



COVID-19 Situation Update: Weeks 14 & 15 29th June – 12th July 2020

Summary

Asia & Pacific: In Cox's bazar (Rohingya response) concerns on potential supply disruptions was raised by rice traders due to heavy rains and flooding in northern parts of the country, in addition Movement restrictions threatens to disrupt agricultural activities, through labour shortages and high input costs. In Myanmar WFP and FAO are currently conducting a joint food security and livelihood assessment in COVID-19 affected areas in seven states and regions. Decreasing trend of imported grains being noted in many Pacific Island Countries.

East Africa:

In Somalia, overall 2020 Gu season harvest likely to be 20-30 percent lower compared to the long-term average due to the combined impacts of Desert Locust and other pest infestation, flooding and extended dry spells. Preliminary FSNAU crop harvest assessments ongoing with results expected in August. In Ethiopia flooding were registered in some low-lying areas of the country. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission has indicated that more than 2 million people are vulnerable to floods this rainy season – [link to source](#).

Latin America

Food security continues to be a critical priority in the current emergency response in Colombia, Venezuela and Haiti. In Colombia, additional financing is urgently required to meet the most pressing food needs of some 550,000 people. In Haiti, even if the peak of the COVID-19 epidemic seems over, the socio-economic situation remains unstable and fragile: the latest food basket bulletin shows an increase in the pace of price inflation in Haiti, with + 29% increase over the last twelve months.

Near East and Eastern Europe

In Iraq, on June 29th, WFP mVAM data estimated that around 8.3% respondents, which represented 3.25 million people in Iraq, did not have sufficient food consumption while 14.8 % people reported using negative food-based coping strategies, where the most commonly adopted strategy was 'relying on less expensive food. **In Lebanon**, the price of the food component of the SMEB continues to increase, reaching a cumulative inflation of 116% between September 2019 and June 2020. Food imports have

decreased by 12.8% between October 2019 and May 2020 in comparison with the period of October 2018 till May 2019. In **Palestine**, inputs for agriculture production were confirmed as mostly available, although at rising and higher prices compared to previous weeks and pre-COVID 19 levels. However, production capacity remained below pre-COVID-19 levels and further limited by measures to contain new cases of infection.

Southern Africa

In Zimbabwe, the disparity between the official exchange rate and effective market value of the Zimbabwe dollar, coupled with scares availability of staple products, continue to be the main driver of the price increases observed in the past month. In Mozambique, acute food insecurity (acute IPC3 phase) is driven by prolonged drought in the south, conflict and displacement in the north, and COVID-19 control measures in urban and peri-urban areas.

West and Central Africa

CH figures are now available for Burkina Faso and Nigeria. In Burkina Faso, CH was completed with very alarming figures: 2,8 M people will be food insecure until end of 2020: 1 district will be in phase 4 (1st time in Burkina Faso) and 5,300 people in IPC 5 in the Soum. In Nigeria, CH 2020 projections for the lean season (June to August) is now completed for Borno, Adamawa, Yobe (BAY) and Kano: additional 593,503 people food insecure due to COVID-19: Total updated food insecure people = 4.3 M people.

In CAR, insecurity continues to remain an issue. Less restrictions have improved the availability of imported products in this lockdown country.

ASIA AND PACIFIC UPDATES

COX's Bazar –

Situation update:

According to [WFP Market Monitor](#) **June** update:

- Mixed price trends were observed – price of rice, lentils, chickpeas, vegetable oil, and onions remained stable or declined whereas poultry and egg prices increased considerably. Increased market surveillance and reduced clearance time for imported food commodities supported the current market stability
- Concerns on potential supply disruptions was raised by rice traders due to heavy rains and flooding in northern parts of the country
- Economic access by households is the major concern – purchasing power dropped by 42 per cent in June compared to pre-crisis period.

- Due to the decrease or unavailability of household incomes, shift in dietary patterns is evident with many households favouring less preferred or cheaper food items, with low nutritional value.
- Camp markets have seen a sudden increase in demand for fresh foods, amidst typical supply levels, exerting an upward pressure on fresh food prices in those markets
- Most markets continue operating at atypically low levels – dampened demand from households being the main reason
- Movement restrictions threatens to disrupt agricultural activities, through labour shortages and high input costs.
- [ACAPS COVID-19 & Secondary Impacts](#) report warned of the long-term consequences of 1) erosion of overall health status; 2) deterioration of people’s safety; 3) increase in economic vulnerability; and 4) reduced access to education in Rohingya refugee camps. Loss of income generating activities and increased reliance on negative coping mechanisms were factors highlighted for increase in economic vulnerability.

Operational update:

- A [webinar on the Joint Monitoring Framework](#) conducted by global Food Security Cluster was held on Thursday, 9 July. The monitoring framework uses a combination of a contextualized baseline evaluation of pre-COVID-19 food insecurity and vulnerability to COVID-19; along with regular monitoring of indicators perceived to be linked to the impact of COVID-19 - including additional shocks - on food insecurity.
- To give greater access to FSS partners, a list of essential self-reliance activities – agriculture and production of cloth mask, soap, MHM, and other materials in support of the health response - was submitted to ISCG to revise the current list of critical activities. Over 1,500 individuals are currently engaged in cash for work activities for livelihood initiatives.
- Partners’ coverage was expanded to host community population in all upazilas (sub-districts) of Cox’s Bazar. In June, 49,123 households received in-kind food rations, 4,575 received unconditional cash grants, and 21,509 children received high energy biscuits as part of school feeding programme in upazilas outside of Ukhiya and Teknaf. Cash support in these upazilas will scale up significantly in July and August.

HRP:

- Cox’s Bazar [COVID-19 Response Plan](#) (addendum to the JRP 2020) and its [Annexes](#) were published
- According to [FTS](#), for FSS, JRP2020 is 52% funded and COVID-19 preliminary requirements (before July revision) is 37% funded

Afghanistan

Situation update:

Cases continue to rise as more testing is rolled out and testing kits become available to more members of the public, some concern in terms of the reliability of the testing kits and anecdotal stories about test results being sold.

Majority of partners working from home although lifesaving activities continue with minimal interruptions

High positive case identification rate but daily life and businesses operating as per pre-COVID 19 levels and official health guidelines/restrictions not being followed

Operational update

Increased infection rates amongst both AFA and IP staff are slowing down some distributions although mitigation measures such as double ration distributions are allowing for overall distribution volume to remain consistent

Continued ad-hoc closures of the border crossings with Pakistan have caused a partial supply pipeline rupture of key staple goods including vegetable oil and salt forcing adjustments to the humanitarian food basket causing some levels of friction with beneficiaries.

Biometric registration continues to be paused causing some concerns in regards to de-duplication capacity and beneficiary data quality control compounded by the pausing of some monitoring activities

HRP: No changes since last report

Main Challenges:

Multiple levels of resistance with different government counterparts about the level of engagement with UN Agencies on COVID-19 response

Push from high political level to exclude UN Agencies from WB funded C19 intervention

Continued high levels of violence directed primarily at Afghan security forces are having variable impacts on access, feature intermittent obstructions by AoGs on movement of humanitarian goods and in some areas anecdotal reports of increased criminality.

Myanmar

Situation update:

- As per update information the Ministry of Health and Support, there are 331 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar as of 12 July 2020 (8:00pm) and lab confirmed fatalities were 6. Total 261 patients were recovered, and they had not seen infections as per two consecutive laboratory test result. Of these, 231 have been discharged from the hospital and are being monitored in designated areas.
- The National Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 extended COVID-19 restrictions until 15 of July 2020.

Humanitarian access:

- As of 12 July, WFP continued food and nutrition assistance to 45,400 returning migrants at border gates, as well as, 46,800 inside quarantine sites in 10 out of 14 states and regions as requested by the authorities.

- WFP continued its emergency relief assistance with a two-month ration in most of its operational areas, and a three-month ration in the hard-to-reach areas.
- Due to the lack of job and income opportunities for the IDPs in Kachin State, WFP continued 100% monthly ration of cash assistance to all IDPs for two months in July (July and August) for remaining remote townships (c.f. the less vulnerable households used to receive 70% ration).
- WFP and FAO are currently conducting a joint food security and livelihood assessment in COVID-19 affected areas in seven states and regions across Myanmar.
- The price of the four main food commodities in Myanmar remained stable in June, according to the WFP Market Monitor.

Pacific:

Situation update:

- Still have minimal access to Pacific Island countries as many borders remain closed to non-citizens
- Increasing scarcity of imported grains being noted in many Pacific Island Countries
- Lots of national governments endeavouring to promote locally grown food, food gardens for households. This is happening in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, and other countries

Operational update:

- WFP mVAM progressing – Fiji hundreds of respondents and deadline set for end of July deployment to Samoa and Tonga; feedback received on Vanuatu questionnaire
- Latest rPFSC meeting held on 30 June attended by representatives from PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, with updates received from Kiribati. Donors in attendance included Australian government. Australian Centre International Agricultural Research Rapid Assessment Stage one complete (report attached to email)
- SPC have planned backyard garden and small livestock development with 50,500 households in 10 Pacific Island Countries
- FAO is implementing more than 20 projects across the Pacific island states in the sub-sectors of fisheries, livestock and crop support

HRP:

- HRP for rPFSC updated at recent Pacific Humanitarian Team extended donors meeting
- Current ask is 12,967,000 USD
- Current gap is 4,828,866 USD (not all HRP listed partners have reported). This is a reduction by 529,134 USD since HRP launch in May 2020
- Funded is 8,138,134 USD (includes potential and pipeline funding too)

Main Challenges:

- Understanding the current situation per country in the Pacific – it is difficult to obtain current updates in countries where we currently have no access and so rely on communications via email / phone
- Transportation of agricultural inputs, including seed, has been impeded due to COVID-19 restrictions. The rPFSC is working closely with the Logistics Cluster to facilitate this movement of much-needed support (to countries including Kiribati and Vanuatu)
- While donors have been generous and resource mobilisation has been encouraging, funding gaps still exist, and cluster partners are actively seeking to reduce these

South Sudan

Situation update:

- Total number of confirmed COVID19 infected people is 2,148
- Total confirmed death is 41 people
- Total number of tests performed to date 12th Jun is 11,927
- Recoveries is 1,135
- Cases currently under follow-up is 927

The overall situation as far as covid19 is concerned is not good but most of the citizen as far less concerned about the prevention measures. Many feel there are far greater issues more freighting than covid19 and that is hunger and conflict and desert locust.

General distribution of mask has not been possible.

Call of no 6666 has been a challenge since the technology used does not allow the caller to wait and there is little capacity of manpower who are receiving the calls.

There is debate about partners receiving feedback from the community asking the messages shared should be translated further to local language for better engagement.

Operational update:

- Partners are struggling to deliver input but not due to covid19 rather the rainy season and inaccessibility of roads.
- Some FSL partners in Yambio are shifting to cash for seeds instead of seed fair due to covid19. The inability to bring a group of farmers together for a training or meeting and the element of time in having several meetings with different groups have pushed partner to provide cash for the farmers to buy their own seeds also most partners now provide their training over the a radio

FAO is taking lead on DL control and Fallarmy warm.

HRP

Discussions on HNO/HRP to start on 14th Jun

The National COVID-19 Response Plan (NPR) has a requirement of approximately 150 million USD and is expected to finalize this week in parallel to the launch of the HRP addendum.

GHRP COVID addendum finalized: on top of existing HRP aiming to mobilize a further \$390 million (\$240m for non National RP including \$179 m for FSL) and \$150 million for the National RP; better illustrated in the graphic below;

Challenges:

- Late seeds delivery more likely to result in little or no yield
- The covid19 mandatory Q14 is causing delays in delivery of food and input for farmers
- Adding to it the rainy season that has kicked off, with logs cluster unable to land planes in wet airstrip. Causing over all delays in implementation of projects.

NEAR EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE UPDATES

Iraq

COVID cases: 79,735

Situation update:

- On June 29th, WFP mVAM data estimated that around 8.3% respondents, which represented 3.25 million people in Iraq, did not have sufficient food consumption.
- In the same time period, 14.8 % people reported using negative food-based coping strategies, where the most commonly adopted strategy was 'relying on less expensive food
- Staple commodity prices are generally stable, while vegetable prices continued to fluctuate. The price of tomatoes increased 100% in Baghdad (IQD 250 to 500 p/kg) and 67% in Kirkuk (IQD 300 to 500 per kg); however, tomato prices decreased 50% in Erbil (IQD 500 to 250 per kg) and Wasit (IQD 1,000 to 500 per kg). In Erbil, there have been reports of tomato farmers disposing their products in public acts of protest due to prices, prompting the Kurdish Regional Government to reopen tomato-processing plants

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage: FSC partners received guidance on how to provide food assistance to quarantined/isolated individuals in camps. Food rations and cash should continue to be provided, but hot meals are not currently an option. FSC partners continue to provide food assistance to COVID-19 affected households for both camp and out of camp locations.

HRP and funding: As per FTS (as of July 13) FSC has receiving %39 of the HRP requirements and only 1.7% for the COVID-19 response.

Lebanon

COVID cases: 2,419

Situation update:

- The price of the food component of the SMEB continues to increase, reaching a cumulative inflation of 116% between September 2019 and June 2020. Food imports have decreased by 12.8% between October 2019 and May 2020 in comparison with the period of October 2018 till May 2019. With Lebanon relying heavily on food imports to cover its domestic needs, this decrease puts additional upwards pressure on prices, as availability is starting to decrease in the country. Households' ability to afford adequate and sufficient food continues to deteriorate due to price inflation and loss of income. WFP's recent web survey noted that 41% of Lebanese respondent couldn't stockpile food due to their inability to afford the cost, while 44% of Palestinian respondents reported the same. A staggering 64% of Syrian refugees reported their inability to stockpile emergency food stocks due to unaffordability. By July 9, five exchange rates were being applied for different transactions ranging from LBP 1,507.5 at the official rate to LBP 8,750 at the black-market rate.

- On July 8, the central bank issued circular 564, specifying the mechanism for the import subsidization of food commodities and raw material that are used in the production of food commodities. The circular specified that the actual list will be announced by the MoET, which released the official list on July 9. Importers will be able to purchase the subsidized dollars through the banks, and the list includes over 300 commodities/items. The central bank governor specified that wheat, fuel and medicine will remain subsidized at the official rate of LBP 1507.5.
- The first Informal Donor Coordination Group on Agriculture (IDCGA) was held on 30 June. The IDCGA was established to more effectively deliver resources through mapping of actors, sharing data and information, and identifying and prioritizing short, medium, and long-term needs. With the COVID-19 and Economic Crises and upcoming National Agriculture Strategy, there is renewed interest in the agriculture sector for early economic recovery and to promote productive sectors.

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage

- In April 2020, WFP increased the transfer value for food assistance to LBP 50,000 to keep up with inflation and implemented a commensurate increase in the non-food transfer value (new value: LBP 320,000) in May 2020. The transfer value for food assistance was further increased in June 2020 to LBP 60,000, **and to LBP 70,000 in July 2020**. Based on the average SMEB price measured in May and the continuing upward trend observed throughout the month of June, WFP recommends that all partners continue to closely review transfer values for assistance to ensure they remain meaningful to cover minimum survival needs. This assistance is planned until November before the planned retargeting exercise and depending on pipeline- funding availability
- Sector partners have resumed livelihoods and agriculture activities by adopting, in most cases, a soft start/phased approach since mid-June. Measures include:
 1. personal protective equipment (e.g. masks, gloves, disinfectant for equipment, transport, and common spaces) and facilities (e.g. hand washing stations),
 2. new modalities, with activities being: a) small in scale (# of participants), b) low risk (activities with social distancing), c) in sectors not restricted by COVID-19 Government measures with limited physical contacts with farmers and staff (not exceeding 2 to 3 persons).

HRP and funding: The strategic review committee for the call for proposals for the first standard allocation (including food assistance) of the OCHA-led Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) was held on July 2nd. The allocation will include assistance to cover food requests made through the WFP-UNHCR call center and the Inter Agency referral system. 25 proposals were reviewed. Selected proposals go through technical review on 17th July to follow up on recommendations from the strategic review committee. The FSS has finalized the next COVID-19 3RP appeal, which has considerably increased. It includes emergency measures to continue agricultural activities for 25,000 vulnerable Lebanese farmers, Food assistance to 93,650 vulnerable HHs (including Syrians, Lebanese and Palestinians) and Cash for food assistance to 420,000 vulnerable Syrians.

Libya:

COVID cases: 1,512

Situation update: No major updates

oPT

COVID cases: 6,566

Situation update:

- **Inputs for agriculture production were confirmed as mostly available, although at rising and higher prices compared to previous weeks and pre-COVID 19 levels.** However, production capacity remained below pre-COVID-19 levels and further limited by measures to contain new cases of infection. Beside COVID-19 related impacts, producers reported that cuts in the water supply in areas of the West Bank forced them to purchase water through private vendors, causing increased production costs.
- **The gradual reopening of food markets was hampered by closures in the areas that observed spikes in infection case counts, such as in Hebron.** Cases of reduced market activity due to lower consumer demand were reported, which was associated with the reduced household income, movement restrictions related to COVID-19 containment measures and a general uncertainty caused by the risk of annexation
- **Discontinuation of payment of salaries, due to the financial crisis of the Palestinian Authority, continued reducing some consumers' capacity to cope with food and nutrition insecurity threats.** Considering the financial crisis that PA facing with taking in consideration the sever increase of the confirmed cases, more than before, the pandemic is delivering a major negative shock to Palestinian socioeconomic development, putting at risk public welfare, employment and livelihoods, threatening further deterioration of poverty and food insecurity levels.
- **Livestock sector:** Herders reported herders reported increased availability fodder. **Herders reported that they resumed selling lambs, while dairy product sales were limited.**
- **Sharp Increase in the Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine.** The overall IPI in Palestine reached 103.49 during May 2020 with a sharp increase of 63.37% compared to April 2020. IPI sharply increased due to the sharp increase in the activities of Mining and Quarrying by 82.81% which had a share of 2.68% of the total industry, the activities of Manufacturing Industry by 69.11% which had a share of 82.98% of the total industry. The activities of Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation by 58.66% which had a share of 2.39% of the total industry, and the activities of Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply by 20.06% which had a share of 11.95% of the total industry.

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage:

HRP and funding: At the country level, the GHRP revision process has been initiated.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA UPDATES

Burkina Faso

COVID cases: 1,033 (894)

Situation update:

- The analysis of Cadre Harmonisé (6 to 11 July) updating the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on food security. 2,8 M people will be food insecure until the end of year in the country, 2,5M people in the five regions of the HRP. The forecast of the FSC has been confirmed. 1 district will be in phase 4, emergency, and 17 in phase 3, crisis, in comparison with 0 in PH 4 end 12 in PH 3 in March. For the first time in Burkina Faso a province it is PH 4 and consequently a small caseload of 5,3K people in

PH5, famine in the Soum (Sahel). All the analysis is undergoing the validation of government before to be public and official.

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage

- Humanitarian access is stable, no shift in programming has been registered in the last 2 weeks in relation with COVID-19.
- Disruption and delay are expected in the East in relation with the new C19 outbreak in the region
- No shift in programming have been registered in the last 2 weeks in relation with COVID-19

HRP and funding:

- The final narrative version of the HRP was shared, no major adjustment was implemented.
- The funding status of FSC in the FTS is 22% of needs for food security response, 27 M USD out of a total of 125, and 119% of needs for socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, 14 M USD out to 12.

Challenges:

- Enabling the response to the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 in all national territory, not only in the 5 humanitarian regions.
- Advocating the response on the protection of livelihood.
- Increasing the funding for the sector by doing a consistent advocacy.

Cameroon

COVID cases: 15,173 (9,864)

Situation update: NtR

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes: NtR

HRP and funding: updated HRP figures: 1.036 million people targeted, for 4.858 million PiN and 87.8 million USD

Central African Republic

COVID cases: 4,288 (2,222)

Situation update:

- In Bangui, wholesale and retail prices of food products have remained stable over the past two weeks. However, there has been an 18% increase in the prices of frozen products such as fish and poultry
- The reduction in health control measures for the control of COVID-19 at the borders with Cameroon by the government have improved the availability of commercial goods in the country. The number of carriers entered doubled in one week.
- In the administrative subdivisions most affected by security constraints, the rise in prices for beans, peanuts, cassava and squash sometimes reached 93%. The localities concerned are notably Bria, Kaga Bandoro, Mbaïki, Bouar, Bossangoa, Bambari, Sibut, Mobaye and Birao

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes:

The ransom of transporters by armed groups in the Haut Mboumou Prefecture has limited supplies to food markets in Mboki in particular. The direct consequence is the increase in the prices of the most consumed food, in this case cassava, oil, onion. Access to animal protein (beef, fish, poultry) is extremely limited to people in this area due to the insecurity created by armed groups.

HRP and funding: FSC received 1.9 million from the Humanitarian Fund, used for Bangui and Bria

Challenges:

- Persistence of the gap to be filled in the food security response
- Security issues: need to triangulate several security information before any field missions

Chad

COVID cases: 874 (846)

Situation update:

- Resumption of inter-urban transport for one month, after reopening of shops, restaurants with systematic respect the wearing of mask and social distance required;
- The curfew is extended but the time has been modified and will be from 10pm to 5am instead 8pm to 5am in five provinces

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes:

The lean season response with food assistance is launched and targeting of beneficiaries is doing in all provinces.

HRP and funding: The HRP revision including the Covid 19 interventions launched is closed

Challenges: NtR

Mali

COVID cases: 1,809 (668)

Situation update: NtR

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes:

Joint Advocacy note with Nutrition cluster available here:

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/note_de_plaidoyer_conjointe_secal-nut-prot_juin_2020_vfinale.pdf

HRP and funding: updated HRP: 150.3 M USD, 916.7K for mitigation cost, 4.4 M USD on C19 activities for a total budget of 155,6 M USD; 1.4 M targeted people

Niger

COVID cases: 1,099 (995)

Situation update: - NtR

Humanitarian access and Operational coverage and changes: NtR

HRP and funding: NtR

Nigeria

COVID cases: – 32,558 (15,682)

Situation update:

- The Update of the CH March 2020 projections for the lean season (June to August) results due to COVID-19 which was done for Borno, Adamawa, Yobe (BAY) and Kano is now complete. **An additional 593,503 people are food insecure as a result of COVID-19** and its related impacts. **Therefore, the updated total food insecure people in BAY states is now 4,300,689 people.**
- The CH Update also covered Kano where an **additional 500,749** people have become food insecure as a result of COVID-19 and its related impacts.
- Generally, food prices are still relatively higher than the same time period last year. However, majority of the locations in BAY states have reported have either reported a slight drop or increase in the SMEBs in the various locations, as compared to significant increases in food prices that happened since April 2020 when the impacts of COVID-19 and seasonality among others had led to significant price increased. The rise in cost of the food SMEB was predominantly driven by rise in prices of four items, namely **local rice, groundnut, groundnut oil and palm oil**. Fuel vendors reported a **15%** drop in diesel prices. This was primarily driven by a slump in demand due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Humanitarian access and Operation coverage and changes:

- Partners completed inputs provision for the main planting season. Partners reported the chronic challenges of insecurity, restrictions in fertilizer movements especially in Borno and limited access to land. The Sector also advocated for more awareness to communities by both government and non-government partners on Unexploded Ordinances for safety while accessing the gardens.
- Partners completed data collection to update the HEA baseline to understand how the livelihoods (hence incomes and food access) of the households in the urban areas were affected by COVID-19. This will determine whether households can still meet 30% of their own food needs as previously before COVID-19 in the urban areas, hence providing guidance on reviewing programming.
- Selection of Partners to provide wet feeding at quarantine centres that will be set up focusing on the returnees from Chad, Niger and Cameroun is complete.

HRP and funding:

- With the Updated March CH 2020 results projections for June-August now complete, partners will update the COVID-19 scale up planning figures accordingly.
- Currently there is no change from the previous funding request of 104 million of which 14% is currently funded. Any change in the funding requirements will be reported accordingly.

Challenges:

- Food prices still relatively high
- Challenges of insecurity leading to restrictions in fertilizer movements and limited access to land

SOUTHERN AFRICA UPDATES

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Total COVID-19 cases: 8,075

No further updates.

Mozambique**Situation and context update:**

- Total COVID-19 cases: 1,219 (Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces remain the most affected with 300+ cases each, followed by Maputo city and province)
- Humanitarian situation continuous to deteriorates in northern, central and southern parts of Mozambique.
- Acute IPC 3 persists in Cabo Delgado (northern), Inhambane, Gaza, northern Maputo and southern Manica (southern Mozambique) provinces while acute IPC 2 continuous in provinces affected by cyclones and floods especially Sofala, Manica and Tete provinces in central Mozambique (according to FEWSNET Food Security Outlook, July 2020).

- The acute IPC 3 are driven by drought in Southern semiarid areas where poor rural households are facing food gaps as a result of the third consecutive year of drought and resulting into poor production and higher food prices.
- While in Cabo Delgado, poor households are also facing food consumption gaps as a result of the impacts of ongoing conflict with estimated 200,000 people displaced with some to the neighbouring Nampula and Niassa provinces.
- Furthermore, in urban and peri-urban areas, poor households who have lost the ability to engage in their basic livelihood activities due to COVID-19 control measures are also struggling to meet their food needs.

FSC Operational update:

- FSC partners plan to assist more than 400k food insecure people in the month of July 2020 (98% planned by WFP for the period from July to October 2020); this is approximately double the figure assisted in May and June.
- For livelihood assistance, 1,117,357 people were provided livelihood assistance since the beginning of the main agricultural season from October 2019 to June 2020 - 127,649 people assisted in the last 3 months.

HRP and funding situation update:

- ECHO allocated EUR 5M for the response to the humanitarian impacts of armed violence in Northern Mozambique covering multisectoral assistance with protection as an overarching sector of intervention; shelter, non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene; health, nutrition and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS); humanitarian food assistance coordination, information management and monitoring of the humanitarian situation.

Zimbabwe

Situation and context update:

- Total COVID-19 cases: 1,034
- According to WFP Food Security Outlook for June, prices of basic food commodities increased by an average of 22% over the month of June 2020. Maize grain recorded the highest percentage increase of 122%, which is a good indicator of supply shortages. These price increases are against a backdrop of decreasing income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic challenges. Further, the year on year inflation increased from 766% in April to 787% in May 2020, while the month-on-month inflation decreased from the 18% in April to 15% in May 2020. Food remains the main driver of inflation estimated at 954% in May 2020.
- According to the latest Weekly Market Monitoring report, maize grain was available in 3 urban districts only (Norton, Mutare and Rusape), while no traders had the commodity for sale across all monitored rural markets. Maize meal prices increased by 27% while availability decreased by 15% in 45% of the monitored markets. Supply is expected to improve over the coming weeks with government removing the subsidies on maize meal repurposing funds for targeted food assistance programs for vulnerable groups. Millers were also allowed to import their own grain and set prices based on market conditions which is a development likely to push prices up even further. Sugar beans was being sold at an average price of ZWL172.80/kg a price 14% higher than the one reported last week. Commodity availability generally decreased being available in 56% of the markets

compared to 73% last week. Week on week availability remained relatively stable with the commodity being available in 86% while prices increased by 27%.

- Following the indications of locusts swarming in Chiredzi district, a team from the Plant Protection Research Institute (DRSS) has been dispatched to the area to monitor the situation. There are fears that the African migratory locust swarms may migrate to neighbouring Manicaland and threaten the winter crop there which could compound the already dire situation of vulnerable households. Awareness has been provided requesting farmers to scout and report swarms to nearest Department of Research and Specialist Services (DRRansSS) staff, Agritex or police. However, challenges for locust control include fuel for vehicles to track locust as well as cost of telecommunication.
- The week of 3rd of July was marked with commodity price increases averaging around 23%. The main driver for the price increases remains the distortion between the official and the parallel market exchange rates. As the official auction system has an entry barrier of a minimum bid of \$50,000.00, most of the players in the financial sector (mostly small enterprises such as bureau de changes) are unable to bid on the official market for foreign currency. The parallel market has therefore continued to supply such traders, who service a significant proportion of Zimbabwe's urban and rural population for household needs, including food items. The continued commodity price increases suggest that traders and service providers are trying to match the parallel market exchange rate which is significantly higher and consequently driving up the cost of goods and services. On the other hand, the auction system has however provided a market for larger retailers and while prices in these outlets are also increasing, the larger retailers are forward rating prices using predictive estimates for the highest potential bid in the next auction. Furthermore, regulation stipulates that all traders should display prices in both local currency and foreign currency and this is supposed to mirror the official exchange rate as determined by the auction this has seen some price increases in foreign currency. The rate at the last auction was an average of ZWL63.74:1USD and a higher limit of ZWL92.00:1USD while reports suggest the parallel market rate was trading 9% higher than the official rate trading at an average of ZWL100:1USD.

FSC Operational update:

- The Food Security Cluster partners reported to reach over 1.5 million people with either in-kind food distribution, cash or vouchers modality in June 2020 in both rural and urban areas.
- Subsequent to the suspension of EcoCash mobile money platform, including bulk payments, the FSL Cluster partners are revising their cash-based programmes beginning with the July cycle. To ensure a stable beneficiary purchasing power, the FSL Cluster partners plan to shift to remittance companies enabling disbursement of USD cash assistance, E-vouchers, or WFP SCOPE cards as vouchers.

HRP and funding situation update:

- According to FTS, 22.4% of the total requested FSL Cluster budget from the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan and COVID-19 addendum was committed as of 13th of July.
- Under the July GHRP update, only one FSL project was submitted under the Multi-sector Returnees section requiring 797,000 USD. Under this project, WFP aims to provide food assistance (2100 Kcal per person per day) to 20,000 returnees in quarantine centres for a duration of 3 to 6 months as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. This project brings the financial requirement for the GHRP to 15.9M USD covering 23 projects submitted by 16 FSL Cluster partners.

LATIN AMERICA UPDATES

Colombia

Situation and context update:

- Total COVID 19 cases: 150,445
- The C19 crisis is expected to have a severe impact on the food security of indigenous populations in Colombia, given the structural vulnerabilities they face: according to a remote survey carried out by WFP in May 2020, 98% of indigenous households and 96% of Afro-Colombians in the country reported being concerned about not having food for the next 7 days. In the Amazon, severe food insecurity conditions have been verified that affect a large part of the population, mostly members of indigenous communities, who were already facing high levels of food insecurity before the pandemic (59%).
- In the departments of Nariño, Chocó, La Guajira and Putumayo, families continue having difficulties in acquiring and marketing food and agricultural inputs, as well as changes in their prices (source: FAO). This situation is associated with restrictions on mobility derived from preventive isolation measures against COVID-19.
- In general terms, shortages of cereals such as pasta, corn, flour and rice have been perceived, as well as some vegetables and eggs. In La Guajira, the food crisis has worsened due to the severe drought that has caused an increase in animal mortality and impacted agricultural crops, leading to the declaration of calamity due to drought in Manaure, according to decree 038 of 2020.
- In Nariño and Chocó, heavy floods have been a threatening factor that affects the food and nutritional security of the population, in addition to the malaria outbreaks reported by families. Likewise, for both departments and for Putumayo, the restrictions and controls imposed by the armed actors in the framework of the pandemic have led to a decrease in the flow of product commercialization, provision of inputs and food to the area; in addition to the increase in production costs.
- An increase in prices is identified for some products contained in the family basket, which associated with transportation costs, difficulties of access, decrease in income and impact due to natural phenomena (rain zones and drought zones) generate an impact on the frequency of consumption and dietary diversity of vulnerable populations and communities in rural areas.

FSC Operational update:

- WFP is increasing its capacities to respond to the most urgent needs of thousands of people from the most vulnerable indigenous communities in the country in the Colombian Amazon, Chocó, La Guajira, Nariño, Vichada, Caquetá and Valle del Cauca. In the Amazon department, WFP is responding rapidly to growing needs and plans to expand its initial response to 10,000 prioritized people, with special emphasis on indigenous communities, who will receive cash transfers. In Vichada, WFP has extended the period of assistance to members of indigenous communities whose vulnerability has increased due to COVID-19.
- Due to the urgent humanitarian situation facing Venezuelans with the intention of return, WFP in collaboration with GIFMM and implementing partners provides emergency assistance to these people in key parts of the country through hot meals and food kits.
- With the increasing humanitarian needs in the COVID context, assistance with cash transfers is also increasing, as a safer method of assistance that contributes to the prevention of contagion and contributes to the revitalization of local economies. For this reason, it has been necessary to find mechanisms to avoid duplication of assistance and increase the efficiency of the humanitarian

community in Colombia. WFP, through the Cash Transfer Working Group, has developed an innovative solution (algorithm) to identify and avoid duplication of assistance by protecting the private data of beneficiaries. Cash transfers have started in various cities in the country, including for 20,000 migrants and Colombians in Bogotá, in close coordination with local authorities, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors present in the area; and in Arauca, through a pilot project in alliance with Prosperidad Social, UNGRD and the Border Management. Cash transfers have also started for migrants in Valle del Cauca, including the city of Cali, this is the first time that WFP supports migrants in this department, also affected by armed violence.

- FAO continues to provide remote technical assistance (via cell phone, text messages, WhatsApp and local stations) to nearly 4,200 vulnerable rural families affected by pre-existing emergencies and crises at COVID-19. The process has had the support of community managers and leaders, who have been the points of contact with the communities.
- In the municipality of Barbacoas, in alliance with the local radio station, the accompaniment continues through the radio broadcast of the “El Campo Sigue” program with technical recommendations for food production at the family level. FAO, in alliance with Radio Nacional de Colombia, is designing a second round of radio spots focused on biosafety recommendations to reduce the risks of contagion in the actors of the agri-food chain in rural contexts.

HRP and funding situation update:

- WFP continues to receive requests for food assistance for people affected by the socio-economic effects of COVID-19. Since the start of the crisis, requests for temporary care have been received for more than 1.2 million people in a vulnerable state in 13 departments of the country. Additional financing is urgently required to meet the most pressing food needs of some 550,000 people in Colombia, in close coordination with national and local authorities.
- In the update to the GHRP, Colombia requested the total resources established for Food Security and Nutrition (about USD 50 million) to meet the most pressing needs of the vulnerable population.

Haiti

Situation and context update:

- Total COVID 19 cases: 6,727
- The peak of the COVID19 epidemic appears to have been reached in early June. The number of new confirmed cases is now dropping sharply.
- The socio-economic situation remains unstable and fragile. The latest food basket bulletin shows an increase in the pace of price inflation in Haiti, with + 29% increase over the last twelve months.

FSC Operational update:

- A household food security assessment is underway and will be used for the next IPC analysis scheduled for mid-August. At the same time, as part of the JMF, the final list of indicators used is being validated by the various stakeholders.

Venezuela

Total COVID 19 cases: 9,707
No further updates.

EASTERN AFRICA UPDATES

Somalia:

Situation update:

2020 Gu season rainfall characterized by early start in late March/early April, heavy rainfall in April. GU rainfall and river water levels begin to subside in June. Cumulative rainfall since late March through the third week of June is above average. Below average rainfall reported in large parts of southern Somalia in May. Hence, extended dry spell prevailed in large parts of southern Somalia since mid-May. The Desert Locust situation in Somalia continues to be categorized at the highest threat level, “Dangerous”. During May, adult groups and swarms were present and laying eggs on the northern plateau and 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 upcoming response planning.

Overall 2020 Gu season harvest likely to be 20-30 percent lower compared to the long-term average due to the combined impacts of Desert Locust and other pest infestation, flooding and extended dry spells. Preliminary FSNAU crop harvest assessments ongoing with results expected in August.

Operational update:

The IPC core team in Somalia with leadership of FSNAU reviewed / updated the food security situation in Somalia in response to HCT request. The review consider each population group urban, IDPS and rural (Pastoral, Agro pastoral and Riverine) for rural area and highlight the various risks encountered and impact. The updated analysis believe to help the decision makers and various responding actors to have common messages in Somalia as to the risks, impact and required key action in averting the crisis.

FSC partners assisted **2,309,688** people out of **2,736,733** targeted (**84%** achievement) in improve access to food responses. Notably during May, partners scaled up responses to reach people displaced due to flooding. In addition, about assisted 153,747 beneficiaries assisted seasonal inputs and livestock asset protection since the beginning of GU seasons. 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)

OCHA / CERF team has notified the ICCG the partial activation of anticipatory action (AA) for Somalia by ERC. The team briefed the ICCG main rational of AA in Somalia, triggering factors and ways forward. The AA has total envelope of 15 million CERF separate from traditional CERF rapid response and underfunded window. Anticipatory action in Somalia initially formulated keeping in mind slow on set crisis (e.g. drought) the common disaster risk in the area. However, OCHA team acknowledge no out of the ordinary drought analogous to

2011 /2017 happening now in Somalia but the acute food insecure projection necessitated the triggering of the anticipatory action by ERC. The **main objective of anticipatory action is to mitigate the rising humanitarian need because of triple shocks (desert locust, flood, COVID19)**. The team advised the actors to select “impactful activities” still relevant / feasible in the current context from the list of the activities identified, collated and submitted to CERF last year. The activities to be selected should be anticipatory in nature, timing and potential. AA team will have bilateral discussion with each cluster and lead agencies technical team in assisting the selection of these activities from earlier submission

HRP:

FSC has also revised PIN and target for the HRP revision. The PIN of the cluster in a given district is the sum of IPC 3 and 4-projection estimate provided by FSNAU taking into consideration “triple” shocks / risk (desert Locust, increased flooding and COVID-19). It only IPC 3 and 4 phases considered in determining PIN and totally removed IPC 2 from the humanitarian need as advised. FSC PIN overall determined to be **3.5 million** an much lower than the inter-cluster PIN that estimated to be 5.1 million. FSC target proposed to be target 3.1 million. In relatively accessible area cluster aimed at reaching the entire 1PC 3 and 4 while in hard to reach area to reach area 50% of IPC 3 and above.

In terms of the HRP, considering the removal of IPC 2 caseload, FSC revised funding has decreased by 10% to USD 345 million for 2020.

New HPC cycle started at ICCG level with the discussion of the time line and the cluster creating awareness of the time line with wider actors to ensure the participation of the actors in the entire cycle of the HPC.

Challenges:

In general, the COVID-19 is affecting the implementation of the projects due to limited movement/field visit to supervise the ongoing project activities. Registration and verification of the beneficiaries required more time for some of the partners due to precautions measure of COVID-2019 on maintaining social distancing and working more with the Village Committees to avoid crowd in the communities.

Most partners either postponed / suspend or in the process of reprogramming project activities involve gatherings of people and in close contact that increase the risk of exposure for beneficiaries and staff (adhere to the Humanitarian Principles of Do No Harm). Cash for Works, 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 response (or even prepare) for Riverine and flash flooding. The restricted flights imposed also significantly affected key project staff mobility for implementation of activities. FSC partners planned food security and nutrition assessment affected by COVID 19 challenges and partners exploring ways of adapting to the challenge.

Delayed approval of some of the submitted proposal to donors due to global pandemic / changing priorities and availability of resources.

Ethiopia

Situation update:

- A press release by WFP indicates a funding shortfall of US\$158 million this year, which if not secured, will be threatening millions of people in Ethiopia who depend on food and nutrition assistance for their very survival – [link to source](#).
- Above normal rains that were received in some parts of the country, resulting in flooding in some low-lying areas of the country. The National Disaster Risk Management Commission has indicated that more than 2 million people are vulnerable to floods this rainy season – [link to source](#). The floods will likely result in additional number of people who will require food assistance

Operational update:

- The cash and food response is ongoing in the country, though there are indications of delays in food/ cash distributions in some regions in the past week. The food partners are providing double allocation of food to cover food needs up to end of August.

HRP:

- There is no major change in the finding status of the revised Humanitarian Response Plan. The projected food requirements due to COVID-19 risks, will result in increased shortfalls, in areas where funding is not secured for current needs.
- The overall COVID-19 food needs in the revised HRP is US\$284.7million and the gap is US\$269.1million. This is in addition to US\$488.7 million which is required for non-COVID-19 food needs – [link to sources](#)

Challenges:

- Projected funding challenges highlighted in the WFP press release are of concern, considering that WFP is providing food assistance to some of the most vulnerable areas in the country.
- The floods will contribute to increased food needs in low-lying areas, and they could also contribute to delays in movement of food to some of the areas.