

# COVID-19 AND SCALING UP NUTRITION

## ✓ 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**.

## ✓ 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**.

## ✓ 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%. Each percentage point drop in global GDP is expected to result in **an additional 0.7 million stunted children**.
- **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.

## ✓ 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](http://www.scalingupnutrition.org/covid19)
- **SPREAD THE WORD:** About new SUN country and stakeholder stories
- **SPEAK UP & OUT:** Using the hashtag **#COVID19Nutrition**