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 19 February 2021, 6,552,670 coronavirus infections have been confirmed across SUN’s 62 member States. This represents 5.94% 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.

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 are 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), with women and youth the hardest hit.
- At the same time, the production, transportation, storage and sale of food has been equally disrupted.

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 192,630) each month.
- An extra 10,000 children may die per month this year from malnutrition. Wasted children could increase by 6.7 million. Each percentage point drop in global GDP is expected to result in an additional 0.7 million stunted children.
- Acute hunger has doubled (from 130 million in 2019 to 270 million).
- In 2019, 3 billion people could not afford a healthy diet around the world, and this is likely to increase.

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.
- Lao PDR is mainstreaming nutrition into its emergency plan.
- Burkina Faso is harnessing digital and transformative opportunities for both integrated management of child illnesses and malnutrition - leading to a significant rise in correct undernutrition classifications.
- In El Salvador, the SUN Civil Society Alliance is delivering food parcels to those most in need.

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.
- WHAT IS NEEDED: An additional USD 33 billion each year to stop millions more from going hungry in the wake of COVID-19, from governments and donors.

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