

## COVID-19

### Food Security and Livelihoods

### Early recovery and recovery support interventions

#### Summary of key early recovery and recovery activities

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 Recovery and Early Recovery 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

|      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| FSL  | Food Security and Livelihoods   |
| IASC | Inter-Agency Standing Committee |
| RCRC | Red Cross Red Crescent          |

## Recovery and Early Recovery activities for FSL & Nutrition

### Food Security, Livelihoods and Nutrition

- **Support to increase** local food production (inputs and technical advice); diversify crops, including cash crops. Support increased storage capacity, improve storage facilities and promote food processing to minimize food losses and waste.
- **If markets are functional, provide cash grants for assets replacement or capital start up to restore previous livelihoods activities.** If markets are not functional consider support in-kind.
- **Support livelihoods diversification and increase employability** adapted to the new context. New skills may be required or new services that are an opportunity to support women and youth economic inclusion. Support people access technical and vocational trainings and linkages with the labour market. For self-employment, support capacity building for business management and provide capital start up.
- **Support innovation** for small businesses to reach their customers, capacity building to adopt improved marketing techniques and new and more sophisticated payment mechanisms.
- **Support access to financial services, including saving groups** that provide microloans.
- **Advocacy:** for **new** social protection schemes with the objective to inject funds into communities to stimulate local economy.
- **Target also areas not only affected by COVID-19 crisis but** that were known to be highly vulnerable to food and nutrition security before the crisis.
- All activities should be based on needs assessment and market analysis to target those more in need and provide appropriate support for livelihoods activities.

#### **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/>