



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

RURAL LIVELIHOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

IMPACT & INTERVENTION NEEDED FOR RESILIENCE

AU/DREA webinar, 22 September 2020



COVID-19 compounding effect on food insecurity

GRFC: Pre-COVID-19



135 million

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

Distribution by region:

Europe

1 country

0.5M

43M

Middle East
and Asia

10 countries

18.5M

Latin America and
the Caribbean

8 countries

73M

Africa

36 countries

In addition:



183 million

people in Stress (IPC/CH 2)

SOFI: Pre-COVID-19

nearly **690 million**

(235 million in Africa)
undernourished in 2019

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

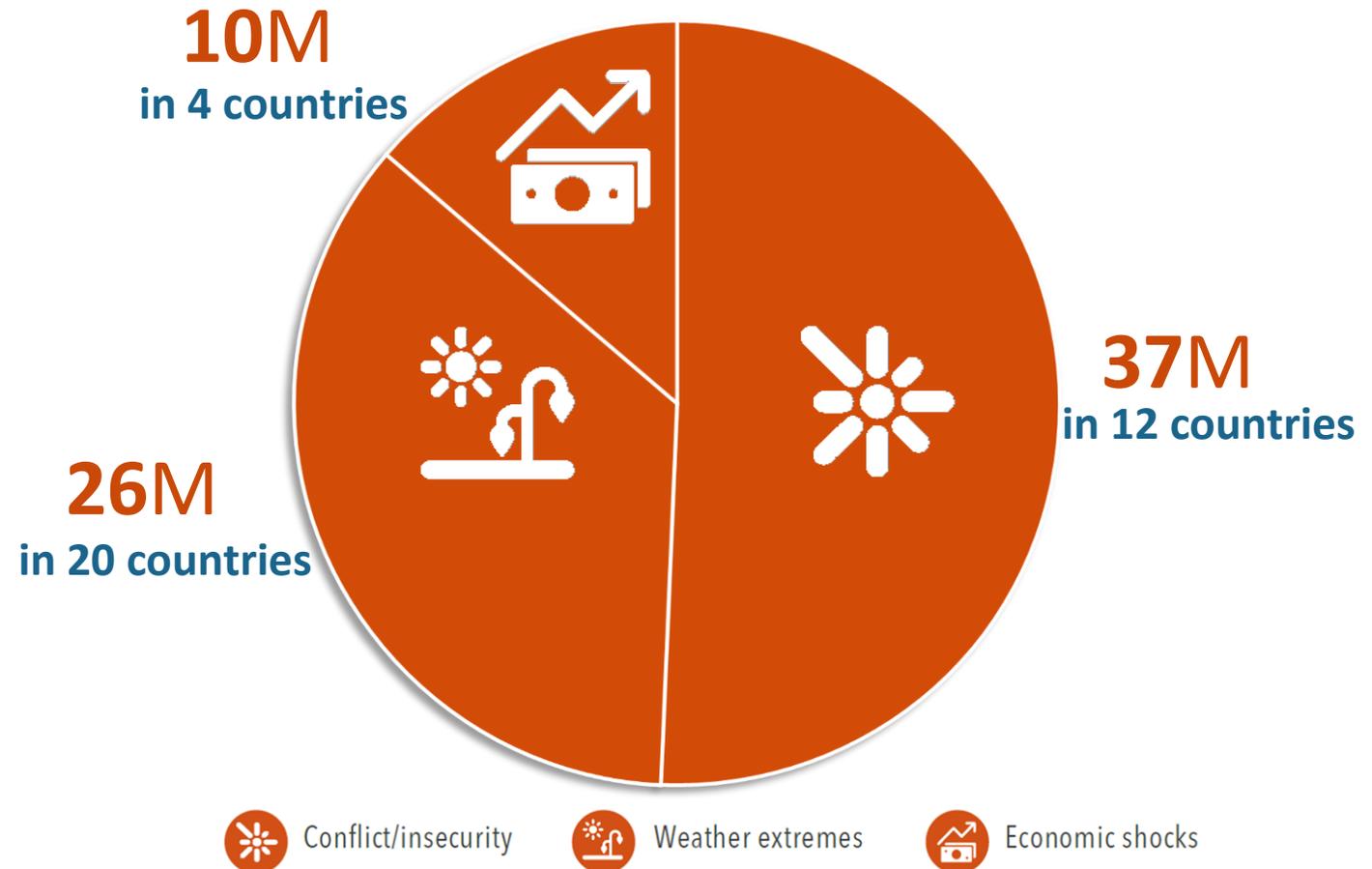


Africa overview – Global Report on Food Crises 2020

 **73 million**
people across 36 countries
in IPC/CH 3+ in 2019

 **129 million**
people in 32 countries
in IPC/CH 2 in 2019

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



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

COVID-19 outbreak policy measures / responses

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

Food systems

disruptions to agricultural production, markets and food supply chains

Economic activity

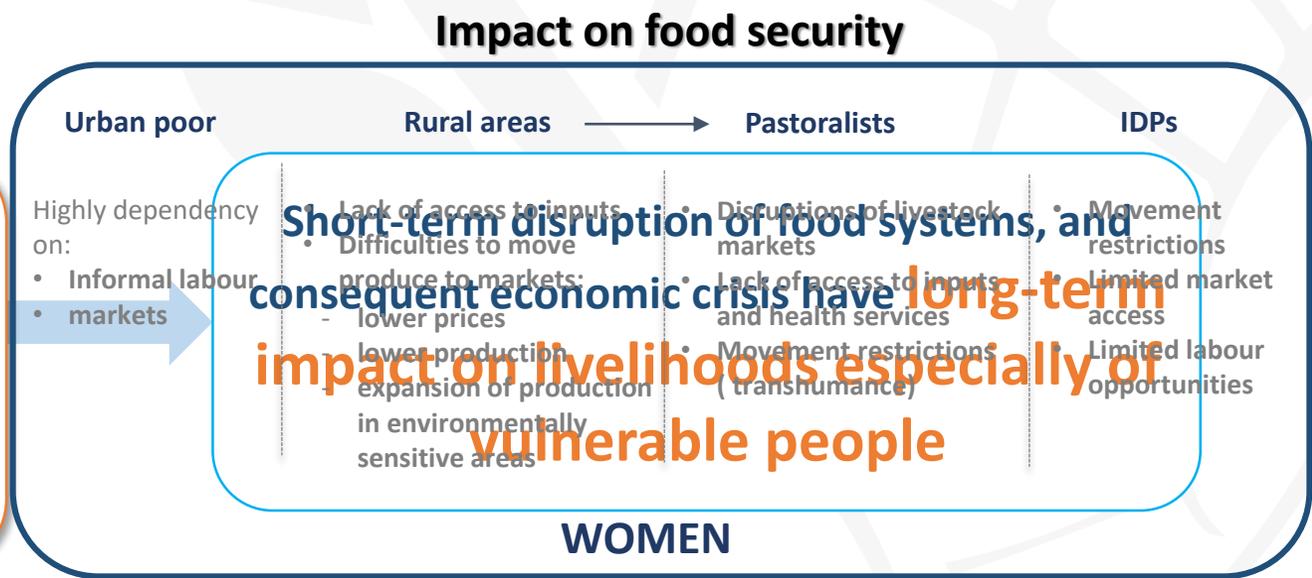
reduction in employments, incomes and purchasing power

Livelihoods compromised by:

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

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

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



Needed interventions for recovery and building back better

Immediate-Short term Measures

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

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



Needed interventions for recovery and building back better

Beyond the short term: Medium-long term Measures

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

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





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



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



Data for Decision-making:

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



Economic Inclusion and Social Protection to Reduce Poverty:

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



Trade and Food Safety Standards:

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



Boosting Smallholder Resilience for Recovery:

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



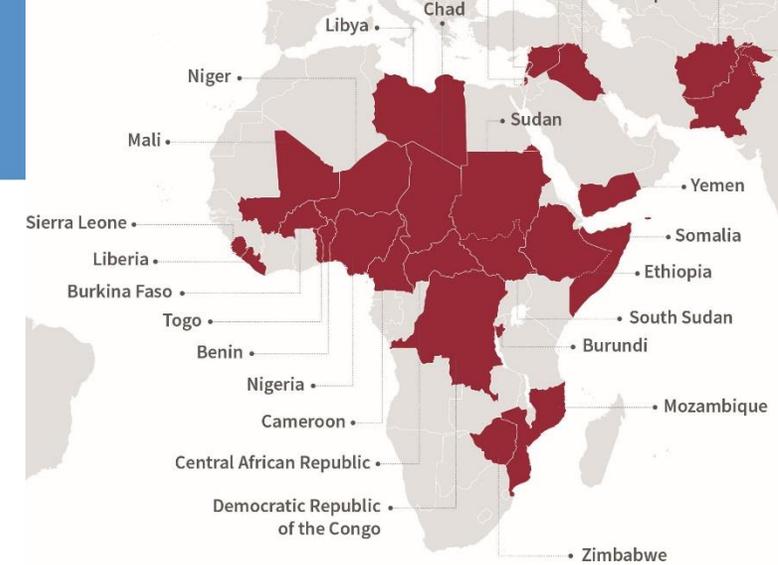
Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic:

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



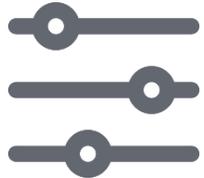
Food Systems Transformation:

Building back better during response and recovery

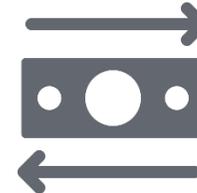


FAO's component of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan

April-December 2020



**Information and analysis to guide
action – Global data facility**



**Safeguarding incomes: social
protection, cash injections**



**Preserving critical livelihoods
assistance, safeguarding food
supply chains**

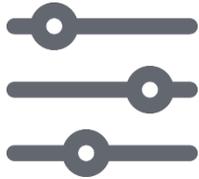


**Reducing risk of transmission
along food chain: sharing health
regulations and key messaging**



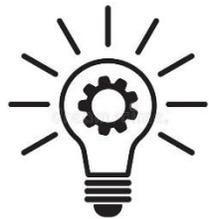
USD 428 million (July update)

covering 34 countries (18 in Africa, 221.6M)



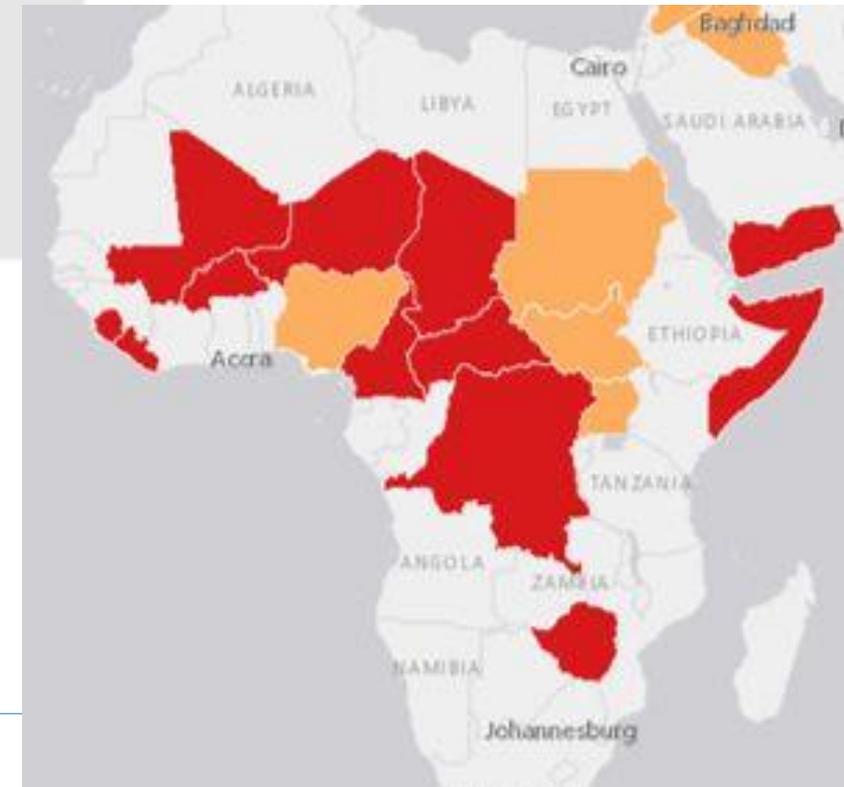
Global data and analysis facility

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



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

Ongoing data collection!



Remote management: Mobile money, photo recognition

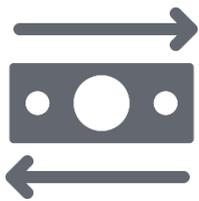


Enlightened focus on urban poor

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

Nutrient dense food

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



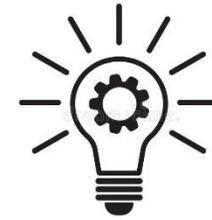
- Continuing and **scaling up provision of critical agricultural inputs** aligned with seasons and emerging needs
- Supporting livelihood **diversification, home-based nutritious food** production (incl. for displaced populations)
- Reducing **post-harvest losses** for small-scale producers
- Working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





Ensuring continuity of the food supply chain for most vulnerable

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



Women food traders

Disinfection/hygiene:
livestock markets etc.



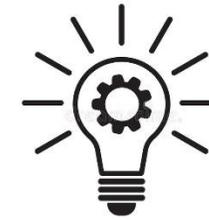


Ensuring food chain actors are not at risk of virus transmission

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

Running farmer field schools in times of COVID-19:

A resource handbook



New partnerships for
radio outreach

Expanded use of
community platforms





Project OSRO/MOZ/906/UK Funds: DFID



10,000



40,000

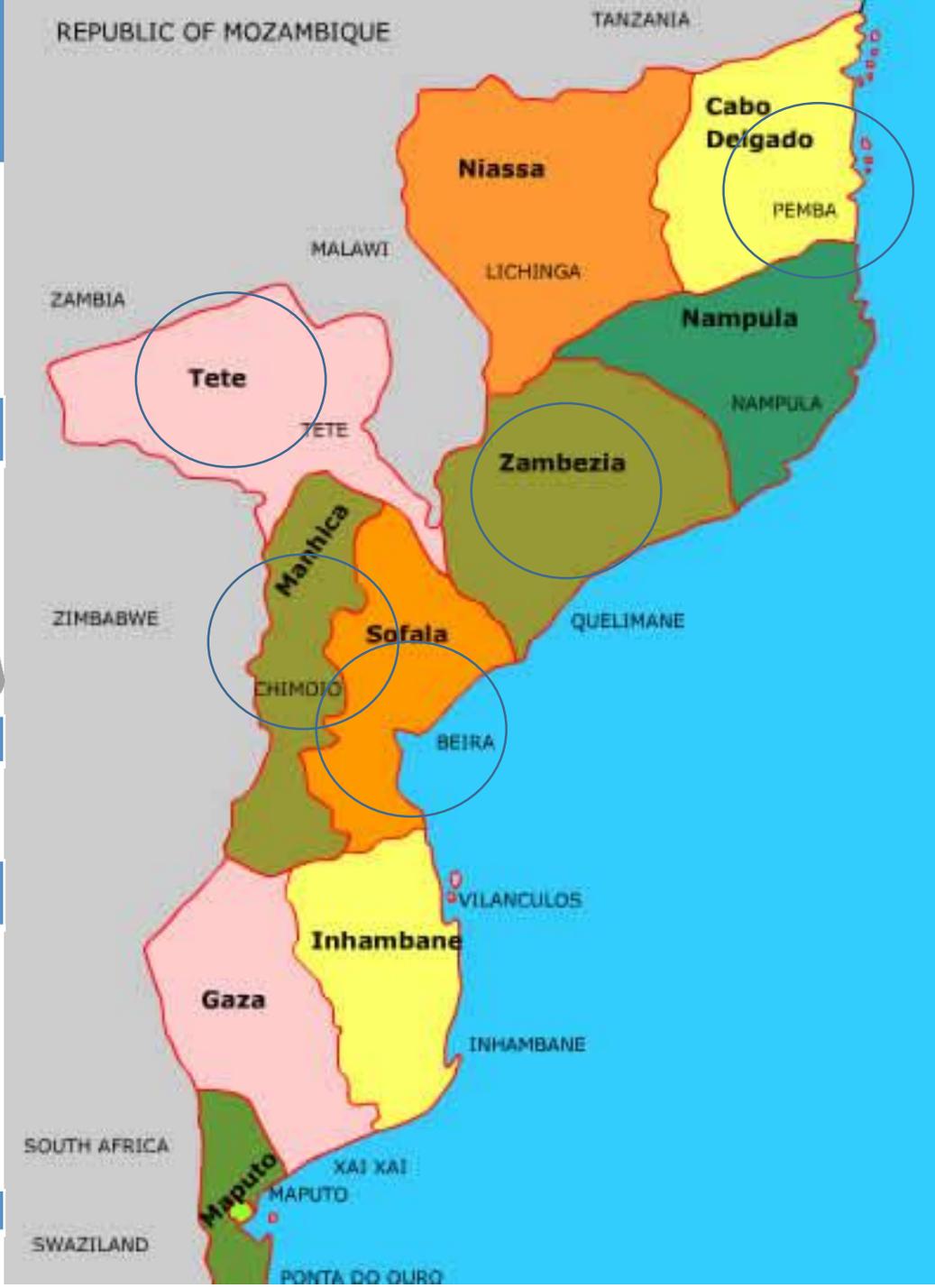
Project OSRO/MOZ/904/MOZ Funds: World Bank/FNDS



52,248



200,992



FAO INNOVATION

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

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



FAO INNOVATION

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

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



FAO INNOVATION

M&E processes and actions

CHALLENGES

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

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

RESPONSE

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

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

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

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