

## COVID-19

### Food Security and Livelihoods

#### Preparedness and prevention interventions

Livelihoods are a vital means of making a living. It encompasses people's capabilities, assets and activities required to secure the necessities of life. The shocks and stresses of the COVID-2019 crisis worldwide, although primarily considered a public health crisis, will have a much broader impact on the global economy predictably for a long term, leading to worldwide socio-economic disruptions and will not only diminished the well-being and livelihoods of people, but also undermined the social nets, markets and food security on which life depends. Both lives and livelihoods are at risk from this pandemic.

We have seen immediate impacts that current measures are already having in the most economically and food insecure people; past experience of crisis such as Ebola, Cholera, Zika, and analysis from different agencies draw a picture on medium- and long-term impacts.

This document pretends to focus on PREPAREDNESS/PREVENTION listing an indicative summary of key interventions and most urgent actions to be taken. Please consider that this is not an exhaustive list, as the situation evolves rapidly and is context determined.

#### ACRONYMS

CALP	Cash Learning Partnership
CEA	Community Engagement and Accountability
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance
EWES	Early Warning Early System
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning System Network
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
NGOS	Non-Governmental Organizations
PCMMA	Pre-Crisis Market Mapping and Analysis
PLWD	People Living with Disabilities
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
UN	United Nations
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Program

## Food Security, Livelihoods and Nutrition

- **Remote assessments and monitoring** of ongoing situation and concomitant crisis. As conducting field needs assessments and monitoring activities is not recommended, use secondary data like [WFP VAM](#), Government documents and previous contingency plans or assessments like [PCMMA](#) for markets. [FEWSNET](#) is integrating COVID-19 information in the analysis. You can also create surveys through mobile phones e.g. text messages. Identify the economic sectors at risk, monitor the evolution and prepare to respond.
- **Continue food assistance:** avoid stopping programmes when possible, as these programmes already support those more in need and the food crisis could be worsened by this new context. If the response needs to be adjusted consider revising the modality (cash-based assistance is the preferred option but when people can't access markets you can use in-kind or digital vouchers) and the frequency of distributions, maybe making one-off payments instead of several payments to avoid exposure. **Redirecting funds of current programmes to protect food security and livelihoods** e.g. uplifting conditionality or long-term support to emergency response. Programmes that have not started should take into consideration if the COVID-19 crisis has impacted the beneficiaries and may need to include new emergency response activities otherwise project outcomes could be at risk. Crisis modifiers may be used to protect livelihoods and provide emergency support.
- **Revise targeting** to prioritise those more at risk now to expand the number of beneficiaries to include people affected or expand the geographical coverage of the project to include areas under lock down.
- **Revise procedures** for food, CVA and agricultural distribution and plan alternatives, including procurement of **in-kind with time** to mitigate supply chain disruptions.
- **Plan funds for livelihoods recovery.** This may condition any project implementation, if people need to focus on restarting their activities. Concept notes can be developed based on scenarios to complement current programmes and so start planning for resource prioritisation. **Advocacy** with institutions to support food security, livelihoods protection and livelihoods recovery and strengthen safety nets and social protection.
- **Link with existing social protection programmes;** and advocate **for flexibility of social protection programmes e.g.** to remove conditionality, increase amount, share data base etc.
- Recognising the role that livelihoods support can play in preventing SGBV, distressed migration and trafficking in human beings, **prioritising livelihoods projects for those most at risk of exploitation** can be an affective risk mitigation strategy. Whilst responding to COVID-19, assess and consider which industries will see both short term and long-term impacts, and the populations who will be most affected as a result.

### **Nutrition Sensitive Approach: Common interventions for all response phases**

*Actions here are limited to the type of interventions that RCRC Movement could easily implement through FSL or other community-based programmes that are not focused on nutrition specific programming as health sector (Refer to Nutrition IASC for nutrition specific recommendations)*

### **Mainstream a nutrition sensitive approach: minimum level of intervention is start/ maintain nutrition awareness:**

- Include nutrition criteria in the targeting selection criteria to prioritise those more at risk

- Disseminate key messages for good nutrition, health and wash best practices: posters radio, TV. Community awareness to be avoided due to risk of infection.
- Continue to encourage breastfeeding, as developing specific knowledge on linkages between nutrition and COVID-19 is still in process, but transmission between COVID-infected mother and infant has not been demonstrated.

For more information please visit our websites:

- <https://www.livelihoodscentre.org/>
- <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/>
- <https://www.redcross.org.uk/>