Near Real-time Food Security Monitoring During COVID-19
Overview

To combat today’s hunger challenges and reach SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, it is vital to provide governments and decision makers with the most accurate and up-to-date information on food security. In collaboration with the Global Network Against Food Crises, the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and other partners, WFP has established near real-time, remote food security monitoring systems.

Compared to traditional face-to-face surveys and monitoring systems that collect data periodically, these new systems provide a more flexible and efficient way to collect information: They are cheaper, faster and provide a representative snapshot of the food security situation at any given point in time, even in hard to reach areas. Near real-time monitoring systems are now currently in place in 29 countries, including countries facing food crises and those that are at high risk of slipping into crisis conditions or worse – the likes of Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen.

Data on key Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/Cadre Harmonisé (CH) indicators is collected on a continuous basis, analysed and visualized in near real-time. This information flows into the Hunger Map LIVE, WFP’s newly-launched global hunger monitoring system, and is updated daily.

The goal is to enable decision makers – including WFP staff, partners and the broader humanitarian community – to monitor the situation daily, capture problems in near real-time in the event of a crisis and provide the necessary information for early action and mitigation.

The expansion of near real-time monitoring systems is especially crucial in the midst of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. As many countries have put in place travel restrictions and quarantine measures to curb the spread of the virus, traditional monitoring tools and methods such as face-to-face surveys are no longer appropriate. Nonetheless, timely information is still needed, in order to assess the risks posed by COVID-19 to food security and livelihoods and the observed impacts of COVID-19 outbreaks on livelihoods, health, access to services, markets and supply chains, among others.

Therefore, these near real-time monitoring systems will allow WFP to continue collecting necessary data remotely and provide much needed information for decision making.
Expansion

WFP is a leader in remote, near real-time food security monitoring, implementing its first systems in early 2018 and growing steadily from just a few countries initially to dozens of countries currently.

Transitions to fully-automated, near real-time monitoring has increased the efficiency and timeliness of WFP’s monitoring systems and helped ensure the availability of daily, robust information on the food security situation in the world’s most vulnerable countries.

With the emergence of COVID-19, WFP’s near real-time monitoring has assumed even greater importance. Within days of the pandemic declaration, all systems immediately transitioned to monitor COVID-19-related risks and impacts on food security and livelihoods.

WFP’s existing networks of partners and call centres are making it possible to expand our near real-time monitoring systems across up to 40 countries by July 2020.
Bolstering early warning systems to assess the risks posed by COVID-19 to food security and livelihoods, in advance of deteriorations.

Monitoring and measuring impacts of COVID-19 on critical food security indicators in near real-time.

Ensuring continuity of IPC/CH exercises in emergency countries, as in-person data collection is no longer appropriate.

**Impact in the time of COVID-19**
Key products from near real-time monitoring to assess the risk of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods

HUNGER MAP LIVE
WFP’s Global Hunger Monitoring System, tracking hunger and COVID-19 in near real-time

GLOBAL HUNGER AND COVID-19 DAILY SNAPSHOTS
A daily overview of the evolution of COVID-19 globally, aggregating caseloads by country income groups and regions, alongside a summary of how food security is shifting in the countries where remote near real-time monitoring systems are established

NATIONAL HUNGER AND COVID-19 WEEKLY SNAPSHOT
A weekly overview of the food security situation, COVID-19 caseloads, and an indication of how relevant indicators – such as health and market access, food security, and remittances – are shifting in countries where remote near real-time monitoring systems are established

URBAN HUNGER AND COVID-19 WEEKLY SNAPSHOT
A weekly overview of the food security situation, COVID-19 caseloads, and an indication of how relevant indicators – such as health and market access – are shifting in countries where remote near real-time monitoring systems are established
HUNGER MAP LIVE

Now upgraded to monitor COVID-19, here are key features integrated into the Hunger Map LIVE:

- Tracking total COVID-19 cases and deaths globally and by country income group
- Monitoring the evolution of COVID-19 within countries
- A hunger and COVID-19 alerting system, which signals when food intake deteriorates from a month ago and/or when COVID-19 cases are estimated to double in 3 days or less or 7 days or less
- Recurring Hunger and COVID-19 Snapshots across global, national and urban levels downloadable directly through the Hunger Map LIVE's Global View
GLOBAL HUNGER AND COVID-19 DAILY SNAPSHOT

- A daily overview of the evolution of COVID-19 globally, aggregating caseloads by country income groups, region alongside a summary of how food security is shifting in the countries where remote near real-time monitoring systems are established.
NATIONAL HUNGER AND COVID-19 WEEKLY SNAPSHOT

- A weekly overview of the food security situation, COVID-19 case loads, and an indication of how relevant indicators – such as health and market access, food security, and remittances – are shifting in countries where remote near real-time monitoring systems are established.

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Yemen
URBAN HUNGER AND COVID-19 WEEKLY SNAPSHOT

- A weekly overview of the food security situation, COVID-19 caseloads, and an indication of how relevant indicators – such as health and market access – are shifting in countries where remote near real-time monitoring systems are established

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Uganda
- Kampala
  - Central Kampala
  - Kawempe
  - Makindye
  - Nakawa
  - Rubaga
- Kasese
- Lira
- Masaka
- Mbale
- Mbarara
- Mukono
- Lira
- Wakiso
Learn more

- Hunger Map LIVE - Now upgraded to track COVID-19
  Read the blog here

- Responding to COVID-19, explained by Kusum Hachhethu
  Listen to the Voicenotes from VAM episode here

- How remote, continuous food security monitoring systems prove immune to COVID-19
  Read the blog here

- Why COVID-19 Doubling Times Matter, explained by Lorenzo Riches
  Listen to the Voicenotes from VAM episode here
For questions, please contact:

Arif Husain (arif.husain@wfp.org)
Chief Economist and Director Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division

Jonathan Rivers (jonathan.rivers@wfp.org)
Head of the Hunger Monitoring Unit Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division

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