



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO COVID-19 Response
and Recovery Programme



FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme

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**The world's food systems are under threat.
FAO is calling on partners to join together to prevent
a global food emergency.**

The **COVID-19 pandemic** is jeopardizing human health and disrupting the **food systems** that are the foundations of health. Unless we take **immediate action**, we could face a **global food emergency** more severe and larger in scale than has been recorded in over half a century.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is calling for **USD 1.3 billion in initial investments** to provide an agile and coordinated global response to ensure nutritious food for all both during and after the pandemic.

The **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme** enables donors to leverage the Organization's convening power, real-time data, early warning systems and technical expertise to direct support where and when it is needed most. Together, we can help protect the world's most vulnerable, prevent further crises, increase resilience to shocks, and accelerate the rebuilding and sustainable transformation of our food systems.

COVID-19 is compounding existing threats to food security and nutrition

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, hunger continued to increase. In 2019, close to 750 million – or nearly one in ten people in the world – were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity. Preliminary projections presented in The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 suggest that the **pandemic may add up to 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020.**

Measures to control virus outbreaks are disrupting global food supply chains. Border restrictions and lockdowns are slowing harvests, destroying livelihoods and hindering food transport. **Food loss** is increasing, as farmers must resort to dumping perishables, and many people in urban centres are struggling to access fresh nutritious food.

Simultaneously, according to estimates by FAO and the world Bank, the pandemic's economic impact could push between 71 to 100 million **people** or more into **extreme poverty**. Soaring unemployment rates, income losses and rising food costs are jeopardising food access in developed and developing countries alike. **Smallholder farmers** and their families, **food workers** in all sectors, and those living in **commodity-and tourism-dependent economies** are particularly vulnerable.

Equally urgent is the compounding threat of the pandemic on existing crises - such as conflict, natural disasters, climate change, pests and plagues - that are already stressing our food systems and triggering **food insecurity** around the globe.

Worldwide, **4.5 billion people** depend on food systems for their jobs and livelihoods.



The pandemic could disrupt **35% of food system employment.**



FAO has developed a comprehensive and holistic **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme**, designed to proactively and sustainably address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. In line with the UN approach to “build to transform” and in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, it aims to mitigate the immediate impacts of the pandemic while strengthening the long-term **resilience of food systems** and livelihoods.

Through extensive analyses, ongoing consultations with decentralized offices and bilateral discussions with resource partners, FAO identified seven key areas of action needed to ensure rapid and continued support to the most vulnerable while anticipating the secondary repercussions of the virus.

FAO’s COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme spans **7 key priority areas**:



Global Humanitarian Response Plan

Addressing the impacts of COVID-19 and safeguarding livelihoods in food-crisis contexts

[Learn more](#)



Data for decision-making

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

[Learn more](#)



Economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty

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

[Learn more](#)



Trade and food safety standards

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

[Learn more](#)



Boosting smallholder resilience for recovery

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

[Learn more](#)



Preventing the next zoonotic pandemic

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

[Learn more](#)



Food systems transformation

Building to transform during response and recovery

[Learn more](#)

How to partner with FAO

As a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), FAO provides partners with unique opportunities to demonstrate their values, increase their impact, and achieve development and humanitarian goals.

FAO's **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme** leverages the Organization's mobilizing power to lead international efforts through a flexible multilateral approach, which supports tailor-made partnerships and enables matchmaking between donors and those most in need of assistance. We invite a broad range of partnerships, including both new and renewed partnerships with FAO Members, other governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and cooperatives.

We urgently implore any organization or government interested in working together to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, end global hunger and create a better future for all, to contact PSR-Director@fao.org.

Join us. Be part of the solution.

“With international cooperation and partnership, we can solve the problems we are facing [...] It is time to build, invest and transform”

QU Dongyu
FAO Director-General



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