiopia through the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), is assisting flood-affected beneficiaries in five regions of Afar, Oromia, Gambella, Harari, Sidama and SNNP.
- According to OCHA's humanitarian bulletin ([LINK](#)), the ongoing conflict between the regional government and Tigray regional forces is displacing thousands of people. An increase in food insecurity is expected in the region and bordering regions of Amhara and Afar.
- An escalation in armed conflict and intercommunal clashes have been reported in some agro-pastoral regions. This is expected to interrupt crop harvesting in *Meher*-dependent areas, as well as planting in *Belg* areas.
- Desert locust remains a major threat to agriculture. Given the scale of infestations, Ethiopia may experience the worst impact on crop and livestock production in the region. Since the first wave of infestations (at the end of 2019), the invasion has spread to over 170 *woredas* and crossed over to neighbouring countries.
- The nutrition situation in southern and south-eastern areas will most likely deteriorate through July 2021, which is the typical *Belg* lean period, due to limited access to food (including milk) and income. *Meher* production is also expected to be below average in some southern, central, and eastern parts

of the country due to a limited supply of inputs, flood-induced damage and localized crop losses associated with desert locust. The situation could be exacerbated by the combined effects of desert locust, COVID-19 and conflict.

Operational update:

- Partners distributed cash and food rations to cover needs for the September to mid-October.
- Partners are also assisting beneficiaries with double rations of food and cash resources from mid-October to mid-January 2021. This will cover transitioning food needs before implementing the anticipated 2021 HRP.
- Coverage of agricultural activities is still largely based on seasonal calendars. However, the new wave of desert locust, exacerbated by flooding and economic impacts from COVID-19 have adversely affected the livelihoods of the farming and pastoral households. Most partner agencies have integrated cash components into their programmes to cushion vulnerable communities who lost their crop fields or grazing reserves to desert locust or floods from negative coping mechanisms.
- The ongoing conflict and tensions have compromised access for implementing agencies and farmers' productive capacities. Many more are likely to lose their *Meher* harvests and livestock. Smallholder farmers who lost all their crops to the recent shocks will therefore face constrained access to agricultural inputs in the coming cropping season and could for example be entirely reliant on seed distributions.
- Following predictions of La Nina conditions, agricultural programmes will focus on promoting short-cycle crop/forage varieties, animal health interventions and provision of feed into the lean season (upon exhaustion of pasture stocks).

HNO/HRP: HNO PiN/narrative completed; HRP process ongoing.

South Sudan

Situation update:

- Compounded shocks resulted in expected worsening of IPC food security results. Six contested counties in Warrap (3), Jonglei (2) and NBEG (1) will be sent to the FRC/ GSU for review. The worst situation in the most affected state is Pibor County in Jonglei.
- Based on IPC data, the projected 2021 HNO/HRP PiN for the FSL cluster is 7.4 million (excluding refugees), which is 15 percent higher than the 2020 HRP PiN. Once again we are in unprecedented territory.
- An estimated 886,000 people have been affected by flooding along the Nile, Pibor, Sobat, Lol and other rivers since July 2020, with 451,000 people displaced and 48 counties affected.

Operational update:

- Food assistance was provided to 1.3 million people for the flood response and livelihoods support to 230,360 households and a pipeline of 62,865 households planned.
- Food assistance provided to 1.5 million people in September, of which 79 percent in-kind and 21 percent CVA. Livelihoods support received by 34,397 households (206,800 people). Between January and September 152 operational partners reached 1.2 million individual beneficiaries with CVA and 1.6 million livestock were vaccinated or treated.
- For many locations affected by the ongoing floods, only air assets (helicopters) and boats remain as means of transport to communities in some areas in Jonglei and GPAA.

HNO/HRP: HNO finalized (waiting for final IPC data); HRP targets/financial requirements completed, narrative ongoing.

Somalia

Situation update:

- Based on a post-2020 *Gu* assessment, 2.1 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) food insecurity outcomes between October and December without sustained humanitarian assistance. An additional 3 million people are expected to be in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity to 5.1 million.
- However, anticipated La Niña conditions could also bring consecutive below-average rain, and Somalia faces a high risk that drought conditions will develop by early 2021. Desert locust could also exacerbate crop and pasture losses. In Somalia, when two consecutive rainy seasons perform poorly or fail, past trends show that rapid and large-scale deteriorations in acute food insecurity can occur. A high proportion of the population that is projected to be in IPC Phase 2 in October-December 2020 could therefore deteriorate to Phase 3 in early 2021. As such, for HNO planning the FSC is using an average projection of 3.5 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through 2021.

Operational update:

During the month of October, 23 partners reported various food security responses:

- Under objective 1 (food and CVA), FSC partners assisted 1.7 million people out of 2.1 million targeted (81 percent achievement). In Banadir only 12 percent of the 371,000 people targeted were reached due to funding shortfalls. In Middle Juba, none of the 41,200 people targeted were reached due to access challenges. Notably, people in IPC 3 or worse experienced significant gaps and require urgent lifesaving food assistance.
- Under objective 2 (agricultural and livestock support) FSC partners assisted 48,192 beneficiaries in October. Cumulatively (starting August) a total of 237,388 beneficiaries have been assisted with farm inputs, tractor hours, animal restocking, livestock treatment and distribution of fishing equipment to fisher folks. The cumulative number of people reached with seasonal inputs represents 29 percent of the seasonal target of 821,315.

HNO/HRP: HNO PiN completed, narrative ongoing. HRP completed (under consolidation by OCHA).