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Support from gFSC

**Note 1:** The cash & distribution guidelines have been excellent; tailoring checklists like this will be very welcome

**Note 2:** Probably next surveys can also ask projection questions on the context/dynamics

**Note 3:** would be great to have general guidelines from gFSC on how we can prepare FS response for the covid-19 HRP, i.e. baseline of information/ things to consider when compiling our response

**Note 4:** Please ensure you engage NGO partners in dialogue and advocacy

**Question 1:**

What is the role of the cluster doing on securing access (NGOs and Beneficiaries) where there are restrictions?

**Answer:** the role of the FSC is to collect information about access restrictions and communicate those to OCHA / ICCG / HC to ensure appropriate and joint advocacy with other sectors. As food assistance is a critical, life-saving service, waivers to movement restrictions should be considered (see below question 7 on advocacy). The gFSC has also developed programme continuity guidance to support the implementation of activities of partners in case of movement restrictions (https://fscluster.org/coronavirus/document/gfsc-covid19-fsc-operational-continuity).

**Question 2:**

How is the cluster participating in scenario development and response plans?

**Answer:** the FSC should work with the ICCG to develop scenarios. There are examples already developed (e.g. DRC). The DRC scenarios is built on inputs collected among partners and interactions with VAM + other actors dealing with market analyses - developed at country level. The document is available at: https://fscluster.org/covid-rdc/document/rd-congo-csa-covid-19-scenarios-pour-la

For the response plans, there are two options: develop a COVID-19 specific plan, or adjust existing HRP. The gFSC has developed an HRP guidance which aims to provide ideas, suggestions on what activities, costing could be inserted in the revised HRP. OCHA has issued general guidance on the response plan process.
Question 3:
What’s the relation between FS sector and other like WASH and Health at global level?

Answer: There are regular meetings of the Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG), led by OCHA. The FSC, Nutrition, WASH and Health clusters have created the 4 GC (global clusters) in mid-2019 to look at nutrition outcomes. The Global Network Against Food Crisis aims to bring together FAO, WFP, and UNICEF on nutrition outcomes.

We suggest that the FSC teams regularly meet the Health and WASH cluster teams at country office level to support the COVID-19 response.

Question 4:
Is it possible to have documents like as Covid-19 and WASH, Nutrition as you share with us WFP - COVID-19 AND BREASTFEEDING, etc

Answer: We suggest that you visit the WASH and nutrition cluster if you need additional documents. Let us know which specific guidance you are looking for. At the gFSC, we aim to develop documents linked to food security issues. The Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG) has just decided to create a new Task Force on Covid 19 – at global level – under the lead of the Health Cluster.

Nutrition cluster: https://www.nutritioncluster.net/

WASH cluster: https://washcluster.net/

Question 5:
What are countries doing to adopt to new way of working within the context of covid19 including maintaining cluster meetings, need assessments etc

Answer: please check regularly the FSC COVID-10 webpage where you can find the relevant guidance. We have guidelines on operational continuity for cluster activities, remote monitoring / need assessment, programme continuity, CVA.

So far, we have observed that most of the FSC meetings have been maintained, using Zoom or Teams to organise meetings. In countries where non-essential staffs have been asked to leave (e.g. Yemen), the FSC teams have remained in countries.
Question 6:

Given that humanitarian needs are increasing in terms of food assistance due to COVID-19 impact, what are the advocacy measures taken in global Level to cover these needs?

Answer: the global humanitarian appeal is the first main advocacy document in relation to the COVID-19. Some countries have already started working on a revised HRP / addendum to the HRP. The FSC team in Afghanistan has also developed an advocacy document.

Advocacy measures are taken at the EDG level of UN agencies, for example, the joint statement of the DG of FAO, WHO and WTO on “Mitigating impacts of COVID-19 on food trade and markets” (http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1268719/icode/).

Question 7:

What recommendations to the government in developing / poor countries that the FSC can take forward, to avoid food insecurity as a direct impact of COVID 19?

Answer: advocacy messages can be developed for HC and HoA WFP and FAO to use in their advocacy efforts. Recommendations for the government can include: 1) ensure movement of commercial and humanitarian goods; 2) declare that prices will remain affordable and accessible to the most vulnerable who will be affected by a reduction of income due to the crisis, including commitment to safeguard shops and warehouses from crime.

Question 8:

Aren’t cluster coordinators essential staff?

Answer: The decision should be taken by CLAs in consultation with the CC/IMO depending on the specific country context.

Coordination is essential and at the gFSC we are advocating for FSC teams to be considered as essential staff. For example, in Yemen, the FSC – CC has been considered as essential staff and has remained in country.
**Question 9:**
Any country conducted any market assessment at the event of this outbreak? we are keen to know if there is a good lesson learned and tools that can be used in other countries?

*Answer:* yes, countries are still conducting market assessment using remote monitoring tools as developed by VAM, and adjusted for FSC purpose ([https://fscluster.org/coronavirus/document/establishing-remote-monitoring-and](https://fscluster.org/coronavirus/document/establishing-remote-monitoring-and)).

In this document, there are a few questionnaire and templates: household, traders, market survey.

In the Caribbean, they are using online survey to collect information about food security.

**Question 10:**
Given the restrictions due to COVID-19, what are the means or methodology you are going to use to do market analyse and Other activities?

*Answer:* same as above.

**Question 11:**
Would be possible at global level to envisage a systematic review of the CH or IPC analyses because of the corona virus or rather of the directives how to adapt the estimation of the populations, etc.

*Answer:* An update of the IPC analyses that have valid projections (meaning that projections should cover at least April 2020) is feasible without collecting new outcome indicators. Contributing factors (e.g. prices, level of income, production etc). IPC has just completed a guidance note to assist Technical Working Groups (TWG) in countries in building their assumptions in the context of Covid19 to do IPC projections.

Another difficulty for TWG to update their analysis or to do a new analysis (assuming outcome data was collected recently) is the fact that analysts cannot meet anymore to carry out an analysis. However, IPC has developed a Virtual IPC analysis process using the web-based IPC Information Support System that maintain 2 fundamental principles of the IPC, namely Plurality and Consensus-based analysis.

The IPC remains a country driven process and GSU is available to support countries engaging into updates/new analysis through the Virtual IPC process.

All these notes very soon on the IPC website.
Question 12:
Are there projected food needs in urban communities, in case of disruption in supply of commodities, reduced incomes - or a complete lockdown, how is this analysis done?
Answer: IPC analyses have mainly been performed in rural areas. Often, outcome data is not available in urban areas preventing from doing an IPC analysis. When data is available, IPC analysis can be carried out with particular attention to convergence of evidence and to different household groups given the complexity of the livelihoods in urban context.

IPC is currently testing such analysis in Mozambique in a couple of urban settings to assess the feasibility of such analysis. The idea being that if we can produce a “current” situation analysis, we can then make a projection using the most likely scenario (soft or complete lockdown, or reduced supply chain etc...).

Question 13:
How to quantify the number of households that before the COVID19 were evaluated as having access to food through Cadre Harmonise/IPC analysis, and now, because the raise of food prices, they have no more access?
Answer: a CH/IPC analysis (update or new) will give you the proportion of people in IPC phase 1 and 2 (those with adequate food consumption) and those who have difficulties in accessing food (IPC Phase 3 and above). The shift between populations in Phase 1&2 towards Phase 3+ will definitely reflect a deterioration of the food security situation. Looking at the contributing factors that prevail in a given area, you can identify the key drivers that lead to the observed or projected situation.

Question 14:
How to best ensure effective advocacy for long term projects that can hold up the food supply chain and pipelines within the country and ensure that long term projects are not ignored for the sake of short term COVID responses?
Answer: we suggest that you develop an advocacy note for the CLAs and HC showing 1) the benefits of such projects in reducing the impacts of COVID-19 outbreak; 2) the feasibility of carrying out such projects without undermining public health. While it is expected that additional funds (when available) will be directed towards short-term food assistance / emergency livelihoods interventions, longer-term actions already included into HRPs or development initiatives can continue to be implemented when considered “critical” (and respecting the above criteria). Key notes that can support your advocacy: Ensuring the
continued or improved functioning of food supply chains has particular urgency, and it is important to mitigate the adverse effects of policies / measures on food access. Moreover, action is required to secure food supply benefits the most vulnerable most directly, as access to nutritious food is essential to people’s ability to fight and survive the virus. History demonstrates repeatedly that food crises are the harbingers of political crises; they present immediate existential threats that invariably result in panic, riots, violence and erosion of trust in institutions and governments.

**Question 15:**

Closing of borders affected directly the commodities in the country: how measures for mitigations of price and goods?

*Answer:* robust advocacy should be carried out to avoid that border closures affect cargo movements, especially for life-saving items such as medicines and food. When not possible, advocacy could be conducted with national authorities to ensure “price control”, i.e. commitment that prices will remain affordable and accessible to the most vulnerable, or to scale up social safety net to cater for increased caseload.

**Question 16:**

What measures are taken in terms of unemployment of some households affected by COVID-19?

*Answer:* when loss of income is due to movement restrictions imposed by national authorities, a scale-up of social safety nets and/or humanitarian assistance should be considered / advocated for.

**Question 17:**

Biometric identification using fingerprints is identified as a risk for spreading C-19. System is not properly designed to withstand prolonged use disinfectants, correct?

*Answer:* WFP is still analysing this issue. We suggest liaising with WFP-CO in your country for specific guidance.

**WFP answer:**

A few considerations for biometric collection, the effectiveness of cleaning the electronics is not yet known, electronics in general degrade through excessive cleaning/disinfecting, and the hygiene measures that require washing/disinfecting beneficiary hands result in reduced ability of the sensor to read fingerprints due to lack of oil on hands. aren’t going to like being washed a lot. 2. fingerprints aren’t read well with overly clean hands. Additionally, due to the added health risk to beneficiaries, staff, and service providers posed by COVID-19, WFP COs should weigh the associated risks and make adjustments to prioritise the overall health and well-being of beneficiaries which might include “turning-off” the use of biometric and/or PIN code redemption (especially in areas with significant risk of COVID-19 outbreak). In the case of SCOPECARDS, redemption can still occur using the NFC functionality whereby the card is simply tapped on the mPOS (without the need for anyone to touch the mPOS). Verification of
the benefit redeemer can still be done by viewing the photo of the person on the SCOPECARD. (Source is CBT Guidance available on OpWeb: https://opweb.wfp.org/pages/425

**Question 18:**

Closure of borders will likely affect trading patterns, and movement of commodities - how is movement of humanitarian cargo affected by the closure of borders?

**Answer:** in the majority of the countries, humanitarian cargos have not been affected by the restrictions. The Logistic Cluster is following up closely all supply-chain issues.

**Question 19:**

In terms of inland movements, how is the current response to HRP needs affected - are there any cases of drivers not willing to come to food commodities to distribution points? Or beneficiaries not willing to come to distribution sites?

**Answer:** this has not been observed yet or not recorded yet. In case beneficiaries are not willing or not able (because of illness, confinement, etc.), solutions should be discussed with the FSC partners such as door to door food distribution, use of porters.

**Question 20:**

On HRP - if we can start thinking of how we can quantify FS needs both in terms of emergency/ short term response as well as long term impact on production and supply chain

**Answer:** the revision of the 2020 HRP will focus on the short-term needs. HCT are encouraged to start collecting information on longer-term impacts and needs, which would be taken into account in 2021 HRP. As a first step, the gFSC team has provided a guidance for the revision of the HRP (or addendum to it).