COVID-19: GUIDANCE

Asset Creation Activities

Note: This guidance note has been adapted from WFP PD Immediate guidance on Asset Creation and Livelihoods, but recommendations are from the gFSC.

Context Shift(s)
As asset creation activities target all household members, the immediate effects of the changes in the vulnerability profile due to COVID-19 will be limited. Households with high dependent status (children, elderly, disabled, etc.) would already be taken into consideration during the community/households targeting phase of the activity. However, a complete suspension of community/households’ asset activities could be expected in order to ensure either safe distance between participants/households and or self-isolation.

Containment would likely result in the suspension of all activities by order of Government and or decision of FSC partners to suspend due to risk of infection through congregation of people. This would mean that the activity itself would need to be stopped as there are few individual level asset creation / livelihoods activities that could be undertaken 'in isolation' not requiring oversight. Given this, three broad planning scenarios are considered.

Scenario Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>Suspend/stop all asset creation activities until the subsequent year with no further transfers provided to households</td>
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<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>Suspend asset creation activities, including transfers, until government approval to recommence community based/households level activities, removal of containment and/or agreed FSC/UNCT/HCT protocol to recommence activities that permit the congregation of people. Recommmencement of community/household asset activities during the same livelihood season and continue activities until outputs are achieved (duration of implementation season permitting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>S3</td>
<td>Suspend asset creation activities until next season and/or government when allows - BUT because the food security transfer is essential for the entire/part of beneficiary group, transfers will need to continue unless vulnerable households can be enrolled in other 'relief' type programme.</td>
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Considering the risks of heightened food insecurity in the context of COVID-19, if the most vulnerable beneficiaries of the asset creation programmes cannot be enrolled into any short-term relief programme (food assistance), the FSC would encourage partners to plan for the third scenario, when possible (e.g. donor approval).

Programme Modifications (for scenario 3)

Objectives/Outcomes
Transfers will be maintained either with an understanding that the works are to be undertaken when health and safety conditions permit; or partial HH transfers are made to the identified asset creation participant group acknowledging that without food assistance they could place additional burden on communities’ livelihood capabilities. These transfers would then be undertaken employing the COVID-19 relief guidelines and/or informed by a rapid assessment (desk review) in coordination with respective government stakeholders on health, WASH and protection clusters/sectors to ensure safe access to the sites and the minimum hygiene standards to mitigate exposure while providing relief transfers.

Objective of asset creation activities, during the COVID-19 period, would change from a focus on community/household productive assets that will have a longer-term impact of hunger/food security/vulnerability, to a short—term relief type programme using the existing participant registration as food assistance transfer is a critical inject into the household’s food access strategy. Depending on FSC partners’ ration tables, transfers value might need to be amended to reflect relief values (where different).
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Targeting
Targeting would employ the existing community targeting approach that was used to design the asset creation programme and transfers would continue to all/part of the beneficiary group to prevent additional burden on community/HH livelihood capabilities duration of crisis.

Completion of unfinished assets
If leaving a partially constructed asset unfinished may present environmental or physical risk – e.g. unfinished water harvesting structures may lead to a risk of flooding – than alternative arrangements such as the contracting of commercial service providers should be considered. Assessment of risk and appropriate mitigation measures should be based on inputs from technical teams, engineers and/or government counterpart.

Coordination/Communication
Affected Populations
In the situation of any programme modification, there will be a need to communicate to beneficiaries the following information using multiple channels including project management committees, community structures (women and men leaders), organizations of persons with disabilities.

• Who is being targeted and why? What is the recourse mechanism to be used by a household's if they feel they meet targeting criteria but are not receiving a transfer post suspension of the asset creation activities;
• Why the change in ration size/value (if relevant);
• How to receive your transfer?;
• When will the community asset activities recommence?;
• Can I undertake the asset creation activities on my own without oversight and a transfer (not recommended due to need for social distancing);
• What do we do with the asset that we have started? If it is at the household level, we would encourage the FSC partners to consider allowing the beneficiaries to complete the activity 'at home', without ex-household participants and without FSC partner oversight. If it is a community asset – the asset might need to be abandoned for the season.

Mechanisms to transfer accessible messages could include:

• Community messaging;
• Local Radio;
• Town hall crier;
• SMS/communication (assuming all registered beneficiaries have provided mobile phone numbers);
• 'Safe distance' community town hall meetings;
• Community based structures established by FSC partners such as project management committees and targeting committees;
• Communicating messages through the respective sectors and clusters for them to disseminate (Food security, Protection, Wash, Nutrition);
• Work in coordination with government stakeholders and health partners providing messaging on safety and prevention to identify channels for the dissemination of information.