



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# RURAL LIVELIHOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

## IMPACT & INTERVENTION NEEDED FOR RESILIENCE

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AU/DREA webinar, 22 September 2020



# COVID-19 compounding effect on food insecurity

GRFC: Pre-COVID-19



people in Crisis or worse  
(IPC/CH Phase 3+)

Distribution by region:

Europe

1 country

0.5M

Middle East  
and Asia  
10 countries

43M

Africa  
36 countries

73M

Latin America and  
the Caribbean  
8 countries

18.5M

In addition:



**183 million**

people in Stress (IPC/CH 2)

SOFI: Pre-COVID-19

**nearly 690 million**

( 235 million in Africa)  
undernourished in 2019

COVID-19 potentially places  
an **additional burden on**  
**agri-food systems**  
**exacerbating acute food**  
**insecurity in countries**  
**with food crisis.**

## Africa overview – Global Report on Food Crises 2020



**73 million**

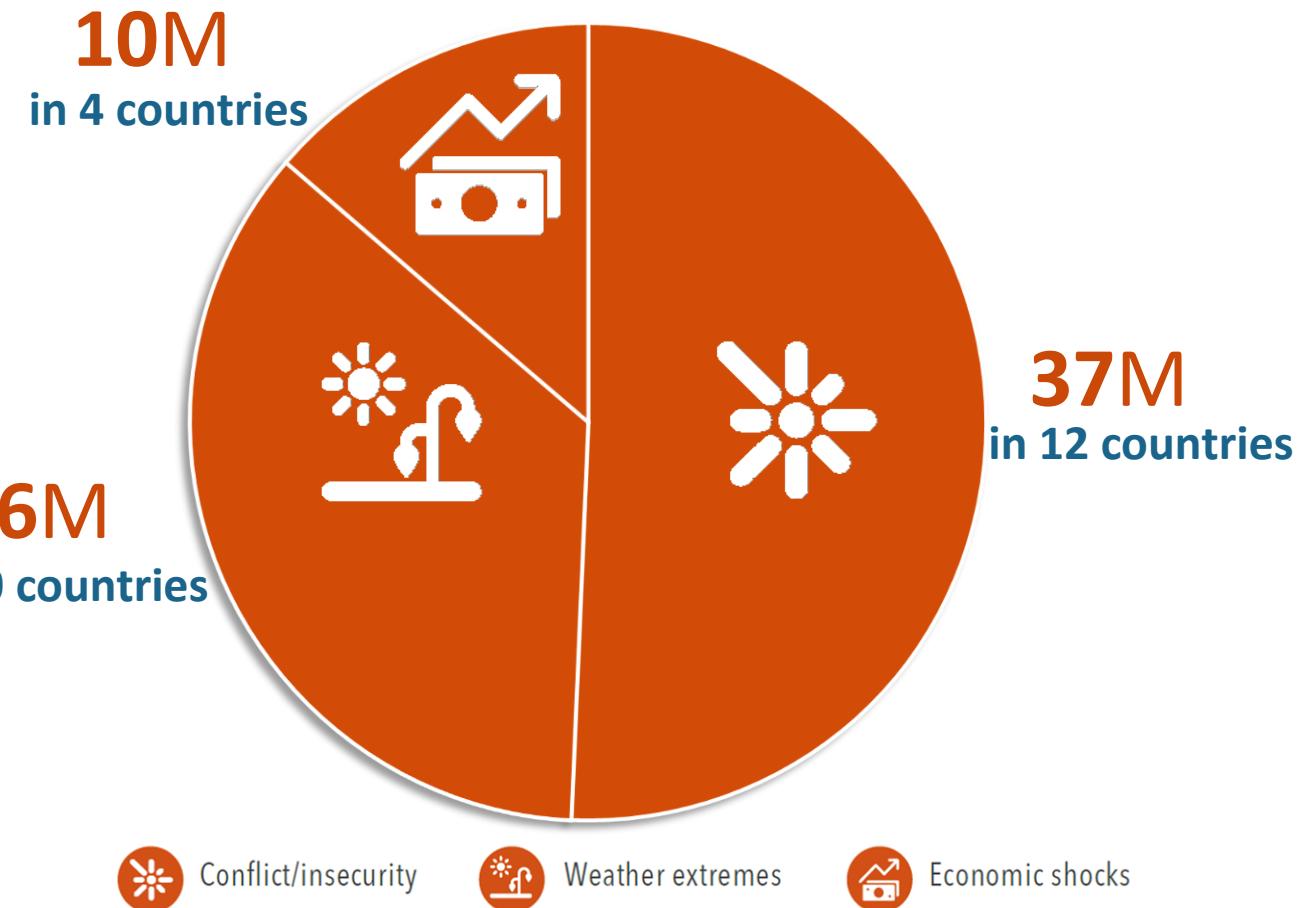
people across 36 countries  
in IPC/CH 3+ in 2019



**129 million**

people in 32 countries  
in IPC/CH 2 in 2019

Acutely food-insecure people in *crisis or worse* by key driver



# Pathways in which COVID-19 affected food security and agri-food systems

## COVID-19 outbreak policy measures / responses

- Border closure
- Restrictions on movement (individuals and merchandise)
- Curfews
- Closing of some categories of markets (street and open markets)

## Food systems

disruptions to agricultural production, markets and food supply chains

## Economic activity

reduction in employments, incomes and purchasing power

## Livelihoods compromised by:

- Unemployment
- Loss of incomes
- Reduced remittances
- Collapse of farm prices
- Increase of prices in urban markets

## Impact on food security

## Relaxation of restrictive measures and implementation of conducive policies supporting agri-food sector

Gradual stabilization of markets and food supply chains, but some constraints in terms of access to agricultural inputs, labour and markets will have longer-term implications

### Urban poor

Highly dependency on:  
• Informal labour  
• markets

### Rural areas

1. Lack of access to inputs  
• Difficulties to move produce to markets:  
- lower prices  
- lower production  
- expansion of production in environmentally sensitive areas

### Pastoralists

Discussions of livestock markets  
Lack of access to inputs and health services  
Movement restrictions (transhumance)

### IDPs

Movement restrictions  
Limited market access  
• Limited labour opportunities

**Short-term disruption of food systems, and consequent economic crisis have long-term impact on livelihoods especially of vulnerable people**

**WOMEN**



# Needed interventions for recovery and building back better

## Immediate-Short term Measures

Protecting the health and safety is a top priority, while ensuring that a public health crisis does not become a food crisis.

- Actions to **protect lives and livelihoods** and meet the needs of the most vulnerable:
  - ✓ Social protection - very significant for Africa, due to overlapping threats of crises and weakness of social welfare systems (only 10% of SSA population covered under some sort);
  - ✓ By May 2020 about 122 new or adapted social protection initiatives were registered in 42 countries in response to the pandemic – these need to be sustained and strengthened.
- **Safeguard producer oriented measures** - support smallholder farmers to increase productivity – facilitate access to inputs and product markets, using new business models including through e-commerce
  - ✓ Recognize measures taken to protect the agri-food supply chains as essential functions (e.g., reduced import taxes for essential commodities and staples, logistical measures to ensure food supply flows).



## Needed interventions for recovery and building back better

### Beyond the short term: Medium-long term Measures

Build resilient, sustainable and competitive agri-food systems – to address multiple risks through

- Enhanced production, improved nutrition, sustainable environment – through innovative and digital solutions
- Better functioning of markets and trade
  - Imperatives for Holistic, Integrated and Coordinated Response
  - Food systems transformation
  - Multi-sectoral approaches
  - Multi-stakeholders
  - Opportunities for effective partnerships
  - mobilization of investment finance





## FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme: Transforming Our Food Future



**Global Humanitarian Response Plan: Addressing the impacts of COVID-19 and safeguarding livelihoods in food-crisis contexts**



**Data for Decision-making:**

Ensuring quality data and analysis for effective policy support to food-systems and Zero Hunger



**Economic Inclusion and Social Protection to Reduce Poverty:**

Pro-poor COVID-19 responses for an inclusive post-pandemic economic recovery



**Trade and Food Safety Standards:**

Facilitating and accelerating food and agricultural trade during COVID-19 and beyond



**Boosting Smallholder Resilience for Recovery:**

Protecting the most vulnerable, promoting economic recovery and enhancing risk management capacities



**Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic:**

Strengthening and extending the One Health approach to avert animal-origin pandemics



**Food Systems Transformation:**

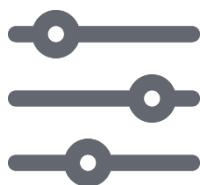
Building back better during response and recovery



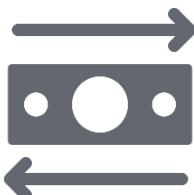
# FAO's component of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan



April-December 2020



Information and analysis to guide  
action – Global data facility



Safeguarding incomes: social  
protection, cash injections



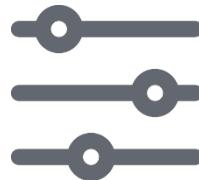
Preserving critical livelihoods  
assistance, safeguarding food  
supply chains



Reducing risk of transmission  
along food chain: sharing health  
regulations and key messaging

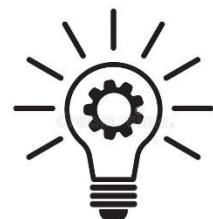


**USD 428 million (July update)**  
covering 34 countries (18 in Africa, 221.6M)



#### Global data and analysis facility

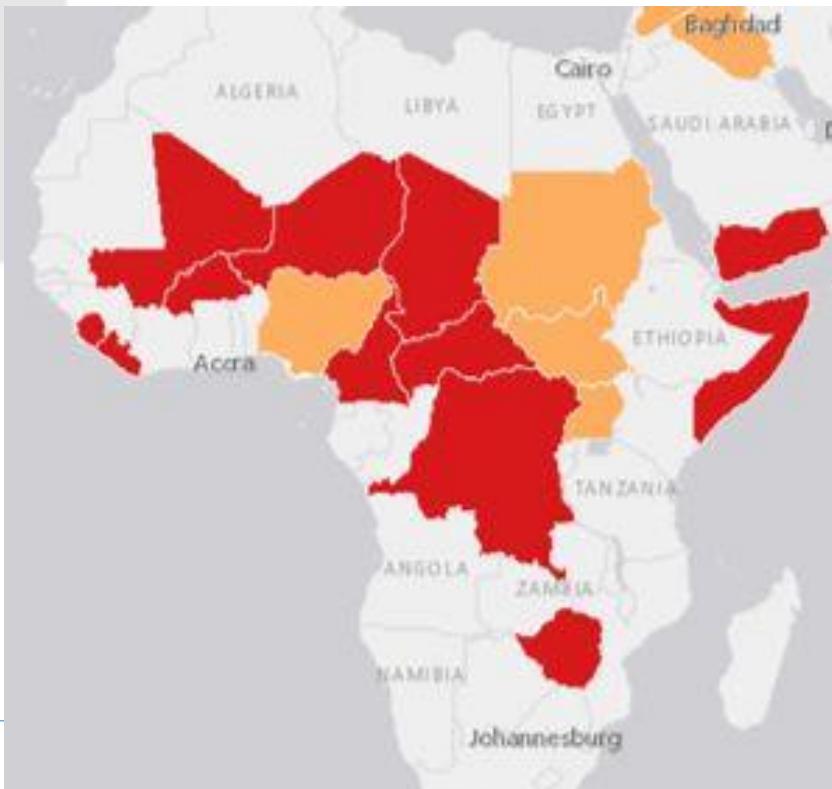
- Data collection, **analysis of actual and potential impacts** on agri-food systems and food security in food crisis contexts
- Contributing to FAO's broader **Hand-in-Hand initiative** and associated interactive data platform
- Global public good – supporting entire humanitarian community to **guide and inform programming and response**
- In partnership with WFP, global Food Security Cluster in context of Global Network Against Food Crises



New partnerships

Going to scale – remote data  
collection i.e mobile surveys

Ongoing data collection!



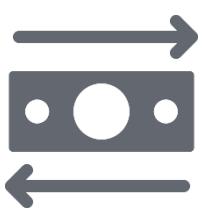
## Remote management: Mobile money, photo recognition

*Expanding social protection to "new" groups i.e. agro-pastoralists..*



*Enlightened focus on urban poor*

*Nutrient dense food*



**Ensuring availability of and stabilizing access to food for acutely food insecure**

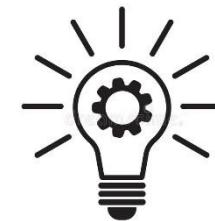
- Continuing and **scaling up provision of critical agricultural inputs** aligned with seasons and emerging needs
- Supporting livelihood **diversification, home-based nutritious food production** (incl. for displaced populations)
- Reducing **post-harvest losses** for small-scale producers
- Working with governments to rapidly scale up **social protection**
- **Cash and vouchers** as much as possible, and where appropriate





## Ensuring continuity of the food supply chain for most vulnerable

- Food processing, conservation, storage, transport
- Enhancing negotiation power of small-scale producers' cooperatives
- Ensuring safe and uninterrupted functioning of markets, e.g. disinfecting, PPE
- Incentivizing continued smallholder production



Women food traders  
*Disinfection/hygiene:  
livestock markets etc.*



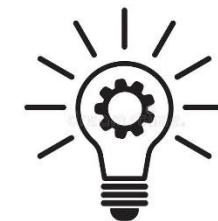


### Ensuring food chain actors are not at risk of virus transmission

- **Raising awareness** along the food chain of health regulations, rights, roles, responsibilities
- Together with WHO and national authorities
- Developing **simple messages** adapted to local context and demonstrating hygiene measures
- Using existing partners to share messages, e.g. Dimitra Clubs, community radio, CAHWs

Running farmer field schools in times of COVID-19:

*A resource handbook*



New partnerships for  
radio outreach  
Expanded use of  
community platforms





Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Project OSRO/MOZ/906/UK

Funds: DFID



10,000 | 40,000



Project OSRO/MOZ/904/MOZ

Funds: World Bank/FNDS



52,248 | 200,992



# FAO INNOVATION

## *Mitigating the effects of Covid-19 to protect food security and livelihoods*

- Switch from person technical trainings to online discourse along the growing cycle; only demonstration plots permitted at small-scale
- Input trade fairs replaced with cash for seed – a first in FAO South Sudan
- Change from mass one day direct distribution to several community distribution points (schools, churches, etc) where beneficiaries collect input packs over a 5 day period
- Creation of Community Based Committees (Boma Management Committees) to oversee distribution to input
- FAO scaled up direct distribution of FSL emergency kits
- Use of radio programming to transmit GAP/CSA/Technical advisory messages; FAO to collaborate with boda boda talk talk
- Promotion of Covid-19 IEC materials, social distancing and hand washing stations at distribution points; support the production of face masks locally



# FAO INNOVATION

*Mitigating the effects of Covid-19  
to protect food security and  
livelihoods*

- Reducing risk of Covid-19 along the supply chain by providing PPE and disinfecting materials to market vendors including slaughterhouses, coupled with awareness raising and training.
- Support those hardest hit such as urban and peri-urban households by promoting home gardening for improved nutritional status among vulnerable households in Juba, Nimule, Wau and Aweil towns, South Sudan.
- Provision of capital to women vegetable and fruit traders to re-start their business.
- Increasing workers safety by disinfecting markets and providing access to water.



# FAO INNOVATION

## *M&E processes and actions*

### CHALLENGES

Compliance with public health guidelines (ex: social distancing and sanitization of surfaces) has limited enumerator-respondent interaction, crowding and exposure.

Travel restrictions have complicated the organization of field missions for data gathering

### RESPONSE

Strengthening the use of **digital tools** (KoBoToolbox) for all data gathering for post-seed purchase, post-distribution, post-planting and post-harvest monitoring, as well as in conducting baseline surveys for projects.

Administration, coordination and troubleshooting of data gathering done remotely from Juba.

Technical backstopping by respective Field Offices; Data collection by IP staff (expect for post-harvest assessments) with inbuilt triangulation to improve objectivity and accuracy.

Suspension of participatory data gathering methods like focus group discussions. Each household or key informant is interviewed separately and independently. Telephone interviews have been introduced where feasible (e.g. under the RSRTF project).