

The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting people’s food environments: a resource list on Food Systems and Nutrition responses.

Last updated by the UNSCN Secretariat on 14th April 2020, [available online here](#)

The current global outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) has disrupted food systems around the world. Food environments are where people meet the food system. Around the world people’s food environments are rapidly changing in both their external dimensions – food availability, prices, vendors- as well as personal dimensions – geographical access, affordability, convenience and desirability. These rapid food environment changes are influencing the consumers’ dietary practices and can lead to a deterioration in both individual, and country level, nutritional and health status.

People, and their health and nutrition status, are what counts. Sustainable healthy diets that contain sufficient fruits and vegetables are crucial in protecting people’s immunity. Particularly for those at risk of, or suffering from food insecurity and those with pre-existing non-communicable diseases who are at a heightened risk of becoming severely ill with the virus.

The work of UN agencies and partner organizations to promote nutrition and healthy food systems during the pandemic is continually expanding and strengthening. Contributing to the coronavirus pandemic response, the UNSCN has compiled a list of available resources and key readings with a focus on nutrition and food systems. This list will be continually updated **and expanded as more resources become available.**

Topic	Agency	Name	Description	Publication Date
UN AGENCIES GENERAL RESPONSE				
UN agencies all play a role in the global response to COVID-19. These links will direct you to agency’s key COVID-19 related health and nutrition information.	UN	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)	Latest updates on the United Nations response to COVID-19 UNSG Report Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19	Continually Updated March 2020
	WHO	COVID-19 pandemic	The latest updates on COVID-19 including daily press releases, technical guidance, advice for the public and research updates.	Continually Updated

	UNICEF	COVID-19 – what you need to know about the virus to protect you and your family	<p>Latest news and fact based information on COVID-19. Including advice for parents, teens, teachers and employees.</p> <p>Latest updates on Nutrition related programming, technical advise and information birefs can be found in 'Nutrition-COVID-19'.</p>	Continually Updated
	WFP	Emergency Response and Situation Reports	Latest updates on WFP's response to COVID-19, key links and situation reports	Continually Updated
	FAO	COVID-19 Outbreak	<p>An overview of FAO's action in regard to the outbreak, highlights of the OneHealth approach, key messages, questions and answers.</p> <p>FAO's component of the Global COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan to address the impact of COVID-19 in food crises can be downloaded here.</p>	<p>Continually Updated</p> <p>April 2020</p>
	OCHA	Global humanitarian response plan COVID-19	Prepared by members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), including UN, other international organizations and NGOs with a humanitarian mandate, to analyse and respond to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian consequences of the pandemic, particularly on people in countries already facing other crises.	25 March
	UNDP	COVID-19 Pandemic	Drawing on the experience with other outbreaks such as Ebola, HIV, SARS, TB and malaria, as well as their long history of working with the private and public sector,	

			UNDP will help countries to urgently and effectively respond to COVID-19 as part of its mission to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience to crises and shocks.	
FOOD SYSTEMS				
Food Environments	UNSCN	Food Environments in the COVID-19 Pandemic	Impacts and positive policy actions to deliver sustainable healthy diets for all. Including options for governments to adapt and mitigate impacts on food environments, and current nutrition advice.	Updated March 30th-continually updated
Food Supply	FAO	UPCOMING: Webinar	FAO's Work on Nutrition and Food Systems in the time of COVID-19, Anna Lartey. Register here.	April 23
		Presentations	- Coronavirus Food Supply Chain Under Strain What to do? A comprehensive presentation of what we know now on the food supply and demand side and options on what to do within social protection programs	24 March
			Video: Food Supply Chains Under Strain, what to do? COVID-19 and the risk to food supply chains: How to respond?	26 March 2 nd April
Tools	Keeping food and agricultural systems alive - Analyses and solutions in a period of crises - COVID-19 Pandemic	Continually Updated		

			<p>Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA)- a database of the latest food system policy decisions in response to COVID-19(continually updated)</p> <p>Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (continually updated)</p>	
		<p>Policy Briefs</p> <p>See a full list of FAO's COVID-19 Policy Briefs here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban food systems and COVID-19: The role of cities and local governments in responding to the emergency (9 April) • COVID-19 and the risk to food supply chains: How to respond? (2 April); • Responding to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on food value chains through efficient logistics (7 April); • Channels of transmission to food and agriculture (9 April) 	
Food Systems	CFS/High Level Panel Experts	<p>Interim Issues Paper on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) by HLPE</p> <p>+ CFS Chair Statement on COVID-19</p>	Discussing the impact of the COVID-19 on global food systems, key messages and recommendations for all stakeholders in mitigating the impact.	24 March-continually updated
Food Systems	CGIAR	CGIAR's Response to COVID-19	CGIAR, as the world's largest public research network on food systems, provides evidence based advice and recommendations to help address threats to food and nutrition security from the COVID-19 pandemic	Continually Updated

Food Security	Global Food Security Cluster	Coronavirus, impact on well-being, health, food access and food security	An overview of the pandemic (including a timeline of its spread) and its impact on global food security	25 March
Food Security	WFP VAM	Economic and food security implications of the COVID-19 outbreak	A discussion paper on the impact of the COVID-19 on food and agricultural sectors and recommendations to governments to prevent a food security crisis.	24 March
Food Safety	WHO	WHO recommendations to reduce risk of transmission of emerging pathogens from animals to humans in live animal markets WHO Guidance for schools, workplaces & institutions	Linked to the probable cause of COVID-19 WHO has released recommendations for people visiting and working in live animal/animal product markets.	26 March
			Guidance document is intended for food businesses to assist them with measures that can contribute to keep the COVID-19 virus out of food premises and protect their workforce from getting the disease.	8 April
PREGNANCY, BREASTFEEDING, INFANT/YOUNG CHILD FEEDING				
Breastfeeding	WHO	Q&A on COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding	FAQ on pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding during the COVID-19 outbreak	Continually Updated
Breastfeeding	WHO-EMRO	Breastfeeding Advice During the COVID-19 Outbreak	An information flyer containing advice for breastfeeding mothers and health facilities/staff.	March
Pregnancy	WFP	COVID-19 and Pregnancy	A summary of the latest updates on the transmission of COVID-19 during pregnancy and health impacts on the child	18th March
Breastfeeding		COVID-19 and Breastfeeding	Interim guidance for breastfeeding women who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (currently the virus has not been detected in breastmilk)	18th March, updated weekly

			Includes guidance on safe breastfeeding practice to reduce the virus spread and guidance on IYCF	
Childhood Wasting	UNICEF, GNC & GTAM	Management of Child Wasting in the Context of COVID-19- Brief No.1	An information brief covering services and programmes for the management of child wasting in the context of COVID-19, including key messages, priority actions, inpatient and outpatient based recommendations and outstanding questions.	27th March with updates every 10 days
IYCF		Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in the context of COVID-19	An information brief covering IYCF in the context of COVID-19	30th March Updated every 10 days
Infant and Young Child Feeding	UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Eastern, Central and Southern Africa	A joint note that consolidates the current recommendations on Infant and Young Child Feeding in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. This guidance is not intended to replace national guidance, rather to serve as a resource that is based on the latest evidence.	26 March
Vitamin A Supplementation	GAVA	Vitamin A Supplementation: Protecting Children's Lives in the Context of COVID-19	GAVA consensus statement aims to provide guidance on vitamin A supplementation (VAS) for preschool-aged children* through campaigns and routine health and nutrition services during the COVID-19 pandemic.	7 April
SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN				

School Meals	WFP, FAO & UNICEF	Interim guidance note on "Mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on food and nutrition of schoolchildren"		
School Based Action	UNICEF, WHO & IFRC	Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools	Including key messages for school administrators/teachers and staff, parents/caregivers and community members	27 March
School Meals	WFP	Global Monitoring of School Meals during COVID-19 School Closures	A continually updated map showing the number of children no longer receiving school meals	Continually Updated
Mental Health	WHO	Helping children cope with stress during the 2019 COVID-19 outbreak	A short guide to helping children deal with stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 outbreak	26 March
ADULTS				
Nutrition Advice	WHO	WHO- Europe Office: Food and nutrition tips during self-quarantine WHO-EMRO Office: Nutrition Advice for Adults During the COVID-19	Nutrition and mental health advice for adults during the COVID-19 outbreak	March
	FAO	Maintaining a healthy diet during the COVID-19 Pandemic 9 tips to fight food waste		27th March
	UNICEF	Easy, Affordable and Healthy Eating Tips for Families during the COVID-19 Outbreak		31st March
Mental Health	WHO	Mental health and psychosocial considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak Coping with stress during the 2019 COVID-19 Outbreak (English , French , Chinese , Arabic , Russian , Spanish)	Mental health advice, including healthy eating, during the COVID-19 outbreak	18th March

Non-communicable diseases	WHO	Information note on COVID-19 and NCDs	Includes technical guidance for people living with existing NCDs, information on the dangers of smoking, advice on healthy lifestyles and tips on managing NCDs during the outbreak.	23rd March
EMERGENCY NUTRITION RESPONSE				
Resource List	GNC	Global Nutrition Cluster COVID-19 Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition Coordination guidance in the context of COVID-19 (6 April) • Generic ToR for the country-level Nutrition and COVID-19 Taskforce (English, French) • Generic template for the Joint Statement on COVID-19 and Infant and Young Child Feeding Webinar Recording: A New Tool- The Nutrition in Emergencies IYCF-E Checklist (31 March)	The Global Nutrition Cluster is managing a comprehensive list of collected global, regional, and country-level health and nutrition resources for COVID-19. This includes a coordination toolkit, information management toolkit and capacity strengthening resources.	Continually Updated
Technical Guidance	GTAM	COVID-19 and Nutrition Technical Brief	A summary of Guidance for Nutrition in Emergencies for practitioners	13th March, Updated Fortnightly
Programming Guidance	WFP	Recommendations For Adjusting Food Distribution Standard Operating Procedures In The Context Of The Covid-19 Outbreak Guidance for cash-based transfers in the context of the Covid-19 WFP's additional recommendations for the management of maternal and child malnutrition prevention and treatment in the context of COVID-19	Advice for minimizing the risk of spread during food distribution	13th March 2nd April

Question and engagement platform	ENN	The en-net provides a place to submit questions surrounding the emergency response to COVID-19. Current threads are grouped under nutrition programming and include infant and young child feeding , breastfeeding , prevention and treatment of MAM .	The en-net provides a place to submit questions surrounding the emergency response to COVID-19. Questions posed on these forums feed into the continually updated COVID-19 information briefs produced by UNCIEF and GTAM.	Continually Updated
Communications	UN Women, WHO, IFRC and OCHA	COVID-19: How to include marginalized and vulnerable people in risk communication and community engagement	A guide for risk communication and community engagement with marginalized people who are more vulnerable in emergencies.	19th March

Articles and blog posts providing insights into nutrition and food systems in the response to COVID-19:

IFAD:

- [Don't allow the coronavirus to open up another front](#) (31 March)
- [Changing lives in times of uncertainty: how innovative agriculture builds resilience](#) (30 March)
- [The potential impact of COVID-19 on SDG 2 \(food security\) – in China and globally](#) (13 March)

FAO:

- [World Food Prices drop in March](#) (6 April)
- [Mitigating impacts of COVID-19 on food trade and markets. Joint Statement by the Directors-General of FAO, WHO and WTO](#) (31 March);
- [World Economic Forum: FAO Director-General speaks against food trade restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (30 March);
- [A battle plan for ensuring global food supplies during the COVID-19 crisis; FAO Director-General urges G20 to ensure that food value chains are not disrupted during COVID-19 pandemic](#) (26 March);
- [COVID-19 and Food Supply: A Four-Pronged Battle Plan for Countries](#) by FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero Cullen (23 March);

WFP:

- [Food for thought: 7 tips on keeping a healthy diet in the face of Coronavirus](#) (23 March);
- [World Food Programme gears up to support children left without meals due to COVID-19 school closures](#) (23 March)
- [COVID-19 and the 5 Major Threats it Poses to Global Food Security](#) (16 March);
- [How to minimize the impact of Coronavirus on food security](#) (16 March);

GAIN:

- [The COVID-19 Crisis and Food Systems: probable impacts and potential mitigation and adaptation responses](#) + [Table](#) (23 March)

IFPRI:

- [IFPRI Insights Special Issue: Impacts of Coronavirus on Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty, and Development](#) (23 March)
- [Preventing global food security crisis under COVID-19 emergency](#) (6 March)

CFS, HLPE, UNSG Special Envoy 2021 Food Systems Summit:

- [Ensuring Food Security in the Era of COVID-19](#) (1 April)

RELEVANT NETWORKS, KNOWLEDGE HUBS AND COPS

- [Scaling up Nutrition \(SUN\)- COVID-19 and Nutrition](#): a knowledge hub for members of the SUN Movement that shares articles and updates which shed light on important links between COVID-19 and nutrition, hunger, health and food systems.
- [SDG2 Advocacy Hub- SDG2 & COVID-19 Reading List](#): The SDG2 Advocacy Hub brings together NGOs, advocacy groups, civil society, the private sector and UN agencies to share expertise, ideas, and to collaborate on campaigns to achieve SDG2. The Secretariat has pulled together a number of thought pieces highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on food, food systems and more.
- [Nutrition Connect](#): this initiative mobilises knowledge, share experiences, and stimulate dialogue on public private engagements (PPE) for nutrition. A special section on COVID-19 has been created to bring together news and resources related to the risks, responses and impact of COVID-19 on food systems and nutrition.
- [Agriculture-Nutrition COP \(Ag2Nut\)](#): Join the community to connect with a global network of professionals whose work focuses on the intersection of agriculture and nutrition. Webinars discussions about COVID-19, food systems, and interaction with malnutrition are planned for early April.
- [Food for the Cities](#) : Join the community to get in touch with a large group of practitioners, researchers, professors, urban and rural community leaders, technicians and professionals in diverse agency settings sharing ways in which communities, cities and national governments are organizing to address enormous economic and social transformations (in the food system) as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Agriculture, Nutrition and Health \(ANH\) Academy](#): this is a global research network in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health to serve as a platform for learning and sharing. They offer an open-access map of experiences, perspectives, opportunities and questions from researchers around the world about the impact of COVID-19 and other health emergencies on food systems, agriculture and nutrition.
- [The International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#) is curating a special series of blogposts analyzing the impacts of COVID-19 on national and global food and nutrition security, poverty and development.

