

COVID-19

Food Security and Livelihoods

Emergency response interventions

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

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

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

ACRONYMS

CEA	Community Engagement and Accountability
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
RCRC	Red Cross Red Crescent

For more information please visit our websites:

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

Food Security, Livelihoods and Nutrition

- **Provide food assistance** (cash and vouchers) or food aid (in-kind). Make sure to include solutions that are inclusive to elderly, PWD, pregnant women, people with chronic disease, etc. and don't expose them.
- Support **food production** to increase availability and support income generation: provide seeds, tools, fertilisers, and focus on short cycle production. Local food production is essential for producers to ensure their food security, but also to facilitate access of other people to essential food.
- **Safety nets:** provide assistance for basic needs and prevent assets depletion; consider top up/ expand existing social protection schemes, extend programme length to support through the crisis.
- Support **small businesses** to adapt to digital transactions for business continuity e.g. facilitate access to digital payment mechanisms (mobile money, e-vouchers) and to include safe delivery services
- Support **saving groups** to use digital transfers and explain how members can protect themselves during meetings; advise to adopt contingency measures to protect their activity and prevent exposure e.g. avoiding gatherings.
- Support **local markets** value chain: promote buying local, the use of cash and vouchers help dynamize local economy, facilitate information and contact with other markets to avoid losses and waste of products.
- Promote vegetable gardens, keyhole/ urban vertical garden to facilitate access to **nutritious food**. Dissemination can be done together with health messages and seeds and instructions can be made available in health centres, RC offices, through services accessible to the people.
- Where markets are functional provide **protection** advice through CEA mechanisms and distribute protection items to market **workers, traders and consumers**; and hand washing facilities.
- **Advocacy** with institutions and other organisations e.g. increasing transfer amount to people already benefiting from social assistance; update food basket; etc.

Nutrition Sensitive Approach: common for all response phases

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

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

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