

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 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 1.8 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 9,460) and **child mortality** (between 42,240 and 192,830) 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.

✓ 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.

✓ 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.

✓ 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**