

COVID-19:

Key considerations for donor agencies

Prioritise those furthest behind first

Support those most marginalised to protect themselves and stay resilient throughout the crisis. Engage well-placed community partners to analyse and design holistic responses that address key issues: food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, housing insecurity, and access to basic health services.



Localise and collaborate

Understand and adapt to the political dynamics at national and local levels, to identify where interventions can help to build positive solidarities that support those furthest behind. Adopt more adaptive, flexible, and collaborative approaches for organisations with substantive community ties. Be prepared for less short-term and more long-term measurable impact.



Establish firm foundations for comprehensive social protection

Link support for social protection with policies and investments across complementary sectors – infrastructure, education, health and nutrition. Prioritise disproportionately affected groups, such as children, informal workers, rural agricultural households, pastoralists, migrants, internal displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees.



Build the resilience of food systems

Increase the capacity of food systems to withstand shocks and safeguard sufficient, appropriate and accessible food for all.

Support holistic responses, informed by diverse voices, which address nutrition through multi-sectoral approaches, including gender, food security, WASH, and social protection.



Lay the groundwork for transformative approaches in the immediate response

Ensure that short-term responses address vulnerabilities and are focused on meeting the needs of people and groups marginalised by multiple, intersecting inequalities. This can lay the groundwork for resilient systems in the recovery and post-crisis phases.



Coordinate with key actors and across sectors

Agencies and departments must work together to get money to where it is needed and improve efficiency of spending. Ensure messages are aligned and that governments and civil society groups work together. Forming regional alliances may ensure better coordinated responses.



Strengthen health systems

Focus on maintaining core essential services in health systems struggling to cope during the outbreak – including maternal and child health and essential immunisation programmes – so that no one is left behind. Engage community partners in strengthening basic services to meet longer term health needs.

