



COVID-19 Situation Update: Weeks 12 & 13 16th – 30th of June 2020

Summary

Asia & Pacific

In **Cox's bazar** (Rohingya response), flooding caused by monsoon rains had affected 1,403 households in the Rohingya refugee camps as of the 24th of June. Partners are providing high energy biscuits, one-off dry food rations and cooked meals as rapid food assistance to displaced households. In **Afghanistan**, export options have started to improve and are open for Afghan producers. In **Vanuatu**, food distributions of meal packs, seeds and planting equipment have taken place in two stages to most affected areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold.

East Africa

In **Somalia**, anticipatory action initially formulated for slow onset crises (such as drought and general the disaster risk in the area) is now being used with the main objective of mitigating the rise in humanitarian needs due to the “triple shock” of drought, desert locust and COVID-19. **South Sudan** has seen intensified intercommunal conflict, especially in Jonglei involving the Nuer, Dinka and Murle ethnic groups, as well as in other areas of Warrap, Lakes, and Northern Unity. In **Ethiopia**, ongoing food/cash response is being provided to cover food needs up to August 2020, with food distributions carried out in adherence to COVID-19 protective measures. Agencies are targeting desert locust affected households with livelihood support and food interventions, and agriculture cluster partners are engaged in data collection exercises using the eLocust3m app.

Latin America

Food security continues to be a critical priority in the current emergency response in **Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela**. Preliminary projections by the World Food Programme's (WFP) regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean indicate that 14 million people could be in severe food insecurity in Latin America due to the impact of COVID-19. However, the actual impact of the crisis on poverty and food insecurity indicators will depend on a complex combination of factors, including the duration of isolation measures, and can only be adequately measured in the coming months.

Near East and Eastern Europe

In **Iraq**, The Ministry of Trade announced that local wheat production has exceeded 3 million tonnes. In **Lebanon**, it is estimated that so far this year, more than 1.2 million refugees have dropped below the Survival and Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) category. In **Libya**, based on the June 2020 WFP Vulnerability Analysis Mapping (VAM) update, 76 percent of Libyans have adopted livelihood coping strategies to address a lack of resources during the pandemic, and 87 percent of displaced households are reliant on coping strategies. In **the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT)**, export prices of cucumbers, courgettes and pumpkin were lower than previous weeks, while market prices for vegetables in general were still erratic; local products suffer the competition from Israeli products that are available in large quantities. In **the Sudan**, according to [FEWS NET's latest update](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on food security up to 7.5 million people may need emergency food assistance in 2020 as the pandemic drives a global increase in needs.

Southern Africa

In **Zimbabwe**, recent price spikes have been driven by scarce availability of staple foods and the disparity between the official exchange rate and effective market value of the Zimbabwe dollar. In **Mozambique**, difficulties in obtaining visas and entering the country is preventing humanitarian actors from bringing in additional human resources required for to implement the response both to COVID-19 impacts and to displacements in the north of the country.

West and Central Africa

In **Burkina Faso**, the update of Cadre Harmonisé (CH) is ongoing to evaluate the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on food security; analysis will be carried out in Ouagadougou from the 6th to the 11th of July. In **the Central African Republic**, Consumer Price Index projections for May 2020 have been confirmed based on significant deteriorations in the socioeconomic and security situation of households in Bangui, with between 25 percent and 50 percent in need of emergency food assistance. In **Chad**, several donors have allocated funding to respond to increased needs due to COVID-19.

ASIA AND PACIFIC UPDATES

Cox's Bazar

Situation update:

- Testing capacity for COVID-19 in Cox's Bazar district has increased to almost 500 tests per day. As of 24 June, there were 2,246 confirmed cases in the host community (13,289 tests carried out) and 47 cases in Rohingya refugee camps (486 tests) – see [WHO update as of 24 June](#). Lockdown measures in Cox's Bazar were further extended to 11 July for three sub-districts, following the declaration of a Red Zone (40 cases or more) on 20 June – see [GoB circular](#).
- Flooding caused by monsoon rains had affected 1,403 households in the Rohingya refugee camps as of 24 June. Partners are providing high energy biscuits, one-off dry food rations and cooked meals as rapid food assistance to displaced households. WFP has close to 50 metric tonnes of high energy biscuits prepositioned across 15 containers in the camps, and enough food in its warehouses to feed the entire camp population for 6 weeks.

Operational update:

- Humanitarian access-related incidents decreased during the reporting period after partners shared lessons learned on how to receive approval from local authorities in a timely manner.
- [A food security sector \(FSS\) cash and voucher \(CVA\) workshop](#) (host community response) held on 25 June identified partners' main challenges as: 1) beneficiaries' lack of bank accounts/mobile phone ownership to receive electronic money transfers; 2) bank closures affecting cash withdrawals; and 3) beneficiary verification and effective community engagement and mobilization due to movement restrictions. Key lessons learned were: 1) to plan well ahead and withdraw cash in tranches; 2) build flexibility into distribution plans; 3) maintain close working relationships with local authorities to negotiate continued humanitarian services; 4) training of field staff to strengthen capacity for crowd management, beneficiary verification, ensuring feedback and reporting channels, and identifying protection risks.
- FSS is coordinating with other sub-sectors and working groups to strengthen the food security response, namely the Communicating with Communities (CwC) working group (WG) to strengthen messaging and complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFM), and the Child Protection sub-sector to address concerns in the context of COVID-19.

Challenges:

- Symptoms are increasing among national staff and there is increased fear/unwillingness to go to work in the camps.

Useful links:

[WFP assessment on COVID-19 impact](#); WFP [May Market Monitor update](#); REACH [Market Monitoring Initiative](#); WFP [Rapid Gender Assessment](#) (report forthcoming); [stricter lockdown measures](#) by the local authorities; [Agriculture Workshop](#); [Non-Agricultural Livelihoods Workshop](#); Operationalization of food delivery for households with mild COVID-19 symptoms under inter-sectoral home-based care - concept under discussion with WFP (see [concept](#) and [messaging](#)).

Afghanistan

Situation update:

- Cases continue to rise, including a small number of casualties among UN national staff
- Staff having to increasingly work from home with field movements blocked or limited;
- Drop in productivity tied to unreliable internet connection;
- Procedures for self-care and connection to Java Messaging Service (JMS) improving, but still a hoc and as-needed approach to in-country care and medivac.

Humanitarian access:

- Increased infection rates among both national and international staff are slowing down some distributions although mitigation measures such as double ration distributions are allowing for overall distribution volumes to remain consistent;
- Export options have started to improve and are open for Afghan producers, with Pakistani officials confirming permissions for limited movements of some Afghan goods;
- Biometric registration still suspended, which is causing some concern about avoiding duplication and ensuring beneficiary data quality control.

HRP and funding: no change

Challenges:

- Coordination continues to be a challenge with government/private sector efforts;
- Lack of clarity of level of involvement required from UN agencies in government-led/World Bank funded initiatives;
- Continued high levels of violence directed primarily at Afghan security forces are having varied impacts on access, featuring intermittent obstructions on movements of humanitarian goods and in some areas anecdotal reports of increased criminality.

Pacific:

Situation update:

- Scarcity of grains noted in Kiribati: the regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) is working through partners such as the Pacific Community (SPC) to deliver consignments of appropriate seeds for Kiribati;
- rPFSC is engaging with all active national FSCs to update local situations and responding accordingly;
- Logistics and engagement remain a challenge, with most Pacific countries refusing access to humanitarian agencies.

Operational update:

- Vanuatu: Food distributions of meal packs, seeds and planting equipment have taken place in two stages to most areas of Vanuatu that were affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold. Lost and damaged data have also been collected by a range of partners, including FAO and the Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster. 28,000 households were reached with seeds and agriculture inputs by the SPC.

- Fiji: Food distributions of meal packs, seeds, planting equipment and other agricultural inputs have taken place in areas most affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold. Assessment data are being analysed. SPC has reached 10,000 households with seeds and agriculture inputs.
- WFP launched a COVID-19 mVAM survey with hundreds of respondents so far; the next countries to feature will be Samoa and Vanuatu.

HRP:

- Total requirement: USD 12.9 million
- Received: USD 4.5 million
- Pipeline funds are becoming available to cover the gap.
- rPFSC team is currently sourcing updates from partners as to their funding situations for the extended Pacific Humanitarian Meeting (featuring donors) next week.

Main Challenges:

- Difficult to get a clear picture on the ground in each Pacific Island country and territory when access is denied and detailed reports and analysis are yet to be finalised or disseminated.

NEAR EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE UPDATES

Iraq

Situation update:

- The Ministry of Trade announced that local wheat production has exceeded 3 million tonnes.
- Common, seasonal pests have been reported nationwide, including the peach fly, jasmine white fly and tomato leafminer.
- Staple commodity prices remained stable, while seasonal vegetable prices fluctuated; for example, tomato prices experienced a 100 percent increase in Baghdad (250 to 500 IQD) and a 25 percent increase in Ninewa (400 to 500 IQD).

FSC Operational update:

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) allocated USD 1.1 million to the FSC to conduct agriculture-focused activities.
- FSC partners continue to provide food assistance as a COVID-19 response to vulnerable households in Sulaymaniyah and Halabja; however, some partners reported movement and access issues. For example, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) suspended cash assistance distributions to 75 out-of-camp families in Chamchamal and Kalar due to COVID-19 related government movement restrictions.

Lebanon

Situation update:

- WFP VAM conducted a web-based survey on “Assessing the Impact of the Economic and COVID-19 Crises in Lebanon”. The report can be found at the following [link](#). The main objective was to enhance understanding of the impacts on the lives and livelihoods of Lebanese and refugee

populations, including their ability to meet their food and other essential needs. The main conclusions are:

- Many groups are becoming increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity. Those who have lost their jobs – either since or prior to the outbreak – have proved to be more distressed than others about not having enough food. Indicative results showed that Lebanese families in bordering governorates with Syria – including Akkar, Baalbek and El Nabatiyeh – tend to be more worried about food than others, due to pre-existing poverty and vulnerability levels.
- Food security indicators collected point to specific groups of vulnerable households who require special attention. These include larger families (8 members or more) as well as those with one or more dependents, either school-age children (5-14 years old), an elderly member (60+ years), or a person with chronic disease or a permanent disability.
- Families with an unemployed head of household tended to compromise food consumption and apply severe coping strategies more than those with an employed head of household.
- Across all assessed groups, Syrian refugees tend to be more concerned than Palestinian refugees or Lebanese populations about not having enough food to eat and applying food-based and livelihood-based coping strategies to meet their essential needs. This can be explained by the fact that most Syrian refugees arrived in country over the last nine years and are less established than Palestinian refugees, who have been residing in Lebanon for decades. Syrian refugees continue to look for better opportunities to live abroad. An increased proportion of respondents who plan to seek refuge in a third country was observed, with fewer wanting to move back to war-torn Syria.

FSC operational update:

- FSS contributed to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) Business Continuity Plan and to the revision of the LCRP 2020 and COVID-19 appeals.
- It is estimated that 1,245,000 refugees fall below the SMEB in 2020. As cash for food and food e-cards are currently being provided to 655,000 refugees, in May there was an estimated assistance gap of around 590,000 vulnerable refugees. WFP scaled up its assistance to 742,000 people from June, so this gap has been reduced to 503,000.
- Referrals and requests for food assistance for refugees have increased exponentially compared to the previous year and are not matched by partners' capacities to respond.
- The COVID-19 situation should not detract from long-term food security programmes: funds to support farmers – including in-kind inputs or vouchers to buy inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides – need to be separated from short-term crisis food provision funds.

HRP/funding situation update:

- The OCHA Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) has launched the first 2020 standard allocation call for proposals. The allocation will also include assistance to cover food requests made through the WFP-UNHCR call centre and the Inter-Agency referral system. The call for proposals will close on 28 June 2020.

Libya

Situation update:

- The June 2020 WFP VAM for the Middle East and North Africa regional update includes Libya as one of the countries whose levels of nutrition are most affected by COVID-19-related restrictions and their impact on the economy.
- The June 2020 WFP VAM for Libya update highlights that 76 percent of Libyans have adopted livelihood coping strategies to address a lack of resources during the pandemic, and more displaced households (87 percent) are reliant on coping strategies. On average, 63 percent of households adopted either “crisis” (such as borrowing money, selling productive assets and reducing health and education expenditures) or “emergency” (such as withdrawing children from school, engaging in illegal income activities and begging) coping strategies in 2020. A major concern to the COVID-19 situation is that 38 percent of displaced households reduced health expenditures to cover their basic food needs. The highest proportions of households adopting emergency coping strategies were in Alkufra (50 percent), Tobruk (43 percent), and Zwara (33 percent). The high use of household coping strategies is a major concern given the protracted conflict and economic challenges and could lead to depleted assets.

FSC operational update:

- Following an appeal for food, non-food item and health assistance from the Sebha municipality, an FSS partner delivered food and hygiene kits to cover 200 COVID-19 cases by the 19th of June.
- FSS partners WFP and UNHCR [launched a project](#) on the 15th of June to assist refugees and asylum-seekers released from detention with food assistance, in line with its prioritized plan to assist vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers living in urban settings. The project seeks to ensure these highly affected population groups receive emergency life-saving food rations to help sustain them until they reach their destinations and settle in urban settings. Under this partnership, WFP plans to distribute food assistance to a total of 2,000 ex-detainees at UNHCR-managed Community Development Centres, aiming to scale up to 10,000 beneficiaries through the end of the year. Refugees and asylum seekers are generally treated as illegal migrants in Libya and they do not have access to the labour markets, making them fully reliant on humanitarian assistance for basic needs including food. FSS partners WFP and IOM are bringing forward the next round of assistance to migrants in urban settings following the success of the pilot phase, which was crucial during the pandemic in providing ready-to-eat (RTE) food to one of the most vulnerable population groups in Libya.
- FAO continues to support crop and livestock production. Since May it has distributed agricultural inputs to around 2,000 vulnerable small-scale farming households affected by COVID-19 as well as emergency support to 450 Libyan veterinarians to combat major zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases.
- There has been an increase in inter- and intra-sectoral coordination on a regular basis to reach more people in need and respond to increased requests for assistance while avoiding any duplications.

HRP/funding situation update:

- Following more than two weeks of discussions on the costing methodology for the HPC 2021 at Inter-Sector Coordination Group and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) levels, most sectors agreed to continue to use project-based methodology for the HPC 2021, with the intention to move to unit-based methodology for HPC 2022 and beyond.

Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT)

Situation update:

- Inputs for agricultural production are now mostly available again, although at higher prices and lower quality and amid liquidity constraints, as traders continued requesting cash payments. However, production capacity utilization remains far from pre-COVID-19 levels, as complying with physical distancing requirements, especially at processing and packaging level, prevents production at full capacity.
- Food markets continued to gradually reopen, although operating at lower capacity while transactions remain constrained by lack of liquidity and low demand: producers and traders noted that local products are suffering more than pre-COVID-19 due to competition from Israeli products, which are available in large quantities in local markets
- Suspensions of salaries due to the financial crisis of the Palestinian Authority (PA) have reduced purchasing power and thereby food and nutrition security, while a significant increase of the PA budget deficit will restrict their ability to maintain the social safety network. In the context of COVID-19, this means they will not be able to effect scheduled government transfers to the most vulnerable populations and families to enable people to comply with the containment measures, including temporary support for workers in Israel, small-medium enterprise owners, and the self-employed.
- Many poultry farmers have reduced production: in Gaza, the demand for poultry remains low, whereas the West Bank is suffering from a reduced availability of eggs. Herders have resumed selling lambs but not dairy products.
- An incessant trade deficit (for goods, services, income, current transfers) totalled USD 349 million. This was mainly triggered by the deficit in the trade balance of goods, which reached USD 1.23 million as well as a deficit in services balance amounting to USD 242 million.
- About USD 11 million in losses due to COVID-19. were reported in the transportation sector, affecting direct transportation and activities related indirectly to transport in the West Bank.

FSC operational update:

- The export prices of cucumbers, courgettes and pumpkin were lower than previous weeks, while market prices for vegetables in general were still erratic. Local products suffer from competition with Israeli products that are available in large quantities

HRP/funding situation update:

- At the country level, no process of GHRP revision has been initiated as the plan will expire at the end of June.

The Sudan:

Situation update:

- All land borders remain closed. The Sudan has extended the closure of airports for international and domestic passenger flights until the 12th of July 2020. This excludes repatriation flights, scheduled cargo, humanitarian aid and technical and humanitarian support flights, airlines operating in the oil fields, and evacuation flights for foreign nationals.

- According to [FEWS NET's latest update](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on food security, up to 7.5 million people in the Sudan may need emergency food assistance in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic drives a global increase in needs. According to FEWS NET, an increased number of people, including long-term IDPs in Darfur and South Kordofan and poor households in urban and rural areas most affected by COVID-19 control measures are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food security outcomes through September 2020. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are expected among IDPs in conflict-affected areas of Jebel Marra in Darfur and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) areas of South Kordofan, as well as in parts of the Red Sea and Kassala during the peak of the lean season between June and September 2020.
- Staple food prices have continued to increase more rapidly than normal in May. Prices for sorghum, millet, and wheat increased by 20 to 50 percent between April and May. They have more than doubled compared to last year and are more than four times higher than the recent five-year average. The price increases are likely being driven by a combination of the continued macroeconomic crisis as well as COVID-19 control measures that are limiting market supply. The high prices, in combination with significant reductions in labour income, are likely to drive humanitarian assistance needs well above average through at least September 2020, FEWS NET estimates.
- The 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for the Sudan estimated that 6.2 million people - 14.2 per cent of Sudan's population - will need urgent lifesaving food and livelihoods security support in 2020. The 2020 HRP targeted 4.7 million people for food and livelihood assistance. During the 1st quarter of 2020, food security and livelihoods (FSL) sector partners reached 1.7 million people – about 27 per cent of the target – according to the Q1 Monitoring Report.
- The Sudan's Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) projects that the consumption patterns will shift towards low quality and quantity food, which will increase malnutrition rates.

Operational update:

- With Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) funding, NGO Concern Worldwide is distributing seeds provided by FAO to vulnerable refugee and host community families in West Kordofan State.
- At least 27,000 people have taken refuge in Toga village due to conflict in Jebel Marra. WFP will distribute food to people displaced from Daya village in Rokero town following their registration by IOM.
- 610 migrants of mixed nationalities (Nigerian, Nigerien, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Somali and Filipino) were supported with food bags (including flour, lentils, sugar and oil).
- FAO received USD 2.4 million for its Desert Locust Control Programme under the Sudan Humanitarian Pooled Funds.

HRP/funding situation update:

- During the first quarter of 2020, HRP partners reached 1.7 million people in the Sudan with humanitarian assistance, according to the 2020 Sudan HRP [quarterly monitoring](#). This is equivalent to 27 percent of the 6.1 million people that they aim to assist in 2020. For health response, HRP partners have reached 1.4 million people – 28 per cent of the target.
- The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and HRP Addendum 2020 is in the final draft stage and will be finalised soon.

Ukraine

Situation update:

- Reopening of entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) is a complex issue due to potential increased demand in services provided and COVID-19 restrictions. A joint OCHA, WASH and HEALTH cluster mission aiming to assess EECPs for their readiness for reopening was arranged on the 11th and 12th of June. According to preliminary results, only 50 percent of EECPs had physical distancing precautions in place and were ready to re-open under the new conditions. These distancing measures could slow down movement and thus aggravate humanitarian conditions and rearranging the conditions of EECPs would incur additional financial resources.
- As per other services, transportation inside the “grey zone” has required conditions for physical distancing, but transportation out of EECPs does not meet these requirements, which should be improved.
- Information material (including instructions on PPE usage and hygiene rules) are provided to the EECPs, but additional PPE and thermometers were requested by the State Border Guard representatives for their own use.
- As for the self-isolation mobile app “Diy Vdoma” (“Act at Home”), none of the EECPs has Wi-Fi. UNHCR is now considering installing two Wi-Fi points at the EECP in Stanitsa Luhanska.
- Case of the Novotroitske EECP: according to new Ukrainian regulations, people crossing the state border are obliged to undergo quarantine, and the mobile app "Act at home" is designed to maintain contact with the quarantined person and control the observance of obligatory self-isolation. Unfortunately, over 35 people were unable to use the application due to not having a smartphone and had to be hospitalized in specialized observatories (isolators). To resolve the issue of a lack of food, the representative of local authorities (Donetsk Regional State Administration) asked partners for support.
- The Government intends to tighten control on the observance of quarantine restrictions. The Ministry of Health, the National Police, and the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection must strengthen control over compliance with measures aimed at counteracting the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic. The Government announced the continuation of the adaptive quarantine model and ways to restore the Ukrainian economy amid the pandemic.

FSC operational update:

- The NRC provided food assistance to 29 people kept in quarantine and are closely monitoring the situation with the intention of responding to additional needs in the medical facility. However, a government preparedness plan is essential to respond to such cases further.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA UPDATES

Burkina Faso

Situation update:

- Overall, 954 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Burkina Faso; there are currently 68 active cases and 53 deaths registered so far.
- An update of Cadre Harmonisé is ongoing to evaluate the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on food security; the analysis will be held in Ouagadougou from the 6th to the 11th of July.

- The scheduled reopening of borders has been suspended due to the increase in positive cases in the country.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- FSC partners and observers have assisted 662,000 IDPs out of 848,000 officially registered in May - a coverage rate of 77 percent. This assistance has been 79 percent in kind and 21 percent in cash and vouchers.
- Humanitarian access is globally good: no shift in programming was registered in the last two weeks in relation with COVID-19.

HRP and funding:

- Revision of the HRP 2020 is ongoing, with the submission process of projects finalised.
- 26 projects have been submitted by 23 partners for a total budget of USD 169 million. Eight multisector projects involving food security were submitted to the budget and will be confirmed soon.

Challenges:

- Enabling the response to meet the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 across all the national territory, not only in the five humanitarian regions.
- Advocating for response on the protection of livelihoods.
- Consistent advocacy needed to increase funding for the sector.

Central African Republic

Situation update:

- The country continues to register cases of community contamination, amounting to 3,099 cases as of the 25th of June.
- The current lean season is characterized by a decrease in household food reserves as well as in cassava (a staple food) stocks in markets. The southwest is particularly affected and has led to the replacement of cassava with rice in food baskets distributed to 2,000 households in this area.
- During the third week of June, Bangui and the provinces faced an increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs, although the last week of the month was marked by price stability. However, the prices of meat, beans and cassava remain very high.
- Bad weather led to difficult access on rural feeder roads to certain production areas, making it difficult for various kinds of markets to integrate or function properly.
- Required observations of 21-day self-containment measures for all transporters of goods coming from Cameroon lead to longer logistical timeframes, as well as delayed food and manufactured product deliveries to markets: availability of these dropped by 50 percent during the third week of June. There is an alarming shortage of imported sugar remarkable in markets, leading to an average increase of 9 percent for retail and 14 percent for wholesale.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- An upsurge in armed group activity has reduced humanitarian access to some areas in the northeast and southwest, with violence affecting the community and aid workers. There has been a subsequent increase in the number of displaced people, together with a lack of humanitarian assistance and limited access of indigenous populations to their fields.

- Consumer Price Index (CPI) projections for May 2020 have been confirmed given the significant deterioration in the socio-economic and security situation of households in Bangui, between 25 and 50 percent of whom are now in need of emergency food assistance. In response, WFP plans to provide cycles of food assistance in July and August through cluster partners to 54,214 beneficiaries in three targeted districts, based on the socio-economic vulnerability criteria. Vulnerable people infected with COVID-19 and households affected by containment measures represent more than half of these beneficiaries.

HRP and funding:

- Funding requirements were announced but persistent gaps remain.

Challenges:

- Mobilization of resources needed to face the lean season and COVID-19.
- Ability to deal with potential floods as was the case in 2019.
- Failure to disseminate the prevalence map by the authorities makes targeting difficult.

Chad

Situation update:

- As of the 24th of June, 866 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported in fifteen provinces. 780 people have recovered, 12 are undergoing treatment, 72 deaths have been registered, and 11,304 people are quarantined in 15 provinces.
- Borders are closed to individuals.
- Inter-urban transport will be resumed for one month, and later shops may reopen, and restaurants that systematically respect the wearing of masks and maintaining physical distancing.
- A curfew from 8pm to 5am has been extended for two weeks as of the 29th of June in five provinces of N'Djamena, Logones Orientale and Occidentale and in Mayo Kebbi East and West.

Humanitarian access and operational update:

- All UN staff in N'Djamena will work remotely until the end of June. UN staff on field mission from N'Djamena to the Provinces are allowed back only upon approval of the Humanitarian Coordinator. In Abeche town where a positive case was reported by a UN staff member, remote work has also been established.

HRP and funding:

- HRP revision including COVID-19 interventions now finalised.
- The International Monetary Fund provided USD 115 million for COVID-19 response.
- The European Union donated EUR 50 million as budget support to the government.
- France provided EUR 7.5 million for COVID-19 response.
- WFP received USD 300,000 USD for school feeding programmes and USD 700,000 for high-energy biscuits.
- The World Bank gave USD 22 million to WFP for food assistance.
- ECHO gave EUR 1 million for NGOs and UNICEF/WHO for sensitization programmes, medical supplies medical and food.

- World Bank donated USD 8 million to FAO for livelihoods support.

Challenges:

- Keeping meetings and trainings going during the pandemic.
- The FSC online meeting will be every two weeks instead once per month.
- Need for IT access so national NGOs and government structures can join meetings.
- Government is preparing for the election and trying to use the COVID-19 response as propaganda, so politics is intruding on targeting, modalities of assistance, etc.
- Not easy to organize field missions and assessments due to movement restrictions.
- Trainings, targeting and monitoring and evaluation are the most difficult activities to implement.

SOUTHERN AFRICA UPDATES

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Situation update:

- Total COVID-19 cases: 6,827
- Comparing the average prices at national level for the month of June 2020 to the month of May 2020: five of the ten products monitored experienced a drop in prices (vegetable oil –22 percent, corn flour –14 percent, salt –6 percent, local rice –11 percent, cassava flour –6 percent) and five experienced price stability (beans, palm oil, imported rice, sugar, goat meat). The drop in agricultural commodity prices can be explained by the main crop harvest in the southeast of the country and the season B crops in the north, east and centre of the country during the month of June.
- For manufactured products, lower prices could be explained by reduced speculation by traders after the start of COVID-19 measures (border closures, etc.). A decree lifting VAT on food products (issued by the central government in May 2020) may have also contributed.
- As in May, the exchange rate depreciated again (USD 1 is worth on average FC 1.905 in June against FC 1.809 in May), an increase of 5 percent compared to last month. If this trend continues, it could negatively impact the price in Congolese francs of products on the markets.
- In Tshopo, increased fuel prices (from 1,500 FC per litre to more than 4,000 FC per litre) caused the prices of various products to rise due to increased transport costs. This could be linked to the poor state of a main supply road that lorries use to reach the capital of the province with fuel. In North Ubangi, the rise in prices is due to low availability of products such as beans and corn.

Mozambique

Situation and context update:

- Total COVID-19 cases: 859
- With the number of COVID-19 cases increasing, the president decided to extend the state of emergency to the 29th of July, although some prevention measures will be eased to balance health demands with the normal functioning of the economy and society. Nampula province confirmed it

highest number of cases in the country, surpassing Cabo Delgado province; the rest of the provinces are moderate in infection rate.

Operational update:

- A verification exercise and land access survey for resettlement sites was concluded and is not yet in the analysis phase.
- WFP together with UNICEF is planning a cash transfer using mobile money, targeting about 500,000 poor urban households prioritized by the government for its expanded social protection programme in response to COVID-19. In addition, 350,000 beneficiaries will be provided with food assistance from July onwards through various modalities.
- In response to COVID-19, FAO has distributed 200 tonnes of bean seeds in the provinces of Sofala, Manica, Zambezia and Tete to more than 55,000 rural families (275,000 people) already affected by Cyclone Idai in 2019 and who have yet to recover from climatic shocks.
- Difficulties in getting visas to enter the country are preventing humanitarian actors from bringing in additional human resources required for the response.

Zimbabwe

Situation and context update:

- Total COVID-19 cases: 567
- As of the 24th of June, 1,714 people are currently quarantined throughout the country in government-controlled centres.
- The disparity between the official exchange rate and effective market value of the Zimbabwe dollar is the main driver of the price increases observed in most retail shops in the past weeks (e.g. the cost of bread increased by 20 percent, from ZWL 50 to ZWL 60 per loaf) and is a source of concern given the fact that the vast majority of Zimbabweans have their incomes pegged to the local currency. The official rate is stagnant at ZWL 25:1 USD, while the Old Mutual Implied Rate (a comparison of the price of shares of insurer Old Mutual in London and Harare) kept rising to ZWL 116.31:1 USD. A FOREX auction is also ongoing, with a strong impact on prices (fuel prices have doubled since the first FOREX auction on the 24th of June).
- A Government decree on the 26th of June immediately suspended all mobile money agents from facilitating monetary transactions on mobile-based platforms. All bulk payment transactions have also been suspended with immediate effect. This will significantly impact ongoing Cash-based-transfer (CBT) programmes that using the mobile money.

Operational update:

- For the June cycle, a total of 1.3 million beneficiaries have been reached so far with either cash, vouchers or in-kind food distributions.
- FSL cluster partners provided assistance to over 2 million beneficiaries in May 2020. Of these, 1.9 million received in-kind food assistance, while 91,000 received cash support and protection rations. Concurrently, a total of 159,000 beneficiaries were supported with agriculture and livelihoods programming. This include 61,000 beneficiaries registered for crop and livestock input assistance,

41,000 beneficiaries received extension and advisory services to manage crop pests and livestock diseases, while the remaining 49,000 and 5,000 were supported with critical asset rehabilitation and soil and water conservation.

HRP and funding situation update:

- According to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS), only 15 percent of the total requested budget had been committed as of the 29th of June 2020.
- GHRP July update: OCHA requested to not increase national GHRP requirements for the July update. For Zimbabwe, only one multi-sector project (IOM-led) has been allowed, covering food security response targeting returnees in quarantine centres.

LATIN AMERICA UPDATES

Colombia

- Total COVID 19 cases: 91,995

Operational update:

- Rapid emergency response targeting vulnerable indigenous communities in urban or peri-urban settlements in the Amazonas has started. However, resources are urgently required to maintain and scale up the response to address food needs for at least 10,000 people in Leticia and Puerto Nariño. The targeted communities depend largely on informal and seasonal jobs, such as tourism, domestic work and agriculture, and have been heavily affected by isolation measures.
- Some 50,000 people prioritized for immediate support are receiving assistance in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Córdoba, La Guajira, Nariño Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca.
- In May, WFP assisted more than 230,000 Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and members of host communities, including more than 17,000 people indirectly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Cash transfer assistance continues to increase in response to the closure of most community kitchens.
- Due to the urgent humanitarian situation Venezuelans who intend to return are facing, WFP is delivering kits with ready-to-eat rations to these people in the departments of Nariño, Norte de Santander, Arauca, and La Guajira. WFP in collaboration with the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM), UNICEF and implementing partners is assisting vulnerable migrants in the city of Ipiales with hot meals and food kits, as well as populations in official migration steps in Norte de Santander.
- WFP is expanding its operations to urban areas, including cash transfers which have started in several cities. For example, in close coordination with local authorities, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors present in the area, 20,000 migrants and Colombians in Bogotá received cash transfers and a pilot programme was launched in Arauca, in alliance with Prosperidad Social, UNGRD and the Border Management.

Haiti

- Total COVID 19 cases: 5,777
- No further updates.

Venezuela

- Total COVID 19 cases: 5,297
- No further updates.

EASTERN AFRICA UPDATES

South Sudan

Situation update:

- Total number of COVID-19 cases is 1,942, with 224 recovered and 36 deaths recorded. 97 percent of cases are still located in Juba. The death rate is 2 percent of cases and confirmed cases comprise 19 percent of those tested.
- Political changes in the National Task Force (NTF) resulted in few directives from the Government, which is lacking a clear and consistent message (not the case at the outset), with what one commentator described as an unhelpful disconnect between the World Health Organization (WHO), NTF and the Health Cluster.
- People are witnessing a ‘triple pandemic’ of COVID-19, gender-based violence and hunger. Church leaders have joined other African clerics in highlighting an impending “hunger pandemic” in their countries, as experts warn of aggravated food insecurity on the continent due to COVID-19.
- There is also an intensification of inter-communal conflict, especially in Jonglei involving Nuer, Dinka and Murle ethnic groups, but also across other areas of Warrap, Lakes and Northern Unity.
- FSLC meeting on the 24th of June: **COVID-19 context update for South Sudan and Africa – [presentation](#)**.

Operational update:

- Since the start of lockdown WFP has delivered assistance to 3.2 million people, 2.7 million of whom received double rations as a precaution for not knowing if/when support would next be provided.
- April 5W analysis indicates that delivery is continuing in most locations. Partners reported assisting 2.7 million beneficiaries with emergency food assistance. 63 percent of the beneficiaries received in-kind food assistance, while 22 percent received cash and voucher support and 15 percent received hybrid interventions.
- The FSL cluster reached 47,438 households (41 percent FAO, 59 percent FSL partners) with livelihood kits (fishing, vegetable and crop kits) to improve food production in April, with a further 22,271 households receiving different types of training to build their capacity and reduce dependency on food and agricultural assistance.
- Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System/IPC: at the start of 2020 there were plans for an expanded FSNMS with a new Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (termed FSNMS+); due to COVID-19, the MSNA has been postponed and the original FSNMS scaled back to bare essential data collection, albeit extending into urban locations (identified as new emerging vulnerable

populations especially, market-dependent households). This will feed into a ‘virtual’ IPC most likely focusing on hotspot areas, rather than the full 79 counties. Output from the IPC will then feed into the Humanitarian Needs Overview.

HRP:

- New HRP COVID-19 addendum People in Need (PiN) of 1.57 million added to the existing HRP PiN of 6.3 million, which includes the urban poor across the main 19 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 has a requirement of approximately USD 150 million and is expected to be finalized this week, in parallel with the launch of the HRP addendum.
- GHRP COVID-19 addendum finalized: on top of existing HRP aiming to mobilize a further USD 390 million (USD 240 million for non-National Response Plan, including USD 179 million for FSL) and USD 150 million for the National Response Plan.

Main Challenges:

- The brewing triple shocks amid a lack of political will or clear direction – the Government of National Unity has still to be formed.
- Appointments of Governors to the former ten states must be made now to help restore order and prevent conflict, support building peace and assist with the COVID-19 response, which is vital given the rising number of cases across the country.
- Advocacy efforts must be made to maintain food and livestock market functionality and reduce the constraints and obstacles hindering humanitarian and commercial supply routes.

Somalia:

Situation update:

- The 2020 *Gu* season rainfall was characterized by an early start in late March/early April and heavy rainfall in April, although rainfall and river water levels begin to subside in June. Cumulative rainfall since late March through the third week of June has been above average. Below-average rainfall was reported in large parts of southern Somalia in May, which has since witnessed an extended dry spell.
- The desert locust situation in Somalia continues to be categorized at the highest threat level of “dangerous”. During May, adult groups and swarms were present and laying eggs on the northern plateau and the central region. Reports from government surveys confirm the hatching of the fourth generation in Galmudug, Somaliland and Puntland. Ongoing control efforts are targeting older nymphs, adults and newly emerged hoppers, while further surveillance continues. FAO continues to monitor the newly forming generation and is carrying out control operations as they hatch. The impact of desert locust swarms on rural livelihoods is currently being assessed and results will be disseminated to partners to inform on upcoming response planning. Overall, the 2020 *Gu* season harvest is likely to be 20-30 percent lower than the long-term average due to the combined impacts of desert locust and other pest infestations, flooding and extended dry spells. Preliminary FSNAU crop harvest assessments are ongoing, with results expected in August.

Operational update:

- The IPC core team in Somalia under the leadership of FSNAU reviewed/updated the food security situation in response to the HCT request. The review considers each population group from urban, IDPs and rural (pastoral, agropastoral and riverine) and highlights the various risks encountered and their impact. The updated analysis should help decision makers and various other actors to craft have common messages as to the risks, impact and required key action in averting the crisis.
- FSC partners assisted 2.3 million people out of 2.7 million targeted (84 percent achievement) to improve access to food security response. Notably during May, partners scaled up responses to reach those displaced due to flooding. In addition, about 154,000 beneficiaries have been assisted with seasonal inputs and livestock asset protection since the beginning of the *Gu* season. FSC partners have secured funds to reach 2.3 million people between July and September 2020. Resources are being mobilized to extend coverage to reach 3.4 million people through September (ongoing discussion with donors)
- The OCHA/CERF team notified the ICCG of the partial activation of anticipatory action for Somalia by the Emergency Response Coordinator. The team briefed the ICCG on the main rationale for anticipatory action in Somalia, triggering factors and ways forward. Anticipatory action has a total envelope of USD 15 million from CERF, separate from the traditional CERF rapid response and underfunded window.
- Anticipatory action in Somalia was initially formulated for slow-onset crises (e.g. drought), the most common disaster risk in the country. Although the OCHA team acknowledged there is currently no extraordinary drought comparable to the 2011/2017 episodes, the acute food insecurity projection called for the triggering of the anticipatory action by the ERC.
- The main objective of anticipatory action is to mitigate rising humanitarian needs due to the so-called triple shocks of desert locust, floods and COVID-19. The team advised actors to select “impactful activities” that are still relevant/feasible in the current context from the list of activities identified, collated and submitted to CERF last year. The activities to be selected should be anticipatory in nature, timing and potential. The anticipatory action team will then have bilateral discussions with each cluster and lead agency technical team to assist the selection of these activities from earlier submissions.

HRP:

- FSC has also revised PiN and targets for the HRP revision. The PiN of the cluster in a given district is the sum of IPC 3 and 4 projections provided by FSNAU, taking into consideration the triple shocks of desert locust, increased flooding and COVID-19. As advised, only IPC phases 3 and 4 were considered in determining PiN, totally removing IPC 2 from the humanitarian needs. The overall FSC PiN is determined to be 3.5 million – much lower than the inter-cluster PiN estimated at 5.1 million. FSC target proposed are 3.1 million people.
- In relatively accessible areas, clusters aimed to reach all those in IPC 3 and 4, while in hard-to-reach areas the target is 50 percent of those in IPC 3 and above. In terms of the HRP, considering the removal of IPC 2 number, FSC revised funding has decreased by 10 percent to USD 345 million for 2020. The new HPC cycle started at ICCG level with a discussion of the timeline and the cluster raising awareness of this with other actors to ensure their participation in the entire HPC cycle.

Challenges:

- In general, COVID-19 is affecting the implementation of projects due to limited movement/field visits to supervise ongoing activities. Registration and verification of beneficiaries required more time for some partners due to precautions on maintaining social distancing and working more with Village Committees to avoid crowding in communities.

- Most partners either postponed, suspended or are in the process of reprogramming project activities involving gatherings of people and close contact. Cash for work, vocational trainings and in-kind distributions were the most affected.
- COVID 19 only compounds access challenges that have existed for a while in Somalia. Of note, this will make it challenging to effectively respond to or prepare for riverine and flash flooding. Restricted flights also significantly affected key project staff mobility for implementation of activities. Planned food security and nutrition assessments planned by FSC partners have been affected by COVID 19 challenges, but partners are exploring ways of adapting to the challenges.
- Delayed approval of some submitted proposals due to donors given changing priorities and availability of resources.

Ethiopia

Situation update:

- Food security sector partners with led by the government are having discussions on mid-year reviews of the 2020 HRP.
- Meanwhile, food security partners are providing food/cash assistance to beneficiaries based on the revised HRP, which was released on the 9th of June. The mid-year review is expected to include updates on various shocks, including COVID-19, desert locust and floods.
- On top of the HRP beneficiaries, food security partners are also responding to additional needs in the country due to floods in low-lying areas such as the Afar, Dire Dawa, Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP) and the Somali region. Flood-affected beneficiaries are being prioritized in cash and in-kind responses.

Operational update:

- Food security agencies have been assisting beneficiaries with double allocations of cash and food since March 2020. Currently, the food/cash response is being provided to cover food needs up to August 2020.
- The food response is being distributed by applying various COVID-19 preventive mechanisms, which include but are not limited to social/physical distancing and provision of good hygiene facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- FAO targeted 62,000 desert locust-affected households with livelihood support and food security assistance interventions.
- Agriculture cluster partners are engaged in a data collection exercise using the eLocust3m app.

HRP:

- Based on the revised [Revised 2020 HRP](#), the food security cluster is targeting 15 million beneficiaries; this includes needs due to COVID-19, desert locust shocks and others.
- With the revised needs, food security cluster requirements have increased from USD 399.5 million to USD 773.4 million, and there are indications of a significant funding gap (see [Financial Tracking Service](#)).
- Based on the revised 2020 HRP, the agriculture cluster is targeting 1.9 million people comprising needs due to COVID-19, desert locust, displacement and others.

- The agriculture cluster's revised financial requirements increased to USD 74 million.

Challenges:

- There are additional food needs in the country due to flooding in low-lying areas.
- Additional food requirements in the revised HRP will contribute to increased shortfalls in the food cluster response plan.
- There is currently a lack of data on the desert locust impact on food security, although the IPC assessment will update and capture this information.