

COVID-19

and Food Security at the World Bank

Martien van Nieuwkoop,
Global Director, Agriculture and Food Global Practice

Monitoring global and national food security

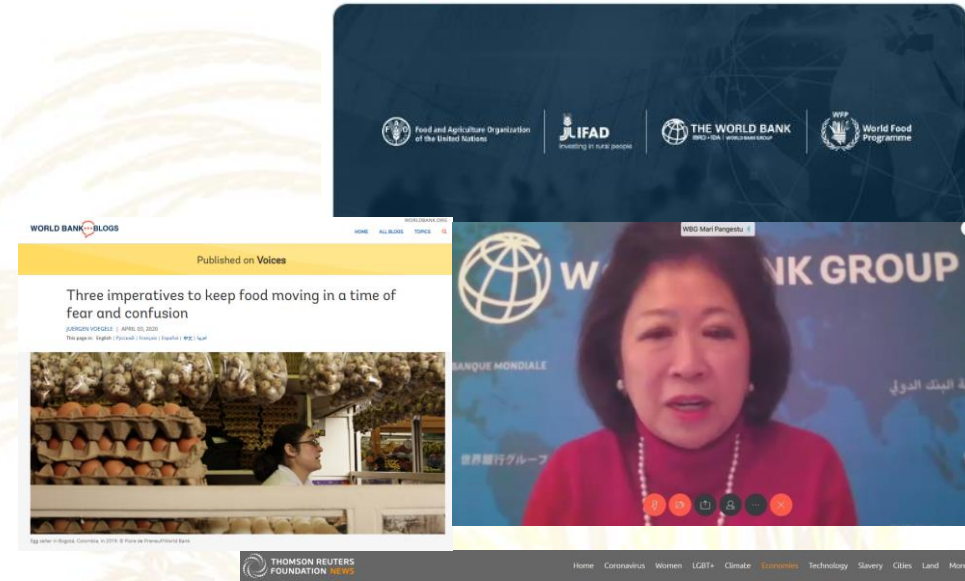
- COVID-19 food security team established across WBG
 - Agriculture, Trade, Social Protection, Gender, Health and Nutrition, Disaster Risk, Private Sector (IFC), regional focal points – all sharing technical expertise
- Commodity Markets Outlook team tracking global markets
 - Staple crop markets are well supplied and relatively stable
- Regular country updates
 - Significant supply chain disruptions
 - Impact of income losses and deepening poverty
 - Countries facing multiple crises (locusts, conflict, climate shocks, currency depreciation, collapse of non-food commodity prices)

Sending out strong policy messages

- World Bank President at Spring Meetings
- World Bank joined partners FAO, IFAD and WFP at the G20 Agricultural Ministers meeting – to speak with one voice
- Top management (Vice President for Sustainable Development Juergen Voegelé and Managing Director Mari Pangestu) reinforcing messages in blogs, op-ed and interviews – strong continued interest

Extraordinary #G20 Ag Ministers Meeting - heads of @FAO @IFAD @WorldBank & @WFP call for "well coordinated responses across the world, including by the G20 & beyond, to limit impacts, end the #COVID19 pandemic & prevent its recurrence."

ow.ly/oZov30qzy8S #G20SaudiArabia



OPINION: Hunger amid plenty: how to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the world's most vulnerable people



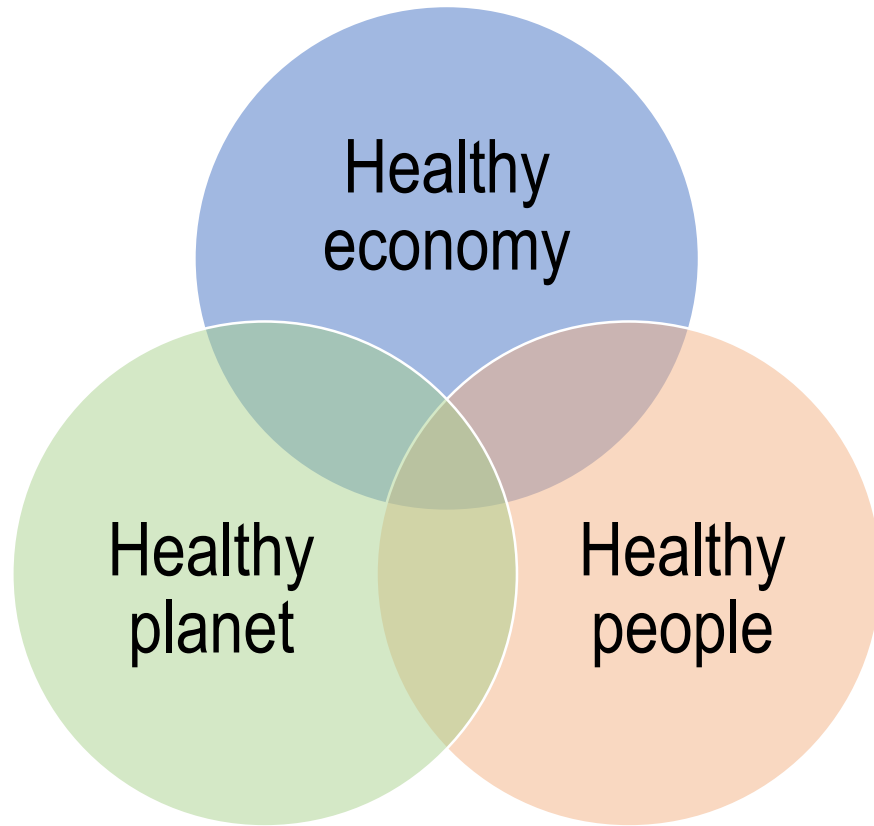
Mobilizing large-scale WBG financial packages

- COVID19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Program (\$14 billion, March 17)
 - Of the first 25 projects approved, 11 include One Health components
 - Ex: in India, support to improve disease surveillance systems in humans and animals and health information systems across the country
- Emergency Locust Response Program (forthcoming)
 - Three focus areas: Monitoring and controlling locusts populations, protecting and restoring livelihoods, and preventing future outbreaks
- 2nd phase: Mitigating the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on households and communities
 - Social protection/ cash transfers and food security measures go hand in hand

Tapping existing projects for urgent support

- Food distribution and cash transfers
- Logistics support to keep agricultural products moving:
 - Green channels for food and medicine proposed as part of Comoros Emergency DPO
 - Rwanda – support to maintain current export levels in environment of higher logistics costs and disruption
- Expanding use of E-extension services
- Support for SMEs in agri-food sector
 - Angola - helping farmer cooperatives and SMEs improve their operations to meet local needs
- Provision of agricultural inputs
 - Haiti – emergency funding to help 21,500 family farmers afford production costs in face of reduction of remittances
 - Kyrgyz Republic – GAFSP project to deliver seeds and fertilizer through Water User Associations
- Mobilizing community-driven development projects
 - India – Women's self help groups (62 million women) mobilizing to meet shortages, run 10,000 community kitchens, provide fresh food supplies and support to vulnerable and high risk families

Building back better-performing food systems



- COVID-19 crisis reveals long-standing flaws in food systems:
 - environmental degradation and climate change;
 - high burden of human and animal disease;
 - low farmers' and food workers' income and poor work conditions; gender gaps; low productivity;
 - fragile supply chains and outdated marketing infrastructure
- World Bank increasingly helping countries with reforms and investments to shift food systems toward better outcomes
 - Ex: In Pakistan, SMART Punjab program helping diversify and strengthen agriculture for better resilience, nutrition, incomes
- Leveraging development policy finance, analytics and partnerships to deliver on SDGs

Thank You!

