

COVID-19

Food Security and Livelihoods

Interventions for preparedness, emergency response and recovery

Indicative summary of key interventions and most urgent actions to response to COVID's Livelihoods, Food Security and Nutrition impacts.

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 list 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 deterrent.

ACRONYMS

CALP	Cash Learning Partnership
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
NGOS	Non-Governmental Organizations
RCRC	Red Cross Red Crescent

Key interventions summary

Key intervention actions			
Preparedness		Emergency	Medium/Long-term Recovery
Food Security, Livelihoods and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring ongoing situation and concomitant crisis, use secondary data • Continue food assistance, avoiding stop programmes when possible • Redirecting funds of current programmes to protect food security and livelihoods e.g. uplifting conditionality or long-term support to emergency response • Revise targeting to prioritise those more at risk now • Revise procedures for food, CVA and agricultural inputs distribution and plan alternatives, including procurement of in-kind with time to mitigate supply chain disruptions • Plan funds for livelihoods recovery • Advocacy with institutions to support food security, livelihoods protection and livelihoods recovery • Link with existing Social Protection programmes; and advocate for flexibility of social protection programmes e.g. to remove conditionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide food assistance: CVA/in-kind • Support food production: provide seeds, tools, fertilisers, etc. • Safety nets: assistance for basic needs and prevent assets depletion; consider top up/ expand existing social protection schemes • Support small businesses to adapt to digital transactions for business continuity • Support saving groups: to use digital transfer or members to protect themselves during meetings; advice to adopt contingency measures to protect their activity • Support local markets value chain • Promote veg gardens, keyhole/ urban vertical garden access nutritious food • Where markets are functional provide protection advice and means to workers/ traders/ consumers • Advocacy e.g. increasing transfer amount to people already benefiting from social assistance; update food basket; etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to increase local food production (inputs and technical advice); storage capacity and food processing to minimize food losses and waste • Cash grants for assets replacement or capital start up to restore livelihoods activities • Increase employability adapted to the new context (new needs- new skills) • Support innovation for small businesses to reach their customers • Support access to financial services, including saving groups that provide microloans • Advocacy: for social protection schemes with the objective to inject funds into communities to stimulate local economy • Target also areas not only affected by COVID-19 crisis but that were known to be highly vulnerable to food and nutrition security before the crisis

Preparedness
Emergency
Medium/Long-term Recovery
Nutrition sensitive approach

*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, etc. 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.
- See at groups at risk Section 6: elderly, children <5, pregnant and lactating women.

Cross-over with cash and vouchers assistance

CVA has the potential to respond to the secondary impact of the crisis like losses of incomes while limiting the risks of contamination as if the context allows it, it can be digitalized. Cash has also been proven to be facilitating the access to basic services and among them health services.

The Cash Hub has opened a dedicated page on CVA and Covid-19 where more resources produced by the movement on the specific topics can be found:

<https://www.cash-hub.org/resources/cash-and-covid-19>

The CaLP has also created a specific page with useful resources on how to adapt CVA in the context of the current pandemic developed by external actors (INGOs, UN):

<https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cva-and-covid-19-resources-guidance-events-and-questions/>

Due to the far reaching economic impacts of Covid both in relief and in recovery and the role that cash can play to protect peoples' economic resilience and capacity right now, it is likely that the NS will want to use CVA both now and in the next 12 months. Therefore, for NS who have not yet started to think and invest in their ability to design and delivery CVA, there may be an opportunity to support some rapid preparedness for cash delivery which would focus on the minimum needed for cash delivery in a Covid or other response.

For more information please visit our websites:

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