

CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION (VGFSYN)

TEXT PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE IMPACT OF PANDEMICS

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1.1 – BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

-> Proposed additional paragraphs after existing para 9 on complex and protracted crises

Paragraph 9 bis - Strategies to reduce transmission of zoonotic diseases and other pathogenic infectious diseases, and pandemics, such as COVID-19, , significantly impact global hunger and malnutrition. Without large-scale coordinated actions, such crises have the capacity to disrupt normal functioning of food systems, impacting all actors in the food system - especially the most food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable, reducing incomes among small-scale producers, including family farmers, negatively impacting food access due to loss of critical income sources, lockdowns, and closure of markets and food environments. These crises also disrupt local food markets and supply chains with resulting price increases, lead to food availability issues, increase the vulnerability of high-value commodity markets, prevent access to school meals for millions of children, and increase food losses and waste.

Paragraph 9 ter - A shock to health systems have severe ramifications on the proper functioning of food systems causing significant implications for the global economy. To prevent such disruptions, governments, private sector and all relevant stakeholders have a shared responsibility to ensure food supply chains and food environments continue to function, health of food system actors and workers is protected, rights of adequately protected, the most nutritionally vulnerable given social safety net protections, and humanitarian assistance and food safety are prioritized.

PART 2 – OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SECTION 2.1 – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

-> Proposed additional paragraph, after paragraph 24, on the need for the VGFSyN to promote resilient food systems

Para 24 bis – *“In the context of shocks, crises and pandemics, such as COVID-19, the VGFSyN recognize the constant pressures and strong challenges that food systems are facing, and emphasize the importance of promoting resilient food systems. The VGFSyN provide guidance on risk management to minimize potential impacts on food supply and unintended consequences for food security and nutrition”.*

PART 3 – THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION

SECTION 3.1 – TRANSPARENT, DEMOCRATIC AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS

-> Proposed addition in Recommendation 311.b (under 311 – Promoting policy coherence by integrating nutrition into national development):

Rec 311.b - Addition of “pandemic diseases” between “disaster” and “risk reduction plans”.

SECTION 3.2 – SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR IMPROVED DIETS AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

-> Proposed additional paragraph after recommendations 325.c (under 325 – Improving nutrition and health of farm and food system workers):

325.c bis – “Governmental actors and private sector actors should ensure that food system workers are healthy and adopt measures to prevent spreading of infectious diseases, by providing personal protection equipment including face masks, designing spaces for social distancing and hand sanitizers and proper infrastructure for hygiene. Low touch, low contact equipment must be a priority investment by business. Workers should be trained on how infectious disease spreads and how they can protect themselves and the food they handle.

SECTION 3.3 – EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY DIETS DELIVERED BY SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

-> Proposed additional paragraphs after recommendation 331.a (under 331 – Improving access to food that contributes to healthy diets):

331.a bis - “Governmental actors should take into consideration the guidance developed by FAO and WHO to ensure that in times of crisis (e.g. pandemics), the integrity of the entire food chain is maintained, and adequate and safe food supplies are available and accessible for all people”.

331.a ter – “In times of crisis, governmental actors should declare food production, distribution, processing and marketing essential services everywhere to keep trade corridors open to ensure the continuous functioning of critical aspects of food systems in all countries”.

-> Proposed additional paragraph after recommendation 332.d (under 332 – Improving the availability and affordability of food that contributes to healthy diets):

332.d bis: “Governmental actors and intergovernmental organizations should promote the readiness and resilience of social protection programmes to cope with pandemics and other systemic shocks that negatively impact food security and nutrition..”

SECTION 3.4 – FOOD SAFETY ACROSS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

-> Proposed addition at the end of paragraph 342.a (under 342 – Ensuring food safety across food production systems)

¹ Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. June 2020. United Nations, New York

Recommendation 342.a:

Proposed addition at the end of the paragraph: “*particularly to prevent and mitigate future transmission of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19*”.

SECTION 3.7 – RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

-> Proposed addition in paragraph 44:

Addition of “*epidemics/pandemics*” after “*climate-related disasters*” in the first sentence.

-> Proposed addition at the end of recommendation 371.c (under 371 – Protecting the most vulnerable to malnutrition in humanitarian contexts):

Addition at the end of the recommendation: “*Governmental actors should have contingency plans in place to ensure food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable groups during crises such as epidemics and pandemics.*”

-> Proposed addition in recommendation 372.a (under 372 – Improving the quality of food and nutrition assistance):

Addition of “*epidemics and pandemics*” between “*climate-related disasters*” and “*and food assistance*”.