Introduction

- COVID-19 is thought to have originally stemmed from an infected bat and transited to human via a host animal, most probably a pangolin, that was sold on a “wet market” and consumed in Wuhan, China. (the Guardian 28/08/2020)
- There is growing evidence on the emerging and rapidly-increasing risk and greater spread of zoonotic pathogens in humans and animals of zoonotic diseases, and it is estimated that 75% of emerging human infectious disease outbreaks are “zoonotic” (IFPRI/ILRI).
- With the growth of global population, increasing exchanges and the rise of urbanization, interfaces of humans and forests and wildlife are increasing (forest or mining extraction, wildlife consumption, reduced distance between settlements and wildlife). These factors create new opportunities for viral transmission and multiply the risk of pathogens jumping from animals to humans (IFPRI/ILRI).
- To contain the spread of the pandemic now affecting 185 countries, restrictions to movements of persons and at cases of commodities have been widely adopted putting the global economy on hold and threatening the food security of potentially billions of people globally.
- On 8 April the EU mobilised-with MS-a package of 20bn to help partner countries tackle this crisis.
- The Global Report against Food crises, released on 21/04/2020, revealed that over 135 million people in 55 countries were facing a food crisis in 2019. In the same areas, 183 million people already living under stressed conditions and particularly vulnerable to shocks could slide into deeper acute food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences.

1. An imminent Food and Nutrition Crisis

- Beyond the health crisis, the COVID-19 is triggering the most severe economic crisis since the Second World War threatening food security in particular in low income countries. Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to decline from 2.4 percent in 2019 to -2.1 to -5.1% in 2020 (World Bank).
- IFPRI warned about the consequences of a global recession caused by lockdowns and other restrictions on enterprises and highlight the disproportionate toll on the rural poor. It is calculated that “for every percentage point of global economic slowdown, the number of people living in poverty would increase by 2-3%, or by (about 14-23 million worldwide) but affecting mostly (9 million) people living in rural areas of developing countries”.

- Around 135 million people in 55 countries already experiencing acute food insecurity\(^1\) in 2019 (Global Report on Food Crises 2020\(^2\)). Food security could further deteriorate in fragile countries or areas already affected by multiple crises (food crises, security, locust and sanitary). These effects are expected to be even stronger in countries affected by compounded food crises drivers, including conflict, extreme weather events, pest infestation... (FAO).

- Countries particularly affected by the Desert Locust upsurge\(^3\) continue to face unprecedented threat to their food security and livelihoods and the outbreak is still on the rise after widespread rainfall in East Africa and the Arabic peninsula (FAO). In spite of movement restrictions, FAO confirmed that interventions to contain the outbreak are maintained in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions.

1. IPC/CH Phase 3 or above
2. To be released on 21st April 2020
3. The most affected countries are Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia. Forecasts indicates severe losses also for India, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen. Additionally, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan are at risk. West Africa is at minimal risk.

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Figure 1: Food security and pandemic risk

Source: WFP in UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan – Covid 19 p. 18
The economic downturn is feared to affect imports cost due to logistical challenges (border closing) or depreciated currency and in turn affect food security of import-dependent countries. Meanwhile countries dependent on export of primary commodity such as oil, several minerals or cash crops, as well as on tourism, are expected to suffer from reduced international, limiting fiscal revenues and therefore ability of governments to implement social protection schemes (WFP, FAO).

In this context, economic slowdown of economic and restrictions to mobility will inevitably affect food and nutrition security, due to limited employment opportunities for seasonal or migrant labourers, loss of income which in turn will result in reduced access to food, switch to less nutrition foods and/or net reduction of food consumption (caloric intake) (WFP).

In 2014 during Ebola virus disease (EVD), West Africa, faced a decreased of acreage cultivated, drop in staple crop production significant price rise. However, there are conflicting opinions whether the current crisis will have a similar impact on the agricultural sector given the different scale, level of contamination and mortality (FAQ).

Furthermore, WFP warn that COVID could be especially deadly for people suffering from chronic or acute hunger or malnourishment. Although the median age of the population is much lower in African, there is still a major unknown on the impact of the virus undernourished population, in particular on undernourished children, who are generally more vulnerable to infections (Corinna Howkes).

Good nutrition contributes to build immunity, protect against illness and infection, and support recovery. Healthy, balanced diets are key for boosting immunity and preventing non-communicable diseases that are risk factors for higher COVID-19 morbidity and mortality (SUN).

Even short-term disruptions of essential preventative and curative nutrition interventions, such as programmes and services to protect, promote and support optimal breastfeeding (early and exclusive) and age-appropriate and safe complementary foods and feeding practices (UNICEF), could have irreversible effects on child survival, health and development (SUN).

Since micronutrients provide the essential building blocks for a strong immune system example of effective, proven interventions that exist to address micronutrient deficiencies are: i) diet diversification, ii) large-scale food fortification, iii) maternal and child micronutrient supplementation and iv) promotion of nutrient-enriched crops.

2. Hotspots / Emergencies

Countries with high levels of food insecurity are generally more vulnerable and less prepared for an epidemic outbreak (see figure 1 above).

In 2019, countries with the highest burden of food insecurity were Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Northern Nigeria, Haiti, the Central African Republic and Zimbabwe (GRFC 2020).

Hotspots are anticipated to be countries:
- with the highest burden of food insecurity (GRFC 2020).
- having the greater vulnerability to the spread of the pandemic (Africa Center for Strategic Studies)
- with large urban populations
- that are most vulnerable to the socio economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis (WFP)
- that depends a lot on exports, and thus more vulnerable to a shock in the demand of exported goods due to a global recession exports
- Highly dependent on tourism both for national budget stability and for private income

Based on the above-mentioned risk factors, countries combining several vulnerabilities to the spread of the pandemic and to its economic consequences, namely Yemen, Democratic republic of Congo, South Sudan, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad,

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4 Particularly, but not limited to, cotton, flowers and tropical fruits.
5 To be released on 21st April 2020
6 See footnote 2
The Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic and Pakistan should be closely monitored. These criteria will be applied for a country classification in the next editions.

**IPC processes** will be remotely supported remotely by IPC Global Support Unit and partners. Some countries had completed data collection exercise and priority will be placed to complete data analysis and consensus building. For IPC Acute Malnutrition and Cadre Harmonisé (CH), alternatives methodologies to collecting data remotely are being tested to counter the challenges due to the movement restrictions which are affecting data collection on the field. For CH a continuous monitoring is ongoing every 10 days for the 17 countries and schedule is to be updated in May - June.

### 3. Links between the environment and food systems

- Increasing evidence allow linking between environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and emergence of zoonosis, such as COVID-19. In the past, low population density in remote areas and limited exchanges used to prevent the spread of epidemic (IFPRI/ILRI).
- Bush meat, traditionally consumed in many communities, has grown out subsistence and local consumption to long-range trade and in many cases poaching. While bans may be already in place in China and other Asian, it is essential that all countries enforce international conventions and trade regulations on wildlife.
- Certain industrial food systems’ models could contribute to push smallholders into poverty. This also contribute to increase pressure on natural resources, which, at their turn, are contributing to the emergence of zoonosis (The Guardian).
- The current pandemic offers the opportunity to trigger a paradigm shift on how food is produced globally, in particularly livestock. It should lead to heightened investment in sustainable agri-food systems looking at food safety and animal health, short value chains to reduce exposure, carbon emissions and lower the risk of food supply disruption when movements are restricted.
- **UNEP** engaged with partners to build scientific knowledge on the links between ecosystem stability, the environment, and human health, while **ILRI** is urging to adopt a coordinated “One Health” response across human, animal and environmental health.

### 4. Impact on agricultural production, smallholders and local food systems

- In developing countries, up to 80% of the population relies on farming for their food and income. Production is mostly labour intensive and relies heavily on temporary or seasonal workers particularly during planting, weeding, harvesting, but also for food processing or transporting to markets (FAO).
- **Close monitoring at country level** will be paramount as impact will depend on their economic robustness, intensity of the pandemic, overall duration of the crisis, type of restrictive measures taken, and the timing of their specific seasonal calendar (whether they find themselves in planting or harvesting time, lean season...).
- In food insecure countries, the role of livestock is of paramount importance contributing to complete diet but also as a trading commodity and a shock absorber to face crises. Livestock death or distress sale will therefore adversely impact livelihoods and nutrition and reduce long-term resilience.
- Maintaining functional to supply chains for agricultural and livestock inputs and access to agricultural labour will be key to secure minimal agricultural and animal production in countries for which the main agricultural season is starting in the coming weeks and months (FAO).
- Efforts should be made to ensure the flow of food between rural, urban and peri-urban areas (FAO), allow local markets to remain open and develop innovative logistics and transport methods (FAO) to mitigate the impact on producers, processors and consumers.

### 5. Jobs, employment and social protection

- Beyond faster spread of the virus, urban areas are likely to be particularly hit by the disruption transport between urban and rural areas, movement restrictions and disruption of economic activities and hampering households’ incomes and deepening food insecurity (AMIS).
- **2.7 billion workers** are believed to be affected by lockdown measures (81% of the world’s workforce) and millions of businesses are facing dramatic loss jeopardizing the survival of their enterprises and putting at risk millions of workers to lose their jobs and possibly all their income sources (ILO).
- Movement restrictions will affect seasonal workers and labourers compelled to return to their villages as it is the case in India (IFPRI) and in Africa, triggering increased demographic pressure in already food insecure rural areas.

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7 Including the JRC
FAO deployed a COVID-19 specific policy tracking tool (FAPDA) to follow up county measure to counter the effect of the crisis in real time.

Research underscores that 126 countries have introduced or adapted social protection and jobs programs in response to COVID-19 (Gentilini et al) including cash and cash transfers, wage subsidies, subsidized sick leave, and various forms of subsidized social security contributions and unemployment insurance. FAO also recalled the need to ensure these measures reach rural populations. Migrant workers are also particularly vulnerable to the restrictions imposed by the crisis, and less likely to be covered by any assistance or insurance mechanism. They are being forced to return home, living in precarious conditions with no access to services or care.

6. Global Markets prices and trade policies

- Global market supply and production prospects continue to be adequate and do not show supply or prices instability. Additional details on market trends are summarized in annexe 2.
- Consensus exists (FAO, IFPRI, WFP, WB, etc.) that global stability could be jeopardized by market restrictions (e.g. exports or import bans) applied by countries. Examples of those measures come from a limited number of countries (Vietnam, Kazakhstan) that have recently adopted protectionist measures restricting exports of food supply.
- Several international organisations (World Bank, UN, FAO, IFPRI) called governments to resist the temptation to resort to protectionist or trade restrictive measures, known to aggravate the situations as it was in the case in the food price hike crisis in 2007-2008. It is critical to globally identify the most appropriate measures to prevent the pandemic to translate into a food crisis (FAO and IFAD).
- According to IFPRI, “under current conditions (relatively high food stocks, good harvests, low oil prices, and declining demand), global food prices are not going to rise” and trade restrictions are worst possible response to safeguard food security.
- Recently released “Market Monitor” (AMIS) and World Bank update confirmed that “global food markets remain well balanced” as rice and wheat prices remain globally stable. Market uncertainties will not be linked to food scarcity.
- In any case, monitoring of food prices and markets (WFP, G-20 AMIS, World Bank) to transparently disseminate information and promote policy dialogue.
- The Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) comprising major businesses, farmers’ groups, industry, non-governmental organisations and academia also called world leaders to minimise the risks of global and regional food security crises in coming month (allowing supply of food flowing across the world, scaling support to the most vulnerable and Invest in sustainable, resilient food systems).
- As the impacts of COVID-19 are increasingly being felt in developed and developing countries, the World Bank recommend close monitoring of local supply-demand conditions.

7. Gender

- Women are expected to significantly affected by the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 as they tend to live in more precarious situations, earn lower income and have less decision-making power. Moreover, the disease may further increase their burden since they tend to overwhelmingly provide child and elderly care the burden of care, either of children or the elderly (FAO).
- Initial data suggest that the mortality rate of women is lower than of men However, there is overall still limited literature on the specific impact of COVID-19 on women (Wenham et al., 2020) and more specifically in terms of impact on food and nutrition security and/or in relation to the roles of women in the agri-food systems.
- However, lessons learnt from the Ebola and Zika outbreak evidenced that women were disproportionately impacted by socio-economic consequences and by risk of heightened gender-based violence (Davies and Bennett, 2016). Furthermore movement restrictions had impacted women food and economic security and their economic recovery was slower then men’s (UN).

8. Stability

- The Members of the UN Peace Building Commission note that the COVID-19 pandemic may undermine social cohesion, strain the capacity of governance institutions, increase risks of instability, and have potential consequences for food security in countries and regions under its consideration. They expressed concern that the crisis may adversely affect employment,
livelihoods, and incomes and potentially exacerbate underlying tensions, as well as compounding already dire humanitarian situations in affected countries (Press release of 8/04/2020).

- FAO also warned about the risk of social tensions or conflicts if transhumance routes are disrupted. In the Sahel, the risk of youth enrolment in extremist groups should also not be undermined if other livelihoods sources become scare.
- Last but not least, the ICG warned about the risks of the immediate and future risks of social disorders and potential outbreaks of violence as a consequence of the economic effects.

9. Responses and positions from external partners

- Responses in FNSSA sector from different organisations are summarised in the table below (Annex 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fight against COVID, mitigation of the pandemic and protection of health workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet immediate health and basic needs, while continuing essential preventative and curative nutrition interventions</td>
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<td>Expand social protection programmes, possibly through digital cash transfers but also through in-kind food where food availability is jeopardised or inflation risk elevated.</td>
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<td>Support to smallholding farmers (access to inputs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure the continuity of the critical food supply chain and the functioning of agri-food systems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing monitoring market prices and adjustments of trade and tax policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy dialogue to maintain functioning supply chain for food items at global, regional and local levels.</td>
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- Beyond the tragedy, an increasing number of stakeholders are highlighting the interdependence of the environment, health and food systems and are calling to seize the opportunity of the crisis to refrain from going back not normal (Hawkes). They encourage a paradigm change towards resilient and sustainable agri-food systems (AMIS, Club of Rome, GAIN, WWF, ECDPM, Hivos, Food and Land Use Coalition).

10. The European response

- On 7th April, the EU announced a €15.6 billion combining resources from the EU, its Member States and financial institutions, including the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUR 502 million</td>
<td>Emergency response to the health crisis and the resulting humanitarian needs (basic needs, food assistance).</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUR 2,8 billion</td>
<td>Support to strengthen research, health and water systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUR 12,28 billion</td>
<td>Addressing the economic and social consequences</td>
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- The EC is addressing the emergency by reviewing its current portfolio across the board to support to partner countries by reorienting or increasing financial envelopes, reorient projects, commit new funds, or re-commit undisbursed funds.

- In particular, budget support interventions have been re-assessed to boost financial capacities and liquidities of partner countries and secure core government services, including through frontloading payments and/or increased fixed tranches. These measures are expected to (also) have a positive impact on food security and to support the agribusiness sector.

- The European Fund for Sustainable Development guarantee will be used to support small businesses through working capital and liquidity support, technical assistance, trade finance and local currency financing... This includes small and medium enterprises engaged in food production.
### Annex 1. Organisations’ response *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Priorities</th>
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</table>
| **EU**       | EU global response to COVID-19 | Over €15.6 billion | Team Europe approach, combining resources from the EU, its Member States and financial institutions, including the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to support each partner country.  
➢ EUR 502 million: Emergency response to the health crisis and the resulting humanitarian needs (basic needs, food assistance).  
➢ EUR 2.8 billion: Support to strengthen research, health and water systems  
➢ EUR 12.28 billion: Addressing the economic and social consequences  
Trade: the EU will use its entire trade and investment capacity to ensure the continuous flow of goods and avoid long-term disruptions of supplies, in particular for critical medical products and foodstuffs. |
| **UN**       | COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19 MPTF) | USD 2 billion | The MPTF is designed to offer fast and flexible finance well suited to meeting the shifting demands of this rapidly developing and multidimensional global crisis. Aims to support middle and low income countries that are not included in the GHRP on longer-term development and recovery activities. Programming is expected to roll out across three windows:  
➢ Window 1: Enable governments and community stakeholders to tackle the COVID-19 crisis by supporting the implementation of National Health Plans for Health Security (NAPHS) and closing critical gaps with regard to supplies, logistics and preparedness.  
➢ Window 2: Reduce social impact and promote economic response by funding social and economic protection mechanisms that, inter alia, scale-up cash transfers, broaden social safety nets, and meet the educational and food security needs of children; and through digital innovations that boost employment and strengthen social service delivery and healthcare provision.  
➢ Window 3: Recover better, together by strengthening national preparedness measures and safeguarding SDG programmes from pandemic-related setbacks. |
| **UN**       | UN Joint SDG Fund | up to USD 14.5 million | Approved the option of re-purposing up to 20% of existing 36 Joint Programmes (JP) funded under the theme social protection/Leave No One Behind (LNOB) |
| **UN**       | Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) | Appeal USD 2.01 billion (18% funded) | UN coordinated global humanitarian response plan to fight COVID-19 builds on three priorities:  
Strategic priority 1: Contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and decrease morbidity and mortality  
Strategic priority 2: Decrease the deterioration of human assets and rights, social cohesion and livelihoods  
➢ 2.1 Preserve the ability of the most vulnerable and affected people to meet the additional food consumption and other basic needs caused by the pandemic, through their productive activities and access to social safety nets and humanitarian assistance.  
➢ 2.2 Ensure the continuity and safety from risks of infection of essential services including health (immunization, HIV and tuberculosis care, reproductive health, psychosocial and mental health, gender-based violence services), water and sanitation, food supply, nutrition, protection, and education for the population groups most exposed and vulnerable to the pandemic.  
➢ 2.3 Secure the continuity of the supply chain for essential commodities and services such as food, time-critical productive and agricultural inputs, sexual and reproductive health, and non-food items.  
Strategic priority 3: Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, IDPs, migrants and host communities particularly vulnerable to the pandemic |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Consolidated in GHRP (pm USD)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Consolidated in GHRP (pm USD 100 million)</td>
<td>As part of GHRP, FAO will (i) stabilize access to food by supporting rural incomes and preserving ongoing critical livelihood assistance to vulnerable households; (ii) ensure continuity of the critical food supply chain; and (iii) ensure people along the food chain are not agents of COVID-19 transmission. This will be done by:</td>
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<td>- Working with governments to scale up social protection systems; direct cash injections where feasible; and cash+ schemes</td>
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<td>- Providing time-critical inputs; technical advice; support livelihood diversification and home production; support continued production, transformation, marketing and exchange of food products for IDPs/refugees, support food production in camps, and scale-up cash-based programming</td>
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<td>- Incentivizing continued production and strengthening agricultural cooperatives to maintain negotiation power for farmers;</td>
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<td>- Working with WHO to share messages and raise awareness of COVID-19 among food chain actors</td>
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<td>- Better understanding the potential impacts of COVID-19 on food security and the food supply chains, at country and global level.</td>
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<td>FAO will continue to play a critical coordination role, through co-leadership of the global and national Food Security Cluster and technical support for food security information and analyses, needs and impact assessments, early warning and monitoring systems, data collection and surveys, etc.</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>Consolidated in GHRP (pm USD 350 million – new requirement)</td>
<td>WFP has developed a Global Response Plan framed around three immediate priority objectives:</td>
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<td>- Objective 1: Sustain WFP Operations in 83 countries (87 million people)</td>
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<td>- Objective 2: Enable the Global Health and Humanitarian Response</td>
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<td>- Objective 3: Track Impacts and Inform Decision-Making</td>
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<td>WFP will focus on tangible assets and supply chain services required for humanitarian and health actors to be able to deliver the response outlined in this Global HRP. Specifically, WFP will:</td>
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<td>- Establish (or reinforce existing) international staging areas and regional hubs for cargo consolidation and forwarding.</td>
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<td>- Provide logistics services through sea vessels and aircrafts, among others, from international staging areas to regional hubs, and onwards to priority country points of entry if needed.</td>
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<td>- Provide the humanitarian community with medical evacuation services and the infrastructure for field clinics (not medical equipment) for front line aid workers;</td>
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<td>- Coordinate storage, sea, and air services for maximum efficiency and effectiveness and ensuring pipeline visibility of cargo to partners.</td>
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<td>- Expand real-time remote monitoring systems to collect continuous data food security, market and health related indicators to support coordinated analysis and informed decision making for governments and partners.</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Consolidated in GHRP (pm USD 120 million)</td>
<td>Strategic Priority 1 - SO 1.1 - SO 1.6</td>
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<td>Strategic Priority 2 - SO 2.1 - SO 2.2</td>
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<td>- UNDP will provide emergency employment, public employment services, as well as basic livelihood and start-up grants including cash aid.</td>
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<td>- (...) UNDP will also conduct rapid needs and impact assessments to identify the most affected population and inform livelihood assistance and recovery (...).</td>
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<td>Strategic Priority 3 - SO 3.2</td>
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* This table is not exhaustive and will be completed in future releases
Annex 2. JRC Summary on Market trends by JRC D5

Global market supply and production prospects continue to be adequate and don’t show supply or prices instability. One exception is the international price of rice that have increased due to export protection policies in some Asian countries.

Nonetheless several domestic markets some products show signs of instability, mainly price spikes. This is in general due to various factors often related to COVID-19: Increased food demand, supply chains disruptions, and currency devaluation in most cases; as well as and higher production and transportation costs and below average grain supply from 2019 production in some countries. In West Africa good production and imports keep markets well supply, however some hotspots of market disruption are due to insecurity.

1. Main prices irregularities by continent:

Africa:
- East: Sudan (staple foods, sorghum), South Sudan (staple foods- sorghum, millet), Uganda, Kenya (staple foods), Burundi (staple foods), Ethiopia (staple foods)
- Southern: Zimbabwe (food items), Zambia (maize meal), Mozambique (maize, cowpeas), South Africa (maize), Malawi (maize)
- West Africa: Burkina Faso and Niger (food items), Chad (coarse grains), Senegal (in urban areas), Ghana (maize), North east Nigeria

Latin America and Caribbean:
- North: Mexico (maize)
- Caribbean: Haiti (cereals),
- Central: Guatemala (maize, black beans), El Salvador (maize, red beans), Honduras (food items)
- South: Argentina (wheat and other food items), Colombia (rice, maize), Peru (rice) Bolivia (rice, maize), Chile (wheat, maize, food items), Brazil (Wheat, maize)

Asia:
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan (wheat flour and potatoes), Thailand (rice), Vietnam (rice),
- India (wheat flour, rice other food items), Myanmar (rice)
- Middle East: Yemen (wheat flour, other food items)

2. National policy responses to limit the impact of COVID-19 on food markets

Several countries are adopting price controlling measures, however this are not always fully effective in keeping prices from increasing, in particular in markets that are dependent in good part from informal trading.

West Africa
- Burkina Faso, on 2 April, announced the implementation of measures to counter over pricing of food items for the period April to June 2020.
- The Gambia, on 24 March, introduced price ceilings on key staple foods, including rice, maize, millet and bread.
- Mauritania, on 25 March, announced measures that would effectively remove the requirement to pay import duties on wheat, oil, milk powder, vegetables and fruits for the rest of the year.
- The Niger, on 3 April, introduced price ceilings on essential food items, including millet, maize, sorghum and rice, for a period of three months, with possibility of extension.
- Nigeria approved, on 1 April, the release of 35 000 tonnes of maize, 25 000 tonnes of sorghum, 5 000 tonnes of millet and 5 000 tonnes of gari (cassava-based flour) from the National Grain Reserve to be distributed to the most vulnerable households.

Southern Africa
- In Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa, measures have been put in place to counter over-pricing of food items.
- South Africa introduced, on 19 March, price regulation on a range of food items, including maize meal, rice and wheat flour and, on 27 March, it announced the Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption on imported essential goods, which include food products
- Madagascar introduced price ceilings on rice in mid-March.
East Africa
- Ethiopia implemented price control measures for staple foods.
- Kenya authorized the import of 4 million 90 kg-bags of maize for food and feed use to ensure sufficient market availabilities during the pandemic.
- Rwanda fixed the retail prices of rice and, on 28 March, launched a food distribution initiative for vulnerable households.
- Uganda announced the distribution of food items to vulnerable households.

Asia
- Cambodia suspended exports of white and paddy rice from 5 April 2020 to ensure sufficient domestic supplies during the pandemic.
- India stepped up deliveries of wheat and rice under the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS).
- In Indonesia and the Philippines, staple food items, including rice, are being rationed.
- The Philippines announced, on 30 March, its plans to import 300 000 tonnes of rice to boost stocks.

Asia/Europe
National policy responses to limit the impact of COVID-19 on food markets
- A number of countries implemented trade limitations in an effort to ensure sufficient domestic supplies and avoid price increases of staple foods.
- The Russian Federation announced the sale of 1.5 million tonnes of grains from State reserves into the domestic market starting from 13 April.
- Ukraine announced, on 27 March, the sale of 160 000 tonnes of milling wheat from State-owned agricultural companies into the local market.
- Georgia introduced a temporary emergency price control mechanism on imported food items, including rice, buckwheat, wheat grain and flour, pasta, sunflower oil, sugar, milk powder and legumes.
- Kyrgyzstan set maximum levels of wholesale and retail prices for a number of food items, including wheat flour and potatoes, which vary according to region. The measure was introduced on 16 March and will remain in place for a period of 90 days.

Central America and the Caribbean
- National policy responses to limit the impact of COVID-19 on food markets.
- Honduras, on 21 March, introduced price ceilings on essential food items, including rice, tortillas, beans, milk, fruits and vegetables.
- The measure applies to both markets and supermarkets and runs until 18 April 2020.
- El Salvador, on 22 March, introduced price ceilings on essential products, including maize, rice and beans. Earlier, on 20 March, the country suspended import duties on white maize, red beans and rice for the duration of the pandemic.
- In other countries of the sub region, including Guatemala and Mexico, measures have been put in place to counter over-pricing of food items.

South America
National policy responses to limit the impact of COVID-19 on food markets
- Argentina, on 20 March, introduced price ceilings on basic food items and drinks for a period of 30 days, which apply to markets and hyper/super/mini-markets. Under the restriction, prices cannot be higher than their values on 6 March.
- In other countries of the sub region, including Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Ecuador, measures have been put in place to counter over-pricing of food items.

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