

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> March 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
<b>UN AGENCIES GENERAL RESPONSE</b>				
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	<a href="#">Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)</a>	Latest updates on the United Nations response to COVID-19	Continually Updated
	WHO	<a href="#">COVID-19 pandemic</a>	The latest updates on COVID-19 including daily press releases, technical guidance, advice for the public and research updates.	Continually Updated
	UNICEF	<a href="#">COVID-19 – what you need to know about the virus to protect you and your family</a>	Latest news and fact based information on COVID-19. Including advice for parents, teens, teachers and employees.	Continually Updated
	WFP	<a href="#">Emergency Response and Situation Reports</a>	Latest updates on WFP's response to COVID-19, key links and situation reports	Continually Updated

	FAO	<a href="#">COVID-19 Outbreak</a>	An overview of FAO's action in regard to the outbreak, highlights of the OneHealth approach, key messages, questions and answers.	Continually Updated
	UN Women, WHO, IFRC and OCHA	<a href="#">COVID-19: How to include marginalized and vulnerable people in risk communication and community engagement</a>	A guide for risk communication and community engagement with marginalized people who are more vulnerable in emergencies.	19th March
	OCHA	<a href="#">Global humanitarian response plan COVID-19</a>	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
<b>FOOD SYSTEMS</b>				
	UNSCN	<a href="#">Food Environments in the COVID-19 Pandemic</a>	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.	Released March 27 <sup>th</sup> -continually updated
	FAO	<a href="#">Coronavirus Food Supply Chain Under Strain What to do?</a>	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
	CFS/High Level Panel Experts	<a href="#">Interim Issues Paper on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) by HLPE</a> + <a href="#">CFS Chair Statement on COVID-19</a>	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
	CGIAR	<a href="#">CGIAR's Response to COVID-19</a>	CGIAR, as the world's largest public research network on food systems, provides evidence	Continually Updated

			based advice and recommendations to help address threats to food and nutrition security from the COVID-19 pandemic	
	Global Food Security Cluster	<a href="#">Coronavirus, impact on well-being, health, food access and food security</a>	An overview of the pandemic (including a timeline of its spread) and its impact on global food security	25 March
	WFP VAM	<a href="#">Economic and food security implications of the COVID-19 outbreak</a>	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
	WHO	<a href="#">WHO recommendations to reduce risk of transmission of emerging pathogens from animals to humans in live animal markets</a>	Linked to the probably cause of COVID-19 WHO has released recommendations for people visiting and working in live animal/animal product markets.	26 March
<b>PREGNANCY, BREASTFEEDING, INFANT/YOUNG CHILD FEEDING</b>				
	WHO	<a href="#">Q&amp;A on COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding</a>		Continually Updated
Breastfeeding	WHO- EMRO	<a href="#">Breastfeeding Advice During the COVID-19 Outbreak</a>	An information flyer containing advice for breastfeeding mothers and health facilities/ staff.	March
Pregnancy	WFP	<a href="#">COVID-19 and Pregnancy</a>	A summary of the latest updates on the transmission of COVID-19 during pregnancy and health impacts on the child	18th March
Breastfeeding		<a href="#">COVID-19 and Breastfeeding</a>	Interim guidance for breastfeeding women who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (currently the virus has not been detected in breastmilk) Includes guidance on safe breastfeeding practice to reduce the virus spread and guidance on IYCF	18th March, updated weekly
Childhood Wasting	UNICEF, GNC & GTAM	<a href="#">Management of Child Wasting in the Context of COVID-19- Brief No.1</a>	Provide information specific to services and programmes for the management of child	27 <sup>th</sup> March with updates

			wasting in the context of COVID-19, including key messages, priority actions, inpatient and outpatient based recommendations and outstanding questions.	every 10 days
Infant and Young Child Feeding	UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP & WHO	<a href="#">Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Eastern, Central and Southern Africa</a>	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
<b>SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN</b>				
School Based Action	UNICEF, WHO & IFRC	<a href="#">Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools</a>	Including key messages for school administrators/teachers and staff, parents/caregivers and community members	27 March
School Meals	WFP	<a href="#">Global Monitoring of School Meals during COVID-19 School Closures</a>	A continually updated map showing the number of children no longer receiving school meals	Continually Updated
Mental Health	WHO	<a href="#">Helping children cope with stress during the 2019 COVID-19 outbreak</a>	A short guide to helping children deal with stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 outbreak	26 March
<b>ADULTS</b>				
Nutrition Advice	WHO	WHO- Europe Office: <a href="#">Food and nutrition tips during self-quarantine</a>  WHO-EMRO Office: <a href="#">Nutrition Advice for Adults During the COVID-19</a>	Nutrition advice for adults during the COVID-19 outbreak	March

Mental Health	WHO	<a href="#">Mental health and psychosocial considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak</a>  Coping with stress during the 2019 COVID-19 Outbreak ( <a href="#">English</a> , <a href="#">French</a> , <a href="#">Chinese</a> , <a href="#">Arabic</a> , <a href="#">Russian</a> , <a href="#">Spanish</a> )	Mental health advice, including healthy eating, during the COVID-19 outbreak	18 <sup>th</sup> March
Non-communicable diseases	WHO	<a href="#">Information note on COVID-19 and NCDs</a>	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.	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>EMERGENCY NUTRITION RESPONSE</b>				
Technical Guidance	GTAM	<a href="#">COVID-19 and Nutrition Technical Brief</a>	A summary of Guidance for Nutrition in Emergencies for practitioners	13th March, Updated Fortnightly
	World Food Programme Programming Guidance	<a href="#">Recommendations For Adjusting Food Distribution Standard Operating Procedures In The Context Of The Covid-19 Outbreak</a>  <a href="#">Guidance for cash-based transfers in the context of the Covid-19</a>	Advice for minimizing the risk of spread during food distribution	13th March
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 <a href="#">nutrition programming</a> and include <a href="#">infant and young child feeding</a> , <a href="#">breastfeeding</a> , <a href="#">prevention and treatment of MAM</a> .	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 UNICEF and GTAM.	Continually Updated

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

IFPRI

- [Preventing global food security crisis under COVID-19 emergency](#) (6 March);
  - [IFPRI Insights Special Issue: Impacts of Coronavirus on Food and Nutrition Security, Poverty, and Development](#) (23 March)
- IFAD
- [The potential impact of COVID-19 on SDG 2 \(food security\) – in China and globally](#) (13 March)
- WFP
- [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);
  - [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)
- FAO
- [COVID-19 and Food Supply: A Four-Pronged Battle Plan for Countries](#) by FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero Cullen (23 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)
- GAIN
- [The COVID-19 Crisis and Food Systems: probable impacts and potential mitigation and adaptation responses](#) + [Table](#) (23 March)

## 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.

[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.

