

LESSONS LEARNED RESEARCH: LIVELIHOOD SECTOR

COVID-19 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS PROJECT



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About this project

In July 2020, iMMAP launched the Global COVID-19 Situation Analysis Project, funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) of USAID. Implemented in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Syria, this project has produced monthly situation analysis reports that provide humanitarian stakeholders with comprehensive information on the spread of COVID-19 and related humanitarian consequences. Data is identified from humanitarian sources and coded using the project's analytical framework, which is closely aligned with the JIAF framework. Data is stored in DEEP where it can be visualized, disaggregated and aggregated to respond to queries about humanitarian situations.

Based on Lessons Learned for the project, iMMAP commissioned a series of sector-specific lessons learned reports to assess data availability and quality, adaptations, challenges, opportunities that emerged in five humanitarian sectors: education, food security, livelihoods, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Alongside this, seven thematic reports that focus on identified gaps in data were also commissioned.

It should be noted that the number of tagged documents on DEEP is an underestimation of the true value of documents available globally. Firstly, no system of literature identification and review will capture 100% of data sources. Secondly, there is a lag between date of publication of a document and date of processing and finalization into DEEP. This delay leads to an underestimation of the number of documents in recent time periods.

"This report is the result of a combination of primary and secondary data review exercises that cross-analyze a number of information sources. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the United States Government, the humanitarian clusters or any one of their individual sources."

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Executive Summary

Since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, the livelihoods sector has been massively impacted due to the measures taken by the governments to control the spread of the pandemic. Due to the unprecedented nature of the pandemic, most humanitarian organizations had issues accessing relevant data for program design and delivery and policy formulation. The livelihoods sector lessons learned report has used mixed methods by reviewing and analyzing the available secondary information collected by iMMAP during the course of the project, in conjunction with primary data through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) in countries of focus during July and August 2021. The quantitative and qualitative information was collected, grouped into major themes and collectively analyzed to understand the livelihoods data availability, quality, adaptations made for data collection and analysis, lessons learned and recommendations during COVID-19.

The data was collected remotely through mixed methods including secondary data review and key informant interviews. The major focus of the data was on crisis affected areas where organizations were working before the onset of COVID-19 and COVID-19 hotspots. iMMAP also provided support for improvement of data quality through direct involvement in data collection and analysis in some countries such as Colombia, Nigeria and Syria. Similarly, iMMAP has also used innovative online technologies such as PREMISE and RIWI to address the gaps in the livelihood data.

Overall, data availability for the livelihood sector was relatively low, especially during the 2nd quarter of 2020 (April-June) and has steadily improved during the remaining period of COVID-19 as organizations have developed tools, methodologies, and protocols for remote data collection. The major sources of data were UN organizations, NGOs and Government departments. Under the humanitarian architecture, Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) Cluster in Bangladesh, Syria, DRC, Burkina Faso and Early Recovery and Livelihood Cluster in Colombia and Nigeria provided the data. In Burkina Faso, Colombia and DRC data collected by the Government, mainly on markets and employment was also helpful. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has also conducted assessments mainly on on-farm livelihoods. Special initiatives established in response to COVID-19, such as the public-private partnership "Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC)" covering 20 African Union countries including DRC and Nigeria, also play a key role in data availability.

Overall, the data quality during COVID-19 was good and served the purpose for planning and delivery of short-medium term livelihood interventions. The data quality steadily improved throughout the COVID-19 period based on the learnings. Tools and methodologies that were already used in most of the countries for data collection by organizations such as Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), market/price monitoring by World Food Program (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) were tweaked for assessing the impact of COVID-19. MSNA was used as the most common tool for multi-sectoral data collection including livelihoods. Most of the organizations conducted multi-sectoral assessments with partial focus on livelihoods and agriculture-based livelihoods were reported more compared to off-farm livelihoods.

The major adaptations during COVID-19 were switching from in-person data collection to remote data collection, mainly relying on local partners; an adjustment of existing tools and methodologies; and increased use of innovative approaches such as use of satellite images and remote sensing. The

major challenges reported were difficulties in reaching some areas due to COVID-19 protocols and security in some countries; issues pertaining to remote data collection; less effective coordination among stakeholders, partially due to remote working; less funding for COVID-19 (especially at the start) and limited capacity of partners capacity for required data collection.

The major recommendations are further research especially at the end of pandemic for medium-long term economic recovery; strengthening government data collection capacity; strengthening holistic assessments covering all aspects of the livelihoods; effective coordination among stakeholders; use of harmonized tools and methodologies; strengthening contingency planning and timely funding availability.

1. Introduction

In July 2020, iMMAP and DFS initiated the “COVID-19 Situational Analysis project” funded by the BHA of USAID. The project provided a solution to the growing global need for information, assessment and analysis among humanitarian stakeholders. The project team was working towards strengthening the information flow available to the humanitarian actors to enable humanitarian organizations to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with focus on Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, DRC, Nigeria and Syria. During 2020, iMMAP teams have collected and aggregated and synthesized data from different sources to produce monthly situational analysis reports. The monthly reports were widely utilized and facilitated a better understanding of the humanitarian impact of COVID-19, and support partners in planning and targeting response operations amid the global crisis.

Since the start of the project, the focus was on secondary data collection to provide support to the humanitarian sector. This included identifying and aggregating data into monthly reports, and based on close collaboration with humanitarian sectors and clusters across the six project countries, the project identified gaps in the availability of quality data. The project, in conjunction with humanitarian actors, is well placed to identify lessons learned using a sector-based lens. These sectoral lessons learned will be useful for the humanitarian sector for effective response during COVID-19 and policy formulation.

The livelihoods lessons learned research has reviewed the project data and reports across the 6 project countries and produced this lessons learned report specifically for the livelihoods sector. In addition, primary data was collected through KIIs from livelihood/food security focal persons. The report provides an overview of the main data challenges (an overview and comparison of the number and type of assessments; main actors; methodology of assessments; quality metrics of assessments associated). An in-depth analysis (covering 6 countries) has been conducted of the challenges encountered over the pandemic period and the initiatives actors pursued to adapt to the new conditions.

The aim of the research was to come up with recommendations based on best practices that could be implemented in various contexts, especially countries of focus. In addition, cross learning between countries would also help in improving the data availability and quality resulting in effective and efficient response to COVID-19 and policy formulation for similar pandemics in future. The research through review of secondary information and KIIs addressed the following research questions:

- What has been the availability of data to the livelihoods Sector/ Cluster and how has this changed relative to pre-COVID-19?
- What has been the quality of data available to the livelihoods Sector/ Cluster and how has this changed relative to pre-COVID-19?
- What challenges have the Sector/ Cluster faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How has the livelihoods sector/cluster adapted to continue to provide services and support during COVID-19? What Lessons Learned are available to the livelihoods sector/Cluster. How will COVID-19 affect ways of working moving forward?

2. Methodology

2.1 Overview of methods

The report has used a mixed method approach mainly relying on already available secondary data. In addition, primary data was collected from Key Informants (KIs) and iMMAP country Offices focal persons during key informant interviews (KIIs). The approach helped in triangulation of the data and correction of missing information.

2.2 Data sources

2.2.1 Secondary data review

Review of the secondary data started from 8 July and continued during the research period (July and August). Following data sources were used for secondary data.

- a. **Data Entry and Exploration Platform (DEEP) data:** Reviewed the DEEP registry and consolidated data from DEEP registry for analyzing the availability and quality of the information on livelihoods during COVID-19 period. DEEP is a collaborative platform tailored towards humanitarian crisis responses such as COVID-19. Through a customized analysis framework, the information contained a large number of documents relating to COVID-19 is catalogued/tagged and can be analyzed and exported to a variety of formats. The DEEP assessment registry has catalogued existing assessment reports pertaining to COVID-19 for easy retrieval and availability of information.
- b. **Monthly Situation Reports:** iMMAP has produced reports since the start of the project from all six countries were reviewed for extracting the relevant information.
- c. **Review of the key reports:** Key documents relevant to livelihoods produced by UN agencies, government and NGOs were also reviewed to understand the methodology used for livelihoods data collection, analysis, and presentation. The list of key documents reviewed is attached as [Annex 1](#).

The secondary data available in Spanish and French was translated using DeepL and Google Translate.

2.2.2 Primary data collection

The primary data was collected from the following sources.

- a) **Key Informant Interviews:** With the support from iMMAP country offices, KIs were identified and interviewed for collection of the primary data during August 2020. The KIs were from UN Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) and Early recovery/livelihood clusters/Working Groups with the exception in Colombia where the REACH Initiative focal person was interviewed due to unavailability of cluster focal person. In Bangladesh and Syria, the same focal persons were interviewed simultaneously for both food security and livelihoods data collection as the clusters covered both food security and livelihoods. A total of five KIIs were conducted for this report.

A structured questionnaire in English (attached as [Annex 2](#)) was used for the interviews, which were conducted remotely in English using the Microsoft Office platform. Where needed, follow up questions were asked for clarity or more information. The questions mainly focused on knowledge and perceptions regarding the quality and data availability to

the livelihoods sector before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The perspective of KIs was also sought on challenges livelihoods sector faced, adaptations made and any lessons learned in the process. The researcher shared the broader questions and iMMAP's data privacy and security statement (attached as [Annex 3](#)). Otter.ai was used for recording and detailed notes taking during the interview and researcher also manually noted the main points of the discussion.

b) Data collected through PREMISE and RIWI

The report also used the primary data collected by iMMAP in collaboration with PREMISE and RIWI. PREMISE data (<https://www.premise.com>) utilized its crowdsourcing data collection and analysis platform to provide iMMAP with structured data and relevant insights in 13 sub-regions of Burkina Faso, 9 sub-regions of DRC and 3 crisis affected North Eastern states of Nigeria and through surveys to assess the effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods, employment, income, and coping mechanisms in order to compare it to historical data for programming decisions. In Nigeria the surveys were also complemented by interviews across 11 livelihoods categories.

RIWI technology (<https://riwi.com>) allows for the rapid capture and assessment of large samples of broad, truly randomized opinion and perceptions data on an ongoing basis from web users (18 years or older). iMMAP with support from RIWI collected data on the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods in Bangladesh, Colombia and Syria through online surveys focusing on income, employment and coping mechanisms.

2.2.3 Others

Throughout July, 2021, all six iMMAP country offices focal persons conducted remote inductions and presented the summary of data collected, analyzed and presented for all sectors including livelihoods during the project period. The researcher also asked additional questions about the livelihood sector for better understanding of the country-specific context. All the focal persons also shared the soft copies of presentations which were later used for extraction of the relevant information.

2.3 Data collection approach

The report has used a mixed method approach for data collection using both secondary data sources and primary data collection. The primary data collected was qualitative while secondary data was a mix of both qualitative and quantitative data. Data was collected for all aspects (quality, availability, adaptations, lessons learned and recommendations) of the report guided by the research questions.

3. Limitations:

1. The focus of the report is mainly on crisis/conflict affected areas and the findings/ recommendations may not fully apply to other areas which are only affected by COVID-19.
2. Most humanitarian organizations cover different aspects of livelihoods as part of their program and the report may not fully cover all the available information.
3. Livelihoods are impacted by multiple factors, and it is challenging to disentangle the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods separate to concurrent crises and trends.
4. The livelihoods data available is for the design and delivery of relief activities mainly focusing on cash support to the beneficiaries during COVID-19 and may not be fully relevant for medium to long term livelihoods economic recovery.
5. The data on different aspects of the economy and livelihoods was collected by different entities and in most cases a holistic picture, as required for the livelihoods sector, was not available.
6. The availability and quality of data varied across countries.
7. Most of the livelihoods related documents focusing on COVID-19 are available on DEEP but some of the documents may be missing.

4. Data Analysis

The quantitative data from DEEP consolidated by iMMAP for the livelihoods sector focusing on quality and quantity was further manually analyzed for different indicators/parameters (number of documents available, sources of data, data quality, sampling methodology, type of data collection techniques used, focus areas, affected group, unit of analysis and reporting) and corresponding global trends and variance were reported.

The qualitative data was manually analyzed. The key points from the review of the secondary data and KIIs were arranged and collectively analyzed as per the main report themes focusing on availability and quality of the data, lessons learned, challenges and recommendations. The review and analysis of the secondary data continued throughout the report writing period while the KIIs were analyzed immediately after the interview by extracting the main points of the discussion.

The draft writeup of the report started in August by populating and updating the relevant sections of the report as data was collected, reviewed, and analyzed.

5. Findings

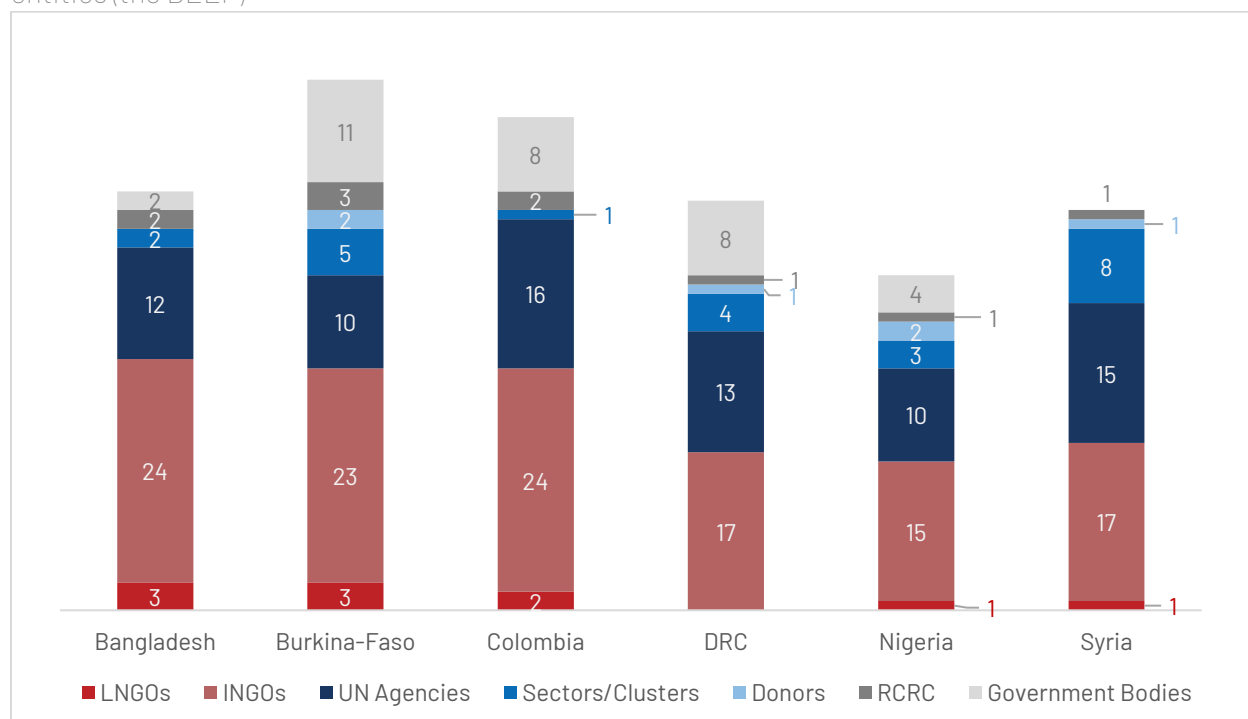
The main findings from the research are presented below.

5.1 Livelihoods Data Availability

Before the COVID-19, there were no major issues with the livelihoods data availability for program design, delivery and policy formulations except some areas with active conflict and restricted access due to security such as the conflict-affected states of Northeast states of Nigeria and some areas of Syria. In a few cases, data availability was constrained by government restrictions. The data availability was relatively better in areas where the UN and NGOs were working especially in humanitarian settings compared to other areas.

A significant number of documents (articles and assessments) have been produced since the start of COVID-19. As per iMMAP analysis the total number of documents fully or partially covering livelihoods sector collected and reviewed in all six study countries were 278 till August 2021. Overall, the highest total number of documents were produced by INGOs (120) followed by UN organizations (99), government (33). A smaller number of reports were produced by local NGOs, donors and other entities. **Figure 1** below shows the breakdown of documents by sources and countries.

Figure 1: No of livelihoods documents produced during COVID-19 (March 20- Aug 21) by different entities(the DEEP)



iMMAP, due to its presence in all countries of focus, also contributed to address the gaps in the livelihood data to support the humanitarian sector through using innovative and effective technologies for online data collection such as PREMISE and RIWI. Similarly, iMMAP also supported

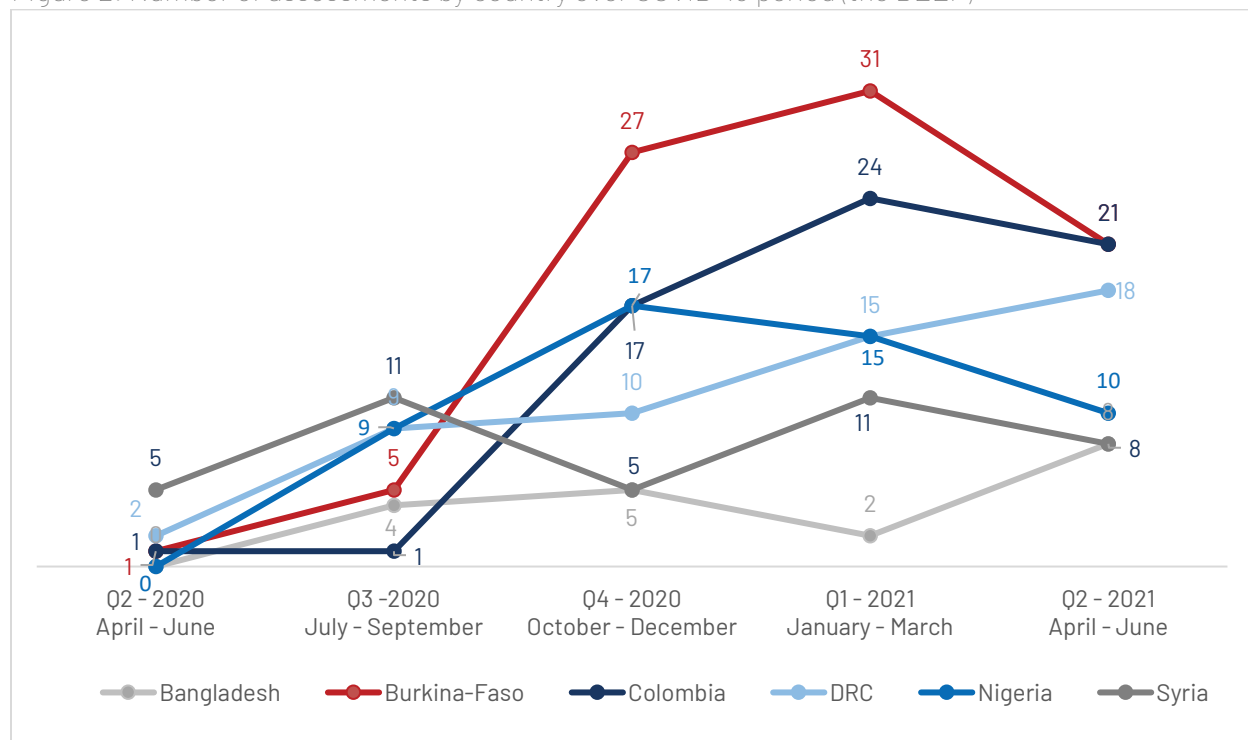
other organizations and FSL Cluster in livelihood assessment in Colombia, Nigeria and Syria. iMMAP also supported in coordination by hosting NGO forum in Nigeria.

After the sudden onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, there was limited livelihoods data available during Q2, 2020 as most of the organizations took time to fully understand the scale and impact of the pandemic, realignment and testing of data collection tools, methodologies and processes and developing SOPs/protocols for data collection, harmonization, and dissemination. iMMAP collected and analyzed the average number of livelihoods assessments per country which stood at 1.5 during Q2, 2020. The average number steadily increased from 1.5 to 6.5 in Q3, 13.5 in Q4 and 16 in Q1 2021. A minor decrease was observed during Q2, 2021 as the average number of reports available decreased from 16 to 14.

As evident from **Figure 2** below, a slightly different pattern for the number of assessments by quarter was observed in Syria and Bangladesh. The possible reason for this may be the different context specific humanitarian architecture in Syria and Bangladesh as compared to other countries. These assessments were also more coordinated amongst multiple partners and conducted systematically at particular times (such as Food Security and Livelihood Assessments are conducted in September in Syria). Similarly, in Syria the ongoing conflict, government restrictions, different modalities for data collection depending on access and control by the government, security situation may also impact the smooth data collection and availability.

The breakdown of assessments conducted by quarter and country is shown in **Figure 2** below:

Figure 2: Number of assessments by country over COVID-19 period (the DEEP)



Existing coordination mechanisms operating under humanitarian set up, mainly FSL and Early Recovery/Livelihood Clusters, played a key role in timely livelihoods data collection building on their experience and outreach. UNOCHA facilitated most of the multi-sectoral assessments whilst WFP provided longitudinal data on prices of essential commodities and Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and FAO provided information on agriculture-based livelihoods. Other UN agencies such as ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR provided livelihood information mainly on off- livelihoods.

NGOs also monitored the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods. REACH Initiative had the most prominent presence in all the countries and was involved in facilitating multiple assessments such as MSNA, Rapid Needs Assessments and evaluations. Governments with the support from donors were also involved in national level assessments. For example, in Burkina Faso, Colombia and Nigeria, Government departments monitored employment and market situations.

One of the most interesting case is PERC, a public-private partnership developed in response to COVID-19 and conducting multi-sectoral assessments including off-farm livelihoods in 20 African Union Countries including DRC and Nigeria. PERC member organizations are Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies, the World Health Organization, the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team and the World Economic Forum. Ipsos and Novetta Mission Analytics bring market research expertise and years of data analytic support to the partnership. PERC produced a series of useful reports based on both primary and secondary information with the technical support from multiple organizations.

The **Table 1** below shows the major data sources of livelihoods data by country, as identified by the researcher.

Table: 1 Major sources for livelihoods data by country

Country	Main data sources		
	UN	I/NGOs	Government
Bangladesh	1. Market monitoring (June 2020- April 2021), WFP 2. Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA): Refugee and Host Communities - Preliminary Findings, 1 October 2020, Inter Sector Coordination Group 3. FAO-WFP JOINT MARKET MONITOR, July 2021, FAO	4. COVID-19: Rapid Impact Assessment Report, May 2020, World Vision	-

BF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burkina Faso: Évaluation multisectorielle des besoins (MSNA): Rapport final, février 2021 2. Aperçu des besoins humanitaires 2021 Burkina Faso (draft), OCHA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. SEASONAL FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT – HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY ANALYSIS, March 2021, Save the Children and Oxfam 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Results from a High Frequency Phone Survey of Households Round 1 August 2020, Institut National de la Statistique et la Démographie The World Bank,
Colombia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. El impacto de la COVID-19 en las mujeres trabajadoras de Colombia, March 2021, ILO 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. El efecto del COVID-19 sobre la inclusión económica de los venezolanos en Colombia, October 2020, Centre for Global Development and Refugee International 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Mercado Laboral Mayo, monthly updates since Sep 2020, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística
DRC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USING DATA TO FIND A BALANCE SPECIAL REPORT SERIES: Economic burden of COVID-19 in Africa- Part 2, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), Sep 2020. 2. RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN AFRICA Finding the Balance PART III, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), Sep 2020. 3. Responding to COVID-19 in African Member States: DRC, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), March 2021 		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Moyens d'existence agricoles et sécurité alimentaire dans le cadre de la covid-19 - Rapport de suivi, Mai 202, FAO 5. Multi-sectoral assessments, OCHA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Aperçu rapide au 3 juin 2021: Évaluation rapide de fonctionnalité des marchés (8 Juin 2021), REACH 7. Monthly humanitarian situation reports, REACH 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Mesure de l'impact de la COVID-19 sur les unités économiques (Juillet and Août 2020), National Institute of Statistics (DRC)
Nigeria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USING DATA TO FIND A BALANCE SPECIAL REPORT SERIES: Economic burden of COVID-19 in Africa- Part 2, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), Sep 2020. 2. RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN AFRICA Finding the Balance PART III, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), Sep 2020. 		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. MSNA for conflict affected states, 2020, Inter Sector Coordination Group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Adamawa and Borno- Food Security and Livelihoods, Assessment of Hard- 	-

		to-reach Areas in Northeast Nigeria, Monthly reports, REACH 5. Situation Overview: Humanitarian Needs and Conflict Dynamics in Hard-to-Reach Areas in Borno State, Quarterly Reports, REACH.	
Syria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic (March 2021), OCHA 2. 2020 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan, Dec2020, OCHA 3. Yearly FSA/FSLA data collection and findings 4. Outcome monitoring initiative, August 2021 5. Market Price Watch bulletin, WFP 	6. Monthly fact sheets for NES and NWS,(Jan-April 2021) and Humanitarian Situation overview (Sep-Dec 2020), REACH	-

5.2 Livelihoods data quality

All the KIs were of the view that, overall, livelihoods data quality was good before COVID-19 in all countries and was sufficient to meet the requirements for program design, delivery and policy formulation. Throughout COVID-19, most of the countries were able to maintain the required data quality especially for short-medium term livelihoods support programming and KIs shared that the overall data quality steadily improved over COVID-19 period. During COVID-19, most livelihoods data was collected remotely. During the initial period the quality of the data was poor due to lack of protocols/coordination for data collection, switching from physical to remote data collection, low capacity of the partners, access restriction, security situation in some cases and lack of funding. However, the data quality improved over time and now most of the organizations have developed and tested procedures for remote data collection complemented by physical data collection, increased capacity of partners, better coordination and data sharing among organizations. The focus of the livelihoods data is more on food security and on-farm livelihoods compared to off-farm livelihoods, coping strategies and employment trends.

Most of the KIs shared that in most countries under the UN humanitarian set up, livelihoods sector data was mainly collected, analyzed and disseminated by the FSL Cluster led by WFP and participated by UN organizations, NGOs and Government organizations working on food security and livelihoods. Working Groups have been formed by UNOCHA under the inter-sector

coordination mechanism to provide support in specialized areas such as cash, assessments and information management. The Key Informants from Colombia and Nigeria shared that Assessment and Analysis Working Groups (AAWG) operating in Colombia and Nigeria are multi-sector, multi-stakeholder groups supporting coordinated, harmonized, initial, rapid and in-depth needs assessment, and harmonization of data collection to inform strategic and operational decisions related to humanitarian situations. Similarly, Information Management Working Groups (IMWGs) operating in some countries such as Nigeria also play a key role in analysis and presentation of the collected information. The main objective of the IMWG is to embrace new stakeholders, actors and techniques to further improve the collection, processing and dissemination of information to support improved decision making and to strengthen information used for humanitarian purposes by building on and improving existing inter-agency processes and tools.

Most of the organizations adjusted their existing methodologies/approaches for livelihoods data collection to cover the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihoods. The most common assessments were market monitoring¹ and Food Security and Livelihood assessments by FAO, WFP and ILO²; crops assessments, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)³ and agricultural data collection by FAO and Multisector Need Assessment (MSNA) by UNOCHA and REACH Initiative. The MSNA was referred to as the most reliable multi-sectoral assessment during COVID-19 partially covering the livelihoods sector. An MSNA was conducted in all focus countries using consultative process and standardized methodology for data collection and the focus was adjusted based on the gaps in information. The findings of MSNA are included in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) produced by OCHA which provides a comprehensive overview of the needs of the affected population for strategic planning. Some organizations such as REACH Initiative used context specific and improvised methodology for data collection such as Area of Knowledge (AoK)⁴ methodology for hard-to-reach areas.

iMMAP also provided support for information management and data quality improvement to clusters and organizations. In addition to regularly producing monthly situational reports, iMMAP was also directly involved in livelihoods assessments and data collection in Nigeria and Colombia and hosting of NGOs forum in Nigeria helped in practical lesson learning and improving data quality. Similarly, iMMAP supported the FSL Cluster in Syria for the bread bakeries mapping in two hubs. iMMAP also contributed to data quality improvement through collection and analysis of livelihoods data through use of innovative online technologies such as PREMISE and RIWI by covering all aspects of livelihoods (income, employment and coping strategies), broader

1 WFP's market assessments combine market-related data on prices, food availability and supply chains with the analysis of macroeconomic factors and government policies. Economic growth trends, exchange rate fluctuations, imports and exports, employment and inflation are key indicators. Additionally, geospatial information helps to analyze access to markets, including distances, and how insecurity or weather-related events, such as flooding, affect access (<https://www.wfp.org/market-analysis>)

2 ILO's market systems analysis (MSA) provides a deep but practical understanding of how a market functions, why it might not be serving the needs of a certain target group, and the root causes of underperformance within the market system to address decent work deficits in this regard (https://www.ilo.org/empent/Projects/the-lab/WCMS_744250/lang--en/index.htm)

3 FAO's The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is an innovative multi-partner initiative for improving food security and nutrition analysis and decision-making. By using the IPC classification and analytical approach, Governments, UN Agencies, NGOs, civil society and other relevant actors, work together to determine the severity and magnitude of acute and chronic food insecurity, and acute malnutrition situations in a country, according to internationally-recognised scientific standards (<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/en/>)

4 The methodology involves remote data collection with KIs from accessible areas who are either (1) newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month or (2) KIs who have had contact with someone living or having been in a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.).

geographical including non-crisis affected areas and segregation of data by age, gender, religious affiliation, ethnicity, primary language, marital status, living situation, presence of children in the home, employment status, financial situation, educational attainment, and residency classification (urban, peri-urban, rural).

Most (75%) of the livelihoods data collected and analyzed by iMMAP through the DEEP platform, was from crisis affected areas covering the affected group (70%) as humanitarian organizations were already working in crisis affected areas. Most of the livelihoods data was collected at community level and results were projected at regional and national level. Overall, the data was collected through mixed methods and in the reviewed documents by iMMAP, 66% of the assessments mainly relied on KIIs/individual interviews followed by Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)/Household interviews (28%) and review of secondary data (8%). Assessments were also conducted at regional level such as PERC and ILO conducted multi-country assessments for understanding the livelihoods patterns across different countries. Longitudinal data was collected in a few cases such as market monitoring by WFP and FAO and employment and economic trends by the Government of Colombia.

Data quality country specific challenges and variation observed are presented below:

5.2.1 Bangladesh

The review of the secondary information and Key Informant Interview indicates that the overall quality of the livelihood data did not change significantly from pre-COVID-19 situation especially in crisis affected areas due to the outreach and presence of humanitarian organizations and timely response. Most of the organizations have used mixed method approaches for livelihoods data collection and most of the data (70%) was collected and reported from primary sources. The primary data was mainly collected remotely through household interviews, KIIs and individual interviews while a limited amount of data was collected through FGDs. Most of the data was collected and reported at community and regional level with focus on Cox's Bazar, Southern Bangladesh where camps are established for Rohingya refugees. The focus of the data was more on refugees as opposed to the host population. Urban COVID-19 affected population and other vulnerable groups were covered by assessments.

Review of the primary and secondary data shows that livelihoods data is collected by multiple stakeholders including UN, NGOs and government. Under UN humanitarian architecture, both food security and livelihoods are covered by the FSL Cluster with major focus on food security/agriculture compared to off-farm livelihoods. FAO and WFP provided longitudinal data on prices of essential food items and the MSNA report is still in the process of finalization. World Vision conducted a rapid assessment across the country at the beginning of the pandemic which presented an integrated and comprehensive picture of the both on-farm and off-farm livelihoods, but less geographical areas were covered for livelihoods compared to other sectors and the needs may have been changed since the start of the pandemic. Similarly, the Refugee Influx Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) led by WFP in collaboration with FSL Cluster and other organizations (UNHCR, Save the children, World vision, BRAC and Government of Bangladesh) is also collecting longitudinal data on employment, markets and coping strategies disaggregated by gender and type of affected population (host and refugees).

5.2.2 *Burkina Faso*

Most of the data reported was from primary sources (95%) compared to the secondary data. The primary data was mainly remotely collected through mixed methods including FGDs, household and individual interviews. Innovative mechanisms such as satellite images were also used for reporting. Most of the data was from IDPs and COVID-19 hotspots and the results were projected for national level.

The main issues impacting livelihoods data quality were lack of accessibility to most vulnerable areas affected by the crisis, lack of gender disaggregated primary data, relatively low capacity of partners and trained staff and rushed data collection process especially in crisis affected areas to avoid delay in delivery of required support. In addition, government restrictions on the type of data to be collected and used also posed challenges. The government data collection process was slow and, in some cases, full access to all data collected was not possible.

5.2.3 *Colombia*

The data quality for the livelihood sector for both pre and post COVID-19 was good compared to other sectors because of the existing systems, involvement of the government and recent census done in 2018 which provided a good baseline for comparison. The majority of data was collected from primary sources (70%) using KIIs, household and individual interviews and remaining was from secondary sources. The data is collected and reported at higher administrative levels (district, regional and national) levels. The major focus of the data is on impact of the COVID-19 on livelihoods sector (both on-farm and off-farm) as seen from the longitudinal data on employment and markets reported from across the country by Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística. Innovative mechanisms for data collection such as remote sensing were also used.

Early Recovery and Livelihood Cluster is mainly responsible for off-farm livelihoods assessments. The Assessment Working Group is also functional and helps in standardization of tools and methodologies. National level data on livelihoods was available from other sources such as ILO and NGOs focusing on both urban and rural areas through an inclusive approach. MSNA is currently ongoing in Columbia and results will be available later in the year. Although MSNA partially covers livelihoods (approximately 10%) but is expected to provide a holistic picture and address gaps in the livelihoods data.

5.2.4 *Democratic Republic of Congo*

Overall, the data quality has improved over COVID-19 period. Most of the livelihood related data (98%) is from primary sources mainly KIIs. Most of the information is from the community and regional level with focus on displaced population and results projected for provincial and national level.

The FSL Cluster is covering both food security and livelihoods sectors and both FAO and WFP have adapted their tools such as market monitoring, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Food Consumption Scores to cover the impact of COVID-19. The focus on data is more on on-farm livelihoods compared to off-farm livelihoods. The data was collected through a limited number of assessments mainly from crisis affected and COVID-19 hotspots focusing on both urban and rural areas. However, the PERC conducted assessment has covered some of the data gaps.

5.2.5 Nigeria

Overall, the quality of the data during COVID-19 was poor to medium compared to the pre COVID-19 situation when the data quality was considered to be good according to KIs. At the start of COVID-19, the data quality was considered not good and has steadily improved over the COVID-19 period since mid-2020 as protocols for remote data collection were developed and tested for data collection and dissemination. Almost all the livelihood data (98 %) was collected from primary sources. The major tools used for data collection were KIIs and household interviews at community level in COVID-19 hotspots and crisis affected states in the Northeast of the country. The focus of the data was on the humanitarian situation, COVID-19 containment measures and impact of COVID-19 (scope and scale). The results were projected for regional and national level.

The Early Recovery and Livelihood cluster has been functioning in Nigeria since 2015 and was leading on providing livelihoods data in collaboration with the partners. However, the cluster mainly relied on the data from other organizations as it did not have its own data collection tools, both for the nature of its intervention and for partners presence, sometimes scattered across the region. No regular data was collected for the livelihood sector and mainly relied on MSNA for which data collection was done remotely during 2020. The cluster is currently assessing the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and the economy. Smaller sample of respondents was selected due to resource constraints and information was collected in different languages. The agriculture-based livelihoods data was collected by FSL Cluster and is disintegrated by age, gender and population type and off-farm data collected by Early Recovery and Livelihood cluster.

5.2.6 Syria

The KIs were of the view that the overall livelihoods data quality was good before COVID-19 due to extended outreach by organizations and effective and tested coordination mechanisms. Almost all livelihoods data was collected remotely from primary sources through KIIs and household assessment or interviews. For KII the data was mainly collected at community level and regional level and projected for corresponding 3 distinct regions (Government held areas, Northwest Syria and Northeast Syria). The main focus of the livelihoods data is on IDPs, returnees and host communities.

The humanitarian architecture for the livelihood sector is different from other countries and the agriculture sector is mainly led by the FS Cluster. Before the COVID-19 most of the data was collected remotely due to access and security issues and no major challenges were faced in fully switching over to remote data collection during COVID-19 except additional cost, training of partners and time. However, remote data collection was relatively less accurate and reliable compared to in person data collection due to delays in approval from relevant authorities, different areas controlled by different groups and displacement resulting in more time and cost for data collection. The food security and livelihood data was mainly collected through a mix of methodologies including Food Security and Livelihood Assessments, Food Security Assessment, MEB, Market monitoring, agriculture price monitoring and MSNA. Data for income generating activities, employment trends, sources of livelihoods and expenditures was also collected.

5.3 Adaptations

The major adaptations for livelihoods information during COVID-19 were: switching from in-person to remote data collection, coordination and management; increased reliance on local partners and their capacity-building; adjustment and testing of the tools and methodologies based on learnings;

digitization and visualization of the data and use of innovations in some cases such as satellite images and remote sensing reported by KIs and DEEP data. The Cluster Coordination and other working group meetings which were held in person before the COVID-19 were changed to remote meetings. Similarly, most organizations switched to work from home modality with only key staff working from the offices when required. The country specific adaptations are presented below mainly based on KIs:

5.3.1 *Bangladesh*

- Switched from in-person to remote working, coordination and data collection. Only key staff worked from the office, when required, and most of the staff worked from home. The FSL cluster meetings were held online with almost similar participation as in-person meetings held before the COVID-19. During COVID-19 most of the data was collected remotely, as per developed protocols.
- During the process a lot of learning and remote working modalities were tested and refined. Based on learnings during COVID-19 most of the organizations are now using hybrid model of both working from home and offices as per need of the organization and have also slowly switched to mixed model of remote and in person data collection, where feasible.
- Less and more focused data were collected using fewer tools and working in smaller groups focusing on the COVID-19 hotspots and vulnerable areas (host populations and IDPs) keeping in view the available resources (times, funds and staff), connection issues and in some cases the privacy concerns and consent required.

5.3.2 *Burkina Faso*

- Remote data collection during COVID-19 and strengthening of coordination such as for USAID funded projects a separate coordination forum was established to ensure synergies based on learning from similar programs.

5.3.3 *Colombia*

- Comparative studies were conducted to assess the impact of COVID-19 in both crisis affected areas and non-crisis affected areas.
- The AoK methodology was used to collect data for hard-to-reach areas as explained in section 5.2.
- Data was collected from both individuals and households at different levels (municipality, department and national) to cover the diversity and variation.

5.3.4 *Democratic Republic of Congo*

- Existing data collection such as IPC, market monitoring and MSNA were adapted to cover the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods.
- Change in beneficiaries' registration mechanism from manual to IRIS biometric registration as per protocols developed during COVID-19 to ensure the safety of the staff and beneficiaries and improved transparency.
- Equal focus on data collection from rural to urban areas and methodologies adapted accordingly for data collection in urban settings as the demographic and livelihood patterns significantly varied in two contexts.

- Innovative methodologies such as satellite images were used for assessments especially to assess the changes in crop coverage during COVID-19.

5.3.5 *Nigeria*

- Smaller samples were selected for KIIs and FGDs due to resource constraints and time extended for data collection as remote data collection required more time than in person data collection mainly due to non-responses, connectivity issues, time required for understanding the questions and training of partners.
- More partners were involved in data collection due to capacity issues of existing partners and large geographical coverage.
- Capacity building and support to partners provided in understanding and following the protocols for remote data collection.

5.3.6 *Syria*

- No significant adaptations as most of the remote data collection and coordination mechanisms were already in place before the COVID-19 and were further adjusted and refined for COVID-19

5.4 **Cross-Cutting Challenges**

The major challenges faced during COVID-19 were restricted access due to COVID-19 protocols; lack of SOPs for remote data collection and dissemination at the start of COVID-19; lack of effective coordination among stakeholders; security issues in some countries; lack of funding and low capacity of the local partners. Country specific challenges are presented below.

5.4.1 *Bangladesh*

- The coordination mechanism between stakeholders, especially Inter-sector coordination for standardization of methodology and tools were not fully effective due to remote meetings, evolving situations and different organizational procedures.
- Less access to the affected population due to COVID-19 protocols and associated services such as child friendly spaces were also affected.
- Funding issues at the start of COVID-19 due to sudden onset and unpredictability of the situation and the funding situation improved with time.
- Remote data collection was affected due to internet connection issues in some places and in some cases access to/ownership of mobiles phones especially for women.

5.4.2 *Burkina Faso*

- Large scale displacement of the population was a challenge for tracking the respondents, especially for longitudinal data collection and change in their status.

5.4.3 *Colombia*

- Remote data collection was time consuming and impacts the quality due to challenges in contacting respondents, low response rate due to the unavailability/apprehensions of the respondents and fully understanding and administering the questionnaires. Similarly, testing the tools and trainings for partners also required additional time.

- Most organizations faced challenges in the remote building capacity of partners and supervising their work.
- Internal migration also created challenges in tracking the respondents, especially for longitudinal data collection.
- Most of the organizations faced resource constraints (time, funds and staff) required for data collection. However, the situation improved with time.

5.4.4 *Democratic Republic of Congo*

- Vast geographical and access/security issues in some areas posed challenges for remote data collection.
- The MSNA was not conducted in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and the remote crops assessment was not done properly due to its technical nature and requirement for some physical data collection.
- Organizations faced issues in connecting and communication with stakeholders due to remote working
- Collaboration among stakeholders was not satisfactory mainly due to remote coordination, competition for resources and organizational specific procedures which in some cases resulted in overlapping and could not ensure the required synergies.
- In some cases, appropriate indicators were not selected for the remote assessments during COVID-19
- The required level of funding for assessments was not available which affected the availability and quality of the data.
- The data collection by the government was not systemic and advanced due to lack of required capacity including fully recognizing the value of the data for the delivery and planning of the programs .

5.4.5 *Nigeria*

- The Early Recovery and Livelihood cluster doesn't have its own data collection tool, both for the nature of its interventions and for the scattered partner's presence across the region. The cluster usually conducts data collections with a specific geographical focus or in case of an event-related phenomenon. For these reasons, it mainly relied on data from other sources and clusters. No regular data was collected by the cluster and mainly relying on MSNA conducted remotely during 2020.
- Lack of required resources for the livelihoods assessments, and security issues in some areas, impacted the availability and quality of the data.
- Some restrictions were imposed by the government for data collection at the start of COVID-19 which impacted the availability of the data and with time the restrictions were relaxed when the protocols for COVID-19 were developed.
- Livelihood data collection was not a priority at the start of the COVID-19 due to uncertain situations, especially for how long the pandemic will continue and expected economic impact.
- Participation of respondents was less in FGDs as it was challenging to arrange and facilitate remote sessions compared to KIIs.

5.4.6 Syria

- COVID-19 further compounded the large-scale protracted crisis in Syria and organizations were further stretched to provide the required support.
- In most cases approval was required from relevant government authorities and in some cases delays in approvals resulted in not conducting assessments as planned.
- The context instability and volatile security situation posed challenges for data collection as it was challenging to reach respondents and engage them in the assessments.
- Different local authorities and displacement on a large scale. The three humanitarian hubs established for the distinct regions need a different approach depending on the context. Similarly due to large scale displacement reaching and tracking respondents was also challenging.
- Humanitarian actors are based in different locations, mainly 3 hubs formed for the whole of Syria which pose challenges for effective coordination due to different locations of the hubs and different contexts.
- Humanitarian assistance is time sensitive and based on the need assessments. In some cases, delays in assessments resulted in not delivering the appropriate support or delays in delivery.

6. Lessons learned and best practices

During COVID-19, different approaches and methodologies were piloted. Below are some of the major lessons learned and best practices, most of them apply across sectors.

1. iMMAP through COVID-19 Situational Analysis Project has used DEEP platform developed by Data Friendly Services (DFS) for collection, consolidation and, analysis of COVID-19 related information coupled with timely dissemination through monthly situational reports and other means which addressed the gaps in the available information. DEEP is a useful interactive platform for making available all the livelihoods related data. Similarly, iMMAP in partnership with PREMISE and RIWI also used innovative remote data collection and analysis tools.
2. Direct involvement of iMMAP in livelihood assessments and data collection in Nigeria, Colombia and Syria and hosting of NGOs forum in Nigeria helped in practical lesson learning and improving data quality.
3. Existing coordination mechanisms operating under humanitarian set up such as FSL and Livelihood and Early Recovery clusters played a key role in timely and quality data collection building on their experience and outreach. However, it was observed that the existing humanitarian setup could not fully cover the livelihood sector as in most cases food security and livelihood were covered by FSL Cluster and the focus was more on rural agriculture-based livelihoods. Early recovery/Livelihood clusters where existed were helpful in collection of off-farm livelihoods data collection.
4. During COVID-19 more focus of assessments was on health and effectiveness of measures put in place for curtailing COVID-19. On the economic side, most of the data was collected for short term livelihoods interventions such as cash grants and additional data is being collected or will be collected at a later stage for medium-long term support when the pandemic is over.
5. Assessment and Analysis Working Groups operating under humanitarian set up in some countries such as Nigeria and Columbia were helpful in standardization of tools for assessments and cross learning between sectors and provided support to different clusters for quality data collection.
6. Joint initiatives such as REACH Initiative also played a key role in addressing the gaps in the sector specific data through data collection, analysis and presentation building on their experience and presence in most of the research countries. For example, REACH Initiative conducted MSNAs, market monitoring and conducted studies on impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods. In addition, longitudinal data was collected which helped in better analysis of the trend and changes in the context. REACH Initiative also used improvised data collection tools such as Area of Knowledge methodology especially for areas which are not accessible.
7. Public-private partnerships formed in response to COVID-19 such as PERC proved effective in providing multi-country data and tapping on resources and expertise from multiple organizations.
8. Most of the organizations piloted remote data collection and use of appropriate tools as physical data collection was challenging due to COVID-19 measures and protocols. The methodology and tools were refined over time based on the learnings and now some

organizations are using both remote data collection and where feasible, complemented by physical data collection. In addition, shifts from traditional/conventional data collection tools to more interactive digital data collection, analysis and presentation were piloted.

9. During COVID-19, existing methodologies (approaches and tools) for data collection and dissemination were modified according to context such as MSNA which was commonly used were adapted to cover the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and other sectors.
10. Shift in focus by development organizations from rural areas to urban areas where most of the affected population was concentrated especially for economic development activities.
11. Livelihood problem tree used by iMMAP in situational reports is helpful in getting a holistic understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood sector.
12. Most of the organizations fully switched to online registration and cash transfers to beneficiaries through appropriate safe and accessible channels.
13. The local partners were more involved in the process and their capacity built accordingly will help in more effective and efficient information gathering for similar situations in future.

7. Conclusion/ Discussions and recommendations

The COVID-19 pandemic was mainly health-related but hugely impacted the economy due to measures taken for curtailing the pandemic. The unprecedented nature of the pandemic posed huge challenges but at the same time provided opportunities for learning, innovation and improvisation especially for data availability and quality. The pandemic is not over yet and following recommendations are based on the learnings so far.

1. The lessons learned at this stage would help in short term livelihood recovery interventions such as cash transfers, but it would be helpful to document all the lessons learned once the pandemic is fully over for medium-long term economic recovery.
2. During COVID-19, it was observed that most of the governments lacked capacity for systematic and structured data collection for livelihoods sector as compared to other sectors. Due to broad coverage and existing institutional set up, the capacity of the government should be reinforced through trainings and provision of relevant technology to lead data collection in case of similar pandemics in future on almost similar pattern as Colombia. A dedicated department having the capacity should be responsible for livelihoods data collection through use of innovation and modern data collection tools such as digital data collection, use of satellite images and GIS. Colombia is one of the examples where a reasonable system for livelihoods data collection existed.
3. Coordination among all key stakeholders (Government, UN Agencies and Civil Society Organizations) should be strengthened and ideally government through a dedicated unit or department with the support from UN, NGOs and donors should lead the centralized and harmonized data collection through agreed common methodology and few effective, efficient tools and SMART indicators. Assessment Working Groups operating in some countries should support the standardization of approach, methodology and tools in all countries.
4. The existing humanitarian set up should adjust its approach for responding to pandemics of such scale and nature for more broader coverage and harmonized data collection. The UN cluster system should nominate a dedicated cluster and mechanism for livelihoods sector as in most cases the livelihood cluster was not existing or addressed under FSL Cluster. The early recovery/Livelihood cluster led by UNDP which in other emergencies mainly become fully functional at recovery and rehabilitation stage should be activated from the start in such situations where the economic impact is huge and further aggravates with the passage of time.
5. The humanitarian coordination system focusing only on crisis affected areas should also extend their capacity to reach non-crisis affected areas and urban areas to have a better understanding of livelihoods.
6. The contingency planning should be further strengthened and more than one modality for data collection should be included based on the scenario planning. The use of innovative online data collection technologies such as PREMISE and RIWI should be further tested and included in plans. The availability and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should also be included in the contingency planning.
7. The recently jointly established epidemic and pandemic intelligence hub by World Health Organization and German Government in Berlin funded with initial \$100 million investment from the German government should be further supported and strengthened by funding from other donors, participations from other key stakeholders and including the monitoring of livelihoods/

economic dimensions where the epidemic and pandemic have significant impact on livelihoods.

8. More investment is needed in risk mitigation and insurance for the beneficiaries and funding mechanisms should be established for immediate mobilization in case of such pandemics for consistent collection of the required data.
9. Due to dynamic and cross cutting nature of the livelihoods, an overarching approach and methodology should be adopted to fully comprehend all aspects of impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and economy (macro/micro, urban/rural, off-farm and on-farm, impact on different groups especially men and women). The livelihoods recovery recommendations should be provided for short, medium and long term.
10. Fewer tools should be used for remote data collection and the surveys should be shortened to address some of the challenges (resources , privacy, consent and connectivity issues). To ensure the quality of the data, the data collection process should be paused after covering at least 10% sample to review the quality and make any adjustments required. Follow up and more investment is required in building capacity of the local organizations for remote data collection, coordination and working.
11. In most cases livelihoods is covered as a sub-sector under multi-sectoral data collection or assessments such as MSNA. In pandemics such COVID-19 with huge economic impacts, the livelihoods sector should be covered in more detail compared to other sectors.
12. Baselines and longitudinal data collection would help in understanding livelihood trends and changes over time for better informing the programs and policy formulation.
13. As unskilled wage labor especially in the agriculture sector is seasonal, so livelihoods assessments should keep this under consideration to get a better understanding of agriculture-based livelihoods.

8. Annexes

Annex 1: List of documents reviewed

Country	Documents reviewed
Bangladesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: Market Monitor (June 2020–April 2021) 2. Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA): Refugee and Host Communities - Preliminary Findings, 1 October 2020 3. COVID-19: Rapid Impact Assessment Report, May 2020, World vision 4. FAO-WFP JOINT MARKET MONITOR, July 2021, FAO
BF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Aperçu des besoins humanitaires 2021 Burkina Faso (draft), OCHA 6. SEASONAL FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT – HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY ANALYSIS, Burkina Faso, March 2021, Save the Children, Oxfam, USAID, EU 7. The Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso 8. Results from a High Frequency Phone Survey of Households Round 1 August 2020, Institut National de la Statistique et la Démographie The World Bank
Colombia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Mercado Laboral Mayo, June 2020, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística 10. El impacto de la COVID-19 en las mujeres trabajadoras de Colombia, March 2021, ILO 11. El efecto del COVID-19 sobre la inclusión económica de los venezolanos en Colombia, October 2020, Centre for Global Development and Refugee International
DRC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moyens d'existence agricoles et sécurité alimentaire dans le cadre de la covid-19 - Rapport de suivi, Mai 202, FAO 2. Aperçu rapide au 3 juin 2021: Évaluation rapide de fonctionnalité des marchés (8 Juin 2021), REACH 3. RESPONDING TO COVID-19 IN AFRICA Finding the Balance PART III, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), Sep 2020. 4. Responding to COVID-19 in African Member States: DRC, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), March 2021 5. Mercado Laboral Mayo, monthly updates since Sep 2020, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística
Nigeria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. USING DATA TO FIND A BALANCE SPECIAL REPORT SERIES: Economic burden of COVID-19 in Africa- Part 2, Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 (PERC), Sep 2020. 13. Adamawa and Borno- Food Security and Livelihoods, Assessment of Hard-to-reach Areas in Northern Nigeria, April 2020, REACH

	14. Situation Overview: Humanitarian Needs and Conflict Dynamics in Hard-to-Reach Areas in Borno State, April - June 2020
Syria	15. Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic (March 2021), OCHA 16. 2020 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan, Dec2020, OCHA 17. OMI (outcome monitoring initiative)
others	18. Youth and COVID-19: Impact on Jobs, Education, Rights and Mental Well-being, Survey report 2020, ILO 19. A UN framework for the immediate Socio-economic response to COVID-10, April 2020, United Nations

Annex 2: Lessons Learned Livelihoods – Key Informant Guide

Introduction

Hello, thank you for meeting with me today! My name is Jehangir Khan and I am talking to you on behalf of *iMMAP*. I believe you are aware of the COVID-19 Situational Analysis project being implemented by *iMMAP*. The project provides a solution to the growing global need for information, assessment and analysis among humanitarian stakeholders.

After several months of producing monthly situational analysis reports, the project is well placed to report upon lessons learned over the last **11** months. This study is a sector-based lens with a focus on lessons gathered regarding data quality and availability that will improve humanitarian service delivery and learn for the future. Specifically, we are interested in your perceptions regarding the quality and data availability to livelihoods sector before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also interested in hearing about challenges your sector faced, how you have adapted and any lessons learned in the process.

Please note that we will not share your name or any other identifying information with anyone. We will collect answers from you and analyze them collectively, not individually. You are free to refuse to participate in this interview or to withdraw at any time during the interview. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions.

In order to help me capture everything we discuss today, I would like to audio record our discussion. The recording can be stopped at any time and will be destroyed once the report is finalized. Do you agree?

I will also take notes as back up in case the recording fails.

I appreciate you sharing information with me.

Do you have any questions? If you have no questions for me now, I will begin the interview.

Data availability

What has been the availability of data to the Sector/ Cluster and how has this changed relative to pre-COVID-19?

- What was the data availability before the pandemic?

- How would you overall rate data availability for the livelihood sector during COVID-19 period?
1: Very poor 2: Poor 3: Medium 4: Good 5: Excellent
- Reasons for your rating above?
- What were the main sources of livelihood data for the sector during the Pandemic?
- Walk me through how data availability changed during the pandemic?
- As I mentioned in the introduction, we would like to understand your perceptions of factors that influenced data availability – positively and negatively.
[Probe for: resource limitation;]
- Let us reflect on data availability challenges in your sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
[Probe for: delay, data integration,]

Data quality

Next, let us discuss data quality during COVID-19 pandemic.

Data of a higher quality are more useful while as poor-quality data often lead to poor decisions;

- What was the data quality before the pandemic?
- How would you overall rate the quality of livelihood data for the livelihood sector during the pandemic compared to pre-COVID-19?
1: Very poor 2: Poor 3: Medium 4: Good 5: Excellent
- Reasons for your rating above?
[Probe for: timeliness; completeness, consistency, relevance, reliability]
- What were the main data sources for the livelihood sector given the challenges of COVID-19?
[Probe for primary data collection and assessments]
- Did the available data, covered both on-farm and off-farm livelihood and all associated sub-sectors?
[Probe for, disaggregation,]
- How has the quality of data changed during the pandemic?
[Probe: Standardization,]
- In your opinion, what are some data quality challenges in your sector that can be specifically attributed to COVID-19 pandemic?
[Probe for: delay, data integration, data management]

Adaptations

Now let us consider adaptations the Sector/ Cluster made in order to continue to provide services and support during COVID-19.

- Reflecting on the challenges mentioned above regarding data availability and quality, the sector must have experienced challenges in providing services in the backdrop of limited data. What are some ways the sector/cluster adjusted to mitigate them?

[Probe for communication/ collaboration between sectors; shared analysis/ dashboards;

Lessons Learned

Reflecting on the challenges and adaptations discussed above; what Lessons Learned are available to the sector / How will COVID-19 affect ways of working moving forward?

- In the livelihood sector, share with me some best practices that have emerged during the pandemic to uphold data availability and quality.

[Probe for: planning and coordination, data capture systems, data sharing, inter-sector data sets]

Recommendations

- Finally, I would like to hear your recommendations on how the sector could ensure and sustain data availability as we move forward in this era of COVID-19 and beyond for similar situations?
- Also share your opinion on how the sector can ensure data quality during and beyond COVID-19 pandemic for similar situations.

[Probe for: standardization, collaboration, prioritization, support for data infrastructure]

Annex 3: Data Privacy & Security Statement

Ensuring data privacy intersects across all stages of the methodology. As a means of ensuring data privacy of key informant interview responses, a number of safeguards will be established throughout the data collection stages including reporting. The participants' understanding of the terms and conditions of surrounding data privacy and how the data will be used should be made clear before the interview. Informed consent will be ensured through the use of a Participant Information Statement describing the aims, objectives, and methods of the project clearly, and participants will be asked to give verbal consent indicating their understanding and acceptance of the requirements.

Measures taken to ensure data privacy and ongoing informed consent of participants:

- Request for interview through iMMAP email
- Request for interview to be recorded
- If interview is recorded, transcription may go through <https://otter.ai/> (if in English)
- Key informants are informed that all data collection and storage devices will be password protected with a strong password.
- Key informants are informed that anything divulged in the interview would be treated with the utmost confidence and not shared with any other parties outside the study team.
- Key informant data, including identifying information such as name, title, and employer, will be anonymized. Key informants will each be assigned a unique identifying number and name and position will not be disclosed.
- Key informants will be informed that the interviews will be recorded and that recordings were being taken solely for the purpose of transcription and translation. Participants will be informed that audio files would be deleted 90 days from the date of the interview.
- Audio files and transcription notes, or interview notes will be labeled with unique identifying numbers; no identifying information will be used to label these files.
- Information provided by participants will be turned into an aggregation. For example: "of the 10 interviews conducted, 60% of respondents felt that..." The data will be exclusively represented and presented in this context.
- Key informants are informed of their right to withdraw consent at any time – including before, during or any time after the interview prior to production of the final report.
- Key informants are informed that, unfortunately, they would be unable to withdraw consent once the data they provided has already been published.
- Key informants are informed that the Lessons Learned Researcher would be available after the interview should they wish to make any changes, amendments, requests or for further inquiries.
- Participants will be provided with a copy of the audio file of the recording of their own interview. Participants are welcome to listen to their recording and report any amendments or corrections to the researcher.

- Request that, when relevant, sections of the interview notes and/or recordings be shared with other iMMAP Lessons Learned researchers or Thematic Experts to support development of global overview of humanitarian data landscape and adaptation of humanitarian organizations. If this data is requested, the responsible researcher will provide a copy of data to be shared with the KI first for their approval and redactions.
- The KI is informed that the researcher has signed a confidentiality agreement with iMMAP.

The outbreak of disease caused by the virus known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) or COVID-19 started in China in December 2019. The virus quickly spread across the world, with the WHO Director-General declaring it as a pandemic on March 11th, 2020.

The virus' impact has been felt most acutely by countries facing humanitarian crises due to conflict and natural disasters. As humanitarian access to vulnerable communities has been restricted to basic movements only, monitoring and assessments have been interrupted.

To overcome these constraints and provide the wider humanitarian community with timely and comprehensive information on the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, iMMAP initiated the COVID-19 Situational Analysis project with the support of the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA), aiming to provide timely solutions to the growing global needs for assessment and analysis among humanitarian stakeholders.



BETTER DATA | BETTER DECISIONS | **BETTER OUTCOMES**

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Scan to access the website