COVID-19 ACROSS SUN

- The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis on top of a crisis in parts of the world, and is the most adverse peacetime shock to the global economy in a century.
- As of 5 June, 501,783 coronavirus infections have been confirmed across SUN’s 61 member States. This represents 7.55% of the global figure.
- With people’s ability to access safe, nutritious and diverse diets at risk, and health and resilience under threat, urgent multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral action is needed.

WHAT’S AT STAKE: REVERSED OR STALLED PROGRESS

- This disruption of health systems and decreased access to food could lead to an increase in maternal deaths (between 2,030 and 9,450) and child mortality (between 42,240 and 192,830) each month.
- Acute malnutrition in girls and boys under five could rise by 20% (or an extra 10 million children) due to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on food security. The number of wasted children could increase each month by 50%.
- Acute hunger is set to double (from 130 million to 265 million) by the end of 2020.
- Low-income countries are prone to rises in the triple burden of malnutrition due to income shocks.

COVID-19 AT A GLANCE

- Malnutrition and COVID-19 are intrinsically linked: Undernutrition may exacerbate COVID-19 and obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases have been associated with more severe outcomes.
- The pandemic is also likely to result in a global GDP fall of 6-10%, which would push more people into extreme poverty and malnutrition.
- COVID-19 severely disrupts livelihoods, especially those of the 1.6 billion people working in the informal economy (half of global labour force).
- At the same time, the production, transportation, storage and sale of food has been equally disrupted.

SOLUTIONS: KEY MESSAGES

- NOW: A comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to nutrition needs to be integrated into COVID-19 response & recovery efforts - especially actions across health systems, food systems and social protection systems.
- LATER: Nutrition must be an essential pillar of post-COVID recovery & emergency preparedness - to build immunity and resilience of people & communities.

TAKING ACTION: SUN STORIES OF CHANGE

- In 19 SUN countries, the SUN Focal Point is a part of COVID-19 emergency response efforts: Bangladesh, Cambodia, El Salvador, the Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Viet Nam and Zambia.
- In Burkina Faso, the SUN Focal Point has organised a workshop for members of parliament on the importance of nutrition during the crisis.
- Lao PDR is mainstreaming nutrition into its emergency plan.
- The Central American Integration System (SICA) has launched a Regional Contingency Plan, where food security and nutrition are well positioned.

LEARN MORE: JOIN THE DEBATE!

- GO TO: www.scalingupnutrition.org/covid19
- SPREAD THE WORD: About new SUN country and stakeholder stories
- SPEAK UP & OUT: Using the hashtag #COVID19Nutrition