

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Global Response to COVID-19: September 2020

September 2020

Contents

Introduction.....	4
Compounded Threats to Food Security.....	6
COMPOUNDED COVID-19 IMPACT	6
EVIDENCE FROM LATEST COUNTRY UPDATES.....	7
HORIZON SCANNING	9
WFP's 6-Month Response Pillars	10
INTERNAL INVESTMENTS BY WFP	10
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD:	12
JUNE - SEPTEMBER	12
Building Back Better	16
SOCIAL PROTECTION.....	16
BASIC SERVICES – NUTRITION AND SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMING	17
FOOD SYSTEMS.....	17
PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	18
Ongoing Challenges to Implementing the Global Response Plan.....	19
CONFLICT AND INSECURITY	19
FUNDING	19
SUPPLY CHAIN	20
Common Services - WFP as an enabler for the humanitarian community.....	21
Priority Countries.....	22
CORPORATE ALERT SYSTEM	22
Changing Requirements in Budget Numbers	23
Annex 1.....	29

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is a multiplier of vulnerability, compounding threats to food insecurity, while exposing weaknesses in food and health systems. It is severely undermining the capacity of communities to cope in times of crisis and has become a stress test for political and economic stability.

Although conflict and insecurity remain the main drivers of hunger, the added dimension of COVID-19 is exacerbating the ability of affected communities to cope. A drastic reduction of livelihood opportunities, employment and income, in addition to natural hazards such as cyclones, hurricanes, flooding and pests are pushing communities further into desperate circumstances. Restrictions on travel and movement of goods, quarantine measures and the corresponding economic fallout as a result of the pandemic are deepening the impact. In April 2020, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that 270 million people would become acutely food insecure in the countries of WFP presence by the end of the year if no action is taken; an 82 percent increase compared to the number of acutely food insecure pre-COVID.

The latest Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) assessments¹ show dramatic increases in acute food insecurity across the globe. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone, nearly 22 million people are facing crisis levels of food insecurity. Burkina Faso has seen a tripling in the number of people falling into acute food insecurity as compared to the same period in 2019. In these countries as well as Yemen, South Sudan, the Sahel region of West Africa and northeastern Nigeria, COVID-19 has combined with conflict and climate shocks as a key driver of hunger. The pandemic has ushered hunger into the lives of more urban populations while placing the vulnerable, such as refugees, war torn communities and those living at the sharp end of climate change at higher risk of starvation. In Latin America, COVID-19 has caused the worst recession in a century.² Based on a WFP assessment in August 2020, severe food insecurity had increased fourfold, rising from 4.3 million people in January to over 17 million in August 2020. These developments are indicative of the challenges in coping with the consequences of the pandemic and underline the need for WFP and partners to step up and continue to respond at scale.

Thanks to the generosity of donors for front-loading contributions, amounting to US\$ 1.9 billion following the

World Health Organization's declaration of the pandemic in March, through the end of June WFP was able to preposition food commodities, ensure continuity of cash-based programmes, sustain its operations and reach 85 million people in the first half of the year. The WFP COVID-19 Global Response Plan launched in June set out a strategy to sustain this support for the already most vulnerable populations, but also highlighted the need to extend additional assistance to people facing increased hunger as a result of the pandemic, and support governments and partners with technical assistance, services and assets.

This update provides a snapshot of the implementation of the June Plan, how resources made available to date have enabled WFP to continue to deliver and expand assistance to meet new and emerging food security needs, and how WFP is planning to respond to the longer-term socio-economic impact of the crisis on food security. More detailed information for each country operation is contained in the Annex.

The pandemic is requiring WFP country offices and regional bureaux to re-examine modalities to reach beneficiaries and adapt to new circumstances. With critical support from donors, WFP is scaling up cash-based transfers to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, transferring US\$ 1.15 billion to vulnerable people and communities across 64 WFP country offices in January-August this year. WFP is also adapting school meal programmes, including take-home rations for seven million schoolchildren. Other measures include increasing local purchases, with 553,000 metric tons of food sourced in countries of operation during the first half of 2020 – 17 percent more than in 2019 – while prepositioning food stocks and deploying staff to fill critical gaps and relieve field colleagues.

WFP has supported some 50 governments with their social protection interventions in response to the COVID-19 crisis, which includes providing key data, analysis, and technical support for vital social protection areas such as needs assessment, targeting, and verification, helping to monitor programming, operating community feedback mechanisms and providing third-party assurance services. More than half of WFP's operations are now expanding direct assistance in urban areas, which are bearing a significant brunt of the crisis and account for 90 percent of COVID-19 cases.³

¹ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, <http://www.ipcinfo.org>.

² United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, <https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/covid-19>.

³ UN Habitat, https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/04/final_un-habitat_covid-19_response_plan.pdf.

WFP is also providing emergency assistance to ease the impact of lockdowns and movement restrictions on vulnerable groups, including institutional feeding programmes for people in quarantine. In addition, WFP is leveraging and adapting livelihoods programmes to enable the COVID-19 response.

Through the delivery of Common Services to the wider humanitarian and health response community as part of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), WFP served as the backbone of the global response to COVID-19, facilitating organizations to stay and deliver.

To date, over 23,500 passengers have been transported from 367 organizations to 67 destinations. Over 56,000 m³ of critical cargo has been moved to 157 countries around the globe.

Some three months after the launch of the June Plan, country offices continue to assess evolving needs and determine how best to prioritize available funds. With the onset of the pandemic, needs have grown considerably and are outpacing available funding. Needs-based requirements for the remainder of 2020 are almost double the forecasted contributions. After June, the rate of contributions to WFP has slowed and the overall amount of funding stabilised at 2019 levels. Overall resources for 2020 are not expected to increase. Funding has been uneven across WFP operations and a number continue to face large shortfalls, highlighting the need for increased and more flexible funding. Insufficient funding compelled country offices to prioritise limited resources by deferring plans to scale-up and reducing rations and/or coverage despite growing needs and real concerns about averting famine. Almost 280,000 refugees in South Sudan, for instance, are currently receiving only 70 percent of their food rations due to lack of funding, while rations were cut by 40 percent in the Central African Republic in August. Since the issuance of the June Plan, nearly US\$ 1.4 billion has been received against a target of US\$ 4.9 billion. To meet needs over the next six months until March 2021, US\$ 5.1 billion is required.



Compounded Threats to Food Security



COMPOUNDED COVID-19 IMPACT

In April, WFP estimated that 270 million people will become acutely food insecure in the countries of WFP presence, by the end of 2020 if no action is taken, an 82 percent increase compared to the number of acutely food insecure pre-COVID. This projection has not changed six months into the crisis.

The pandemic is having and will continue to have a huge and lasting negative effect on the global economy; 2020 and 2021 will be lost years in terms of growth, and the global economy is expected to recover to pre-coronavirus levels only in 2022.⁴ This global forecast, however, masks large disparities between countries. Some members of the G7 and BRICS groupings are predicted to recover faster, whereas others will take up to 2024 to return to pre-coronavirus levels of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A country's ability to deploy the policy response needed to prevent a devastating human toll and long-lasting impact on livelihoods depends critically on debt relief, grants, and concessional financing from the international community. Island economies that rely heavily on tourism and economies that are driven by oil exports are also likely to face long-lasting challenges. The impact of economic decline on food security and nutrition in many low- and middle-income countries will likely be severe and protracted through 2021 and possibly beyond.

Yet again, it is the poorer countries and the most vulnerable households that are disproportionately affected as many find their debt burdens unpayable at a time when they are facing the quadruple blow of a global recession, weaker currencies, higher interest costs and a drop in remittances sent home from workers in foreign nations. In many regions, migrant labourers are returning to their home countries due to loss of employment. Many are taking enormous risks along migration routes, resulting in hundreds of thousands of migrants stranded at border areas, confined in institutional quarantine and isolation facilities or abandoned in perilous situations by smugglers. Typically, migrants are also excluded from national social safety nets even when those exist, which makes them especially vulnerable. Examples of these situations are West African migrants stranded in desert

areas near the borders with Algeria and Libya, extremely vulnerable migrants in detention centres in Libya, and Horn of Africa migrants stranded in Yemen. Migrants have also seen their condition worsen in the Latin America and the Caribbean region where the second biggest migration crisis is still unfolding. At present out of the estimated 3 million Venezuelan migrants in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, 2.3 million are food insecure (WFP survey August 2020).

The steep decline towards greater vulnerability has been particularly acute among workers who do not have the option of working from home. Income losses also appear to have been uneven across genders, with women among lower-income groups bearing a larger brunt of the impact in some countries. Of the approximately 2 billion informally employed workers worldwide, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates close to 80 percent have been significantly affected.⁵ Prospects of long-lasting negative consequences for livelihoods, job security, and inequality have grown more daunting.

Pre-existing gender gaps and inequalities are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, whose impact on women and girls is disproportionately high. Women make up the larger proportion of people living in poverty, and tend to hold lower paying, less secure jobs. With the pandemic, formal employment and informal work opportunities for women have significantly declined, while their care burden (especially childcare and that of elderly people) has increased due to the effects of lockdowns and movement restrictions. Gender-based violence is reported to have increased exponentially during lockdowns, while protection, support to survivors, and health services including reproductive health were reduced or became harder to access.⁶

The economic consequences of the crisis are having a direct impact on people's ability to access food. The cost of a basic food basket increased by more than 10 percent on top of reduced incomes in twenty countries during the second quarter compared to the first in 2020, namely Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan and Thailand. Food prices are exceptionally high in many countries such as Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Zimbabwe.

4 The Economist Intelligence Unit, "EIU Global Outlook – Fiscal trouble in sight", <https://www.eiu.com/n/eiu-global-outlook-fiscal-trouble-in-sight>.

5 International Labour Organization, "COVID-19 leads to massive labour income losses worldwide", https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_755875/lang--en/index.htm.

6 UN Women, "UN Secretary-General's policy brief: The impact of COVID-19 on women", <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women>.

As the COVID-19 economic fallout continues to bite, the political and security implications of the pandemic are also surfacing along with the potential to aggravate food insecurity. The pandemic and impact of measures to control its spread are placing a severe strain on political stability in a wide array of countries, particularly where governments are fragile, in transition, or with peace talks or agreements on-going. Constitutional reforms have been disrupted and electoral processes affected with elections postponed in tens of countries this year because of the pandemic.

In several countries, the volatility raised political tensions and potential for destabilisation. According to UNHCR⁷, some 80 percent of protection clusters report escalating conflict and/or political instability since the beginning of the pandemic. This is triggering new displacements, reducing safe access to vital health and sanitation services and impeding lifesaving protection and humanitarian services.

In conflict-affected areas, the pandemic is an added drain on the resources and capacity of government and security forces. This is also the case with international peacekeeping efforts. This environment is allowing non-state armed groups, criminals and violent extremists to exploit security gaps and operate more freely, leading to upticks in violence, displacements, market disruptions and access constraints. An example of this is the escalation of violence in the region of Cabo Delgado in Northern Mozambique and Burkina Faso. In addition, the security of humanitarian staff is a growing concern. The Islamic State has recently condoned the targeting of humanitarians, while other armed groups and criminals have demonstrated their intent to target personnel, effectively hampering humanitarian delivery.

There is some good news, though, as nations big and small have taken extraordinary measures to save lives and safeguard their economies—so far almost US\$ 17 trillion has been spent this year. A total of 212 countries have planned or put in place 1,179 different social protection measures to respond to the crisis. Out of these, 158 countries have introduced or scaled up cash-based social assistance schemes. IMF approved immediate debt service relief to 29 countries for six months and the G20 agreed to suspend repayment of official bilateral credit for poorest countries through the end of 2020.⁸



EVIDENCE FROM LATEST COUNTRY UPDATES

Emerging evidence from latest food security analyses and assessments show that COVID-19 has had a compounding effect on pre-existing vulnerabilities and stressors. However, it is difficult to accurately make a distinction between the

effects of COVID-19 and the other main underlying drivers such as conflict and climate shocks.

Burkina Faso, which registers the highest increase in acute food insecurity, has seen the number of people in crisis or worse almost triple compared with the pre COVID-19, 2019 peak situation. Burkina Faso also has 11,000 people facing catastrophic hunger (IPC Phase 5) and is thus currently the worst country in the world in terms of severity.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has close to 22 million food-insecure people in urgent need of assistance, which is the highest number of people in acute food insecurity recorded in a single country. However, caution should be taken when comparing with previous years as the assessed population is not entirely the same due to the fact that highly populated urban centres have been included in 2020 as a response to COVID-19 and the fact that urban livelihoods have been severely affected.

While Afghanistan has seen a slight decrease in acute food insecurity thanks to a recent good harvest, the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) has dramatically increased by close to 800,000 people showing that the severity for those food insecure has worsened.

The seriousness of this situation becomes clear when looking at the proportion of food insecure people in the different countries. The Central African Republic shows a significant increase in the prevalence of acute food insecurity with more than half of the population in food crisis. Similar patterns are observed in Haiti where 42 percent of the analysed population, around 4 million people, are facing high acute food insecurity and are in urgent need of action. That includes over 900,000 people classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between August 2020-February 2021. The same applies for the countries of the Dry Corridor of Central America (Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador), where over 50 percent of the population is food insecure and over 3 million are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 4).

In Lesotho, the IPC estimates that from October 2020 to March 2021, around 40 percent of the population (582,000 people) are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse. All 10 districts will likely experience high acute food insecurity with pockets of highly vulnerable populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Food security in Syria has deteriorated considerably. A review of food security data conducted in April 2020 using food price increments puts the total number of food insecure people in Syria at 9.3 million people, representing about 46 percent of the population. This is an increase of 1.4 million compared to data from only eight months earlier. In the same period of time, the number of severely food insecure people almost doubled, reaching around 1 million people. In September

7 UNHCR, https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/09092020_UNHCR_percent20Global_percent20COVID-19_percent20Emergency_percent20Response.pdf.

8 International Monetary Fund, <https://www.imf.org/en/About/FAQ/imf-response-to-covid-19>.

2019, WFP together with the Food Security Sector estimated food insecurity in Syria at around 7.9 million people,⁹ around 39 percent of the population. The situation for Zimbabweans continues to be dire and year on year inflation increased to 836 percent as of July 2020. Food inflation remains the main driver of inflation in Zimbabwe.

Maize grain availability remains low due to a combination of factors including the poor 2019/2020 harvest and slow movement of trade due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictive containment measures. Prices of basic food commodities increased by an average of 8 percent over the month of August 2020. These price increases are against a backdrop of decreasing income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic challenges.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, food insecurity in northern Nigeria is estimated to have increased by 1.5 million additional people in the four states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe and Kano when compared to March 2020 projections. The Cadre Harmonise analysis of March 2020 indicated that 4.3 million people would face severe food insecurity in those areas. The COVID-19 outbreak and resulting mitigation measures disrupted transport, food market supply and livelihood systems, and compounded vulnerabilities already experienced due to the entrenched conflict and community disputes. A revised estimate conducted in June 2020 in the same four states showed a 35 percent increase in food insecurity, bringing the total of food insecure people to 5.8 million people in these areas. Of these, 4.3 million are in the 3 north-eastern states. In total, 8.65 million are estimated to be food insecure in this current lean season in Nigeria.

Food insecurity remains alarmingly high in Sudan with increased and protracted displacement, economic decline and inflation, and high food price exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The lockdown measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus significantly decreased commodity movement, market function and cross-border trade, and compromised livelihoods, daily labour opportunities, reducing household purchasing power and food access of the vulnerable population. In the current period (June to September 2020)

Before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) shed light on the worsening of global food insecurity, with 135 million people recorded as in crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in 2019, representing the worst annual figure since the GRFC started four years ago.¹⁰ This was due to large conflict-driven crises, such as the DRC and South Sudan, and by the growing severity of drought and deepening economic shocks in countries such as Haiti, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. Additionally, COVID-19 has the potential of pushing a further 183 million people that were classified as in stressed conditions (IPC/CH Phase 2) deeper into food insecurity in 47 countries.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_3179

