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# WFP Global Response to COVID-19: September 2020

September 2020



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# 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) assessments<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Based on a WFP assessment in August 2020, severe food insecurity had increased by 400 percent, 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.<sup>3</sup>

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](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 m<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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](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 UNHCR<sup>7</sup>, 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.<sup>8</sup>



## 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](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,<sup>9</sup> 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), an estimated 9.6 million people (21 percent of the population analysed) are experiencing Crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and are in need of urgent support. This is the highest figure ever recorded in the history of the IPC in Sudan, with around 2.2 million people in Emergency acute food insecurity situation (IPC Phase 4) and around 7.4 million in Crisis acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3).

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.<sup>10</sup> 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.

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9 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020.

10 The geographical coverage of the 2020 GRFC report was broader than in previous years, which accounts for some of this increase.





# Political Processes

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The pandemic has affected electoral calendars worldwide. As of September, around 71 countries had postponed elections or referendums due to COVID-19.<sup>11</sup> In several, this contributed to political tensions and uncertainty, including Ethiopia, Somalia, Bolivia, Chile. Elections held as planned despite the pandemic posed other issues such as lower voter turnouts and electoral constraints due to COVID-19 related restrictions. For elections on the horizon, COVID-19 is likely to give rise to similar political strains, with increased risks of unrest and instability particularly in contexts with long-standing political, economic and ethnic fault lines. Countries with critical elections and referendums on the calendar for the next six months include: Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Niger, CAR, Tanzania, Venezuela, Chile and Ecuador.

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# La Niña

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Latest information from international climate prediction centres leads to forecast a 75 percent chance of a La Niña phenomenon to occur between September 2020 and February 2021.<sup>12</sup> This will impact on rainfall patterns and hurricane activity: an intensified hurricane season is already developing in the Atlantic and Caribbean. The most significant impacts are expected to play out in the next 6 to 9 months: East Africa and in particular Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia are expected to face significant reductions in rainfall during the Short Rains/Deyr season (October-December) and possibly in the following Long Rains/Gu season (March-May). This is likely to lead to two back to back poor agricultural and pastoral production seasons. In Somalia, this will compound the poor production of the last Gu season (mostly due to locust and flood impact).

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# Floods

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More than 650,000 people are reported to have been affected by floods in 17 out of 18 states in Sudan. These floods are the worst the country has seen; the water level of the Nile River rose to about 17.5 meters in August, destroying homes and forcing tens of thousands of people in displacement. More than 700,000 people have been displaced in South Sudan as a result of large-scale flooding across the country. Across the continent, heavy and torrential rains have led to widespread flooding in northern Senegal, western Mali and northern Nigeria. Continued moderate to heavy rains fell on eastern Burkina Faso, south-western Chad and northern Benin led to flooding in many places. Impact assessments are underway. In Bangladesh, monsoon rainfall in July-August 2020 affected over 5.4 million people, including in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, and thousands more in neighbouring Myanmar, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam. In Pakistan, flooding left up to 300,000 people in need of food assistance in Baluchistan and Sindh provinces.

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<sup>11</sup> International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, "Global Overview of COVID-19 impact on elections," <https://www.idea.int/news-media/multimedia-reports/global-overview-covid-19-impact-elections>.

<sup>12</sup> Climate Prediction Center / NCEP / NWS and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/ensodisc.shtml](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.shtml).

# WFP's 6-Month Response Pillars

At the end of June 2020, WFP issued the Global Response to COVID-19 plan, appealing for US\$ 4.9 billion across 83 operations until the end of the year. This included an additional US\$ 1.7 billion representing increased needs driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, 49 out of a total of 84 budget revisions to Country Strategic Plans in 2020 are in support of WFP's global response to the COVID-19 crisis.

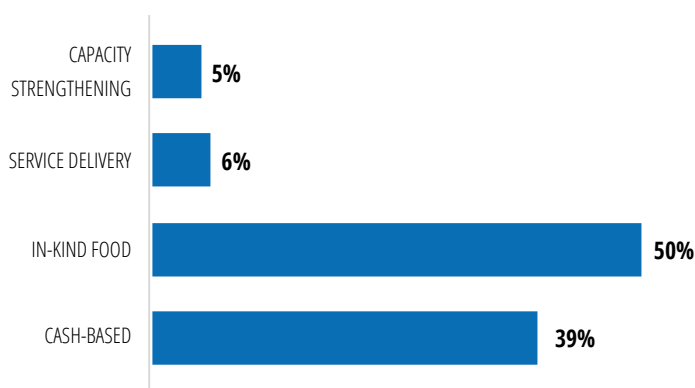
Together, these revisions total US\$ 1.5 billion and target an additional 16.4 million beneficiaries globally.<sup>13</sup> The majority focused on scaling up WFP's emergency response efforts. Despite significant challenges, WFP has demonstrated its ability to deliver amid the crisis, with 8 percent more in-kind food provided in the first half of 2020 as compared to the same period in 2019. Cash-based transfers also increased by 15 percent between January and August 2020 if compared to the same period in 2019,<sup>14</sup> reflecting an adaptive shift in modality to the context of the pandemic. In addition, WFP locally sourced over 553,000 metric tons of food, amounting to 17 percent more than over the same period in 2019. WFP has further supported around 50 governments with social protection interventions, and adapted school meal programmes to take-home rations for 7 million schoolchildren.

The Plan sets out three pillars of response:

- **Sustaining** ongoing levels of assistance to beneficiaries across all WFP operations. The June Plan catered for increased operational costs caused by the pandemic, including the need to adapt and upgrade WFP delivery modalities to ensure health mitigation measures were in place as well as address the impact of quarantine measures and longer turnaround time on sea and overland transport.
- **Scaling-up** to reach additional beneficiaries on the brink of acute food insecurity due to COVID-19 and its compounded impacts. The scale-up is particularly pronounced in urban contexts. The June Plan also foresaw major needs in traditionally smaller resilience and root cause operations, which require extra operational support.
- **Supporting** and enabling governments and partners to respond to growing needs through the provision of technical assistance, tangible assets and services, and complementary support.

This includes supporting national social protection systems as they expand their reach and adapt to the consequences of the pandemic, national coordination of intervention planning and response through national Food Security Clusters and other national fora, along with in-country logistical and emergency telecommunications support and efforts around data collection through real time remote assessment and monitoring tools.

## TRANSFER MODALITY



## INTERNAL INVESTMENTS BY WFP

### Enhancing the use of internal emergency funding allocation: the IRA

WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA) has proven to be a life-saving vehicle since its inception. The IRA allows WFP country offices to rapidly obtain funds in times of emergencies and return them as soon as donor contributions are received. It has proven to be a critical tool during the COVID-19 response, particularly for country offices with limited fundraising opportunities. Over the course of the COVID-19 response, WFP has allocated US\$ 70 million (including US\$ 10 million in investments for staffing and surge support to the field) to 44 emergencies across the world, out of which US\$ 45 million were allocated from June to September. Smaller operations such as Armenia, El Salvador (which was also hit by a tropical storm during the height of COVID-19 restrictions), Ghana and Lesotho were also among the countries to benefit from the fund. Preparedness measures have also benefited from this mechanism. In the Caribbean islands, WFP is making timely logistical investments financed by the IRA.

<sup>13</sup> Budget Revision Report – 2 September.

<sup>14</sup> This figure excludes data from Turkey, where WFP cash support was discontinued in 2020.

With augmented warehouse capacity and logistics hubs, WFP will be well positioned to support the governments as they respond to COVID-19 and to the seasonal threat of hurricanes this year.



### Global Commodity Management Facility

The economic contraction caused by COVID-19 led to reduced vital imports and increased food prices, a trend being observed especially in Eastern and Southern Africa. To minimize rising operational costs, WFP pre-positioned stocks by leveraging its Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) and, where possible, secured local and regional procurement to stabilize the food supply for the remainder of 2020. Between June and September, WFP called forward 993,000 mt of commodities, representing 28 percent of the food requirements stated in the Global Plan for July-December 2020. WFP was also able to mobilize food commodities and position them near operations through local and regional purchases. So far, 835,000 mt of food (for a food value of US\$ 434 million) are available in GCMF inventories.

During COVID-19, the GCMF has fulfilled its mandate. In addition to reducing the lead time to make lifesaving commodities available to critical operations, such as in Zimbabwe, the GCMF has generated savings. The GCMF allows WFP to preposition stocks at the right time and at optimal rates, rather than when the needs are highest at peak lean seasons.



### Support to the field

More than 500 WFP staff were deployed to the field to provide crucial support in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP prepared over 100 guidance documents related to COVID-19 to help adapt operations to the complex operating environment for activities ranging from fast-tracking supply chain processes, adapting programmes, ensuring staff safety, and managing financial service providers. The pandemic accelerated WFP's ongoing adoption of digital services, remote working, and process simplification, mobilizing the organization to test and introduce new tools and approaches such as in the updated Emergency Field Operations Pocketbook, digitalized signatures and accelerated contracting, leading WFP to operate faster and more efficiently.

## COVID-19 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



**85 M**

PEOPLE REACHED

WFP scaled up to reach **85 million** people in the first half of 2020.



**US\$ 1.1B**

IN CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

WFP transferred **US\$ 1.15 billion** through cash-based transfers across **64** operations, **15 percent** more than in 2019.



**553,000**

METRIC TONNES OF FOOD

WFP sourced **553,000 metric tons of food** in its countries of operation – **17 percent** more than in 2019.



**7 M**

SCHOOLCHILDREN

WFP adapted school meal programmes to take-home rations for **7 million schoolchildren**.



**50**

GOVERNMENTS

WFP has supported some **50 governments** with their social protection interventions in response to the COVID-19 crisis.



**500**

STAFF DEPLOYED

More than **500 WFP staff** were deployed to the field to provide crucial support in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**23,500**

PASSENGERS

WFP had transported **23,500 health and humanitarian personnel** on behalf of **367 organisations** through **1,323 flights**.



**56,000**

M<sup>3</sup> OF CARGO

WFP had delivered **56,000 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo** to **157 countries** on behalf of **42 organizations**.



**US\$ 70M**

ALLOCATED FROM IRA

WFP allocated **US\$ 70 million** to **44** emergency requests over the course of the COVID-19 response.



**993,000**

MT OF COMMODITIES

WFP called forward 993,000 mt of commodities through the GCMF, **28 percent** of food requirements.

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD: JUNE - SEPTEMBER



### Maintaining WFP's reach

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus, WFP country offices quickly took steps to safeguard their operations to reach vulnerable populations.

This required adaptations and changes in delivery modalities across all operations. Modifications included pre-positioning commodities and combining several months of assistance in a single distribution to reduce the frequency of direct contact between staff, partners and beneficiaries. Enforcing hygiene practices at distributions sites has also been practiced across all of WFP's operations.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, WFP continued to provide life-saving assistance to 7.5 million people in the most vulnerable areas of the country by organising double distributions of food to minimize large gatherings, putting in place hand washing stations, pre-packaging of food and introducing contact-less verification mechanisms. Several regions also conducted robust market surveys to monitor food prices in order to prevent border and access constraints from limiting WFP's scope of intervention.

WFP maintained the delivery of critical assistance to more than 2.5 million people in South Sudan by distributing double rations in protection of civilians sites, refugee camps and as part of the rapid response mechanism. In addition, commodities were prepositioned to facilitate distribution when transport links were impacted. WFP also partnered with beneficiary management committees to put in place and manage health mitigation measures at distributions sites.

In Yemen, WFP continued to provide life-saving assistance to 13 million people, reaching populations facing high food insecurity while strictly observing COVID-19 preventive measures, including staggered distribution, door-to-door mobile registrations and using PPEs. Food for Assets (FFA) activities remained uninterrupted by reducing the number of participants working at the same time in the same location.

In Colombia, WFP continued monthly emergency assistance to over 300,000 migrants, violence-affected people and other vulnerable populations by increasing cash-based transfers following the temporary closure of most community kitchens. Contingency stocks were also procured ahead of potential lock-downs or restrictions in transport. And school feeding programmes were shifted to take-home school feeding rations and duration of assistance was extended up to nine months.



### Expanding cash-based transfers

The intense spread of COVID-19 is outpacing the capacity of health systems and has prompted governments to introduce and sustain confinement measures that curtails livelihoods. Amid these movement restrictions, a greater shift to cash-based transfers has emerged as a common practice for WFP operations across all regions. Over half of the scale up in WFP's global response to COVID-19 plan is being delivered in cash and vouchers, empowering urban communities to meet their food needs in local markets and allowing WFP to leverage technology to deliver assistance while minimising human contact.

From January to August 2020, WFP has transferred US\$ 1.15 billion through cash-based transfers across 64 operations, representing an increase of 15 percent compared with the same period in 2019.<sup>15</sup> To facilitate this effort, WFP evaluated 56 financial service providers, bringing their total number to 92, and contracted over 800 additional retailers.

WFP is also using its cash-based platform to support broader initiatives, such as in Ethiopia where WFP is on track to reach 17,500 people with cash assistance in September to complement ongoing government assistance to urban families. In Syria, cash-based transfer top-ups have been distributed to allow more than 10,600 pregnant and lactating women and girls to purchase hygiene items. In Bangladesh, over 500,000 people already receive cash under the special support to host communities programme. In Mauritania, Mali and Niger, WFP is implementing a EUR 44 million social protection response focused on cash-delivery and systems strengthening in collaboration with UNICEF.

Emergency cash assistance has been carried out in parts of Egypt and Armenia, where female-headed households and school children who were excluded from national social protection programme were able to meet their food needs thanks to WFP's cash-based transfer delivery platform. In Pakistan, under the shock-responsive social protection project implemented with the government, WFP provided cash top-ups (over three months) to 50,000 drought- and COVID-affected families, in addition to their regular entitlements.



### Extending support to urban populations

Across many of WFP's operations, in addition to maintaining focus on pre-existing beneficiaries, planning was required for large-scale expansions of food assistance as more people were pushed into deeper food insecurity. This was particularly the case in many urban areas, reflecting

<sup>15</sup>This calculation excludes data from the cash-based transfer programme in Turkey, which was discontinued in 2020.

the substantial urban dimension of COVID-19-induced vulnerability and the impact of lockdown and movement restrictions on communities whose livelihoods were already very fragile.

In Kenya, for example, WFP disbursed cash to 27,270 households affected by COVID-19 living in informal settlements within Nairobi. Scale-up beyond this initial three-month assistance is ongoing. In Afghanistan, WFP is planning to assist 3 million people directly affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Distributions have started for almost 310,000 people in urban centres of Kabul and Herat, providing a one-time unconditional cash transfer or food to people impacted by COVID-19. Nearly 80 percent of them are in urban areas. In Somalia, WFP revised its planning to target an additional caseload of 1.6 million people, mostly in urban settings, in addition to regular assistance to 5 million people. In the Central African Republic, WFP scaled up its assistance with both food and cash distributions to 380,000 new beneficiaries, representing about 9 percent of the total population in urban and peri-urban areas.

In some contexts, WFP is planning to provide direct assistance for the first time. In partnership with UNICEF and FAO, WFP is providing support to the Nsele commune in Kinshasa. The project aims to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 through mobile money transfers for the most vulnerable populations and enhance shock responsive and social safety net systems. This will include the resumption of fingerprint biometric registration for cash-based transfer operations, which has been suspended since the beginning of the pandemic as a preventive measure. In Nigeria, WFP is partnering with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to assist vulnerable people affected by COVID-19, delivering for the first time in the metropolitan cities of Abuja and Lagos. In Peru, an operation that exclusively focused on technical assistance for the last decade, WFP introduced emergency assistance to new target populations, providing logistics support to government food distributions to about 220,000 people in Lima and surrounding areas, and additionally targeting direct cash-based transfer assistance to almost 100,000 migrants and affected nationals.



### Reaching people in quarantine and isolation facilities

In one-quarter of its operations, WFP is providing short-term food assistance in isolation/quarantine centres, partnering with health actors and local catering companies. This type of requests from governments is higher in countries of Asia, Latin America and East Africa where returning populations, including migrant workers who have lost income opportunities abroad, are being asked to quarantine upon arrival. Almost 100,000 people have been supported with general food assistance to support government quarantine measures in Myanmar, Laos PDR, Nepal and Bangladesh. In Syria, WFP, in cooperation and coordination with the

World Health Organization (WHO), has started a six-month institutional feeding programme to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrians in COVID-19 quarantine centres while in Yemen WFP supported 38 COVID-19 quarantine centres in 9 governorates with immediate response rations to cover the 14-day quarantine period.

In Myanmar, WFP is providing food assistance to 60,000 returning migrants in government quarantine facilities in Yangon with integrated wasting prevention programmes for children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women. Given that returns to Myanmar continue at a significant rate and new quarantine measures have been introduced in Rakhine State in response to a spike in COVID-19 cases, WFP is planning to support an additional 60,000 people between October 2020 and March 2021.



### Adapting school-feeding

School meals programmes are another example of how WFP ensured continued support to millions of school children. WFP is helping protect and develop human capital by working to adapt school feeding programmes, including through daily meal deliveries, take-home rations, and voucher or cash-based assistance. To date, WFP has supported 71 countries to adapt school-feeding programmes in response to the COVID crisis, providing both technical assistance and direct operational support. A total of 49 countries have transitioned to daily meal delivery or take-home rations, while 22 are using vouchers or cash-based assistance. WFP is directly reaching about seven million learners across 45 countries in support of national government efforts.

During the summer months of July and August, WFP continued assisting children from vulnerable households by introducing alternative distribution modalities in the form of take-home rations in lieu of school meals. In Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda, over 500,000 children were reached. In Mozambique, WFP reached 123,440 beneficiaries through the distribution of take-home rations. WFP has also been working with UNICEF to provide food assistance to out-of-school children in Syria, reaching almost 46,000 children in the month of August. In Sudan, WFP is currently working in 11 states, targeting nearly 1.1 million students enrolled in WFP-supported schools, including for the first time 180,000 primary school children in Khartoum State.

In Haiti, as schools closed in the first half of the year, WFP distributed take-home food rations for over 91,000 schoolchildren. Schools reopened in August to make up for days missed and WFP developed a new protocol for messages on hygiene, biosafety and social distancing measures during transport, food storage, food preparation, and school meal distribution. As of 1 September 2020, 87 percent of schools in the programme have been re-supplied,

with 95 percent of food planned for deliveries.

In addition to switching to take-home rations for about 900,000 school children in Asia and the Pacific, in some countries, such as Pakistan and Myanmar, WFP has provided portable hand washing and sanitation stations in schools. In a number of countries (Cambodia, India and Bhutan, Timor-Leste and Indonesia), WFP is also supporting with school reopening guidelines and checklists, and developing COVID-19 health awareness or standard operating procedures to support school staff and cooks.



### Leveraging livelihoods support

Where possible, WFP has worked with communities to enhance their ability to maintain or create income-generating activities and sustain livelihoods.

The past few months have seen a full or partial resumption of many asset creation and livelihoods/resilience activities in a large number of countries where they had previously been suspended. In Bangladesh, WFP has continued to scale up mask production through its self-reliance programme and Rohingya beneficiaries of WFP's self-reliance programme have now produced more than 250,000 reusable cloth masks, including 114,000 for children. Similarly, in Afghanistan, participants in vocational training used the skills acquired in tailoring and sewing to produce face masks that help prevent the spread of COVID-19. To date, they have produced more than 23,000 masks.

In Guinea, since June, WFP has been providing essential trainings and materials, including sewing machines, to over 2,000 women for the production of face masks. In Iraq and Tajikistan WFP is implementing emergency cash for work projects to support vulnerable urban communities. And in Palestine, H2Grow, WFP's hydroponics project is empowering vulnerable families under lockdown to grow more fresh vegetables than ever before, helping them to stay home, diversify diets and provide a source of income. The regional livelihood recovery plan developed by WFP's regional bureau in Cairo aims to scale up livelihood support to 2.2 million beneficiaries.



### Supporting partners

WFP maintains its logistical and technical support role to governments, UN agencies and the wider humanitarian community, providing coordination and technical assistance through the WFP-led Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters, and the Food Security Cluster co-led with FAO. This support includes rapid gaps and needs assessments to facilitate the global humanitarian response, organizing humanitarian convoys to transport COVID-19 response and life-saving commodities and connectivity

services to enhance flow of information.

Where already activated, Logistics Clusters continued to support existing humanitarian operations, while also scaling up to support partners and governments in their COVID-19 responses. In South Sudan, the Logistics Cluster is working with WHO to consolidate and manage requests for in-country Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) stocks. In addition, the cluster is facilitating access to WFP air assets for the transport of COVID-19 response items including oxygen concentrators and PPE for a range of partners, including the South Sudan Ministry of Health. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Logistics Cluster has made storage space available in Kinshasa and Goma in support of the COVID-19 response and is currently storing items on behalf of WHO and the Ministry of Health. In Syria, the Logistics Cluster is facilitating access for partners to ad-hoc cargo flights from Damascus to Qamishli and is also offering access to free-to-user landside transportation from Qamishli Airport to onward destinations. In Bangladesh, the Logistics Sector is supporting humanitarian organizations with access to transport, with over 700 mt of COVID-19 related items transported to-date, and is facilitating access to common storage, including six refrigerators for cold storage of vaccines and medicines. In Somalia, the Logistics Cluster is facilitating access to airlifts for the movement of cargo, with nearly 40 mt of COVID-19 related cargo transported on behalf of the Government and key health partners.

In response to the effects of COVID-19, two cluster activations have taken place in Sudan and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, the Logistics Cluster is now working with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), WHO, UNICEF and other partners to develop a vaccination preparedness plan. The Logistics Cluster also worked with the NDRMC on the rehabilitation of warehouses to be used by partners as common storage for the COVID-19 response. In Sudan, the Logistics Cluster continues to coordinate with partners to identify logistics gaps and bottlenecks and is facilitating access to road transport for partners, including the Sudanese Ministry of Health. The Logistics Cluster will be activated in Burkina Faso in October.

At the global level, the Global Logistics Cluster has played a key role in the dissemination of information on the impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian logistics. This includes continued issuance of the cargo entry points updates and interactive map, a key resource on the latest status of border crossings, as well as a COVID-19 situation update, summarizing the latest global and country-level cluster information.

In Bangladesh, the Emergency Telecommunications Sector is coordinating the provision of critical data connectivity services in 20 isolation and treatment Centres to support the response to COVID-19. In the Central African Republic, the dedicated COVID-19 Call Centre set up by the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in Bangui continues to provide 24/7 support and advice on COVID-19-related issues to affected communities. In Yemen, as part of the COVID-19 response, the ETC installed video conferencing

equipment in isolation units in the United Nations Common Accommodation Facility in Sana'a. Responding to requests from WHO, the ETC is upgrading a dedicated COVID-19 hotline at the Ministry of Public Health and Population in Sana'a, establishing a new hotline in Aden, and upgrading the existing communications infrastructure in 26 emergency operations centres that had previously been used for the cholera response to now support the COVID-19 response. ETC Internet connectivity services are now available in quarantine centres in Aden and Al Hudaydah.

The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) continues to coordinate assessments, monitoring and operational support on food security issues to enhance preparedness and response. The Food Security Cluster (FSC) is an active member of the IPC, which along with the Cadre Harmonise (CH) conducted multiple analysis during COVID-19 that were key in determining the impact on the food security situation—for example in Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic, which saw a 30 to 50 percent increase in their numbers of acutely food-insecure people.

FSC partners are working together across 45 GHRP countries, up from 31 before the pandemic, and in March 2020 established a COVID-19 Technical Working Group to collaborate towards five specific results. For example, a joint monitoring framework for COVID-19 was designed and tested to date in North East Syria Cox's Bazar, helping identify areas at high risk of food security deterioration. Technical guidance notes for operating in the context of COVID-19 were prepared on emergency distributions, livestock interventions, targeting in urban settings, food market-based approaches, and safe food hygiene and handling. Advocacy messages and briefs were produced with all partners on issues ranging from the pandemic's impact on food security, the free flow of fresh produce, access to food for the most vulnerable, and improving food use, utilization and production systems. Meanwhile a joint strategy is being developed with the other Clusters at global level and collaboration with research institutes and universities is growing to further study the pandemic and its fallout on food security.

Across the world, FSC partners have launched initiatives aimed at both rural and urban populations and adapted to new operational contexts, expanding their reach to urban areas in Mozambique, South Sudan, Chad, Burkina Faso and others. In Cox's Bazar and Lebanon, assistance is being further extended to host populations, and in Colombia a rapid emergency response for vulnerable indigenous communities in urban or peri-urban settlements in the Amazonas has started. Specific measures were implemented in quarantine centres and for families under isolation, and social safety net programmes bolstered with unconditional food assistance for the most vulnerable, such as in South Sudan.

Swift programmatic changes were necessary in many areas, such as switching from in-kind provisions to digital cash transfers and giving out two-month supplies to limit contact with affected populations. Distributions of ready-to-eat food and hot meals were introduced, for example in Libya for migrant workers, in Ethiopia targeting returnees and in Lebanon for those in informal settlements and community shelters.

The FSC is coordinating extra cash-for-work programmes, meeting immediate food needs while putting in place longer-standing mechanisms to support livelihoods. For example, in Somalia anticipatory action initially planned for slow-onset crises is now being used to mitigate rising humanitarian needs due to the "triple shock" of drought, desert locust and COVID-19 hitting the country. FSC partners have secured funds to reach 2.3 million people between July and September 2020, assisting 1.8 million people in July and 1.6 million in August with food and vouchers, safety nets and seasonal agricultural inputs.



### Providing bilateral supply chain services

The demand for WFP-led supply chain services expanded to support both new and existing partners in the response to COVID-19 and the continuation of existing programmes. The supply chain services are provided to requesting organizations on a cost-recovery basis that are not included in the free-to-user common services. WFP became the preferred logistics provider for 11 governments accessing the World Bank's pooled procurement initiative for COVID-19 critical items. This primarily focused on facilitating the dispatch of supplies from China to the main port of entry in the participating countries.

WFP also expanded its supply chain service support to implementing partners of The Global Fund through the provision of upstream air transport support to challenging operating environments and in country final mile solutions. This facilitated a continuity of supply for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programmes. Countries supported include Yemen, Burundi, Sao Tome, and Togo.

Setting up the logistics backbone for global COVID-19 efforts, WFP also leveraged on the existing capacity and expertise of its UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Network to ensure that UN agencies, governments and NGOs could deliver vital medical and humanitarian cargo where it's needed most. In addition to contributing to WFP's free to user cargo services for the COVID-19 response, UNHRD hubs in Accra, Brindisi, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and Panama City continued to support humanitarian partner organizations in their relief efforts across the world, including COVID-19 responses. As of end September, UNHRD supported 36 partners by delivering 17,900 mt of vital aid and crucial support equipment to 126 countries through 850 shipments on a cost-recovery basis.

# Building Back Better

## Foundations for Medium-term

**While meeting immediate humanitarian needs is a first priority, WFP is also looking to the future to ensure that its assistance has a sustainable impact. A recovery that does not make our societies and economies more equal, inclusive, and resilient will be neither durable nor protective from the complex social, economic, and climate risks we collectively face.**

The Medium-term Programme Framework (MTPF)<sup>16</sup> lays out WFP's contribution to inclusive and resilient recovery. With the 2030 agenda<sup>17</sup> and the UN socioeconomic response framework to COVID-19<sup>18</sup> as the roadmap, the MTPF provides a flexible framework for WFP to support affected communities, national governments and partners 'build back better.' While the majority of WFP's budget revisions focus on WFP's emergency response efforts, most also include a link to one or more MTPF pillars.<sup>19</sup> This demonstrates how WFP's emergency response serves as a foundation for longer-term response and recovery objectives to build back better through strengthening access to national social protection, basic services, and efficient and greener food systems.



### SOCIAL PROTECTION

A key component of WFP's response is support to government efforts to respond and build back better by enabling expanded social protection measures in response to COVID-19, while contributing to the establishment of more comprehensive social protection systems that enable people to meet their essential needs and strengthen their resilience to future shocks and stresses. To date, WFP has provided social protection support to more than 50 governments through technical assistance and advice, operational support for national response delivery and complementary direct action.

In Malawi, WFP is supporting the government to design and deliver an emergency cash-response to COVID-19 provided through the social protection system, targeting over 850,000 individuals for six months. WFP's support, which includes technical assistance, development of guidelines, targeting and verification, and monitoring, is designed to build a

national social protection system in urban areas of that can be utilized far beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

WFP is supporting the establishment of the Sudan family support programme, under which the government will deliver monthly cash transfers to approximately 80 percent of Sudanese families. Over a period of two years, WFP will provide technical assistance to help develop a digital delivery platform and a community feedback mechanism, while providing third party assurance services. In addition to safeguarding people from the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, the platform lays the grounds for efficient and accountable delivery of a broad range of social protection services in the future.

In Peru, WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Development for the formulation of operational protocols for community kitchens, which enabled the reopening of this social programme. In addition, WFP is providing technical support for the design of a food voucher assistance scheme that will complement the current emergency food distributions. In Guatemala, WFP supports the government by providing direct local food procurement services and is currently procuring some 80,000 metric tons to be utilized in social safety-net programmes.

In the Asia and Pacific region, where WFP partners with governments to provide technical support, WFP is initiating mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping in eight Pacific island countries to monitor food security, livelihoods and market functionality. In Indonesia, WFP is working with UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women to strengthen social protection systems, focusing on data preparedness and food security/vulnerability/early warning analytics. Support is also ongoing for the implementation of logistics and food security priority actions under the COVID-19 Indonesia UN-Multi Sector Response Plan as well as support to the government school feeding programmes during the closure and reopening of schools across the country. In Cambodia, WFP advises the National Social Protection Council on shock-responsive social protection. WFP also supports the Government's identification of poor households (IDPoor) system to identify households affected by the COVID-19 crisis and add these households to the registry for social assistance/cash transfer programmes.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/publications/responding-development-emergency-caused-covid-19-wfps-medium-term-programming>

<sup>17</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

<sup>18</sup> <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-framework-immediate-socio-economic-response-covid-19>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.



In this region, supporting national systems allows WFP to indirectly reach large numbers of beneficiaries. For example, in India, WFP supported the Government with technical advice on the adaptation of their targeted public distribution system, which serves 800 million beneficiaries. In the Philippines, WFP supported the registration and verification of more than 350,000 households into the government's social amelioration programme and is assisting the government with remote food security and programme monitoring.



## BASIC SERVICES – NUTRITION AND SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMING

WFP is supporting governments to analyse the impact of the crisis on nutrient-intake gaps across food systems, helping to identify groups at increased risk of malnutrition and design appropriate interventions for treatment and prevention of malnutrition. To facilitate stronger and more inclusive recovery, WFP is looking long-term to help better protect, develop, and leverage human capital: working with communities and stakeholders to set priorities, address root causes of malnutrition and build plans to effectively address future shocks. In 2020, WFP has advised over 15 countries through its Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis tools and reached more than 9.5 million children and pregnant and breast-feeding women and girls with life-saving nutrition support.

In response to the impact of the crisis, WFP is working to adapt its full suite of programming to maximise its nutritional impact and supporting partners to do the same. Key guidelines have been rolled out to ensure nutritional impact in fragile and urban contexts, cash-based and behaviour change programming, and integration with essential needs and social protection programming. WFP is partnering with UNICEF, WHO, FAO, and UNHCR to develop a Global Action Plan for prevention and treatment of wasting, including mapping nutrition and social protection programmes in 20 countries.

WFP is also working with national governments by providing both technical assistance and direct operational support for school-feeding programmes in 45 countries. A publicly available monitoring system is being operated by WFP to track school closures, government responses, and adaptations to school meals and other health services. WFP has also strengthened its partnership with UNICEF across 30 countries to provide integrated school-based support for nutrition, clean water, and sanitation. Together with UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank, a joint framework has been developed to help governments safely re-opening schools. Globally, WFP has joined a coalition of partners through the #SaveOurFuture campaign to protect investments in education and support governments plan for safe school

re-opening, making sure key meal and health services are in place and create incentives for parents to send children, especially girls, back to school.



## FOOD SYSTEMS

WFP is adopting a more integrated approach to strengthening food systems. Working on both food demand and supply sides, WFP is supporting national governments and partners to identify and address food system risks and disruptions to protect and sustain their function, while working to analyse the complex, long-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis to build back food systems that are more efficient, green, and resilient.

In 2020, WFP has already increased local procurement to 550,000 mt to date—a value of US\$ 271 million and 17 percent more than in 2019. Local procurement helps to sustain livelihoods, stimulate local economies, and strengthen food systems' resilience to COVID-19-related risks such as global supply chain disruptions and export restrictions. WFP is adapting its asset creation and livelihood programming to ensure they can be sustained safely, and that individuals, communities, and broader food systems benefit from the improved assets and livelihood opportunities they create.

WFP expanded its food procurement service provision activities with a number of governments to meet the increased food insecurity needs attributable to COVID-19. In Guatemala, WFP was requested to facilitate the procurement of food commodities to support the government in reaching over 1 million families affected by the economic impact of COVID-19.

WFP is partnering with CGIAR to make better food system data and analysis available to national governments and partners. In countries including Kenya and Zambia. The partnership analyses the direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 crisis on food production, supply, and market systems – identifying key groups at increased risk of food insecurity and providing policy and programme recommendations which better protect market function and food demand by integrating with social protection initiatives to strengthen food systems alongside food security.



## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

As WFP focuses its expertise and capabilities towards supporting national governments' longer-term recovery actions, partnerships with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) that fund development agendas are increasingly important. In 2020, WFP has confirmed US\$ 168 million in financing sourced from IFIs, as well as an additional US\$ 166 million pending final approval by national governments. Compared to the US\$ 21 million confirmed in 2019, these figures signify a substantial increase in WFP's scale and scope of engagement with IFIs.

Nearly half of financing sourced from IFIs in 2020 is linked to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and concentrate on supporting national governments to strengthen and operate social protection measures in key countries, including Bangladesh, Liberia, Haiti, and Chad. Data sharing is another key area of WFP's expanding engagement with national governments and IFIs, which is increasingly focusing on rural transformation, sustainable infrastructure and human capital development priorities. WFP's comparative ability to provide highly granular data, including on the 'last mile' of social protection systems, fills critical gaps for decision-making, enabling programming to be more efficient, better able to reach those most likely to be left behind and enable inclusive recovery.



# Ongoing Challenges to Implementing the Global Response Plan



## CONFLICT AND INSECURITY

COVID-19 and its repercussions added compounding factors in conflict-affected areas, where the security environment is defined by multiple factors. In some of these areas, the spread of COVID-19 and the economic fallout have impacted on conflict dynamics, affecting capabilities and behaviours of armed actors. As a result, the security environment has become more permissive in some countries with states struggling with diminished resources, diverted attention and overstretched security forces for the pandemic or diminished capacity of international forces.

In several countries, non-state armed groups, criminals and violent extremists have increased activities, resulting in insecurity, violence as well as access constraints, including in Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, northern Mozambique, and the Sahel. In northeast Nigeria, for example, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) data, violent incidents up ticked in June and July compared to February or March 2020. In Syria, there has been an increase in IS activity over the recent weeks. In Iraq, despite its loss of territory and weak presence in urban areas, the IS launched a campaign against Iraqi forces as part of its “war of attrition”, an effort abetted by restrictions on the deployment of national security forces owing to the pandemic, as well as by political complexities. Escalating or shifting conflict dynamics happen on national or sub-national conflicts, including in Sudan, South Sudan, Libya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Measures to contain the spread of the virus have also increased humanitarian access constraints. According to a comparative study of the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), Syria and Yemen are the most challenging conflict context in terms of humanitarian access, with Afghanistan, DRC, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Somalia following as countries with “very high constraints to humanitarian access” and Burkina Faso, CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Niger, and Sudan considered with high constraints.

Security of humanitarians is a growing concern. Between January 2019 and July 2020, ACLED recorded nearly 200 violent events targeting aid workers across 30 countries, over 70 percent of these are reported in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Islamic State has recently condoned the targeting of humanitarians while other armed groups and criminals have demonstrated the intent to target personnel viewed as

lucrative targets, hampering humanitarian delivery. Central Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, northwestern and southwestern Cameroon, Yemen, Mozambique and Afghanistan are of particular concern. The operating environment has also become more challenging for WFP partners in the context of the pandemic, as highlighted by the increasing number of incidents against aid workers. WFP has contributed to support partners strengthening and adapting security management procedures to COVID-19, while continuing to setup and upgrade critical security communications systems to support humanitarian crisis response.

WFP has adapted operational plans according to continuous security risk assessments and the implementation of additional measures when required. This is aimed at facilitating the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance, despite the added complexity of COVID-19. Depending on the context, the development or fostering of local networks and partnerships by specialized teams provides WFP with greater and more predictable access to the most vulnerable populations. This has become an area of critical investment for WFP, one that will continue to evolve in line with response contexts. WFP uses a variety of approaches to ensure that the organization’s mandate is fulfilled regardless of the constraints. These approaches include combinations of targeted interactions with key actors on the ground: local and international humanitarian partners; government counterparts, including national disaster management agencies, militaries and other security sector actors; donors; international military operations; traditional leadership structures; the private sector; and local communities and beneficiary populations.



## FUNDING

Despite significant front loading of contributions and strong commitment by donors to the WFP response, the pace and level of contributions have not kept up with growing needs. Limited flexibility in funding flows further compounded this situation. These needs are evidenced by the most recent IPC and Cadre Harmonise assessments. Following issuance of the 29 June Global Response to COVID-19, nearly US\$ 1.4 billion in contributions have been received from more than 80 donors and funding sources, with an additional US\$ 257 million received through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan. The majority of funds received in response to the June Plan have been allocated to crisis response.

Despite such support, funding disparities remain across WFP operations. The top five recipients of funding to date include large emergency operations in Yemen, Lebanon, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Bangladesh, while smaller country offices such as Turkey, Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have received very low levels of support. This is concerning given that the intended scale up—while affecting nearly all operations—has placed increased burden on smaller programmes that have rooted their operations in resilience and root cause programming and are now requested to meet needs associated with the continuing crisis. At the same time, several large complex emergency operations continue to face critical funding shortfalls amid highly concerning food insecurity conditions, notably in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

The impact of the pandemic has hit refugees and internally displaced people hard. The limited opportunities available to them have been further restricted as the informal economy has weakened and movement has become more difficult in many countries. While assistance to refugees is prioritised in East Africa, WFP was forced to reduce food or cash transfers by up to 30 percent for over 2.7 million refugees in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, and Djibouti. With the region hosting more than three million refugees and six million IDPs, acute hunger and malnutrition loom for millions of people who depend on WFP's assistance. In Cameroon, Central African Republic refugees have seen a 50 percent reduction in rations. Should funding fail to materialize, further ration cuts may be implemented. Historically, refugee caseloads are chronically under-funded across the board. Reductions in food rations by 25-30 percent for refugees are commonly applied in Southern Africa, with Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania being the biggest concerns.

In other operations, scale up plans to meet the needs of acutely food insecure people have not been implemented or were partially implemented due to inadequate resourcing amid increasing needs, a trend which is particularly acute in the Latin America and Caribbean region, where the health and socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 has heavily impacted several countries. In Haiti, for instance, 90 percent of households recently interviewed as part of a national survey reported having experienced decreased income following containment measures linked to COVID-19. Results from a telephone survey WFP conducted since May indicate that 86.4 percent of respondents do not have any food stock in their house, and around 45 percent of respondents reported consuming only 1 meal a day in their households during the reporting period (May to August).



## SUPPLY CHAIN

Initially, supply chain interruptions were expected to be one of the major impacts of COVID-19, and while an overall slowdown across the supply chain has been observed due to measures implemented to stem the spread of the disease, WFP's operations have continued largely unimpeded albeit with additional measures in place to protect the safety of staff, contractors and beneficiaries. The minimal impact on the organization's supply chain operations has been due to WFP's strong relationships with governments and its suppliers which have ensured the steady movement of food commodities to where they were needed. As such, an additional 170,000 mt of food has been received from WFP suppliers to-date in 2020 compared to the same period last year, an increase of 7 percent.

The main obstacles observed have been restricted movement, lockdowns and quarantine periods which have led to longer processing times for customs and other administrative requirements, as well as reduced capacity at some key entry points such as ports and border crossings, increasing lead times. However, borders have largely remained open for cargo movement, and key corridors have continued to function with minor delays. In addition to focusing on its own operations, WFP has also used its expertise to assist governments in reinforcing their own supply chains from the shocks of COVID-19.

WFP has also experienced challenges in securing the pipeline of specialized nutrition products in countries such as Pakistan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Afghanistan where funding remains a constraint. Similarly, WFP has also faced resourcing difficulties to fund its nutrition activities in smaller operations such as the Gambia, Guinea and Madagascar. In these countries, WFP is attempting to reach the daily nutritional needs of beneficiaries by modifying food baskets and increasing ration sizes where possible.

As COVID-19 impacts global specialized nutrition product supply chains, WFP is taking every measure to widen its global sourcing base and looking at alternative formulations of specialized nutritious foods. WFP is also supporting the development of local formulations of these products to cover any unexpected pipeline breaks.

## COMMON SERVICES - WFP AS AN ENABLER FOR THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

The impact of COVID-19 on global supply chains has been unprecedented. Supply chains worldwide were slowed down, and in some cases, shut down. Restrictions on overland movement of cargo, a global slowdown in the aviation and shipping industries, increased hygiene and sanitation requirements, movement restrictions on essential workers, and reduced staff at key entry points and government institutions are just some of the challenges the sector had to face in the past few months. This slowdown put an extra obstacle to the ability of the health and humanitarian community to mount a global response to the pandemic, challenging organizations in their attempts to transport cargo and personnel to where they are most needed.

In this complex situation, WFP leveraged its supply chain capacity and expertise to provide cargo and passenger transport on behalf the humanitarian community, and to support medical evacuations in conjunction with relevant UN bodies. These services became crucial for the health and humanitarian community to reach locations that were no longer reachable through commercial channels, ensuring that countries have the personnel and supplies they need to augment their own responses as they tackle COVID-19. Through the provision of common services WFP has contributed to enabling the humanitarian community to provide and maintain support to the most vulnerable that are hit hardest by the pandemic.

### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE



#### PASSENGER SERVICES

Through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP launched a global common service to enable the humanitarian community continued movement of cargo and staff during the pandemic. Air passenger services were established to allow the continued movement of health and humanitarian personnel into affected countries where safe and reliable commercial operations are not available, thus becoming a lifeline to both existing humanitarian operations and the urgent health response to the pandemic. The passenger service launched on 1 May expanded throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East to reach 67 destinations. As of 27 September 2020, WFP had transported 23,500 health and humanitarian personnel on behalf of 367 organisations, through 1,323 flights. Commercial flight availability is also being closely monitored and as safe and reliable options become available, WFP services are immediately phased out.



#### CARGO SERVICES

WFP established eight humanitarian response hubs to facilitate cargo movement on a free-to-user basis on behalf of all humanitarian organizations. Of these, four were created specifically for the COVID-19 response (China, Ethiopia, South Africa and Belgium), while the other four (Dubai, Panama, Kuala Lumpur, Accra) leveraged on the existing UNHRD hub network. UNHRD in Brindisi also provided global support to cargo operations as needed. The hubs are linked by air services, and sea and road transport of cargo is used wherever operationally efficient and access permits. The first airlift as part of the free-to-user services took place on 30 April from WFP's Liege hub to Accra and Ouagadougou. Since then, as of 27 September, 1,008 flights have taken place delivering 56,000 m3 of cargo to 157 countries on behalf of 42 organizations. Of the cargo dispatched, 87 percent is COVID-19 essential items such as PPE, tests and biomedical equipment, while the remaining 13 percent is composed of other health and humanitarian items.



#### MEDEVAC SERVICES

To support humanitarian staff on the frontlines and ensure their ability to "stay and deliver", WFP co-leads the aviation arm of the UN Medevac Cell together with the UN Department of Operational Support (UNDOS), based out of the Strategic Air Operations Centre in Brindisi, Italy. WFP was chosen as a member of this cell due to its access to a global network of contracted air ambulances and experience in carrying out medical evacuations. Since the unified system was first rolled out on 22 May by the Secretary General, the cell has completed a total of 67 medevacs – 45 carried out by WFP and 22 by UNDOS.

### LOOKING FORWARD

Six months since the onset of the crisis and the launch of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP and partners are assessing the needs and demands for common services. In June 2020, a stabilisation of airfreight rates and capacity started being witnessed as restrictions in certain regions and countries were partially lifted, and by the end of August 2020 a number of commercial carriers resumed passenger and cargo operations, with rates and routes slowly returning to pre-COVID-19 conditions.

However, demand for WFP's passenger services remains high, and while around 30 destinations have been discontinued, particularly in West Africa, new destinations are being opened in Asia and Latin America.

WFP expects the requirement for passenger and medevac services to continue at least until the end of the year, especially in areas difficult to reach, and will continue to provide services based on funding availability and partners' demand.

Cargo services are halfway through the implementation phase, with supplies dispatched equal to those planned for movement. WFP expects the service to wind down once all cargo is successfully dispatched and remains committed to supporting the humanitarian community and ensuring cargo movement when needed. Operations in hard-to-reach areas will also continue where mandated services exist.

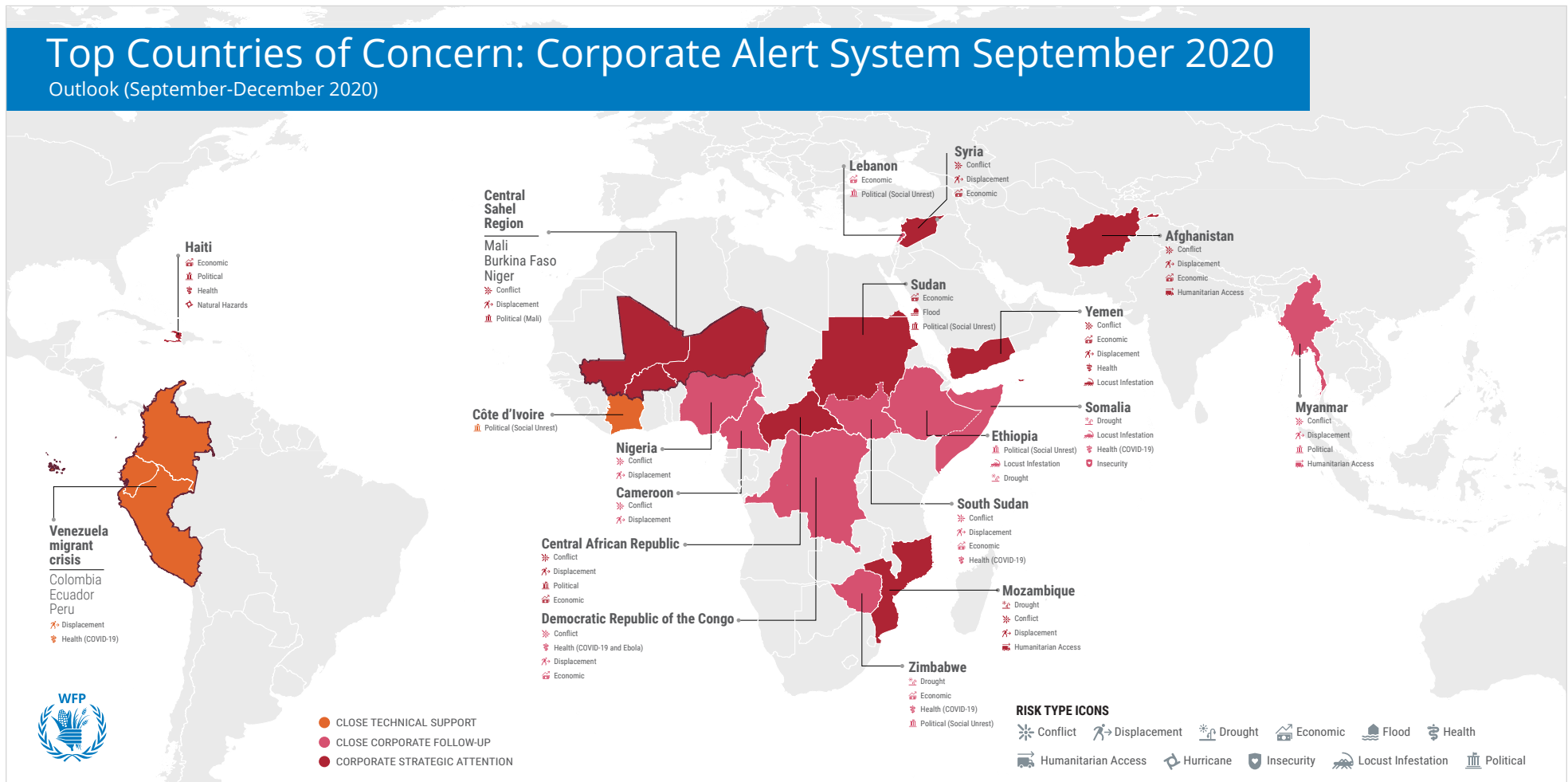
# Priority Countries

## CORPORATE ALERT SYSTEM

To support its leadership to prioritise resources and attention on emerging crises of highest concern, WFP maintains a Corporate Alert System (CAS). The CAS provides a bi-monthly update of countries and crisis to be prioritized in the upcoming 6 months for corporate attention as well as donor and stakeholder engagement. It supports timely and adequate preparedness and response for Country Offices. The CAS uses a mix of quantitative and qualitative information to classify countries based on metrics

on current operations (needs, programme implementation, funding shortfalls, outlooks and pipelines, etc.), potential changes in context and humanitarian impact, and on WFP's capacity to respond to needs.

In July, WFP and FAO produced a joint FAO-WFP early warning analysis of acute food insecurity hotspots. While the July edition focused on the impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity worldwide, this joint analytical effort will be maintained beyond the COVID-19 emergency to produce regular analyses of risks of acute food insecurity and prioritisation of countries and populations most exposed.








# Changing Requirements in Budget Numbers

## Regional Summary

	COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES (JUNE PLAN)	REVISED COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES	PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (OCT-MAR)	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN US\$ MILLIONS (OCT-MAR)	% NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF PIPELINE REQUIREMENTS
<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>	5.2 M	5.4 M	626	317	51%
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	3.9 M	3.9 M	1,976	1,336	68%
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	3.5 M	3.4 M	537	409	76%
<b>Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa</b>	9.4 M	9.8 M	2,668	1,766	66%
<b>Southern Africa</b>	7.2 M	6.9 M	1,111	814	73%
<b>West and Central Africa</b>	8.9 M	7.9 M	936	459	49%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38.1 M</b>	<b>37.3 M</b>	<b>7,854</b>	<b>5,101</b>	<b>65%</b>







## Country Summary








ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES	REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS	TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS
<b>Afghanistan</b>	3,000,000	198.6M	147.6M
<b>Bangladesh</b>	1,100,000	210.5M	64.9M
<b>Bhutan</b>	-	900,000	-
<b>Cambodia</b>	-	10M	139,000
<b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b>	-	28.9M	5.4M
<b>India</b>	-	2.1M	215,000








<b>Indonesia</b>	-	1.7M	323,000
<b>Lao People's Democratic Republic</b>	 30,000 from 6,620 (June plan)	14.3M	4.4M
<b>Myanmar</b>	 120,000 from 60,000 (June plan)	60.8M	44.1M
<b>Nepal</b>	 103,790 from 11,500 (June plan)	14.7M	1.5M
<b>Pacific Island Countries</b>	-	7.4M	4.2M
<b>Pakistan</b>	 270,000 from 990,000 (June plan)	58M	34.6M
<b>The Philippines</b>	-	7.3M	5M
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	 80,000 from 0 (June plan)	2.8M	1M
<b>Timor-Leste</b>	-	1.8M	560,000





<b>EAST AFRICA</b>	<b>COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>
<b>Burundi</b>	250,000	64.3M	31.5M
<b>Djibouti</b>	70,200	24.2M	14.9M
<b>Ethiopia</b>	517,500	320.9M	213.4M
<b>Kenya</b>	844,000	166.1M	96.8M
<b>Rwanda</b>	16,300	25.9M	17.5M
<b>Somalia</b>	486,500	403.5M	252.5M
<b>South Sudan</b>	1,600,000	846.3M	614.2M
<b>Uganda</b>	102,400	124.9M	94.8M



<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>
<b>Bolivia</b>	 11,238 <i>from 22,000 (June plan)</i>	800,000	100,000
<b>English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean</b>	60,000	12.1M	12.3M*
<b>Colombia</b>	 550,000 <i>from 400,000 (June Plan)</i>	117.2M	87.7M
<b>Cuba</b>	 85,700 <i>from 599,300 (June Plan)</i>	7.8M	500,000
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	282,400	16M	13.4M
<b>Ecuador</b>	 370,000 <i>from 361,500 (June Plan)</i>	26.4M	8.8M
<b>El Salvador</b>	 203,000 <i>from 120,000 (June Plan)</i>	20.4M	21.7M*
<b>Guatemala</b>	700,000	49.5M	40.2M
<b>Haiti</b>	 600,000 <i>from 300,000 (June Plan)</i>	207.7M	177.6M
<b>Honduras</b>	600,000	48.7M	34.4M
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<i>Response plan under discussion</i>	14.6M	4.1M
<b>Peru</b>	98,400	15.9M	7.6M
<b>MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA</b>	<b>COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>
<b>Algeria</b>	19,100	8.8M	2.2M
<b>Armenia</b>	130,000	1.4M	-
<b>Egypt</b>	772,100	66.6M	53.6M
<b>Iran</b>	-	3.6M	-
<b>Iraq</b>	345,000	68.3M	27.5M

<b>Jordan</b>			136.5M	147.3M
	58,047			
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	303,200		7.5M	-
<b>Lebanon</b>	565,000		277.7M	169.6M
<b>Libya</b>	10,000		17.3M	7.6M
<b>Palestine</b>	65,000		39.9M	33M
<b>Sudan</b>	 5,176,000 <i>from 4,591,300 (June Plan)</i>		323.7M	85.8M
<b>Syria</b>	 1,429,000 <i>From 1,400,000 (June Plan)</i>		593M	370.9M
<b>Tajikistan</b>	 145,000 <i>from 302,500 (June Plan)</i>		16.8M	10.4M
<b>Tunisia</b>	2,700		500,000	-
<b>Turkey</b>	915,900		43.3M	37.8M
<b>Yemen</b>	-		1,063.5M	820.3M
<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA</b>	<b>COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES</b>		<b>REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>
<b>Angola</b>	-		400,000	-
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	 1,445,131 <i>= 945,13 (rural) + 500,000 (Kinshasa) from 945,100 (June plan)</i>		338.9M	185.8M
<b>Eswatini</b>	 130,000 <i>from 65,500 (June plan)</i>		7M	3.7M
<b>Lesotho</b>	 348,880 <i>from 362,370 (June Plan)</i>		31.6M	24.5M
<b>Madagascar</b>	 335,105 <i>from 651,800 (June Plan)</i>		57.7M	32.2M

<b>Malawi</b>	 724,732 <i>in urban and peri urban areas from 1,106,240 (June Plan)</i>	71M	54.2M
<b>Mozambique</b>	1,218,500	150.3M	149.1M
<b>Namibia</b>	 106,122 <i>from 39,400 (June Plan)</i>	8.4M	8.5M
<b>Republic of Congo</b>	 110,000 <i>from 365,000 (June Plan)</i>	41.5M	36M
<b>Tanzania</b>	540,000	58.2M	39.9M
<b>Zambia</b>	655,800	17.7M	3M
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	1,265,300	327.7M	276.7M
<b>WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA</b>	<b>COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS</b>
<b>Benin</b>	100,000	16.9M	-
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<i>Captured within existing programme of work</i>	114.6M	81.8M
<b>Cameroon</b>	 27,066 <i>from 86,000 (June Plan)</i>	75.9M	33.8M
<b>Central African Republic</b>	375,900	112.6M	63.2M
<b>Chad</b>	<i>Captured within existing programme of work</i>	129.2M	20.7M
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	 10,000 <i>from 300,000 (June Plan)</i>	6.9M	1.9M
<b>The Gambia</b>	 766,395 <i>from 733,000 (June Plan)</i>	5.8M	2M
<b>Ghana</b>	 75,000 <i>from 53,800 (June Plan)</i>	6.3M	3.7M

<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	 76,900 <i>from 65,000 (June Plan)</i>	9.5M	3.3M
<b>Guinea</b>	300,000	12M	7.3M
<b>Liberia</b>	2,065,000	20.8M	4.9M
<b>Mali</b>	 370,000 <i>from 576,000 (June Plan)</i>	74.8M	19.4M
<b>Mauritania</b>	334,500	21.5M	22.6M*
<b>Niger</b>	-	100.3M	42M
<b>Nigeria</b>	 1,976,000 <i>=1,720,000 (COVID &amp; lean season) + 256,000 (Post Harvest) from 3,055,00 (June Plan)</i>	184M	118.9M
<b>São Tomé and Príncipe</b>	5,000	300,000	200,000
<b>Senegal</b>	511,700	21.8M	20.5M
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	 624,300 <i>from 121,400 (June Plan)</i>	12.5M	3.1M
<b>Togo</b>	252,500	10M	10M



# Annex 1

## WFP Response by country

\* Shortfalls take into account unprogrammed funds and loans to be repaid by Country Offices.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY	WFP IMMEDIATE RESPONSE	COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES	EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED TO SUSTAIN/SCALE-UP ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES (JULY - TO DATE)	REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS	TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS
Afghanistan	<p>Food Security remains high with continuing conflict, widespread unemployment, and price hikes of basic food commodities (10 percent between Q1 and Q2) further exacerbated by the economic impacts of COVID-19. The World Bank estimates that the poverty rate may increase up to 72 percent in 2020, resulting in an additional 6 million people falling into poverty. According to IPC data and population estimates from Flowminder, 12.4 million people are in an Emergency (Phase 4) or Crisis (Phase 3) food security situation between June and November 2020. An additional 3 million people may become food insecure as a result of the pandemic. A new IPC is expected to be published in October 2020.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP's focus remains on life-saving assistance, including take-home rations and cash transfers to replace school meals, redesigned resilience building activities, and seasonal support to 1.8 million people.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> In addition to the 7.2 million people which WFP planned to reach between June to December 2020, WFP will provide a one-time unconditional cash transfers or food to 3 million people impacted by COVID-19 -nearly 80 percent of whom are in urban areas. Any additional assistance in for people impacted by COVID in 2021 will be informed up the upcoming IPC results.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP will complement the Government's response as appropriate in the most vulnerable areas.</p>	3,000,000	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Since July , WFP has assisted 2,274,000 people through unconditional in-kind and cash-based support, school feeding, nutrition and livelihoods activities.</p> <p>103,000 primary school children have received monthly take-home rations and 6,500 secondary school girls cash transfers.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> 643,000 people in urban areas have received cash-based transfers covering part of their food needs for two months.</p> <p><b>Key constraints:</b> Persistent insecurity remains the main obstacle to WFP's and other humanitarian organizations' operations in the country. Temporary border closures with Pakistan have led to congestions, affecting international food procurement.</p>	198.6M	147.6M

<p><b>Bangladesh</b></p>	<p>Results from a BRAC survey (June 2020) indicate that the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 will likely lead to a dramatic increase in poverty and food insecurity in the country, especially among out-of-work daily labourers in densely populated urban areas. 95 percent of surveyed households reported income loss during the first two months of the pandemic, and more than half responded that their income dropped to almost zero.</p> <p>In Cox's Bazaar, COVID-19 is putting additional strain on the 860,000 Rohingya refugees and further threatens the livelihood of the host community.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP has redesigned its programmes to adapt to movement restrictions in the camps and surrounding areas to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including temporarily issuing vouchers for food, rather than cash vouchers, to limit visits and crowds. WFP will continue to prioritize life-saving assistance to Rohingya refugees and support to host communities in Cox's Bazaar and school children.</p> <p><b>Scale-Up:</b> By March 2021, WFP aims to support 1.1 million new beneficiaries, including people in quarantine facilities and isolation and treatment centres, people living in at-risk, low-income urban slums in Dhaka and Chittagong Hill Tracts through the expansion of social safety nets, and host communities in Cox's Bazar.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP will support the Government's COVID-19 response through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technical assistance to the Ministry of Food (to distribute fortified rice in Open Market Sales), and to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (to provide take-home rations to 2.7 million children);</li> <li>• logistics services for the public health response (currently focused on Cox's Bazaar).</li> </ul>	<p>1,100,000</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> In July, WFP assisted 1,510,000 people through unconditional food and cash transfers, take-home rations, and nutrition and livelihood activities. WFP continues to provide relief assistance to 860,000 Rohingya refugees, 94 percent of whom are receiving assistance through e-vouchers now. In addition, 256,000 children received take-home rations.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Over 500,000 people have received cash and in-kind food assistance. In addition, 1,400 people have received hot meals in isolation and treatment centres since April.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP is supporting the construction of a flu centre and the renovation of six community clinics. It has also transported and handed over 8,500 protective gowns to the health sector for use in isolation and treatment centres in Cox's Bazar refugee camps.</p>	<p>210.5M</p>	<p>64.9M</p>
<p><b>Bhutan</b></p>	<p>Rising food prices and reduced remittances will cast a shadow on the food security and livelihood of vulnerable people, notably the urban poor, people living in remote areas, migrant and informal sector workers and the elderly. It is also expected to affect vulnerable groups in rural areas, where poverty levels are much higher (11.9 percent) than in urban areas (0.8 percent).</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP will advance planned food systems support to the Government aimed at increasing smallholder farmers' production and food security while building their economic resilience in line with the Government's 'COVID-19 Agriculture Stimulus Plan'.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP is providing technical assistance to develop the 'National Food Security Emergency Action Plan for COVID-19'. This comprises among other areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the government framework for reopening schools (in collaboration with UNICEF);</li> <li>• food safety and quality in the national grain reserve and multi-storage units;</li> <li>• the humanitarian staging area to store humanitarian supplies near the Indian border.</li> </ul>	<p>-</p>	<p><b>Support:</b> WFP is supporting the Government with education materials on healthy eating, hygiene and WASH. In addition, WFP has donated mobile storage units to support the Government in prepositioning food to meet the needs of half of Bhutan's population for six months. Complementing the logistics support, WFP has assisted the Government with the development of national guidance for food safety and quality management at the warehouse level and a training module on food safety and quality management during warehousing, transportation, distribution and retail. Moreover, WFP is working with the Government to ensure safe reopening of schools through the development of protocols and checklists, as well as refurbishment of kitchens and stores and provision of infrastructure.</p>	<p>900,000</p>	<p>-</p>

	<p>The economic shock of COVID-19 is adversely impacting jobs and livelihoods, especially for low-wage workers in tourism, garment manufacturing, construction, and agricultural export sectors. Moreover, 3.5 million children remain affected by school closures.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP has temporarily adjusted the school feeding programme from on-site school meals to providing take-home rations in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. A further round of take-home rations will be distributed in November 2020 whilst schools are in the process of reopening.</p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in preparing the re-opening of schools through WASH and related infrastructure and the development of policies and procedures for safe school re-opening;</li> <li>• provide technical assistance to the Government's COVID-19 cash transfer programme with essential needs analytics and IDPoor roll-out;</li> <li>• provide technical assistance to the National Social Protection Council to strengthen platforms for shock-responsive social protection;</li> <li>• support the scale-up of interventions to address rural food system challenges and agricultural livelihoods - particularly suppliers impacted by the suspension of home-grown school meals and migrant returnees;</li> <li>• support sub-national government entities in recovery efforts by integrating food security and nutrition into commune planning processes;</li> <li>• provide strategic information through joint UN social impact surveys, market monitoring, as well as food and nutrition security publications;</li> <li>• provide logistics services to the public health response (in collaboration with WHO and UNOPS);</li> <li>• lead the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) network advocacy for COVID-19-related measures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> In July, WFP assisted 83,000 people with food and cash support through school feeding activities. This included the provision of take-home rations to 81,000 students.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> A joint WFP/UNICEF household assessment on the impacts of COVID-19 on food security, livelihoods and nutrition is ongoing. WFP also prepared a joint UN position paper on sector-wide social assistance and insurance approaches, as well as a discussion paper with UNDP and GIZ for a universal cash transfer to IDPoor households.</p> <p><b>Scale-Up:</b> Together with GIZ, UNICEF and UNDP, WFP has provided financial and technical assistance to the Government to scale up the on-demand IDPoor system nationwide, which is the basis for all social assistance programmes. As a result, since June, the Government has provided cash transfers to registered poor households amounting to approximately 25 million USD each month.</p>	-	10M 139,000
<p><b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b></p>	<p>Given the COVID-19 mitigation measures, it is difficult to ascertain the impact on the main crop for 2020. As 85 percent of children's food intake happens in institutions, the impact of extended school closures on children's nutritional status remains to be determined. WFP is monitoring the impact of seasonal floods and cyclones on main crop. The Government has increased public food rations and given top priority to agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Continue nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women, children in nurseries, boarding schools and pediatric wards/hospitals. Livelihood support activities are currently being reviewed.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> In July, WFP assisted 545,000 people through nutrition and livelihood activities.</p> <p><b>Key constraints:</b> Kindergartens and schools remain closed.</p>	-	28.9M 5.4M



<p><b>India</b></p>	<p>A nationwide COVID-19 livelihoods survey revealed that two thirds of the respondents had lost employment, mostly in urban areas and that two thirds of urban households had less than a week's worth of money for essentials.</p> <p>In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government has made the following changes to the public distribution system to meet increased need:</p> <p>An additional 5 kg (rice or wheat) per person, and inclusion of 1 kg pulses per household per month, for all 813 million beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), from March through November;</p> <p>5 kg (rice or wheat) per person per month to nearly 80 million migrants who are not covered under any food security scheme.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP continues to provide technical support to the Government's food and nutrition security response at national and state levels.</p> <p>WFP's recommendation on how the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) could be adjusted to meet the increased needs of the more than 800 million people under the programme have been adopted.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP's technical assistance also focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building and reinforcing the capacity of national NGOs to provide food packets to 20,000 vulnerable households not yet supported by government social protection schemes, while linking them to UNDP livelihood support;</li> <li>• developing mobile apps that allow vulnerable citizens in Uttarakhand to order essential commodities online for home delivery and enable state governments to monitor the prices of essential food commodities and adjust control measures to prevent hoarding;</li> <li>• enabling farmers to access the Government agriculture procurement system to sell their harvest to Government programmes; and</li> <li>• introducing mobile-storage units to state governments in Uttarakhand and Odisha to reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen the supply chain of government safety nets programmes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support:</b> WFP has been working on the development and implementation of an e-learning module to build capacity of frontline functionaries and civil society organizations responding to the pandemic.</p> <p>WFP supports the distribution of fortified rice in the public distribution system and establish units for local production of fortified blended foods, using women's self-help groups in Uttar Pradesh.</p> <p>Information materials have been developed and are used to raise awareness among COVID migrants of the Government's One Nation One Ration Card Scheme which allows TPDS beneficiaries to collect their entitlement anywhere across the country. These Government has disseminated the materials to 24 states across the country and circulated the audio spots to multiple radio channels.</p> <p>2.1M 215,000</p>
<p><b>Indonesia</b></p>	<p>In view of socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and other compounding risks, the Government predicts an estimated additional 5.6 million people falling into poverty.</p> <p>Movement restrictions have impacted the food supply chain; farmers may not recover their costs due to low crop prices and higher than usual food waste. According to preliminary findings from surveys by the World Bank/JPAL, a third of the population experienced shortage of food due to the impact of COVID-19 and between 34 and 38 percent of surveyed households ate less than they should.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP will continue its current support to the Food Security Agency's food security and vulnerability analysis and real-time information food prices and market functionality to inform Government and partner interventions and policies.</p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFP, UNICEF, UNDP and UNWOMEN will strengthen social protection systems, focusing on data preparedness and food security/vulnerability/early warning analytics.</li> <li>• WFP, UNICEF, UNDP and OCHA will strengthen adaptive social protection to reduce the impact of, and enhance resilience to, disasters, including pandemics;</li> <li>• WFP continues to support the implementation of logistics and food security priority actions under the COVID-19 Indonesia UN-Multi Sector Response Plan;</li> <li>• WFP continues supporting the Government on school feeding during school closure and reopening.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support:</b> WFP has held technical workshops on the finalization of the improved 2020 Food Security and Vulnerability Atlas.</p> <p>WFP is also coordinating emergency logistics operations with the wider humanitarian community through the National Logistics Cluster in support of the Government's public health response.</p> <p>1.7M 323,000</p>

**Lao  
People's  
Democratic  
Republic**

COVID-19 is expected to exacerbate the impact on those employed through the informal sector and vulnerable populations already food-insecure prior to the pandemic.

The World Bank estimates an increase in poverty by 1.4 to 3.1 percentage points in 2020, pushing an additional 96,000 to 214,000 people into poverty. The joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (2019) estimated that 67,800 people may need food assistance during the lean season in 2020 due to severe drought and floods.

**Sustaining:** For the 2019-2020 school year, WFP transitioned school meals to take-home rations. For the 2020-2021 school year starting in September 2020, on-site feeding will be provided. WFP also has adjusted its seasonal support and livelihoods/asset creation activities in response to COVID-19.

**Scale-Up:** WFP is providing food assistance to returning migrant labourers in quarantine centres and plans to reach additional 30,000 people between October 2020 and March 2021. This includes continuing assistance in quarantine centres, conditional in-kind or cash assistance to vulnerable households in the most affected provinces, and specialized nutritious food for children to prevent malnutrition.

**Support:** WFP is operating weekly flights to Kuala Lumpur bringing in passengers and essential cargo.

**Sustain:** In July, WFP assisted 2,700 people through school feeding and nutrition activities.

**Scale-up:** 5,000 returning migrants received three meal a day in quarantine facilities. In two quarantine centres, WFP provided water and basic hygiene items.

**Support:** WFP is supporting with the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Agriculture project, and with the development of a nutrient-dense food/crops list to promote nutritious food production and consumption.

  
30,000  
from 6,620  
(June plan)

14.3M 4.4M

**Myanmar**

Increased food insecurity in the country due to COVID-19 lockdown has been observed among people employed in casual labour who have been affected by job losses and a shrinking labour market.

Some 60,000 migrant workers who have returned to Myanmar have lost their income from remittances, adding further strain on services and competition for scarce casual labour opportunities.

According to IFPRI, the economic recovery in Myanmar's agri-food system will be slow (even though lockdown policies mostly exempt agricultural activities) which has implications for the critical manufacturing sector and the economy more broadly.

Escalating conflicts in Rakhine and Chin states are likely to lead to further population movement, representing a compounding risk for increased food insecurity.

**Scale-up:** Given that returns to Myanmar continue at a significant rate and new quarantine measures have been introduced in Rakhine State in response to a spike in COVID-19 cases, WFP is planning to support an additional 60,000 people between October 2020 and March 2021, not yet reflected in the budget.

**Support:**

- provide common services, including passenger and cargo air services to Kuala Lumpur, and procurement of personal protective equipment and testing equipment for the Government and humanitarian community.
- supporting government response efforts through technical assistance for cash top-ups to specific groups such as nutrition beneficiaries, and internally displaced persons in some locations.

**Sustain:** In July, WFP assisted 522,000 people through unconditional in-kind and cash-based support, school feeding, nutrition and livelihoods activities. WFP provided 120,000 school children with take-home rations of HEBs and 20,000 with a one-time cash-based transfer in lieu of school meals.

**Scale up:** Since April, WFP has provided short-term food and nutrition assistance to 66,000 returning migrants while they are in government-managed quarantine sites.

**Support:** WFP is supporting the Government deliver cash transfers to 24,000 pregnant women as part of the COVID-19 response and e-money to 3,000 IDP households in Kachin State.

**Key constraints:** The ongoing conflict resulted in access restrictions and the recent spike of COVID-19 cases bears compounding risks.

  
120,000  
from 60,000  
(June plan)

60.8M 44.1M

## Nepal

According to a WFP assessment (May 2020), one in ten people have lost their job while three in ten households have lost some income.

The loss of livelihood is most prevalent among daily wage labourers (25.3 percent) and migrant workers (12.8 percent). Given the high dependency of Nepal's economy on remittances (28 percent of GDP), the return of migrant workers is putting additional strain on vulnerable households. The fall in remittances is estimated to range between 15 and 20 percent in 2020.

**Sustain:** WFP has been transitioning school meals to take-home rations, maintaining nutrition programmes for pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years; and redesigning resilience-building activities to incorporate physical distancing measures with conditionalities waived and double rations provided.

**Scale-Up:** WFP is providing support to people in quarantine/ treatment centres. In addition, children under 5 years, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly either in isolation facilities or otherwise affected by COVID-19 will benefit from blanket supplementary feeding.


**Support:** WFP will support the Government's COVID-19 response through:

- technical assistance in the areas of food security, market functionality and vulnerability analysis;
- collaboration with the Food Management and Trading Company to expand fair-price shops/sales centres in food-insecure and remote locations;
- logistics coordination for the Government and humanitarian community; and
- complementing existing Government social safety nets.

**Sustain:** In July, WFP assisted 175,000 people through unconditional cash-based support, school feeding, nutrition and livelihoods activities.

**Scale-up:** WFP has provided 32,000 returning migrants with in-kind food assistance and some 20,000 people, including children, PLW, elderly people and other groups vulnerable to COVID-19 with nutrition support in isolation facilities.

**Support:** WFP has supported with a survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on Households. In addition, WFP is supporting the National Logs cluster transport medical supplies and non-food items on behalf of the Government and humanitarian agencies for COVID-19 and monsoon preparedness.

  
103,790  
from 11,500  
(June plan)

14.7M

1.5M

## Pacific Island Countries

According to a recent WFP assessment in Fiji, 55 percent of surveyed households reported reduced income due to COVID. Highest concerns for households are the lack of work due to tourism and other sectors, and the increase in food prices. 27 percent reported being unable to meet their essential needs; among households with a child under the age of 5, this figure was 37 percent.

In addition to losing remittances and tourism income, Fiji and Vanuatu are contending with the damage caused in April by Tropical Cyclone Harold.

**Sustain:** WFP continues to support national food security clusters, logistics clusters and emergency telecommunication (ETC) clusters, as well as the WHO-led Pacific Joint Incident Management Team for COVID-19 and the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19.

**Support:** The work of the three regional clusters has scaled up in support of the regional COVID-19 preparations and response. As co-lead of the regional Pacific food security cluster, WFP is initiating mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping in eight Pacific island countries to monitor food security, livelihoods and market functionality.

A regional air service has been established to guarantee air transport of humanitarian cargo and personnel to and across the region, given the ongoing commercial supply chain interruptions. WFP is also supporting ETC stakeholders with public health messaging, establishment of health emergency operations centres and planning for telemedicine availability.


**Support:** Data collection in Fiji, Tonga and Samoa ongoing. Discussions for rollout in other Pacific countries progressing.

WFP launched a new humanitarian air service for countries and territories of the Pacific Islands.

WFP is supporting emergency telecommunications cluster stakeholders with activities around public health messaging, the creation of health emergency operations centres, planning for telemedicine availability, training for personnel deployed to health centres, and alternative communication mechanisms in areas without cellular mobile coverage/access.

7.4M

4.2M

<p><b>Pakistan</b></p>	<p>The International Monetary Fund projects that up to 40 percent of the population could potentially be living below the poverty line in the wake of COVID-19. Food insecurity is expected to rise further, especially in areas with underlying vulnerabilities or prone to hazards, including extreme weather events and the recent locust outbreak in Sindh and Baluchistan.</p> <p>Populations suffering from acute hunger and malnutrition before COVID-19, are likely to be among the groups most exposed to the negative socio-economic consequences of COVID-19, including more pronounced or severe food insecurity.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP's focus is ensuring continuity of life-saving relief and nutrition support to the most vulnerable people (in newly merged areas bordering Afghanistan, drought- and locust-impacted areas, and areas prone to natural hazards and conflict). In addition, WFP continues its support to government social protection programmes. WFP supports the Government in implementing stunting prevention through the Benazir Income Support Programme BISP in nine districts.</p> <p><b>Scale-up and Support:</b> WFP plans to increase its relief, nutrition and social protection assistance to nearly 1 million people impacted by COVID-19, mostly in rural areas in line with the humanitarian response plan and socio-economic response plan.</p>	<p> 270,000 from 990,000 (June plan)</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> In July, WFP assisted 588,000 people through unconditional in-kind and nutrition activities.</p> <p>WFP completed cash top-ups to 50,000 families affected by drought, strengthening their resilience also against income losses induced by COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> 130,000 people affected by the COVID-19 crisis will receive unconditional support from October to December 2020.</p>	<p>58M      34.6M</p>
<p><b>The Philippines</b></p>	<p>Unemployment stands at 17.7 percent (or 7.3 million jobs). As of May 2020, an estimated 100,000 Overseas Filipino workers were also affected by COVID-19, leading to loss of remittances.</p> <p>A survey by the Government with support from WFP found that about 77 percent of the respondents reported experiencing a reduction in income. As a result, about 3 in 10 households are becoming food insecure. The food security index varied greatly across regions, with northern Mindanao showing the highest level of food insecurity. The Philippines is highly prone to natural hazards, in particular typhoons, which can further exacerbate food security for affected populations, in the last quarter of the year.</p>	<p><b>Support:</b> WFP has been providing digital advisory and solution services to register beneficiaries and track assistance delivered by the Government under the Social Amelioration Programme in response to COVID-19, for over 480,000 households in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Thorough evidence, WFP will lay the foundations for improving subsequent rounds of government assistance and strengthening the social protection system. In addition, WFP will continue to provide logistics coordination in support of the National Logistics Cluster.</p> <p><i>[Not yet included in the budget: Pending a formal request from the Government, a contingency to provide direct cash assistance to over 480,000 households in BARMM should community quarantine be renewed in light of a second wave of COVID-19.]</i></p>	<p>-</p>	<p><b>Support:</b> WFP is supporting the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Ministry of Social Services and Development in BARMM through enhanced food security and vulnerability analysis to assess the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>WFP rolled-out SCOPE in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to register 353,000 households under the Government's Social Amelioration Programme.</p> <p>WFP has delivered 70 truckloads of various food and non-food items (including PPE) at the request of the Government. WFP has also been responding to requests to loan its mobile storage units) and generators as temporary hospitals or storage facilities.</p>	<p>7.3M      5M</p>

## Sri Lanka

COVID-19 mitigation measures from March and July reduced the income of many households, due to lowered remittances, export and tourism earnings. The country's unemployment rate is expected to rise to 6.3 percent in 2020. According to a recent survey conducted by UNICEF, 30 percent of the respondents were already reducing their consumption of food by early May, mainly cutting back on more nutritious foods. Almost 40 percent of respondents reported that they had lost all income.

**Sustain:** WFP is resuming resilience building activities suspended due to movement restrictions. The activities have been modified to support home gardening and local production.

**Support:** Under the UN SDG Programmatic Bond WFP plans to work with UNDP and UNICEF on impact investing to deliver nutrition solutions – WFP supporting rice fortification and UNICEF supporting development of therapeutic food production. WFP continues to provide technical assistance to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, including a communication campaign to manage possible displacements in the context of COVID-19, development of standard operating procedures, risk maps and resources maps. Discussions to secure the production and distribution of locally produced fortified blended food used in the national nutrition programme are ongoing.

  
80,000  
from 0  
(June plan)

**Sustain:** In July, WFP assisted 248 people with cash-based transfers under the livelihoods activity.

**Scale up:** and the Government started the distribution of take-home rations to support 80,000 primary school children, and a hygiene campaign to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

2.8M

1M

## Timor-Leste

The country relies heavily on imports of cereals, as local production levels are insufficient. Joint assessments with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries showed that more than 80 percent of households saw their food and income sources affected by COVID-19. In July 2020, 36 percent of businesses were unable to source rice at all or in the quantities they needed given the shortage and increased prices of imported rice.

**Sustain:** WFP is continuing its support to the Government through regular monitoring of food prices and market functionality. With UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, a national Food Security and Nutrition Survey is underway, the first since 2013.

**Support:** WFP is organizing a regional air service with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. In support of the Government's social protection response to COVID-19 WFP is also engaging with the Government on a potential food response using a 'basic food basket' and/or voucher modality.

**Sustain:** WFP supported the Government in distributing one-month take-home rations to students and provided portable hand washing and sanitation stations in vulnerable schools. WFP continues the home-grown school feeding pilot project in five schools.

1.8M

560,000

**Support:** WFP and partners have provided operational and logistics assistance to facilitate the Government's cash transfers to 300,000 households.

## TOTAL ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**5.4M**  
from 5.2M  
(June plan)

**626M**  
from 598M  
(June plan)

**318M**  
from 322M  
(June plan)

**EAST  
AFRICA**

**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY**

**WFP IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

**COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES** **EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED TO SUSTAIN/SCALE-UP ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES (JULY - TO DATE)**

**REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS** **TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS**

<b>Burundi</b>	<p>Burundi has the second-highest prevalence of malnutrition in the world, with 1 percent of the population classified in Emergency (Phase 4) and 12 percent in Crisis (Phase 3). The most vulnerable households, including some 81,000 refugees in country, will feel most the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic including, higher prices, currency depreciation and loss of incomes / remittances.</p> <p>The political situation is being monitored following last years' violence prior to the 2020 presidential elections, and the sudden death of outgoing President.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Provision of food assistance to refugees, emergency assistance to local population and repatriation packages to returnees from Tanzania.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> an additional 250,000 people impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity strengthening of the Government and humanitarian community to fill the logistics gaps and access to transport, storage, fuel and other on-demand services;</li> <li>Improve emergency logistics capacity in the country by reinforcing logistics coordination with all partners.</li> </ul>	250,000	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> WFP continues to assist Burundian refugees from Rwanda in transit centres by providing a 4-day ration and a 3-month take-home ration. For Tanzanian returnees, WFP is has provided nearly 72 mt of food through hot meals and dry rations.</p> <p><b>Key constraints:</b> due to limited funding, WFP will reduce the number of targeted schools under the school feeding programme from 702 to 524, starting in September.</p>	64.3M	31.5M

<b>Djibouti</b>	<p>About a third of the country's population are in chronic food insecurity, according to the IPC, and the pandemic has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, particularly in urban areas. Following the closure of borders as part of the measures put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19, migrants from other countries, mostly Ethiopians became stranded in Djibouti. The Government requested WFP to provide food assistance to the migrants at the quarantine centres.</p> <p>Due to increased screening, Djibouti is among the countries with the highest numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Horn of Africa region.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP is adjusting operations for a COVID-sensitive delivery, including health sensitization, multipurpose cash, and a new CFM mechanism.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP is scaling up to 70,165 new beneficiaries including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>immediate support to 35,000 people in Djibouti city and 1,300 additional urban refugees; and</li> <li>1,200 migrants in quarantine and transit centres.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide storage for medical equipment and acquire reefer containers and mobile storage units;</li> <li>Support the Ministry of Education to dispatch food to 40% of rural schools where canteens remained open.</li> </ul>	70,200	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> WFP continues to collaborate with the Government to distribute cash vouchers to 7,000 vulnerable households registered in the social registry in Djibouti city.</p>	24.2M	14.9M

**Ethiopia**

Political and ethnic tensions, social unrest, intercommunal violence, and natural hazards are exacerbated by COVID-19 as well as the worst locust outbreak the country has seen in 25 years. As the lean season sets on, harvests are expected to be insufficient to sustain food security in some areas of the country. Based on the September 2020 IPC, an estimated 8.5 million people are acutely food insecure in between July and September 2020. This includes about 7.1 million people who were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and about 1.4 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels.

While COVID-19 induced restrictions have eased, the economic impact continues to affect availability of vital imports as well as prices. Meanwhile, the influx of returnees (15,300 people since April) is raising COVID-19 concerns.

**Sustain:** critical assistance to 1.9 million food insecure people in Somali region and 166,000 IDPs in East/West Hararge by introducing handwashing facilities, double distributions and increased distribution days; contingencies for mobile distributions in place if needed.

**Scale up:** an additional 517,460 beneficiaries, including:

- Meals for 200,000 returnees from Middle East and neighbouring countries;
- Urban PSNP to 10,000 beneficiaries;
- Extend MAM treatment to an additional 300,000 beneficiaries

WFP has also received a request to support an additional 140,000 people – including people in quarantine centres. *These requirements have now been reflected in a recent CSP revision, now undergoing approval signatures.*

**Support:** The WFP Global Passenger flight service through Ethiopian Airlines and UNHAS is maintained in eastern Africa.

517,500

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP reached a total of 1,830,000 in July, of which 1,681,290 received unconditional assistance and 146,107 received nutrition support. This total assisted caseload includes 12,172 additional COVID-induced beneficiaries. The activities involved provision of food assistance to migrants at points of entry and in treatment centres. WFP is also supporting the Government in the cash top-up to 17,460 beneficiaries through the Urban Productive Safety Net Project (UPSNP) planned for October.

**Scale-up/Support:** WFP plans both horizontal and vertical expansions to provide temporary income support to some 555,000 households in 27 cities. WFP is preparing to provide cash top ups to vulnerable populations in Addis Ababa and is on track to reach 4,000 households (or 18,000 people) with cash assistance through the Government’s urban Productive Safety Net Project (PSNP).

**Key constraints:** Assistance to food insecure people and IDPs has been challenging due to low resourcing and pipeline breaks including shortfalls in cereals.

320.9M 213.4M

<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p>Kenya hosts nearly half a million refugees and asylum seekers. Meanwhile, floods, desert locust invasion and COVID-19 impacts are driving increasing food insecurity.</p> <p>Pre-COVID, 1.8 million Kenyans were identified to be severely food insecure – a number projected to increase especially as the economic impacts of COVID-19 unfold. Of particular concern are the refugees, who were already on reduced rations since 2017 due to insufficient funding, and populations in urban informal settlements who are most vulnerable to fluctuations in food prices, in income or job losses.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Lifesaving support to refugees with double in-kind rations to reduce exposure and increase proportion of cash transfers to compensate for in-kind delays. SNF are prepositioned to ensure continuity of MAM treatment and continue critical support under the resilience programme.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Support an additional 844,000 beneficiaries including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-month urban response for 63,000 households in informal settlements in Nairobi;</li> <li>• Expand MAM support to cover urban settlements in Nairobi;</li> <li>• Expand livelihood support to cover seasonality months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b> Technical assistance to Government COVID response and remote market and price monitoring and real-time supply chain updates.</p>	<p>844,000</p>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> WFP reached 407,340 refugees and provided relief assistance to 182,819 people in July. Nutrition products were delivered to 74,106 people. Under the COVID-19 urban response, WFP has supported 302 refugees in quarantine centres and provided cash assistance to 182,819 people in informal urban settlements.</p> <p><b>Key constraints:</b> Funding to meet the increased resource needs. The CO continues to engage with donors to request for additional funding.</p>	<p>166.1M</p>	<p>96.8M</p>
<p><b>Rwanda</b></p>	<p>The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths remains low and restriction measures are being gradually lifted, allowing some activities to be resumed.</p> <p>WFP is making operational adjustments to reduce the risk of COVID-19, and a scale-up of assistance is planned to support households affected by contention measures upon government's request.</p> <p>Rwanda hosts nearly 150,000 refugees.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> life-saving support to refugees and to smallholder farmers is prioritized. On-site school feeding is adapted to take-home rations for 145,000 children.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Assistance to 16,250 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) impacted by COVID restrictions.</p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging logistics expertise to ensure that food supply chains are working effectively in the whole country;</li> <li>• Incorporate COVID-19 prevention measures into sensitisation sessions on HIV prevention and positive life skills for adolescent girls and boys in boarding schools.</li> </ul>	<p>16,300</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 579 refugees who have been put in isolation in designated quarantine sites. The in-kind food was pre-package for easy distribution to Burundian refugees as part of COVID mitigation measures.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP is providing warehousing services for 2,000 MT (in-kind donation) of fertilisers which is being distributed to smallholder farmers affected by COVID-19.</p>	<p>25.9M</p>	<p>17.5M</p>



**Somalia**

In 2020, a combination of flooding, locust invasion and COVID-19 risks are worsening the food insecurity situation. Somalia's food import dependency dwarfs other countries. Rising prices on key imported commodities are impacting low-income earners, particularly IDPs and rural communities. Remittances, received by an estimated 40% of Somali households, have dropped by as much as 50%. Additionally, an estimated 412,000 have been displaced in 29 districts across Somalia due to the effects of floods.

FSNAU estimates that 3.5 million Somalis will be food insecure in IPC 3 ('Crisis') or above between July-September 2020; a 30 percent increase since June.

COVID-19 has made an impact on commercial and humanitarian supply chains, affecting access to areas of operation and creating restrictions on vital cargo delivery into and within Somalia.

**Sustain:** To sustain assistance to the most vulnerable, WFP:

- Distributed two-month rations where flooding & COVID-19 restrictions risked access;
- Shifted from cash to vouchers to reduce risk over-crowding at banks and piloted mobile money transfers;
- Introduced a home delivery feature on the e-shop mobile app in urban areas.
- WFP expanded its remote monitoring (through phone calls) to cover areas where physical or on-site monitoring is not currently feasible.

**Scale-up:**

- Expanding assistance to an additional 450,000 IDPs [85% of the 520,000 IDPs estimated to become newly food vulnerable due to COVID-19];
- COVID-19 patients: cases in clinics/isolation centres will receive cooked meals; patients with mild or moderate symptoms referred to home quarantine will receive alternative support.

**Support:**

WFP has supported the Government by:

- Developing and managing easy-to-use tool for tracking COVID-19 donations, stocks, and dispatches;
- Leveraging WFP aviation to airlift essential health cargo including COVID-19 testing equipment around the country before commercial flights resumed.

486,500	<b>Sustain:</b> WFP has adapted delivery mechanisms, including launching an e-app, enabling 219,468 people across Somalia to order goods online and receive home deliveries	403.5M	252.5M
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**South Sudan**

Conflict, locusts, and COVID-19 come together at the peak of the lean season and threaten to significantly deteriorate already high food insecurity levels. COVID-19 risks stalling the implementation of the peace agreement and exacerbating political fractures. WFP anticipates 6.5 million people to remain acutely food insecure (IPC-3 or above) with IPC-4 in conflict-affected areas and concerns of pockets of population in IPC 5 conditions. COVID-19 induced movement restrictions along the supply corridor have challenged supply. Incidences of COVID-19 in POC sites will require further mitigation measures. The rainy season, expected to be above average, brings a risk of flooding especially in south-east.

**Sustain:** WFP has sustained critical assistance to more than 2.5 million people by:

- distributing double rations in PoC sites, refugee camps and as part of the Rapid Response Mechanism;
- prepositioning commodities; and
- partnering with beneficiary management committees on health mitigation measures.

Contingency is available for additional air operations.

**Scale-up:** Assistance to 1.6 million of the most vulnerable, market-dependent populations (1.1 million urban and 500,000 rural).

Partner expansion for resilience particularly in the areas of school health, nutrition, and resilience.

**Support:**

- Common request system for PPE;
- Storage space for COVID-19 cargo;
- Upgrade and expand bed capacity of Government's infectious disease unit.
- (from BR) Provision of infrastructure development service, IT data communication services, digital beneficiary and transfer management service, to the humanitarian community

1,600,000

**Sustain and Scale-up:**

In July, over 2.9 million people received WFP assistance. So far, 3,876 additional beneficiaries were reached since July with USAID as part of the Urban Safety Nets Programme.

To mitigate transmission risk, trainings and public works activities have been put on hold and assistance is being provided unconditionally on a monthly basis. WFP has shifted the modality of assistance from cash to in-kind food commodities from August 2020 for USNP due to increase commodity prices in local markets.

**Constraints:** Shortfalls due to COVID-19 restrictions, Access restrictions and schools closed affecting SFP)

846.3M

614.2M

## Uganda

A country-wide lockdown was enforced since late March to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the countries. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases remain low compared to other countries in the region, and restriction measures are gradually being lifted. However, the effects of the pandemic and restriction measures are still affecting vulnerable households, particularly in urban areas and for the 1.4 million refugees in Uganda (82% women and children).

**Sustain:** WFP introduced double distributions and pre-packaged kits alongside health mitigation measures to safely sustain critical assistance to refugees. Since April, WFP is distributing reduced rations due to shortfalls.

**Scale up:**

- One-off food assistance (cash/mobile money) to 80,000 urban refugees in Kampala covering three-month cycle;
- Food assistance to 21,403 COVID-19 patients in isolation centres (refugee settlements and hosting districts).

**Support:** Logistics services for government and partners include storage and trucks to support Govt urban poor food distributions and construction of a screening facility at Entebbe international airport.

**Sustain and Scale-up:** In July, WFP reached 664,535 beneficiaries through CBT and 605,732 through In-Kind assistance. In addition to nutrition products being provided to 49,080 people, WFP also reached 101,148 school children. Additional measures are in place to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These include prepacking of foods; switch to cash; and staggered or double distributions across 13 settlements.

**Support:** WFP is providing technical support to through the government's urban cash programmes with an aim to reach 500,000 and 800,000 direct beneficiaries across 14 urban centres.

**Key constraints:** Funding shortfalls have resulted in months of continued rations cuts (30% of food basket) for WFP's refugee operations. Deeper cuts may be implemented in October.

102,400

124.9M

94.8M

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## TOTAL EAST AFRICA

3.9M

**1,976M**    **1,336M**  
*from 1,713M*    *from 1,001M*  
*(June plan)*    *(June plan)*

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**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

	COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY	WFP IMMEDIATE RESPONSE	COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES	EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED TO SUSTAIN/SCALE-UP ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES (JULY - TO DATE)	REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS	TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS
<b>Bolivia</b>	<p>The impact of COVID-19 is being felt in urban areas, particularly on people dependent on the informal sector and in rural areas on smallholders who have not been able to access markets.</p> <p>Given that most of the workforce is informal, the continuous lockdown is increasing the risk of food insecurity for middle-income households. Social instability is growing because of quarantine measures, a rise in COVID-19 cases and the political crisis; this may be further exacerbated by the election in October 2020.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP will assist some 11,000 vulnerable people (mostly depending on the informal sector) through FFA in Sucre and Santa Cruz.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> An additional 11,238 people are expected to be assisted in the coming months. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,600 COVID-19 patients in isolation centres in urban and rural areas (Oruro, Sucre, La Paz, Tupiza and Tarija) for 14 days</li> <li>• 5,038 children with take home rations (school feeding).</li> <li>• 200 smallholders and 600 children under two years old (Kalpawawa project)</li> <li>• Double Burden Study</li> <li>• GEN socio economic study</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP is providing technical assistance to the Government in the COVID-19 Response.</p>	<p>11,238 from 22,000 (June plan)</p> 	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> WFP assisted 11,912 beneficiaries in August, with unconditional CBT, school meals, and livelihood support. WFP has continued to provide technical assistance to the Government to enable the national response.</p> <p><b>Constraints:</b> Limited funding, and increased tensions surrounding the elections, and the temporary closure of Government institutions due to the pandemic.</p>	800,000	100,000
<b>English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean</b>	<p>While market access has improved since April, incomes have further reduced, mainly due to increasing job loss or reduced revenue/salary. Food insecurity has risen sharply since the beginning of the year, particularly among low income families, migrants and single parents. The Caribbean was highly indebted prior to COVID-19 and the situation has been made worse by revenue loss and increasing expenditures and debt – reducing the already extremely limited fiscal space. This has significantly hampered governments capacities to address the impact of COVID-19. The hurricane season is unfolding at a record pace (2nd most active in history), with 23 named storms at the time of writing. Early weather systems have caused significant damages so far, while predictions call for 6 major hurricanes. COVID-19 is expected to complicate a traditional sudden onset emergency response.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP's support to Governments and regional institutions to strengthen social protection and end-to-end emergency supply chain is sustained and scaled up with a COVID-19 focus.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> In addition to sustaining capacity strengthening, WFP is scaling up support to Governments on using social protection systems to respond to growing needs. WFP is scaling up this support in additional countries and building on previous efforts. WFP is also providing direct assistance through the Government social protection systems in Saint Lucia, Dominica and Barbados and is resourcing to cover additional needs in British Virgin Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and others. Prolonged assistance in Dominica and Saint Lucia is also required.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP is providing logistics common services including support to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in facilitating a broader response among CARICOM countries. As the Caribbean is now in the peak of the hurricane season, WFP Caribbean has scaled up capacities and standby mechanisms to be able to extend further support in the COVID-19 context if required- in line with lessons learned from responses to three category 5 hurricanes in recent years.</p>	60,000	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> WFP assisted 480,000 beneficiaries in August, through unconditional cash-based transfers (56% of total beneficiaries assisted), unconditional in-kind transfers, and adapted school meals.</p> <p><b>Key constraints:</b> funding shortfalls, increased levels of violence in conflict affected areas, temporary access constraints due to COVID-19 restrictions and unpredictability of migration flows.</p>	12.1M	12.3M*

**Colombia**

COVID-19 exacerbates the already complex humanitarian situation in Colombia: internal violence, causing displacement and confinement; the Venezuelan migration emergency; and other vulnerabilities due to poverty and climate shocks.

Migrants are particularly vulnerable: 92% percent of Venezuelan migrants say food is their most urgent need, and 85% percent report having reduced their food intake– 73% of migrants in Colombia, or 1.3 million people, are moderately for severely food insecure.. Among Colombians, remote assessments conducted by WFP show that 50% of the population eat less than 3 meals a day, and 60% of worry not having enough food for the next 30 days.

Severe food insecurity in the country has increased from 4% to 6%, representing nearly 3.3 million people.

**Sustain:** Continued emergency assistance to approximately 330,000 migrants per month and increasing, as well as violence-affected people and other vulnerable populations every month. WFP increased cash-based transfers following the closure of most community kitchens; extended the migrant’s assistance duration from 6 to up to 9 months; re-targeted previous beneficiaries fallen into severe food insecurity; distributed in-kind food in hard to reach areas; shifted to take home school feeding rations; and implemented double distributions.

**Scale up:**

- additional plan to support 550,000 Colombians affected by COVID-19 containment measures. This includes support to the Government’s contact-tracing and selective-isolation strategy (PRASS).
- expand support to both urban and hard-to-reach areas, including 40,000 migrants in Bogotá , Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Valle del Cauca; and 10,000 mainly indigenous people in the Amazon region.
- deploy and expand an innovative shock-responsive social protection to support 40,000 Colombians and migrants in extreme poverty (Arauca region).
- scale up support to victims of increasing internal violence.
- promote relief and livelihoods activities where possible to support sustainable assistance to populations affected by multiple crises.
- Continue scaling up school feeding for migrant children [42,000 currently].

**Support:** provides common logistics services to support government and the humanitarian community in Colombia (including humanitarian passenger flights, storage and procurement services)

  
550,000  
from 400,000  
(June Plan)

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP assisted 480,000 beneficiaries in August, through unconditional cash-based transfers (56% of total beneficiaries assisted), unconditional in-kind transfers, and adapted school meals.

**Key constraints:** funding shortfalls, increased levels of violence in conflict affected areas, temporary access constraints due to COVID-19 restrictions and unpredictability of migration flows.


117.2M 87.7M

**Cuba**

The effects of COVID-19 are causing a sharp decrease in national and household level income sources (especially tourism), private sector and family remittances, as well as increasing the lack of food and basic supplies in local markets. Pre COVID-19, Cuba had been importing 70 percent of its food needs mainly for social protection programmes. Food security is also significantly affected by climate (droughts and hurricanes – with the second most active season on record underway), the economic and financial embargo, and the lack of fuel. Governmental rationing-measures are in place to address the population's access to basic goods.

**Scale-up:** WFP is providing food and nutrition support to 85,700 of the most vulnerable elderly Cubans that are part of the Family Support Systems across the country and to pregnant women in 54 municipalities in eastern provinces.

**Support:** In support of the Government, Emergency preparedness measures including prepositioning of food and other items for the hurricane season and an earthquake scenario ongoing.

 85,700  
from 599,300  
(June Plan)

**Sustain and Scale-up:** In July, WFP assisted 74,434 beneficiaries, including pregnant and lactating women, young children in need of additional nutrition support, and vulnerable elderly persons.

7.8M 500,000

**Dominican Republic**

COVID-19 incurred livelihood losses, supply chain disruptions and food price increases Have disrupted access to food for some 8 million people. Based on initial 2020 remote assessments, an estimated 30% and 7.4% of the population will be moderately and severely food insecure, respectively, compared to the 19% and 1% pre-COVID-19.

This impact is especially worrisome for those employed in the informal sector, undocumented population and the most vulnerable to malnutrition (young children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly and people living with HIV).

Finally, the Dominican Republic is among countries vulnerable to hurricanes – with the second most active season on record underway.

**Sustain:** lockdowns have reduced attendance at primary health clinics. The distribution of specialized nutritious food through the Government led social protection programme PROSOLI has been adapted to include home distributions, , engaging new local partners to expand the scope (vertical and horizontal), reaching to 130,000 of the most vulnerable groups (children under five, pregnant and lactating women, elderly and people living with HIV).

**Scale-up:** WFP will integrate new food distribution modalities, including in-kind and CBT for 282,400 people to respond to immediate food insecurity, using IFRCs' CBT platform and with the support of the Dominican Red Cross in the field. The scale-up is focused on those not registered under any national social protection programmes.

**Support:**

- technical assistance provision (retail supply chain, targeting, nutrition education, implementation and monitoring) to social protection programmes, covering 6 million people affected by lockdowns.
- logistics and telecommunication service provision, information management and coordination for the humanitarian community, including the Government.
- enabling logistical augmentation, including preparedness and food pre-positioning for three months to support requirements resulting from any emergency situation in the neighbouring Caribbean countries.

282,400

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP reached 1,250 households (5,000 people) with food kits and 933 pregnant and lactating women and children with nutritional assistance in July, while continuing its technical assistance to a Government in transition.

16M 13.4M

In the absence of pre-existing crisis response activities, the Country Office had to revise its portfolio and contract additional Cooperating Partners.

## Ecuador

A UNDP estimates that the number of people living in poverty as a result of the pandemic will increase from 4.3 million in 2019 to 6.4 million in 2020; while extreme poverty would increase from 8.9% to 12.9%. By 2020, 1,627,444 homes will be below the poverty line and of these, 567,889 will be in a situation of extreme poverty.

WFP's recent publication, Hunger Map 2020, finds the prevalence of undernourishment in Ecuador stands between 5-15 percent of the total population. In addition to the Ecuadorian population, WFP with IOM, UNHCR and food security partners have identified some 55,000 Venezuelan migrants who will be severely food insecure and 247,00 moderately food insecure.

**Sustain:** WFP will resume normal targeting processes expanding its criteria to incorporate LGBTBI population, victims of violence, eliminating the level of education and reducing the age range from 65 to 60 to be considered an older adult.

**Scale-up:** WFP plans to support an additional:

- 342,000 pregnant and lactating women and households with children under 5 in complement with the national social protection system with CBT;
- 27,000 beneficiaries in COVID-19 shelters
- 1,000 smallholder farmers from the Family Farming and Ecuadorian host population affected by COVID-19 through capacity strengthening actions for an amount of USD 250,000.

**Support:** WFP will provide logistics coordination and technical assistance in support of the emergency response. Additionally, WFP will also strengthen shock responsive social protection capacity, including on needs and market assessments, while seeking to link it with early recovery, attending populations in human mobility, with informal employment and smallholder farmers from the Family and Peasant Farming, in order to encourage self-sufficiency and rebuild the livelihoods of the affected populations.

**Sustain and Scale-up:** In July, WFP assisted 113,854 beneficiaries, more than 99% were assisted through unconditional cash-based transfers, while an additional nearly 500 people received individual capacity strengthening support.

WFP has expanded its delivery mechanisms and technical assistance to the Government in support of its shock-responsive social protection programmes.

Despite the Logistics Cluster not being activated, WFP offers donor-funded free-to-use logistics services (transport and storage) to humanitarian partners.

**Key constraints:** Following an initial IRA allocation from internal resources, today funding shortfalls remain among the main challenges to fulfil WFP's commitment to the government to cover food assistance gaps. To date the office has also experienced some operational challenges in finalizing cash based transfers through the social protection system.

  
370,000  
from 361,500  
(June Plan)

26.4M

8.8M

## El Salvador

The impact of COVID-19 and the tropical storms Amanda and Cristobal complicate a situation marked by chronic violence, migration and multidimensional poverty. In July 2020 WFP estimated that more than 382,000 people were severely food insecure. Both storms are estimated to have impacted at least 336,000 severely insecure people. Added to the damage caused in the basic grain cultivation by the storms are the threats of the locust outbreak and the high probability of occurrence of “La Niña” phenomena.

After five months of COVID-19 outbreak, the deep economic recession still remains latent in the country’s macroeconomic indicators. Even though the family remittances show a slight improvement, the Gross Domestic Product, imports, exports, unemployment and the Volume of Economic Activity Index still show a difficult outlook.

**Sustain:** WFP provides cash-based assistance to 6,500 small holder farmers to create resilience to climate change and continues supporting 130 youth in urban areas through vocational and life skills.

**Scaling up:** WFP will temporarily support

- 80,000 people affected by COVID-19 containment measures.
- In addition to thousands of households affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristobal.

**Support:** WFP provides technical assistance to Government institutions on a range of areas including shock responsive social protection, logistics, and assessment.

- WFP leads the Food Security & Nutrition, Logistics and Telecommunications Sectors
- WFP has supported with the set-up of quarantine centres and evacuation shelters during the storms

**Sustain and Scale-up:** In August, WFP assisted 35,260 beneficiaries, 98% received unconditional cash-based transfers, while an additional 545 persons were supported through livelihood activities.

**Support:** WFP is ramping up CBT in coordination with government institutions, NGOs and UN partners.

**Key constraints:** The severe impact of Tropical Storm Amanda prompted new targeting, while COVID-19 imposed new constraints on a sudden onset emergency response. Funding shortfalls remain a challenge for full implementation.

  
203,000  
from 120,000  
(June Plan)

20.4M 21.7M\*

## Guatemala

Before the pandemic, an emergency food security assessment found 2.3 million people to be food insecure linked to erratic weather patterns, limited access to basic services, and deep-rooted vulnerability; of these, almost 0.5 million were severely food insecure. The significant impact of COVID-19 has almost doubled the number of people facing severe food insecurity: WFP’s remote assessment estimates 4 million people have a poor food intake, of which 1.3 million are severely food insecure. Overall, 2.8 million estimated to be in an IPC level 3 or higher. WFP is concerned about the nutrition situation, with more than 20,900 cases of acute malnutrition officially reported; data collection has been limited due to COVID-19, and Ministry of Health is now deploying nutrition brigades countrywide to assess the situation.

**Sustain:** WFP is targeting more than 35,000 households, severely food insecure or with acutely malnourished children to provide emergency assistance for 60 days. A resilience building project to benefit 30,000 people is starting in October.

**Scale up:** WFP plans to complement the Government’s response, prioritizing interventions in areas with the highest food insecurity rates, aiming to scale up to assist 700,000 people.

**Support:** WFP is providing services to the Government to support the implementation of national programmes:

- Procurement of food commodities (with a value of US\$ 90 million) on behalf of the Government to launch the Government’s “Food Programme”
- Supporting with digital platforms to strengthen the reliability and transparency of the national “Food Programme”
- Supporting with VAM capacity for remote assessment of food security during the pandemic.
- Supporting the Government’s National Nutrition brigades with “search teams” to identify cases of acute malnutrition.

**Sustain and Scale-up:** Up to August, WFP assisted 21,767 beneficiaries through unconditional cash-based transfers, and individual capacity strengthening.

**Support:** WFP continued to provide procurement and other services to support the Government’s large-scale emergency programming.

**Key constraint:** Funding shortfalls (over 80% of revised requirements) remain the main challenge for full implementation.

700,000

49.5M 40.2M



Haiti

The COVID-19 crisis has further aggravated hunger in Haiti. With a June survey finding that more than 90% of households experience decreased income following containment measures. There has also been an increase in the cost of the food basket, of transport and market prices, and a lower availability of both local and imported products. Surveys also indicate that 86.4% of respondents do not have any food stock in their house, and around 45% are consuming only 1 meal a day in their households during the reporting period (May to August).

An estimated 3.6 million Haitians (35% of the population) were already facing moderate to severe hunger before the pandemic. The August 2020 IPC results show 4 million people (42% of the population) facing acute food insecurity from August 2020 to February 2021, and in March 2021, this is projected to increase to approximately 4.4 million (46% of the population).

The country also faces an active hurricane season. On 22-23 August, tropical Storm Laura caused severe floodings in part of Sud-Est department and the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince further complicating an already dire food security situation. Gang violence is high, while unrest around the end of the current President's term is fuelling political tensions.

**Sustain and Scale-up:**

- As schools closed, WFP distributed take-home food rations for over 90,000 households. Schools reopened in August to make up for days missed due to the country lockdown in 2019 and COVID-19, and WFP developed a new protocol for messages on hygiene, biosafety and social distancing measures during transport, food storage, food preparation, and school meal distribution in the context of COVID-19. As of September 1st, 87% of schools in the programme have been re-supplied, with 95% of food planned for deliveries. Moreover, 5,000 buckets with tap and lid and 25,000 soap bars were distributed to targeted schools in partnership with UNICEF.
- WFP is scaling up its emergency assistance from 700,000 people to 1.3 million people to be assisted through April 2021 [approx. half to be reached in 2020] with in-kind and CBT assistance.

**Support:** WFP is leading the Logistics Sector and providing common logistics services to the humanitarian community, including sea, air and land transport. WFP is working with Government (Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour; National Food Security Coordination) to expand the national registry of vulnerable population (SIMAST) in the coming months with expected funding from IFIs.

**Sustain and Scale-up:** In August, WFP assisted 85,240 beneficiaries through unconditional cash-based transfers while an additional 3,940 people received livelihood support. WFP successfully converted its school feeding programme to take home rations for 91,263 households; these household-based rations benefitted 456,315 people.

**Support:** WFP continues to enable the humanitarian community through logistics coordination and humanitarian air services, including exploring possible support through a humanitarian corridor with Dominican Republic, as required.

  
600,000  
from 300,000  
(June Plan)

207.7M 177.6M

**Key constraints:** The deteriorating security context impacts WFP and partner access and ability to deliver at scale. Virus misinformation resulting in fear-driven actions complicate sensitization and outreach, including when attending locked down communities. Funding shortfalls relative to the scale of needs impeded the humanitarian community's ability to reduce needs and contribute to stability.

<p><b>Honduras</b></p>	<p>Along with the negative effects of climate variation, the pandemic has aggravated food insecurity: 1.8 million people have insufficient food consumption, and 1.3 million experience chronic hunger. Many livelihoods are affected by restrictions of movements in both urban and rural areas. A WFP and ILO joint study estimates that around 2.1 million people working in the informal sector lost their income, leading to coping strategies such as reductions in basic household expenditures, taking credit and loans, looking for other job options, tapping in food stocks, and emigration. In addition, of the businesses interviewed, 61.1% have not been able to continue with the regular payment of their employees.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP continues to implement its nutrition and resilience activities as well as school-meal programme targeting 1.2 million children (transitioned to take-home rations).</p> <p><b>Scale Up:</b> WFP, in coordination with the Food Security Sector, is complementing the Government's response. Within this, WFP is targeting an initial 600,000 of the most vulnerable and food insecure. So far, 54,000 families are being assisted (270,000 beneficiaries).</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP continues efforts to strengthen social protection systems and reinforce targeting mechanisms to help build shock responsiveness and ensure transparency.</p>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> In July, WFP assisted 443,061 beneficiaries through 36,060 people with cash-based transfers, adapted school meals through take home rations, and nutrition assistance.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP has continued its technical assistance to the Government, and with the support of the Government is establishing a sub-regional hub to facilitate humanitarian response in the region.</p> <p><b>Key constraints:</b> Funding shortfalls remain a challenge for full implementation of response.</p>	<p>600,000</p> <p>48.7M</p> <p>34.4M</p>
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<p><b>Nicaragua</b></p>	<p>COVID-19 further aggravates the effects of the 2018 socio-political crisis, which increased unemployment, migration and food insecurity, throwing the country into the worst economic crisis of the last 30 years.</p> <p>The additional impacts of the pandemic on tourism, the service sector, remittances and food prices are causing additional stress to this fragile situation. CEPAL estimates that COVID-19 could lead to further poverty increases, reaching up to 53 percent and extreme poverty 23 percent of the population.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP continued to support the national school feeding programme for 182,000 school children and to assist smallholder farmers, particularly during the first harvest of the year to protect their food security. At the same time, this keeps the local economy running and agricultural circuits active.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> A scale up plan is under discussion with the Government.</p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFP is providing technical support to implement biosafety protocols for the entire food delivery chain, as well as provision of hygiene kits for at least 1,955 schools and 20 farmer organizations.</li> <li>• WFP provides technical assistance to the Government to analyse the economic impact of COVID-19 on food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable families.</li> <li>• If additional resources are secured, WFP aims to preposition food stocks to be ready to deliver immediate food assistance to populations affected by hazards, particularly hurricanes. Prepositioning food can help save lives, given the long lead times for food procurement.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Response plan under discussion</i></p> <p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP maintained its operations reaching 184,348 beneficiaries in July through school feeding and livelihood support.</p> <p><b>Key constraints:</b> The absence of a Government emergency declaration has limited WFP's capacity to finalize a response plan and raise funds to mitigate additional needs beyond the adaptation of its existing regular programming.</p>	<p>14.6M</p> <p>4.1M</p>
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**Peru**

72.5 percent of the employed population relies on the informal sector. The economic slowdown and movement restrictions limited households' access to basic needs and people resorted to negative coping strategies.

Estimates indicate that severe food insecurity can potentially affect 3.5 million people due to the impact of COVID-19. The situation is dire for migrants: WFP data shows that prior to COVID-19 nearly 20 percent of Venezuelans were concerned about not having enough food to cover their needs. Current estimates show that 160,000 Venezuelan migrants will be severely food insecure and 400,000 moderately food insecure.

**Sustain:** WFP continues focusing on capacity strengthening: Reprioritization of activities and adjustment of pre-COVID19 operation to the current context.

**Scale-up:** In June 2020, WFP planned support for 98,400 vulnerable people not included in the national social protection schemes, mainly Venezuelan migrants. No additional beneficiaries as of October 2020.

**Support:** Strengthen Government's response through continuous capacity strengthening. Logistics augmentation activities in support of the National Institute of Civil Defence (INDECI), mainly for the coordination of the distribution of food items and non-food items for vulnerable people in quarantine and Venezuelan migrants. WFP in alliance with WHO/PAHO is strengthening the government's capacities to design and implement a model to reduce the spread of COVID-19 that strengthens the first level of health care, implements a contact tracing system and provides food support to vulnerable families that require quarantine.

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP has reoriented its portfolio and began direct assistance, with unconditional cash-based transfers in July. An estimated 4,500 beneficiaries have been reached by September 24th.

**Support:** WFP has also provided logistics support to the Government for food distributions to 219,320 people (including 24,000 Venezuelan migrants).

98,400 Since the launch of the June Plan, WFP revised its CSP, raised funds from the private sector and international cooperation, contracted cooperating partners, refined targeting criteria and introduced new transfer modalities. While transfer implementation to direct beneficiaries began in July, numbers are expected to rise in future months, having completed the necessary operational adjustments. Funding shortfalls remain an obstacle to full implementation.

15.9M 7.6M

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**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**3.64M**  
*from 3.5M*  
*(June Plan)*

**537.2M 408.5M**  
*from 570M from 328M*  
*(June Plan) (June Plan)*

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**MIDDLE  
EAST,  
CENTRAL  
ASIA AND  
NORTH  
AFRICA**

	COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY	WFP IMMEDIATE RESPONSE	COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES	EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED TO SUSTAIN/SCALE-UP ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES (JULY – TO DATE)	REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS	TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS
<b>Algeria</b>	Algeria's economy has been impacted by the sharp fall in global oil prices. WFP's support focuses on refugee camps in Tindouf where economic opportunities are limited. COVID-19 mitigation measures have impacted refugees that rely on small businesses increasing food insecurity in the camps.	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP continues to distribute 133,672 rations and provide complementary activities to ensure availability of fresh foods in the camps and support treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition. School Feeding will be restarted when schools reopen.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> 19,100 additional beneficiaries have received unconditional support for three months that concluded in July.</p>	19,100	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP maintained support to 133,762 vulnerable people with GFA assistance</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP reached 100% of the 19,100 additional beneficiaries as planned in the scale-up in June.</p>	8.8M	2.2M
<b>Armenia</b>	COVID-19 has negatively impacted the socio-economic and food security situation. With the disruptions of local and global supply chains, increased job losses and negative impacts on national production capacities, particularly agribusinesses, individuals' vulnerability is expected to increase.	<p><b>Sustain:</b> School feeding activities to 68,500 people.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Extend support to 130,000 people including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-kind food/cash support to 80,000 vulnerable peoples (elderly, disabled, children, marginalized) jointly with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs</li> <li>Shock responsive school support for two months for 30,000 school children from vulnerable households through cash-based transfers</li> <li>In-kind food support for 20,000 in support of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs safety net</li> <li>Support: WFP is providing technical support to the National food grain reserve and food systems</li> </ul>	130,000	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP maintained support to 29,512 school children</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) targeting 29,223 primary school children from vulnerable families within the framework of the shock responsive school feeding.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP is supporting the MoESS to develop a strategy for organizing school feeding programme.</p>	1.4M	-

<p><b>Egypt</b></p>	<p>COVID-19 restrictions have had a serious socio-economic impact on already vulnerable communities. The Government expanded social protection interventions and increased coverage of social safety nets: 100,000 households have been added to the 3.5 million households already supported. Further, an estimated 1.5 million casual laborers who have no access to existing safety nets were also supported with cash assistance as compensation for lost income.</p> <p>The Government is closely monitoring needs of sectors most affected (including tourism) and are enforcing financial &amp; medical response plans with national funds and with support from the international community.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> continued assistance to 720,000 host populations affected by the COVID-19 crisis and 150,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers living in Egypt.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 695,000 vulnerable Egyptians registered under the national safety net with CBT;</li> <li>• 40,000 smallholder farmers and Bedouin communities with unconditional cash-based transfers; and</li> <li>• 37,100 pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 with nutrition support for three months (from July-September).</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP has provided support through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid assessments on vulnerable communities and related data collection</li> <li>• Technical training on mapping, analysis and data visualization.</li> <li>• Deploy enhanced technologies for WFP hotline</li> </ul>	<p>As of August, WFP has completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three cycles of monthly cash assistance to about 37,100 casual workers of the Ministry of Manpower.</li> <li>- About 29,000 families of school children with unconditional cash assistance or commodity vouchers;</li> <li>- first monthly cycle of unconditional monthly cash top-up to 40,000 children under two years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP has provided support to the Government by setting up the Egyptian COVID-19 Response Information Hub, an integrated GIS-based platform that consolidates data from the different Government entities</p>	<p>772,100</p> <p>66.6M</p> <p>53.6M</p>
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<p><b>Iran</b></p>	<p>The Government does not foresee a severe impact on the food security situation on account of COVID-19. Any impact will be addressed by Government relief packages and interventions.</p> <p>The humanitarian needs of refugees will however remain precarious due to slowdown of the economy, loss of labour opportunity and the fact that refugees do not qualify to receive any form of subsidy from the government.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash and in-kind distribution to 31,000 refugees;</li> <li>• Conditional support to girl refugees to incentivize educational activities;</li> <li>• Conditional support to primary or secondary schoolchildren (either as on-site school feeding or home-schooling ration);</li> <li>• Conditional support to refugees especially women to facilitate livelihood activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scale up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31,000 supported refugees are receiving extra cash ration and lentils added to their food basket.</li> <li>• An ad-hoc 1 million Rial per person (USD 5) cash top up for all inhabitants in Saveh settlement</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government emergency preparedness and response, including the provision of emergency cash-based or in-kind transfers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>In-kind:</b> 31,000 refugees are receiving extra cash ration and lentils added to their food basket to mitigate the negative effects of job loss and reduced incomes among refugee households.</p> <p><b>Cash:</b> 7 quarantined settlements received top-up during the lockdown to maintain their food consumption.</p> <p>WFP has supported the government and partners by providing hygiene items to settlement managers and warehouse keepers involved in dealing with refugees and food distribution, as well as PPEs for 5,000 IRCS staff.</p>	<p>3.6M</p> <p>-</p>
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Iraq	<p>The fall in global oil prices driven by COVID-19 has put pressure on national finances. This may impede the Government's ability to sustain social protection activities, deliver basic services and salaries</p> <p>At the start of 2020, 1.77 million people were susceptible to food insecurity. A World Bank report indicates that the impact of COVID-19 could double the national poverty, estimated at 20 percent prior to the crisis. WFP estimated that an additional 345,000 people require immediate food assistance.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP assistance to 725,500 people including: food insecure displaced people and refugees, returnees, conflict affected and vulnerable communities as well as students supported through school-feeding in 11 governorates.</p> <p><b>Scale up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food assistance to 45,000 people in IDP and refugee camps.</li> <li>• Quick action, emergency livelihoods projects in urban and peri-urban areas for 300,000 people</li> </ul> <p><i>[WFP and the Ministry of Education are discussing a nationwide coverage of the School Feeding programme from October. Not yet captured in scale-up budget].</i></p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A joint WFP/FAO/World Bank assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on the food security of vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Social protection reform including the reform of the Government's Public Distribution System</li> <li>• Engagement with the World Bank on tripartite collaboration</li> </ul>	345,000	<p>345,000 (commenced and on-going)</p> <p>More than 32,000 refugees and 3,000 IDPs have been included for CBT assistance</p> <p>Joint WFP/FAO/ World Bank assessment was conducted</p>	68.3M	27.5M
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Jordan	<p>WFP latest assessments indicate a 5 percent increase in the number of refugees with poor and borderline food consumption, corresponding to 33,250 people. There is no indication yet of a change in the food consumption of vulnerable Jordanians. The National Aid Fund has planned to double its beneficiaries as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>Already suffering from high public debt burden, economic deterioration in the aftermath of COVID-19 may result in protests if a clear bailout plan is not proposed.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP supports 480,000 vulnerable refugees with unconditional cash-based transfers</p> <p><b>Scale up:</b> WFP is implementing a COVID-19 scale-up response plan to include an additional 22,422 refugees. WFP also supports 35,625 vulnerable Jordanian individuals through the National Aid Fund in partnership with the Government.</p>	58,047	<p>Assistance to 480,000 vulnerable refugees with unconditional cash-based transfer was maintained</p> <p>In August, WFP expanded its GFA assistance reaching additional 14,400 refugees.</p>	136.5M	147.3M
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<p><b>Kyrgyzstan</b></p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has caused serious socioeconomic impacts across Kyrgyzstan through simultaneous shocks such as reductions in domestic and external demand, trade; and disruption of production.</p> <p>Kyrgyz Government estimated that about 1.8 million people, approximately one-third of the population, will fall under the poverty line.</p> <p>The Government prioritizes food security and has requested UN support to respond to the impact of COVID-19.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP supports over 100,000 people through productive safety net activities and training as well as 38,000 primary school children from rural families.</p> <p><b>Scale up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency food assistance to 3,200 people (residents of social inpatient institutions)</li> <li>• Emergency food assistance for two months to 300,000 people living in extreme poverty</li> <li>• Early recovery assistance to support vulnerable smallholder farmers to restore livelihoods</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance social protection schemes for emergency response;</li> <li>• Weekly food price monitoring from 18 markets across the country and regular socio-economic analysis and micro simulations.</li> </ul>	<p>303,200</p>	<p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP has so far reached 3,200 people with emergency food assistance, out of the 303,200 COVID-induced caseload from June.</p>	<p>7.5M</p>
<p><b>Lebanon</b></p>	<p>The dramatic economic and fiscal crises, hyperinflation, rising prices seen throughout 2020, compounded with the impact of COVID-19 countermeasures have had devastating effects on the economic vulnerabilities of refugees and Lebanese populations, including those not usually considered vulnerable. The average cost of the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) has sharply increased, reaching its highest price in August.</p> <p>The World Bank estimates that 45 percent of the Lebanese population would fall into poverty, half of whom (841.000) equivalent to 22 percent of the Lebanese population, would become extremely poor. In addition, 1.2 million refugees are now estimated to be living below the survival minimum expenditure basket.</p> <p>Recent WFP survey estimated one out of three Lebanese were pushed into unemployment, while nearly one fifth of the population saw their salaries being reduced. The explosion at Beirut Port on 4 August places further strain on the ability of people to meet their food needs, through disrupted livelihoods and food supply chains and prices.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Support to 944,156 people (in July 2020) through different activities.</p> <p><b>Scale up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind food assistance for 6 months for 50,000 vulnerable Lebanese families (approx. 270,000 individuals), complementing the national social protection system</li> <li>• Contingency of 40,000 food parcels for Syrian refugee families living in informal tented settlements who may not be able to access markets due to COVID-19 movement restrictions</li> <li>• Scale-up from approx. 670,000 refugees assisted in March to approx. 800,000 refugees assisted in August with unconditional cash-based assistance, and additional scale-up under consideration.</li> <li>• Scale-up of National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) beneficiaries from 105,000 to 270,000 by the end of 2020.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b> Capacity strengthening support for the national social protection system on targeting, verification, monitoring and feedback mechanisms.</p>	<p>565,000</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> In August, WFP provided 955,479 beneficiaries with CBT and food parcels to 2,600 Lebanese families and 100 Syrian households. In addition, emergency in-kind food assistance to 11,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by the explosion were delivered.</p>	<p>277.7M    169.6M</p>

**Libya**

After nine years of political, security and economic volatility, food security remains a challenge as food remains among the top needs of residents, migrants, IDPs and returnees. The intensification of the conflict and the COVID-19 containment measures have further exacerbated this need.

According to WFP's mVAM from May 2020, the proportion of households adopting emergency coping mechanisms has increased to 28%, up from the 7% last year as estimated by the Government. WFP estimates the number of food insecure people in Libya is projected to increase from 336,000 to 683,000.

**Sustain:** unconditional assistance to 106,000 vulnerable people in Libya, including schoolchildren, and pilot complementary interventions that improve food security and nutrition.

**Scale up:** in-kind food assistance to an additional 10,000 newly displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers and vulnerable non-displaced persons.

**Support:**

- The design and delivery of Government social safety nets focusing on capacity strengthening support on vulnerability mapping and monitoring;
- WFP and UNICEF are collaborating on school health and school nutrition;
- Innovative data collection among migrant populations with IOM to assess the impact of COVID-19 on food security and socio-economic status;
- COVID-19 impact assessment on Agriculture and Livelihood
- Mobile VAM in September 2020 with nutrition indicators;
- USIP/UN Women/WFP joint research on peace and conflict, livelihoods, and gender around the border areas;
- WFP Migration Pulse and IOM Migration Flow Survey to assess COVID-19 impact on food security and socio-economic status among migrants in Libya [the data collection is starting in August 2020].

10,000

**Support:**

Unconditional food assistance was provided to 106,000 people (including 18,000 school children).

While all activities have resumed or been adapted to the COVID-19 context, such as take-home rations distributions for school-feeding, the Food For Training activity is only slowly resuming after September 2020 with the easing of movement restrictions.

Joint UN initiatives: WFP, IOM and UN HABITAT are developing a Multi-Partner Trust Fund proposal to support the Government with the scale-up of the national socio-economic response to the pandemic.

17.3M

7.6M



**Palestine**

Food security is expected to further deteriorate as COVID-19 related restrictions on movement impact income generation. World Bank indicates prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, more than a quarter of Palestinians lived below the poverty line. It is expected that the share of poor households will increase to 30% in the West Bank and to 64% in Gaza. The unemployment rate in Palestine has reached 25% in 1st quarter 2020, 45.5% in Gaza and 14.2% in West Bank. WFP estimates show that prior to COVID-19, the food insecurity in Palestine affected nearly a third of the population – about 1.7 million people. Food insecurity is high among women – 32 percent of families headed by women are food insecure – particularly in the Gaza Strip. Coping mechanisms reflect a worsening situation across all vulnerable groups. People previously considered moderately food insecure are expected to become severely food insecure.

**Sustain:** The value of the unconditional cash transfers to existing food insecure caseloads (272,000) has been sustained and the voucher value increased for 3 months only (May-July 2020). Sustain the assistance to 73,000 food insecure people through the in-kind transfer modality.

**Scale up:** Cash-based support to additional 65,000 vulnerable people, (disabled, elderly and lactating & pregnant women) for 4 months (May-August 2020). WFP Palestine is obliged to stop the assistance if no funding resources is received in the coming days. There is increased need but due to limited resources, WFP Palestine could not cover all the need.

**Support:**

- Food security assessment (SEFSec 2020) and UN Rapid impact assessment
- Essential Needs Targeting taking new needs into consideration

65,000	<p><b>Sustain:</b> As of August, WFP continued its support to 223,000 beneficiaries with CBT assistance with increased voucher value for 3 months.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP has also reached additional 65,000 with CBT assistance for 3 months</p>	39.9M	33M
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## Sudan

The latest IPC results project 9.6 million people (21 percent of the population) to experience crisis or worse levels of food insecurity in the country. It is an unprecedented increase in food insecurity.

Economic downturn and inflation coupled with COVID-19 that affected food availability and accessibility are the major factors contributing to the increased level of food insecurity across the country. In comparison to previous year, inflation exceeded 100 percent and the Sudanese Pound continued its decline that led the Sudanese government to declare the economic state of emergency on September 11. Food prices continued to increase eroding purchasing power of the population. The situation is exacerbated by conflicts and natural disasters. The number of security incidents has been on the rise with tribal clashes in West Darfur, West Kordofan, South Kordofan and Red Sea State. Severe floods, as level of the River Nile reached 17.43 meters, the highest in 100 years, have further aggravated the food security situation.

### Sustain:

- Unconditional assistance to 2.4 million people (IDPs and refugees)
- Take-home rations to 940,000 school children during school closures
- Nutrition-sensitive programming and capacity strengthening
- Asset creation activities and technical assistance through safety nets, including advance distributions of PSN entitlements

**Scale-up:** In view of the rapidly deteriorating food security situation, WFP plans to scale up emergency interventions through

- Unconditional assistance to an additional 2.5million people (residents);
- Provision of food parcels in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to 300,000 families in Khartoum state (this one-off distribution was completed in July covering a total of 1.8 million people in Khartoum)
- Increased coverage by schools feeding and nutrition programmes to reach 1.7 million and 1.4 million respectively;
- Increased CBT transfer value.

  
5,176,000  
from 4,591,300  
(June Plan)

**Sustain:** In July, WFP maintained its operation assisting 2.4 million people with general food assistance. Take-home rations were distributed to 550,000 school children in August.

323.7M

85.8M

**Scale-up:** WFP provided one-off assistance to and additional 1,800,000 beneficiaries in July.

## Syria

The protracted conflict, economic standstill, the sanctions compounded with impact of COVID\_19 countermeasures further aggravated the socio-economic situation. Due to COVID-19 mitigation measures supply chains were disrupted, and food prices saw significant growth. As a result, food security has worsened compared to previous years.

WFP estimates that number of food insecure people in Syria has increased significantly due to the economic crisis. According to the recent estimates, the number of food insecure people has reached 9.3 million people in 2020. This is 46 percent of the total population and the highest number recorded ever. In addition, the number of severely food insecure people has doubled in 2020 since 2019; increasing from 500,000 to more than one million

**Sustain:** critical support to 4.5 million food insecure and displaced people and returnees through unconditional general food assistance, livelihood activities, treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition, and school feeding.

**Scale-up:** support to 1.4 million newly food insecure. Since June WFP is providing flour rations to Quarantine Centres hosting vulnerable population suspected of Covid-19 infection. To date, over 10,000 beneficiaries were reached through this programme and WFP is planning to reach 29,000 by the end of 2020.

  
1,429,000  
From 1,400,000  
(June Plan)


**Sustain:** Critical support provided to 4.5 million beneficiaries.

**Scale-up:** As of August, 10,000 beneficiaries in quarantine centres were provided with flour rations. A ration of 20 fortified snacks (date bars) is being distributed with the GFA ration to some 300,000 households in sub-districts where children are usually receiving date bars in schools.

593M

370.9M

2,800 ready-to-eat meals were distributed to areas that were previously in full lockdown.

<p><b>Tajikistan</b></p>	<p>The economic situation is rapidly deteriorating. Currency fluctuation and reduction of remittances has resulted in reduced purchasing power of imported basic commodities. Income from remittances has reduced significantly as migrant workers are unable to travel or send money due to lockdowns. Availability of and access to wage labour has become extremely limited. In addition, local supply chain disruptions have been reported such as an increase of transport costs and partially operational food markets.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> critical support to 4.5 million food insecure and displaced people and returnees through unconditional general food assistance, livelihood activities, treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition, and school feeding.</p> <p><b>Scale up:</b> support to 1.4 million newly food insecure. Since June WFP is providing flour rations to Quarantine Centres hosting vulnerable population suspected of Covid-19 infection. To date, over 10,000 beneficiaries were reached through this programme and WFP is planning to reach 29,000 by the end of 2020.</p>	<p>145,000 from 302,500 (June Plan)</p> 	<p><b>Sustain:</b> 24,000 families received a one-time THR since July.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP started a cash-for-work programme to support 15,000 beneficiaries</p>	<p>16.8M</p>	<p>10.4M</p>
<p><b>Tunisia</b></p>	<p>Due to COVID-19 job opportunities and income have been reduced. Income from remittances is also expected to be negatively affected. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicates that remittances in Tunisia are expected to decline by 12 percent in 2020.</p>	<p><b>Scale-up:</b> cash-based assistance to 537 families (2,685 beneficiaries) of primary school children affected by school closure because of COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A food security and vulnerability in-depth assessment with the Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Support the Ministry of Social Affairs to design an inclusive and harmonized shock responsive social protection system, and determine appropriate food assistance modalities.</li> <li>• Support Ministry of Education in digitalising the data of students who benefit from school canteens in order to allow its integration with the database of the Ministry of Social Affairs</li> <li>• Cost of Diet study completed for Tunis and ongoing for other regions in Tunisia</li> <li>• Fill the Nutrient Gap study ongoing</li> </ul>	<p>2,700</p>	<p>CBT assistance in response to the shock of COVID-19 started in July.</p>	<p>500,000</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><b>Turkey</b></p>	<p>WFP latest assessment indicates the economic slowdown driven by COVID-19 and restriction of movements have reduced refugees' employment opportunities with limited access to casual labour. The cost of basic needs continued to increase further reducing refugees' purchasing power. In addition, assistance currently provided to refugee households in camps is less than required to cover their food needs, especially since the devaluation of the Turkish Lira.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Unconditional assistance to refugees and training and livelihood activities for refugees and host community.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Cash-based support to 190,804 urban refugee households (915,860 people) who do not benefit from any social protection scheme.</p> <p>A contingency plan for temporary support to households placed in quarantine is not yet budgeted in this scale up.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Camp management (and supermarkets in the camps) to ensure a robust contingency plan is in place in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in the camps.</p>	<p>915,900</p>	<p>Sustain: unconditional cash assistance was provided to 56,000 to refugees in camps.</p>	<p>43.3M</p>	<p>37.8M</p>

**Yemen**

An estimated 69 percent of Yemen’s population (20.1 million people) is already food insecure. The scale, severity and complexity of needs in Yemen are staggering, with over 230 of Yemen’s 333 governorates categorized as food insecure. Conditions in these districts are the worst in the country: 103 districts are at risk of famine; 41 districts have malnutrition rates above 15 percent; 54 districts have acute water, sanitation and hygiene deficits; and 46 districts are at high risk of cholera.

In the second half of July, a published partial report of (IPC) analysis for 133 districts in southern governorates stated that 3.2 million people (40 percent of the analysed population) are severely food insecure (IPC phase 3 and above), if humanitarian food assistance is kept at the current levels. Despite gains made in improving food security in 2019, the fragility of Yemen, insecure funding of humanitarian assistance and thus potential reductions in assistance as well as other significant shocks could quickly reverse these gains.

**Sustain:** critical support to 13 million people through the following activities:

- Unconditional general food assistance
- Livelihoods and resilience activities
- Treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition
- School feeding activities

Over the first half of 2020, WFP Yemen has witnessed a reduction in donor commitments. Following the reduction of food assistance in the areas under the control of the Sana’a based authorities as of April 2020, WFP has no alternative but to continue with the reductions until the end of the year, due to lack of funds, affecting nine million people. If funding does not materialize, an additional five million beneficiaries are at risk of being cut from food assistance across the country (North and South) in the last quarter of 2020. To allow for the continuation of the reduced level of assistance in the northern areas and full assistance in IRG areas, WFP Yemen needs funding urgently.

**Sustain:** WFP has maintained its operation reaching 5.76 million people in July with life-saving assistance.

38 COVID-19 quarantine centres in 9 governorates were supported with immediate response rations (IRR) to cover the 14-day quarantine period.

958,121 students were reached with staggered distribution of take-home rations

- WFP chartered a second vessel to carry WFP/partners liner cargo of 1,500 containers. While the 14-day quarantine in the north was waived, it continued to be imposed in the Aiden port

1,063.5M      820.3M

**Support:** WFP continues to support the Government and partners through coordinating cargo flights, transporting PPEs, medicines, and ventilators to support the health system

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**TOTAL MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA**

**9.8M**  
from 9.4M  
(June Plan)

**2,668M      1,568M**  
from 2,736M      from 1,568M  
(June Plan)      (June Plan)

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**SOUTHERN  
AFRICA**

**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY**

**WFP IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

**COVID-19  
SCALE-UP  
BENEFICIARIES**

**EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED  
TO SUSTAIN/SCALE-UP ASSISTANCE TO  
BENEFICIARIES (JULY - TO DATE)**

**REVISED  
BUDGET  
(OCT - MAR)  
IN USD  
MILLIONS**

**TOTAL  
SHORTFALL  
(OCT - MAR)  
IN USD  
MILLIONS**

**Angola**

Drop in exports and low oil revenues will limit the Government's ability to provide social safety nets to protect incomes during lockdown and longer-term recovery efforts. Macroeconomic data show that the cost of living (including food prices) has been increasing since January 2020. The USD/AOA exchange rate has also been increasing from 488.37 at the beginning of March to 593.34 at the end of August. This situation is reducing vulnerable households' purchasing power and therefore is expected to impact their access to food over the coming months.

**Sustain:** A refugee response is ongoing to assist DRC refugees in Lunda Norte province.

**Scale-up:** WFP is preparing to implement a community-based MAM treatment programme in Luanda province in response to the COVID-19 impact, targeted to 37,000 acutely malnourished children aged 6- 59 months. The activities are currently scheduled to start in October 2020.

**Support:** Following the signature of an MoU with the World Bank and the Government, WFP will provide technical assistance to the Government in the areas of school feeding, nutrition, vulnerability analysis, and emergency preparedness and response.

**Sustain:** In July, 6,456 refugees were assisted in Lunda Norte province as part of the regular DRC refugee response.

**Scale-up:** WFP is assisting in delivering training to health providers on malnutrition treatment. Ready-to-use supplementary food and anthropometric equipment are being procured.

**Support:** WFP continues to support the Ministry of Agriculture on national food security assessments WFP assisted in the staff training on the household food security questionnaire and food consumption indicator.

400,000

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**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

DRC has the second highest number of food insecure people globally. It continues to face multiple and large-scale complex crises (e.g. resurgence of Ebola, measles and cholera outbreaks, persistent insecurity and conflict, large scale displacement).


As a result of COVID-19-induced price inflation and job losses, households in the most affected areas have lost almost 40 percent of their purchasing power. However, prices have recently started to stabilise and return to pre-COVID levels in most places. Kinshasa remains the most affected province, followed by North Kivu, and Haut Katanga. In North Kivu, mVAM data indicates that 80 percent of households have disrupted access to markets.

**Sustain:** WFP provides life-saving assistance to 7.5 million people in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, and Kasai.

**Scale-up:** WFP plans to support an additional 945,131 people in IPC3+ not yet supported through existing food security safety nets, plus an additional 500,000 in Kinshasa. In addition, WFP is partnering with UNICEF, FAO and the Government in an initiative aimed at mitigating the secondary impacts of COVID-19 on children and their families by helping cushion the loss of income. The programme aims to support the most vulnerable households in Kinshasa, starting in Nsele commune. 100,000 vulnerable households will be assisted, covering 500,000 individuals over 3 to 5 years

**Support:** WFP is reinforcing technical support to mitigate further needs:

- Remote data collection and urban market monitoring; and
- Technical assistance to Government & partners to ensure COVID induced urban needs are met.

  
1,445,131  
= 945,131 (rural)  
+ 500,000  
(Kinshasa)  
from 945,100  
(June plan)

**Sustain:** In August, WFP's in-kind, cash and nutrition distributions reached about 985,934 people. Distributions are conducted with COVID-19 preventative measures, including physical distancing, mandatory handwashing and temperature checks.

WFP's cash programme has been facing serious liquidity challenges, especially in Ituri, leading to the suspension of distributions for non-refugee beneficiaries.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent closure of schools, WFP adjusted its school feeding programme to provide take-home rations in North Kivu, Kasai Oriental and Tanganyika provinces.

WFP has faced serious pipeline challenges of specialised nutrition commodities. WFP contributed to the development of a nutrition operational action plan to integrate nutrition into the COVID-19 response and to help improve nutrition for patients with COVID-19.

**Scale-up:** In preparation for the urban social safety net programme, SOPs are being developed to guide the use of fingerprint biometric registration in the context of COVID-19. Biometric registration for CBT has been suspended since the beginning of the pandemic, as a preventative measure.

338.9M 185.8M


## Eswatini

A sharp decline in economic activities reduced fiscal revenues. Therefore, the Government of Eswatini's support to vulnerable communities may not meet the requirements. Over 330,000 (30%) of the country's population are food insecure, and a further deterioration affecting 366,261 people is expected due to the compounding effect of poor production and COVID-19 containment measures. The affected include vulnerable persons such as people living with HIV, pregnant and lactating women, children and orphans. Partial opening of schools has disrupted school feeding programmes, increasing vulnerability for 80% of the school children relying on the program. Assistance needs related to COVID-19 will likely increase in the coming months, especially for own-production-dependant rural households during the lean season and urban daily wage earners working in the informal sector, who have lost income. The Manzini and Hhhohho regions are regarded as the worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Sustain:** WFP is sustaining its critical support programmes, including providing a three-month ration to community-led child-care centres/Neighbourhood Care Points.

**Scale-up:** To 130,000 including:

- Extending crisis-response assistance in the form of Cash-Based Transfers to more than 86,000 and in-kind distributions to 48,000 vulnerable persons including people living with HIV, children and pregnant and lactating women, and orphans;
- Support 300 smallholder farmers to access formal markets in home-grown school feeding and crises response in-kind assistance.

  
**Scale-up:** 94,000 beneficiaries (June 2020 –March 2021) are being supported with cash-based transfers (CBT). Further to this, WFP will support 2,000 people living with chronic illnesses with CBT, where nutritional conditions will form the basis for targeting.

130,000	7M	3.7M
<i>from 65,500 (June plan)</i>		

**Lesotho**

COVID-19 impacts negatively on the food availability and accessibility in markets, mostly urban. Incomes from unskilled work and remittances will also be heavily affected. The Government's plan focuses on a horizontal expansion of social protection through the provision of cash-based transfers to the most vulnerable households for three months, and the provision of take-home rations to school children.

**Scale-up:**

- Provide THR to primary school children in place of onsite feeding due to closure of schools (288,880 beneficiaries).
- Expand WFP's food-assistance-for-assets to mitigate the impact of livelihood disruptions and to support recovery as well as the upcoming lean season (26,000 beneficiaries).

**Scale-up/sustain:** Complement the Governments' expansion of the social protection safety net by providing six-month assistance to households with vulnerable children, the elderly, people with disabilities and those in the informal sector in most at-risk urban councils (34,000 beneficiaries).

**Sustain:** As part of the national COVID-19 response plan, 3 months of Super Cereal (SC) rations (total 450MT) have been distributed to households targeting pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through local retailers who received COVID-19 prevention training. Preparations are underway for distributions of take-home rations to 54,419 learners in pre-primary centres.



348,880  
from 362,370  
(June Plan)

**Scale-up/sustain:** WFP started distributions in urban areas, as an expansion of the national Public Assistance Programme (PAP). Public works activities are ongoing in three southern districts (Mafeteng, Mohali's Hoek, Quthing) and 3 northern districts (Berea, Maseru and Botha-Bothe) where 11,774 participants were assisted in July

31.6M

24.5M



**Madagascar**

Between April and July 2020, some 554,000 people in the drought-affected south were vulnerable to acute food insecurity (Integrated Phase Classification 3+) and in urgent need of food assistance. This is due to the lack of rain that affected the harvest and the COVID-19 expected impact on livelihoods and market disruptions. The rise in unemployment due to job losses is expected to result in a deterioration of food security in several regions of the country. IPC update is planned for late September.

**Scale-up:** extension of urban mobile cash assistance to additional cities is taking place and distributions will take place in September.

**Support:** WFP is supporting the National Response Plan, through supply chain, emergency telecommunications, vulnerability analysis and information management. PPE were also distributed to local health authorities and coordination centres in areas where WFP is active. WFP is working with government on the reopening of schools

**Sustain:** Since April, WFP:

- Sustained drought response in the south and flood response in the north-west, east and south-east;
- Transitioned school children in 800 schools to take-home rations
- when canteens were disrupted.



335,105  
from 651,800  
(June Plan)

**Support:**

- WFP extended urban social protection assistance using a digital mobile platform to 8 cities in the country as part of a joint social protection programme in urban areas and in support of the government response strategy
- From the month of July, WFP - in support to the Government - has been assisting 13,000 orphans and vulnerable children in social centres in Antananarivo and Tamatave (east of the country).

57.7M

32.2M

**Malawi**

Malawi is beginning to experience the adverse economic effects of COVID restrictions on its economy, which will likely lead to localised food insecurity due to access constraints and limited labour opportunities, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas. The country has enjoyed good crop production this year. However, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for the 2020/2021 Lean Season indicates that some 0.6 million people are likely to be classified as severely food insecure across the country's four major cities, with some of this food insecurity likely linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional 2 million people across rural Malawi are slated to be classified as in IPC Phase 3 (crisis) during the upcoming lean season between the months of December 2020 and March 2021.


**Sustain:** WFP is adapting to sustain and reinforce critical lifesaving support including refugee activities, nutrition prevention, school feeding take-home rations and livelihood activities. Where appropriate, WFP has shifted to cash-based transfers to stimulate markets.

**Scale-up:** WFP is supporting the Government in harmonising the urban cash crisis COVID-19 response and the upcoming lean season response in rural areas, leveraging the social protection system to the extent possible.

**Support:**

- Technical guidance to the development of the Government's national response plan, in collaboration with ILO and UNICEF
- Leverage WFP's outreach to support COVID-19 prevention through social and behavioural change communication
- Co-lead the National Logistics Cluster including support to the health response by erecting Mobile Storage Units for screening and isolation and supporting health cargo reception and onforwarding.
- Increased household and market monitoring including in urban areas in light of Covid-19.

**Sustain:** Under the livelihoods programme, asset creation activities have been rolled out in the month of August with focus on land resources. The activities are being implemented with strict adherence to COVID-19 measures, including reduced number of participants per site, division of tasks to include rotational break times, and provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to beneficiaries and extension workers.

  
**724,732**  
*in urban and peri urban areas*  
*from 1,106,240 (June Plan)*

71M 54.2M

The Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network is scheduled to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in six districts, focusing markets and to health facilities.

**Mozambique**

The destruction caused by back-to-back disasters and the impact of COVID-19 is escalating an already alarming food security and nutrition situation and is exhausting families' coping capacities. Prior to COVID-19, an estimated 1,535,300 people already were projected to be food insecure. Food insecurity, disrupted access to health services, and sub-optimal WASH practices compound the impact of COVID on nutrition and HIV, with the most vulnerable children, adolescent girls, women, and people living with HIV at the highest risk of deterioration. Global disruptions in trade will affect food supply, resulting in lower production, higher import costs and increased prices of food in the markets. Over the next few months, the economic impact of COVID-19 is expected to be felt in various economic fields, including tourism, which is a source of income and livelihood for many Mozambicans. Furthermore, the situation in Cabo Delgado has been characterized by an alarming increase in IS-affiliated insurgency attacks resulting in over 310,000 people displaced across the province and to neighbouring provinces of Nampula and Niassa. The number of IDPs have tripled in recent months in comparison to displacement levels in early 2020. Non-state armed groups (NSAG) retain control of strategic locations in the province. According to UNHCR, some 1,000 refugees recently crossed into twara,Tanzania, heightening concerns of the regionalization of the conflict..

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP is sustaining and scaling up its operations including: Supporting Government of Mozambique (INAS) to scale up the social assistance through three-month unconditional mobile money transfers to the most vulnerable households living in urban and semi-urban areas;

Lean Season Food assistance to the most food insecure HHS in rural settings;

- Food assistance for people in COVID-19 isolation and treatment centres;
- Scaling up take home rations as part of the school feeding programme;
- Maintaining and expanding nutrition and HIV support for treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition and HIV, and HIV/TB services for key populations and vulnerable groups, including truck drivers, female sex workers, and adolescent girls

**Support:**

- The National Logistics Working Group: coordination, gap analysis and technical assistance
- Leverage the WFP retail network to support local markets by
- optimizing the value chains and leading market assessments to guide partner modality selection
- Collaborate with the Government to expand its social protection system

**Sustain and Scale-up:** Plans are ongoing to shift the national school feeding programme to take-home rations in view of COVID-19 related school closures.

WFP Mozambique is drafting a comprehensive response plan to address food insecurity and malnutrition in the country, considering the effect of the COVID-19 secondary shock to the vulnerable populations.

1,218,500 150.3M 149.1M

WFP is providing food assistance to IDPs and continues to work to open humanitarian access to reach all IDPs affected by the conflict. Population movements have also increased the risk of spread of COVID-19 with Nampula and Cabo Delgado among the epicentres of pandemic outbreak in Mozambique.

**Support:** WFP, UNICEF and ILO are supporting the design and implementation of the Government's social protection response with a focus on urban and peri-urban areas.

## Namibia


COVID-19 has compounded years of economic contraction, prolonged drought, floods and locust invasions, through a reduction in economic activities and associated income losses. Over 440,00 people are in IPC 3+ (18% of population); of which 35,791 are in IPC 4, signalling a worsening food security situation (IPC 2020). Regions in IPC 3 have risen to 7, with food insecurity projected to span from October 2020 to March 2021. Over 70% of the population is dependent on markets at the backdrop of rising urbanisation (51.4%) and unemployment. COVID-19 cases are rising exponentially with Windhoek (the capital) the epicentre. Heightened restrictions on movement are directly affecting businesses and unemployment, severely impacting the informal sector.

**Sustain:** Food assistance is provided to communities severely affected by drought and to clients receiving anti-retroviral therapy and their family members.

**Scale-up:** WFP will support an additional 106,122 beneficiaries with food assistance (through CBT and in-kind), focusing on people living in informal settlements, regions severely affected by COVID-19, and regions severely affected by years of recurrent drought.

**Support:**

- A CBT programme will be designed targeting people living in informal settlements while building the capacity of the Government on CBTs
- Support the Government with digital solutions to enable food distributions and beneficiary data management for the National Food Bank government relief food Programmes.
- Leverage WFP's logistics, storage and transportation to support the Government to deliver RUSF to district hospitals and health facilities.

 WFP, jointly with UNICEF, received 106,122 €2million from ECHO to provide food assistance and emergency support to COVID-19 and drought affected people. 8.4M 8.5M  
from 39,400 (June Plan)

## Republic of Congo


The Republic of Congo is heavily dependent on food imports (70 percent). There has been a significant increase in food prices for both imported and local commodities. Increased needs of humanitarian food assistance for both poor urban and rural communities due to significant loss of incomes. The national budget has been cut in half for 2020 and the Government requested support from the UN to implement its response plan. A June 2020 assessment on the impact of Covid-19 on food security and nutrition in Brazzaville shows that 35,3% of households are food insecure, i.e. nearly 700,000 people (30,8% moderately food insecure and 4,5% severely food insecure). Young children nutrition is also impacted: the assessment shows that only 48% had an acceptable diet. UNICEF reported a significant increase of Global Acute Malnutrition in urban areas and low attendance rates in health centres.

**Scale-up:** WFP plans to focus support on 110,000 highly vulnerable beneficiaries as follows:

- A monthly cash-transfer for 35,000 beneficiaries targeted to severely food insecure in the outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville;
- Treatment and prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition in 75,000 children under 5 years (40,500) and Pregnant and Lactating Women (34,500) in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.

**Support:**

- Provide on-demand logistics services to the Ministry of Health,
- including the dispatch of health equipment and medicine
- Leverage WFP's retail partnerships for UNFPA sensitization activities around gender-based violence.

 **Support:** Urban interventions through the distribution of cash-transfers in collaboration with the Government and Caritas. 110,000 41.5M 36M  
from 365,000 (June Plan) **Scale-up:** From August to December 2020, WFP's will provide CBT to 35,000 vulnerable people classified as "severely food insecure" in the outlying districts of Brazzaville.

<p><b>Tanzania</b></p>	<p>WFP is monitoring food security in urban centres, which have not been heavily affected so far. This situation may change in the near future with the onset of the lean season. WFP Tanzania has been implementing mVAM nationwide to track food insecurity trends. Results show a stable trend in the proportion of households with poor and borderline consumption. Nevertheless, female-headed households, elderly people, households with a high dependency ratio are most likely to face challenges in accessing food in the coming months.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP sustains life-saving activities in support of refugees through adjusted modalities, providing access to handwashing facilities, social distancing, and (where needed) pre-packaging of commodities.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP is more than doubling its crisis response requirements for the coming 6 months, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash transfers to cover the food gap for nearly 500,000 urban food poor in the 10 highest COVID-19 risk regions; and</li> <li>• Nutrition support to 45,000 nutritionally vulnerable women and children.</li> <li>• WFP will continue to monitor food security through mVAM especially as we approach the lean season.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize WFP’s platforms and networks (m-health, community radios, and SUN business network) to communicate messages on COVID-19 and nutrition</li> <li>• Provide supply chain, logistics and telecommunications service</li> <li>• support to humanitarian community</li> <li>• Intensify remote household surveys, real-time food security monitoring systems, and trader surveys.</li> </ul>	<p>540,000</p> <p><b>Refugees:</b> COVID-19 preventative measures continue to be in place including: 42-day distribution cycle; pre-packaging; social distancing practices; and handwashing stations.</p>	<p>58.2M</p> <p>39.9M</p>
<p><b>Zambia</b></p>	<p>The Government’s response plan follows a multi-sectoral approach with support from the UN. Loss of revenue from export of copper and a decline in tourism will hamper the Government’s ability to respond.</p> <p>Rural populations are expected to depend on their own subsistence production in the short-term because of a good food production.</p>	<p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP is more than doubling its crisis response requirements for the coming 6 months and will provide general Food Assistance [cash-based transfers] to urban populations experiencing food insecurity due to COVID-19-induced loss of income.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP uses mVAM to scale-up food price and market functionality monitoring in urban areas.</p>	<p>655,800</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> In July, WFP started CBT distributions as part of its COVID-19 response, targeting 180,000 beneficiaries in urban and peri-urban areas of Lusaka and Kafue districts. As of 31 August, WFP had distributed cash to over 29,000 households (out of the planned 36,000), reaching over 170,000 people, to cover their needs for next two months (October and November).</p>	<p>17.7M</p> <p>3M</p>

**Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe has endured a combination of extreme natural shocks and persistent economic challenges, leading to a growing humanitarian and food security emergency. The number of food insecure people reached 7.7 million in the first quarter of 2020, and WFP projects 8.6 million people to be food insecure by the end of 2020 (3.3 million in urban areas). The COVID-19 pandemic has increased exposure to economic shocks (mostly loss of income and reduced remittances) and stretched the coping capacity of vulnerable communities.

With the third successive year of drought, the 2020 harvest yielded an overall cereal production of 1.1 million MT, against the 2.2 million MT needed for consumption.

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP is scaling up its crisis response activities in a phased manner.

As needs rise in rural areas, WFP intends to support 1.8 million people suffering “crisis” and “emergency” levels of hunger (based on Integrated Food Security Phase Classifications 3 and 4) from July through September 2020; 3.5 million from October to December 2020; and 4.5 million between January and April 2021.

WFP’s COVID-19 response plan also envisages a significant scale up of its urban assistance by more than fivefold, to reach 550,000 people through April 2021. In July, WFP reached 142,000 people in urban areas which is set to scale up to reach 292,865 beneficiaries in August.

**Sustain and scale-up:** WFP engaged donors to allow double rations to be distributed in 8 districts for August and September cycles. In August, 544,729 beneficiaries were reached. WFP is preparing for the October scale-up which plans to reach some 1,064,538 people, based on available funding.

In July, 46,418 people out of 142,000 have been reached through e-vouchers and Western Union remittance modalities. August disbursements are ongoing and have so far reached 26,441 people out of 292,865.

**Support:** WFP is supporting the Government and UNICEF in adopting family-led MUAC for screening for acute malnutrition in view of covid-19 restrictions. Biometric measurements are done by mothers who are trained by UNICEF during WFP’s lean season assistance

1,265,300

327.7M

276.7M

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**TOTAL SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**6.9M**

*from 7.2M  
(June Plan)*

**1,111M**

*from 1,139M  
(June Plan)*

**814M**

*from 881M  
(June Plan)*


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WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA		COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY	WFP IMMEDIATE RESPONSE	COVID-19 SCALE-UP BENEFICIARIES	EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED TO SUSTAIN/SCALE-UP ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES (JULY - TO DATE)	REVISED BUDGET (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS	TOTAL SHORTFALL (OCT - MAR) IN USD MILLIONS
<b>Benin</b>	<p>Net food importers have experienced a sharp drop in revenues and remittances. The context of pandemic coupled with floods and lean season may require scale-up of humanitarian response. Heavy rains forecasted for 2020 will likely affect over 300,000 people. Climate shocks coupled with the spill over of the insecurity in Burkina, Niger (and at certain degree Nigeria) remain serious threats to Benin's stability and food security. It is projected that some 1,400,000 people will be severely food insecure</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> 50,000 flood-affected households will receive food assistance and 618,000 pupils across the country will receive take-home rations to cover gaps due to school closures.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Food and nutrition assistance to 100,000 new beneficiaries in rural and potentially urban areas for six months (Jul to Dec 2020).</p> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lead the UN-COVID-19 Taskforce group on 'Logistics and Resources Mobilization';</li> <li>• reinforce food security analysis through new mVAM;</li> <li>• support the design and implementation of country food assistance strategy; and</li> <li>• support the expansion and strategic shift or national social protection programme.</li> </ul>	100,000	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP distributed take home rations where schools are closed. In addition, WFP provided support to 500 smallholders' resilience building through improved access to market.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP supported the development of the National Food Assistance Strategy.</p>	16.9M	-	
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<p>High levels of food needs are driven by the continued insecurity and the ongoing lean season, while COVID-19 exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. Burkina Faso is home to 1,013,234 internally displaced people due to recurrent fights between armed groups.</p> <p>According to the Cadre Harmonisé in July 2020, more than 3.2 million people are food insecure during the current lean season – a 50% rise since the March Cadre Harmonisé.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Critical food assistance, including through cash-based transfers, continues to be provided to 1,380,000 vulnerable conflict-affected people until the end of the lean season (end of September) and 700,000 to 800,000 from October to December 2020.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> 250,000 COVID-affected beneficiaries are targeted to be supported through unconditional food assistance, within WFP's existing CSP.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Reinforce food security analysis through new mVAM.</p>	<i>Captured within existing programme of work</i>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> In July alone, WFP assisted 1,116,090 beneficiaries, of which 215,967 are additional COVID caseloads. Nutritious food to 116,723 people with were also provided.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP has joined efforts with partners to conduct a recent food security and nutrition assessment, which served as the main data source for the Cadre Harmonisé held in July. Food security monitoring and analysis systems have also been considerably strengthened thanks to the deployment of mVAM.</p>	114.6M	81.8M	

<p><b>Cameroon</b></p>	<p>The latest Cadre Harmonisé projected approximately 4,857,749 food insecure people (phase 3 to 5) until December 2020 due to COVID-19. This represents about 19% of the total population of Cameroon.</p> <p>In addition to the people in the political and economic capitals of Yaoundé and Douala where the highest number of COVID-19 case are recorded, people in the Far North, East, North, Adamaoua, North West and South West are particularly at risk.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Continue delivering life-saving assistance to populations affected by disasters (662,000 people including refugees, IDPs and host populations) to ensure they have safe access to adequate and nutritious foods during and after crises.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76,000 new beneficiaries identified in need of food assistance</li> <li>10,000 people in isolation centers and/or self quarantine (at request of government)</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFP will monitor stock levels, support retailers to increase inventories, identify and map potential wholesalers, distributors, transporters, and supply chains that can support national food supplies.</li> </ul>	<p> 27,066 from 86,000 (June Plan)</p>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> In July, WFP assisted 477,718 beneficiaries. Nutritious food to 99,675 people with were also provided.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP is supporting the Government's medical activities through the installation of mobile storage units (MSUs) and tents, which are being used to store medical equipment and serve as isolation facilities.</p>	<p>75.9M      33.8M</p>
<p><b>Central African Republic</b></p>	<p>The security situation continues to deteriorate. Around 659,000 Central Africans have fled their homes and numbers may increase in the upcoming dry season when arm groups become more active ahead of upcoming presidential elections.</p> <p>The May IPC considered the COVID-19 impact and estimated 2.4 million to be food insecure.</p> <p>A recent survey by WFP and the WB on urban household in Bangui and Bimbo (Ombella Mpoko) show only 52.2 percent of the surveyed households were able to engage in some form of paid work or an income-generating activity, compared to 77.7 percent before the COVID-19 representing a drop of 26 points just three months after the first case of COVID-19 was registered in CAR.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Critical food assistance to vulnerable conflict-affected households including IDPs and host population all over the country.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>375,850 new beneficiaries in urban/peri-urban areas (70 percent cash-based / 30 percent in-kind) until December.</li> <li>School-based programmes through school meals and an integrated package of health, nutrition, and WASH services.</li> <li></li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide operational logistics, supply chain, emergency telecommunications and Humanitarian Air Services.</li> <li>Continue strengthening food price monitoring and food security assessments in urban and peri-urban areas, especially around Bangui.</li> <li>Engagement with Government and UN agencies (both humanitarian and development) to better support national emergency preparedness and social protection efforts in the new COVID-19 context.</li> </ul>	<p>375,900</p>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> In July, WFP assisted 751,297 people, including 187,342 additional people planned in June due to COVID-induced needs.</p> <p>WFP is on track to reach 280,000 people in urban areas (200,000 in Bangui and 80,000 in Bouar) through cash-based transfers amounting to US\$ 7.6 million. These 3-months urban operations have begun in July and will conclude in September.</p> <p>WFP is also supporting 1,200 people in quarantine through the provision of in-kind food assistance, including patients in various treatment centres.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> In July, a COVID-19 call center was set up by the ETC to provide support and guidance to callers, and to facilitate the communication between health partners and humanitarian organizations.</p>	<p>112.6M      63.2M</p>



<p><b>Chad</b></p>	<p>Insecurity in neighboring countries and lake Chad region causes new displacements. Curfew and the closure of markets have an additional impact on people's livelihoods and access to food. As of August 2020, Chad records 297,000 IDPs in addition to 480,000 refugees.</p> <p>Since mid-August, heavy rains caused wide-spread flooding in several provinces in the country, including in the capital Ndjamen. Latest estimates show a total of 200,000 people affected, with more than 30,000 in Ndjamen. WFP is collaborating with UN team and government for the response.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life-saving assistance to refugees and lean season safety nets to food insecure households.</li> <li>Resilience-building activities as part of the regional integrated Resilience Programme.</li> <li>Take-home rations for girls to reduce negative coping strategies such as early marriage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP will target 433,000 COVID-19-affected people with cash- based transfers in urban areas within its existing Country Strategic Plan.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> In preparation of the next HRP for Chad, WFP – VAM will collaborate with FSC partners and other UN agencies on the assessment of COVID crisis impact on food security, in order to update the Cadre Harmonisé with figures that reflect the eventual impact of 2020 crisis.</p>	<p><i>Captured within existing programme of work</i></p> <p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> As part of the national response plan, WFP has provided food assistance to 433,000 people across eight provinces. As part of the lean season response coordinated in parallel with the COVID-19 response, 34 percent out of 378,000 vulnerable people planned have received food assistance across five provinces.</p>	<p>129.2M</p> <p>20.7M</p>
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<p><b>Côte d'Ivoire</b></p>	<p>While the household food security situation in Côte d'Ivoire had seen improvements since 2018, the price decline on crop exports, poor agricultural season and floods have led to a deterioration of the country's overall food security situation in 2020.</p> <p>Furthermore, the fragile security situation in the country following the confirmation of President Alassane Ouattara announcement of a third term have led to increasingly recurrent demonstrations ahead of the October elections—potentially complicating the food security situation.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood emergency response and resilience activities for the restoration of household livelihoods will continue through the CBT modality for about 10,000 beneficiaries in urban and peri-urban areas.</li> <li>Starting mid-September, 125,000 children in 613 schools will receive school meals and at least 10,000 girls will receive take-home rations.</li> <li>National capacity building activities in nutrition and food security assessment will be maintained to inform the national system in place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFP is leading the updating of the inter-agency contingency plan and supporting the Government's national Covid-19 response plan.</li> <li>WFP will support the UN COVID-19 Task Force to supply masks and hydroalcoholic gel for COVID-19 prevention.</li> </ul>	<p> 10,000 from 300,000 (June Plan)</p> <p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP is providing life-saving assistance to 6,000 flood victims in the communes of Abidjan (15 July to 15 Oct) funded by WFP's Immediate Response and Relief funds.</p>	<p>6.9M</p> <p>1.9M</p>
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## The Gambia

Latest Pre-harvest and Cadre Harmonisé analysis estimate that 692,600 persons across six regions are classified to be in crisis (phase 3 to 5) until December 2020. The pandemic is projected to increase the burden of acute malnutrition by 36 percent from 42,676 children to 58,177.

Market prices have increased by over 60 percent compared to the same time last year, while jobs and livelihoods losses in urban areas resulted in over 40,000 increase in vulnerable people.

With elections slated for 2021, serious political cleavages that had already developed well before COVID-19 have led to growing tensions and instability in the country- which could further exacerbate the impact of COVID-19. Combined with declining malnutrition situation and an early peak of the lean season, projections are that this will result in a total 733,000 people rural and urban (40% of the population) needing immediate food assistance.

**Sustain:** The school feeding programme will run from September to December targeting 116,756 learners of whom 54% are girls. WFP will also sustain the nutrition programme providing support to 37,601 children under five and PLW.

### Scale-up:

- 766,000 new beneficiaries across six regions.
- Treatment of MAM for 13,258 people including children from 6-59 months, PLM and PLHIV, and prevention of malnutrition among 51,008 children.
- 33,716 additional school children through Take Home Rations

**Support:** WFP's continues to focus on the provision of logistics and emergency telecommunications assistance to the Government to enhance coordination of the health emergency response.

**Scale-up:** WFP had also provided 3 months food supply to isolation and treatment centers supporting children with specialized nutrition food.



766,395  
from 733,000  
(June Plan)

**Support:** On request by the Government, WFP is providing logistical expertise on the handling and distribution of 5,500 mt of rice.

5.8M

2M

The UN Systems has started to prepare the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) for The Gambia, with WFP co-leading the focus areas on social protection, agriculture, food security, nutrition and resilience.

## Ghana

Ghana accounts for the second highest number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the region, and the 4th highest number of cases across the WHO Africa region. The daily caseload count has been on a downward trend. As of the 3rd of December, 55 new cases were recorded, and the active cases stood at 1,136.

**Sustain:** Food security of vulnerable COVID-infected people in containment, as well as COVID-affected vulnerable daily wage earners in epicenters of the COVID 19.

**Scale-up:** Four months' cash-transfers to up to 75,000 vulnerable COVID-affected people (including 10,000 smallholder farmers) in COVID-19 prevalent areas.

**Support:** Reinforce food security analysis and food price monitoring as part of technical and financial support to the Government.



75,000  
from 53,800  
(June Plan)

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP supported the Ghana Health Service in distributing locally produced specialized nutritious food to nearly 5,000 COVID-infected people in quarantine.

**Support:** WFP supported the Government in generating profiles of people affected by COVID-19 impacts to help the CBT distributions in selected areas. In addition, WFP supported the construction of a 68-bed field hospital in Accra, now handed over to WHO and the Tripartite Agreement between WFP, WHO and the Government of Ghana.

6.3M

3.7M

**Guinea-Bissau**


Continued political impasse, confrontation and constitutional reform loom further instability that disrupts the country's response to COVID-19. WFP's rapid emergency assessments and market surveys (May and July) indicated a worsening food security situation and poverty due to the declined sales price and the volume of the cashew nuts export (making up 90 percent of the country's exports and 10 percent of its GDP) resulting in economic contraction. In July, estimates based on the Food Consumption Score indicated 54.5 percent of the households negative coping mechanisms. 28 percent of the under-five population is stunted (estimates based on the food consumption score). Further deterioration during and post-lean season between August and October is being closely monitored.

**Sustain:** Provision of take-home rations for 180,000 schoolchildren, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and prevention of chronic malnutrition, and women and youth smallholder agriculture support in marketing and resilience.

**Scale-up:** Launch the social protection lean season support to an additional 76,900 persons through conditional and unconditional cash-based transfers.

**Support:**

- Technical, financial and in-kind Supply Chain support (warehousing and inventory management and deliveries) to the Government.
- Technical and financial support to the UN Communication Task Force for COVID-19 for risk communication and community sensitization.

  
76,900  
from 65,000  
(June Plan)

**Sustain and Scale-up:** WFP is implementing a month-long take-home ration distribution for 180,000 schoolchildren with food and specially made reusable masks for schoolchildren and adolescents. Cash transfers as social protection measures has started to 76,000 persons

9.5M 3.3M

**Support:** WFP has signed an MOU with UNDP to support warehousing and inventory management and deliveries, as part of a World Bank contribution.

**Guinea**

The country is still recovering from the 2013 Ebola crisis, with an overall limited health capacity and infrastructure, and no intensive care facilities. More than 613,000 people are estimated to be food insecure by the end of 2020, due to the combined effects of the annual lean season, Covid-19, and related restrictions which has caused loss of income and comparatively restricted market access. An overall price increase of 35.7 percent vs 2019 was reported on fresh vegetables, and 25 percent for rice.

**Sustain:** Provision of full food baskets for school meals when schools re-open in September 2020 (at least 152,000 students); nutrition activities and take-home rations provided to the most vulnerable populations; and continuity of adapted Food for Assets COVID-19 activities.

**Scale-up:** 300,000 new beneficiaries in urban and peri-urban areas will continue to be supported through December 2020, as part of the immediate Covid-19 response. Preparatory work is ongoing for the emergency food assistance and cash transfers to 20,000 households over a three-month period.


**Support:** WFP is leading the logistics support in the UN COVID-19 Task Force including the rehabilitation of treatment facilities.

300,000

**Sustain and Scale-up:** Emergency food assistance to 25,000 households affected by COVID-19 in Conakry started in August 2020.

12M 7.3M

**Support:** WFP is also supporting the Government's national Covid-19 response plan and strengthening social protection.

<p><b>Liberia</b></p>	<p>Liberia is a post-conflict country still recovering from the 2014-2015 Ebola crisis. With COVID-19 population movement restrictions enforced over an extended period, there is an observable increase in food prices and availability, particularly in the southeast counties. Food insecurity projections for 2020 estimate that over 2 million people are food insecure. Additionally, seasonal rainfall patterns in 2020 have been below average and may negatively impact food production levels.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Take-home rations for 90,000 girls and boys during school closures.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Relief assistance will be provided to over 2 million beneficiaries, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One month's assistance to 1,971,000 food insecure people (394,200 households) affected by COVID-19 related shocks;</li> <li>• One-month assistance to 4,000 people in quarantine facilities;</li> <li>• Two-month assistance to 91,305 vulnerable people (18,261 households) in two southeast worst affected counties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP will provide on demand logistics and emergency telecommunications services.</p>	<p>2,065,000</p>	<p>Since July to present, the CO has assisted a total of 53,056 vulnerable households with 3,278 metric tons of assorted food commodities. This brings to 59,300 total vulnerable households representing approximately 296,500 persons (ave. of 5 persons per family) who have received assistance through the Government COVID-19 Household Food Support Programme (COHFSP) which commenced in May 2020. Additionally, the CO is planning to distribute one-month Take-Home family ration in October targeting 87,700 primary school children who continue to remain out of school due to Government measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus.</p>	<p>20.8M</p>	<p>4.9M</p>
<p><b>Mali</b></p>	<p>The coup d'Etat on 18 August in Mali has come at a worrisome time, just as the country was making strides in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in armed violence is forcing people to flee and depriving vulnerable communities of essential services. As of June, 266,000 internally displaced people are recorded.</p> <p>Restriction measures have resulted in a shortage of imported food commodities. The availability of local products in monitored markets decreased by 29 percent compared to the same period last year (April 2020). The food security cluster projects as many as 3.1 million people to be in need of food assistance.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Life-saving assistance to IDP and food insecure farmers and pastoralists. Resilience building activities as part of the regional Integrated Resilience Programme are also sustained.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 310,000 new beneficiaries for Crisis Response activities;</li> <li>• 60,000 new beneficiaries under Resilience-building activities;</li> </ul> <p><b>Support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Government to prepare for school feeding upon re- opening of schools and to finalize one-off distribution of take-home rations</li> <li>• Strengthen cooperating partners capacity in targeting and rapid assessment</li> </ul>	<p>370,000 from 576,000 (June Plan)</p> 	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> In July, WFP assisted 900,000 beneficiaries through food and CBT, including 50,000 made vulnerable due to COVID-19. WFP has also adapted risk control measures to ensure the continuation of WFP assistance to 457,302 beneficiaries.</p> <p>WFP Mali provided PPEs in all 500 WFP food distribution settings, and reinforced the COVID-19 prevention measures to protect 900,000 vulnerable people, 115,000 children under 2 and 18,000 pregnant and lactating women receiving food assistance through WFP Emergency Response programme.</p>	<p>74.8M</p>	<p>19.4M</p>

<p><b>Mauritania</b></p>	<p>The colliding impacts of the 2020 lean season and of the COVID crises is concerning: per WFP estimates, the number of food insecure may have surged from 609,000 to 902,000 (a 48 percent increase) during the ongoing lean season. Pastoralists and informal traders are among the most affected by movement restriction, markets closures and increasing food prices.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Integrated support for Malian refugees as well as lean season safety nets for 244,000 persons.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> 334,486 new beneficiaries will be assisted through existing/ new activities, including food assistance, supplementary feeding and malnutrition treatment to pandemic-affected households. The activity covers urban areas, including the capital.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> On-demand logistics services to Government, UN and NGO partners to facilitate effective field operations.</p>	<p>334,500</p>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> WFP reached a total of 193,429 people. This includes direct food assistance (51,761 In-kind and 114,930 CBT), as well as nutrition assistance.</p>	<p>21.5M</p>	<p>22.6M*</p>
<p><b>Niger</b></p>	<p>The deteriorating security situation on the border with Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria continues to drive large population displacements. Nearly 300,000 people are internally displaced and the country hosts refugees from Mali and Nigeria.</p> <p>A joint analysis in April 2020 estimated that the food security and livelihoods of 5.6 million people could be affected in June-August 2020, nearly doubling from the pre-COVID-19 baseline.</p> <p>An update of the COVID-19 impact analysis is underway to assess both the immediate impacts in late 2020, as well as longer-term impacts that will materialize over the course of 2021. The analysis will also consider the progression of the 2020/2021 agro-pastoral season.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life-saving assistance to refugees, IDPs and acutely food insecure households (farmers and pastoralists)</li> <li>Resilience-building activities as part of the regional Integrated Resilience Programme including asset building, nutrition, school feeding, local purchase to smallholder farmers, capacity strengthening.</li> <li>School Feeding and/or Take-Home Ration as important safety net in COVID-19 affected areas and to support the resilience of the education sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP is supporting the scale up of the National Adaptive Social Protection Program to assist vulnerable households, in coordination with government, World Bank and UNICEF. WFP's assistance aims to meet the food needs of 672,000 beneficiaries (96,000 households) through cash transfers which will serve as a basis for income-generating activities and support them after the crisis.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> In July, WFP reached 1,450,843 beneficiaries, of which 1,370,053 people affected by shocks including COVID-19, through the lean season intervention. COVID-19 specific distributions of cash to support persons living with HIV across Niger were completed before the 31 July deadline agreed with ONUSIDA. Meanwhile, the country office has finalized the pastoral lean season response.</p> <p>All COVID-10 induced needs are already captured within existing programme of work. However, a CSP revision is under preparation to reflect changes in medium- and longer-term needs.</p>	<p>100.3M</p>	<p>42M</p>

## Nigeria

Nigeria faces multiple crises, with a protracted conflict in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, which has spread to neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Over 1.8 million people are internally displaced. According to the Cadre Harmonisé in June 2020, over 4.3 million people in the northeast are projected to be severely food insecure between June-August 2020, an increase of 1.3 million severely food insecure compared to 2019 lean season.

Of note, COVID-19 is spreading rapidly in Nigeria with further strain on the country's health systems and economy, already impacted due to the fall in oil prices.

### Sustain:

- Food assistance to crisis-affected populations has been adapted to integrate safe distribution practices.
- Nutrition support to children and pregnant and lactating women has been sustained.
- Livelihood / asset assistance has been temporarily adjusted to unconditional support.


### Scale-up:

- Up to 800,000 beneficiaries in the northeast will be targeted (through in-kind and CBTs) from September to November with a one-off double distribution.
- 900,000 new beneficiaries will be supported in urban areas of the country on request by the Government.

### Support:

- Technical support on targeting and delivery mechanisms to adapt the national Home-Grown School Feeding during school closures. WFP aims to provide take-home rations to 3 million households.
- Expand the Cadre Harmonisé countrywide
- mVAM has been scaled up to the entire country.

**Sustain and Scale-up:** In July, WFP assisted 749,794 people, of which 12,250 were COVID caseloads. Of this, 289,811 received food and 291,313 were assisted through CBTs. Additionally, WFP provided nutritious foods to 189,820 people. WFP distributed double rations via in-kind or CBT in June and in August in compliance with the COVID 19 sensitive distributions SOPs in the northeast where access is hampered during the rainy season.

  
1,976,000  
=1,720,000  
(COVID & lean  
season) +  
256,000 (Post  
Harvest)  
from 3,055,00  
(June Plan)

For the lean season, in-kind food assistance started in August in one location and CBT assistance will start in late September to reach 462,000 beneficiaries in seven locations. Livelihoods interventions relying on social contacts were put on hold and conditionalities for removed for three months. The modifications enabled WFP to reach 52,925 people through food and 92,361 through CBTs. Conditional transfers partially resumed in July.

184M 118.9M

## São Tomé and Príncipe

Sao Tome and Principe (STP)'s geographical insularity and irregular landscape, compounded by fragile health and agricultural systems, makes the country vulnerable to terms-of-trade shocks. With the country's reliance on food imports, the effect on national supply chain has led to higher export costs, unpredictable price fluctuations and decreased purchasing power. Increasing levels of food insecurity and unemployment rate are being observed in all six national districts and in the remote region of Principe.

**Sustain:** WFP continues to provide country capacity strengthening support to the government in the areas of school feeding (policy and legislations) and smallholder farmer access to market (institutional effectiveness and accountability).

**Scale-up:** WFP has revised its CSP to include assistance to 5,000 vulnerable children during school closures.


### Support:

- Support to government and partners through Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).
- Technical assistance on economic analyses.

**Support:** In collaboration with the Government, FAO, ILO, UN-Habitat and national stakeholders, WFP is also providing individual capacity strengthening support to targeted smallholders to increase food production to supply markets.

Lastly, WFP is supporting the government to plan the re-opening of the schools in collaboration with UNICEF.

5,000 300,000 200,000

Senegal	<p>Food security is closely tied to rainfall patterns and the agricultural calendar. Recurrent droughts, pests, poor harvest and pasture availability drive food insecurity.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Take-home rations for 107,000 learners until schools reopen.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> 511,656 new beneficiaries will be assisted through existing/new activities during the lean season. WFP has been requested by the government to support 4.2 million additional people – not yet captured in scale-up budget.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Logistic support for Government-led one-off distributions to eight million people in rural and urban areas.</p>	511,700	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> The project 'Model canteens' is being implemented after a four month break due to the pandemic, assisting 107,000 students with take-home rations.</p>	21.8M	20.5M
Sierra Leone	<p>The latest results of the Food Security Monitoring System assessment conducted in June 2020 show a sharp increase of food insecure Sierra Leoneans, from 47 percent in January 2020 to 63 percent in June 2020. COVID-19 containment measures and a series of lockdowns have negatively impacted on prices, supply chains, income and livelihoods.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> WFP aims to sustain resilience activities while taking prevention measures.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> WFP will provide relief food assistance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 466,000 rural and urban population;</li> <li>• 15,000 persons in quarantine homes and treatment centers.</li> <li>• WFP will scale up its support to the national school feeding programme to reach 340,000 children in nine districts.</li> </ul> <p>MAM treatment will be geographically expanded and extended until 2021 to target 18,838 malnourished children and women.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Construction of treatment and isolation facilities and logistics support, including transport of seeds for Ministry of Agriculture.</p>	 <p>624,300 from 121,400 (June Plan)</p>	<p><b>Sustain and Scale-up:</b> WFP provided one-month in-kind food assistance to 44,855 beneficiaries in the most hard-to-reach, vulnerable border-lying communities to bridge the hunger map during the lean season. WFP, in collaboration with the Government, has distributed over 53 mt of food to 1,000 youths and 1.26 mt of food to 157 individuals in quarantine in August.</p> <p><b>Support:</b> WFP has started a community-driven targeting in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare to provide three-months of cash assistance to 51,297 beneficiaries.</p>	12.5M	3.1M
Togo	<p>Agricultural production is impacted by climatic shocks (floods, landslides, strong winds, pests), price volatility and the negative impacts of COVID-19. Armed groups in neighboring countries also pose a risk to the security situation in Togo. Projection of severely food insecure: 1,291,059 (22% of population in CH phase 2) and 281,501 (5% in CH Phase 3) July 2020.</p>	<p><b>Sustain:</b> Technical support to the Government school feeding programme assisting 90,000 school children.</p> <p><b>Scale-up:</b> Emergency food assistance to 252,500 crisis-affected beneficiaries in urban and rural areas (July-December 2020), including: households of school children, other vulnerable persons, and persons in quarantine.</p>	252,500	<p><b>Scale-up:</b> As part of the scale-up plan, implementation of the Limited Emergency Operation (LEO) is underway, targeting 252,500 from July to December 2020 in three shock-prone regions.</p>	10M	10M
<b>TOTAL WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA</b>				<p><b>7.9M</b> from 8.9M (June Plan)</p>	<p><b>935.6M</b> from 1,153M (June Plan)</p>	<p><b>459.4M</b> from 770M (June Plan)</p>

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