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REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR MONITORING COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

August 2022

SDGs:



Countries: Regional Latin America and the Caribbean

Project Code: TCP/RLA/3801

FAO Contribution: USD 500 000

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Implementing Partners

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Latin American Federation of Supply Markets (FLAMA, by its acronym in Spanish), national governments, the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA, by its acronym in Spanish) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Beneficiaries

Governments, parliamentarians, the private sector, academia, indigenous communities, the rural population and, in general, organized civil society.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

Strategic objective

SO1: Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

SO5: Increase the resilience of agricultural livelihoods at risk of disasters.

Regional Initiatives

RI1: Food systems.

Priority Areas

PA2: Most vulnerable people nutrition.

PA4: Resilience to agri-food systems.

PA6: Increase investments.

Effects

The countries of the region adopt and implement public policies and programs that resolve or mitigate the failures in food systems as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, guaranteeing food supply and access for all.



BACKGROUND

The health crisis generated by COVID-19 in LAC has highlighted the need for countries to generate and share robust evidence of effective technical assistance, of information for coordinated decision-making in risk mitigation, as well as an in-depth dialogue between all the parties involved.

This scenario caused a series of demands from LAC governments mainly through their Ministers of Agriculture, to which it has been tried to respond through this project. The aim was to respond to the demands and a specific request from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, by its acronym in Spanish), for the preparation of a study on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on food security in the region, with particular emphasis on family farmers and the most vulnerable rural populations, as well as recommendations for its mitigation.

The recovery of the region will depend on the effectiveness of the measures with which each country confronts the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of: i) public health; ii) social protection and stabilization; iii) production-distribution of food and services; iv) the implementation of effective communication systems, and v) the adoption of behavioural changes or pertinent behaviours by all members of society.

IMPACT

Latin American and Caribbean countries use timely information, ensure sustainability of food systems and take measures for the proper functioning of markets selling food commodities and their derivatives in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The management of the project was adapted to the progress of the pandemic and the needs of the countries, since its magnitude exceeded what was foreseen in the formulation.

A great effort was made to gather technical information from the region, headquarters, and other agencies, with the aim of providing specific technical information, recommendations, and relevant experiences for the beneficiaries on various topics.

The project carried out was very varied in its scope (33 countries) and developed products; thus, it was not possible to carry out a focused or specific action for one country, but in general an attempt was made to advance with all of them through a diagnosis, information, mapping and policy recommendations.

More than 12 000 people involved in the project were reached through newsletters, webinars, public-private roundtables, and communities of practice, to deliver technical recommendations in various areas, in accordance with the demands of the beneficiaries.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

The Project was carried out over eight months, which included the hiring of experts, consultants, publications, letters of agreement and event translation services.

Some activities were not carried out due to impossibility or because they had already been carried out; note that the pandemic worsened during the year, therefore some activities had to be modified or added.

Everything was executed with the planned budget in the estimated time. Funds from activities not carried out were used in others.

Risk management was done periodically, closely followed by the task force group and the field team. All activities were carried out virtually, so there were no environmental risks.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Spaces for discussion, reflection, and public-private decision-making on a regional scale should be consolidated. This process will be promoted by the project indicating leadership in the field of countries in the region that can carry out these multilateral political processes.

Countries are urged to continue seeking and adopting the necessary measures to allow the supply and access to food by the population, since the pandemic still has a profound impact.

The policies depended on the countries, so there will be some that will continue to be closely supported by the FAO, for example, the School Feeding Programs.

Government structures are recommended to continue adopting the recommended policies such as dialogue tables, direct transfers, food policies or health measures, among others.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

Some of the initiatives recommended by FAO were adopted in the private sector, and also by cooperatives, creating or strengthening alliances. In areas such as youth organizations, progress was made on an agenda to face the effects of the pandemic, considering the guidelines and recommendations of the FAO.

2. Gender equality

The participation of women was promoted in various dialogues, technical roundtables, and webinars. The gender issue was addressed in publications on the effects of the pandemic in several matters where women could be particularly exposed to the pandemic — such as the labour market, markets, and biosecurity.

3. Environmental sustainability

Due to the contingency, all activities were virtually.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

The project carried out various activities to promote the rights of all individuals, especially the right to food, which were listed throughout several instances to enable the supply and access to food to all inhabitants of the region, as well as biosafety protocols for food system workers.

5. Technological sustainability

The objective of the project was rather to communicate and generate information on policies, evidence, and recommendations so that the countries could face the pandemic.

Through various communication channels, an attempt was made to reach governments, academia, and civil society as quickly as possible.

6. Economic sustainability

The countries mobilized resources to maintain programs such as school meals, value chains, tariff measures or the opening of markets, among others.



DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- FAO/ECLAC. *Bulletin: Food Systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/covid19-y-sistemas-alimentarios/boletines/en/>.
- FAO-FLAMA. *Bulletins: Wholesale Markets: Action against COVID-19*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/covid19-y-sistemas-alimentarios/boletines-fao-flama/en/>.



- Series "The agri-food system and the challenges of COVID-19". Available at: <http://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/covid19-y-sistemas-alimentarios/boletines-sistema-agroalimentario/en/>.
- High Level Dialogue Virtual Seminar, "Agri-Food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: new scenarios and opportunities post COVID-19". Available at: <http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1311303/>.
- Videos Wholesale Markets. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/covid19-y-sistemas-alimentarios/boletines-sistema-agroalimentario/en/>.
- Microanalysis - The pandemic in numbers. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/covid19-y-sistemas%20alimentarios/pandemia-en-numeros/en/>.

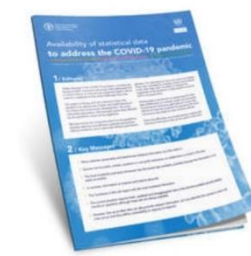
Microanálisis - La pandemia en números



Serie "Sistema agroalimentario y los desafíos que trae el COVID-19"



Special edition



Availability of statistical data to address the COVID-19 pandemic

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	LAC countries use timely information, ensure sustainability of food systems, and take measures for the proper functioning of markets selling food commodities and their derivatives in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis (SDGs 1; 2; 11; 12)		
Outcome	The countries of the region adopt and implement public policies and programmes that resolve or mitigate the failures in food systems resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, guaranteeing food supply and access to all people		
	Indicator	Number of countries adopting and implementing public policies and programmes arising from this TCP that aim to ensure the proper functioning of food systems, currently negatively influenced by the COVID-19 crisis.	
	Baseline	0	
	End Target	13	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	During the implementation of the project, more than 12 000 people were reached through various strategies such as the publication of bulletins with policy recommendations, dialogue forums, webinars, and communities of practice. Countries are urged to continue to seek and adopt measures according to their needs to enable the supply and access to food for the population, as the pandemic is still hitting countries in the region very hard.	
Output 1	The region's governments, producers, members of parliaments, the private sector, academia and organised civil society have timely, online, real-time information to make informed decisions and reduce uncertainty for producers, traders and consumers		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weekly regional electronic bulletin, with analysis of the situation and macroeconomic situation, main local and regional indicators, monitoring of the effects on the functioning of food supply systems, and the initiatives developed by regional governments to guarantee access to food for the population, especially for the most vulnerable segments (women, indigenous people, etc.). – Online data system for selected Caribbean states (SIDS) for collecting and accessing information that allows for robust analysis of the state of food systems at the national level, their value chains, their weaknesses, the varieties of risks to which they are exposed and the implications of negative system-wide effects, as well as generating policy recommendations on how, when and why to intervene in a system under both normal and extraordinary conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 24 bulletins. – 1 SIDS. 	Yes
Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 0 bulletins. – 0 SIDS. 		
Comments	Fluid communication was established with governments, which allowed us to listen to their demands and needs on an ongoing basis and, as the pandemic developed, bulletins on various topics were developed, including policy recommendations, policy implementation, quantitative evidence of the situation and field experiences, which allowed us to provide timely information to governments and FAO partners.		
Activity 1.1	Set up a regional task force to monitor the information that will be useful for the content of the bulletin		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	An editorial team was formed for the electronic bulletin and, with the support of ECLAC, was constantly monitoring new information, studies, publications, etc. that were used as input for the bulletin's content. An editorial committee was also formed, comprised of experts from the regional and sub-regional offices, in charge of providing feedback and review prior to publication.	
Activity 1.2	Definition by a Technical Committee (Task Force) of the information to be monitored and included in the bulletin		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The Task Force was defined as a regional participatory body for monitoring the situation caused by the pandemic, which met weekly and then fortnightly. This body made it possible to gather information on the main requirements of the countries, from which the issues addressed in the bulletins emerged throughout the year.	

Activity 1.3	Mapping of existing information systems and databases at the regional level	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 1.3	Comments	<p>Work was carried out on a weekly basis to collect quantitative information on the effects of the crisis, initially from the press, due to the lack of data caused by the contingency itself; then, as the information became available, databases were set up to monitor the effects of the crisis on food systems.</p> <p>A special edition of the FAO-ECLAC Bulletin Availability of statistical data to address the COVID-19 pandemic was also published, aiming to generate evidence on open data sources that would allow governments, civil society and institutions to monitor and conduct analysis on the effects of the pandemic in their countries and sub-regions.</p>
	Preparation and publication of the Bulletin	
Activity 1.4	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>An editorial team was formed, supported by ECLAC experts and FAO experts for every topic covered in each edition.</p> <p>The series of bulletins Food Systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean was launched with the objective of providing an updated analysis with data and recommendations for informed decision-making and timely response to the COVID-19 crisis and the disruptions that affected the agri-food system. Seventeen bulletins plus a special edition were published. These addressed various topics such as resilience, trade, labour market, digitalisation, among others. All are available in English and Spanish.</p> <p>The bulletins were sent directly to around 10 300 employees and strategic partners via email. According to Altmetrics data, as of 15 December 2020, six of the bulletins were among the top 50 FAO publications, with bulletin N° 8 The opportunity for digital transformation having reached around 2 million people.</p>
Activity 1.5	Development of a system for data management, information and analysis of relevant information for the Caribbean Sub-Region	
	Achieved	No
Activity 1.5	Comments	Data management and information analysis were centralised by FAO Rome and in the region by ECLAC. The latter developed the "COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean" that compiles and makes available both the public policies that the 33 countries of the region are implementing to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the analysis of the economic and social impacts that these will have at the national and sectoral level.
	Development of studies and data analysis for the Regional electronic bulletin	
Activity 1.6	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Case studies and regional studies were conducted according to the information available for the economic and social indicators monitored in the various topics covered in the bulletins. The main obstacles were the limited availability of data and delays in their publication, due to the difficulty of carrying out measurements and/or surveys during the pandemic.

Output 2	Key actors in the region's food system have information on good practices that incorporate a gender perspective for efficient and safe food management, including markets operation, sanitation measures, information, and price control to address speculation, among others		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face, blended learning and virtual training events that disseminate good practices, with a gender perspective incorporated, to be adapted to the realities of key actors in the food system. A monitoring tool that improves the logistics of transport, collection and distribution, tackling Food Loss and Waste (FWL) and maintaining a smooth operation of the implemented market places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 instances. 1 tool. 	Partially
Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 instances. 0 tools. 		
Comments	<p>FAO bulletins, communities of practice and technical bodies provided technical information to various sectors, governments, and the private sector. Issues of supply, markets, and FLW were given priority according to the needs that arose during the pandemic, while other issues were postponed due to the pandemic, such as activities related to strengthening official animal and plant health services or strengthening the technical capacities of the Public Supply Systems (SPAA, by its acronym in Spanish) on the integrated use of SIMMAGRO and ASIS.</p>		
Activity 2.1	Development of protocols and training for food chain workers		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>This issue was addressed in Bulletin 4 of the FAO and ECLAC series Food systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Health risks; safety of workers and food safety, which analysed the health risks to which people involved in the food system value chain are exposed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>On the other hand, a series of FAO and FLAMA Bulletins Wholesale Markets: Action against COVID-19 was published in which around 90 wholesale markets in 17 countries of the region were surveyed on a regular basis. The first two editions focused on a series of recommendations, actions, and solutions to address the pandemic in wholesale markets, for traders and consumers in general. For the same purpose, a series of five videos on self-care and cleanliness recommendations in wholesale markets were published in four languages (Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French), aimed at traders, consumers and other service providers in the food chain.</p> <p>FAO Chile was also supported as part of a roundtable (the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), FAO and other government actors) that worked on the elaboration of a guidance document for free fairs in 2020 in the context of COVID-19.</p>	
Activity 2.2	Strengthening the capacities of official animal and plant health services in the region to prevent a disruption of the food chain considering the ONE HEALTH strategy (animal-human-environment interaction)		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	<p>Due to the COVID-19 contingency, everything related to strengthening the capacities of the Official National Laboratories in Animal Health and Food Safety had to be rescheduled. These activities will be carried out from this year 2021.</p>	
Activity 2.3	Private food sector shares and disseminates good practices in food marketing, with a special focus on fresh and healthy products		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>The third edition of FAO and FLAMA bulletins Wholesale Markets: Action against COVID-19 summarises a series of marketing measures or alternatives to guarantee supply during the COVID-19 pandemic, the main bottlenecks in markets operation during the pandemic, surplus management, and the social role of wholesale markets.</p> <p>A study was carried out to identify positive incentives for the supply of and access to healthy food for the population, through financial instruments and investment for companies in the food sector in LAC.</p> <p>Under the Technical Cooperation Project "Innovations of civil society (consumers) and the private sector to promote the consumption of healthy foods and face overweight and obesity in South America", in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, innovative private sector instruments were systematised to promote the consumption of healthy foods and address overweight and obesity in each of the seven countries. Support was provided for the development of workshops in each country, in which some of these initiatives were presented, with the participation of actors from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society.</p>	

Activity 2.4	Identify, systematise, and disseminate consumer awareness campaigns led by representatives of the private sector	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 2.4	Comments	Bulletin N°10 of the FAO and ECLAC series Food systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Food consumption patterns and malnutrition presented the experiences of countries in which public and private actions were implemented to encourage the consumption of healthy food in the population; as a matter of fact, due to the pandemic, consumers have tended to prefer less nutritious, less fresh, and cheaper diets. The impact of the Chilean law on food labelling on the food production sector evaluates the response of the food production sector in Chile concerning the implementation of the Law on food labelling. It was carried out jointly with the Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology of the University of Chile (INTA, by its acronym in Spanish).
	Identify and validate supply chain management practices, using FLW as a gateway, during the COVID-19 crisis	
Activity 2.5	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Bulletin 9 of the FAO and ECLAC series Food systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: How to reduce food loss and waste analysed the impacts, experiences and a series of policy recommendations to face the new challenges posed by the pandemic in relation to the FLW due to mobility restrictions and border and road closures, interruption of school programmes, etc.
Activity 2.6	Strengthen the technical capacities of the Public Supply Systems (SPAA, by its acronym in Spanish)) on the integrated use of SIMMAGRO and ASIS to improve decision-making on price information and early warning in crisis situations	
	Achieved	No
Activity 2.6	Comments	This activity was not carried out, as the focus was on identifying gaps and opportunities that were generated by the pandemic or that already existed in the countries, and then proposing agendas to provide specific solutions to crisis scenarios.
	Design and development of an online course for wholesale market operators in the region to improve the management of the region's supply centres	
Activity 2.7	Achieved	No
	Comments	Although the online course was not conducted, three communities of practice were held, which allowed for capacity building through an exchange of information and experiences between representatives of wholesale markets, FLAMA and regional and local FAO representatives. A total of 12 meetings were held, with the participation of 572 participants from wholesale markets in 18 countries of the region.
Activity 2.8	Technical assessment for the design of an "Abasto en línea" platform for e-commerce in six wholesale markets in the region based on the experience of the region	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 2.8	Comments	A survey of wholesale markets on new marketing modalities adopted during the pandemic was conducted, identifying gaps and opportunities, and identifying national agendas to address country-specific issues. Seventeen countries and more than 90 wholesale markets participated. A virtual knowledge exchange with the Brazilian experience was also organised, where the experience of e-commerce and the inclusion of family farming in wholesale markets was shared. The third edition of the FAO and FLAMA bulletin Wholesale Markets: Action against COVID-19 summarises a series of marketing measures or alternatives to secure supply during the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Elaboration of a Manual of good practices implemented by wholesale markets and public supply and marketing systems in the region (FLAMA - RED SPAA) to ensure food supply in the face of COVID-19	
Activity 2.9	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	A series of good practices to ensure the functioning and protection of workers in wholesale markets are described in Bulletin 1 of the FAO publication Wholesale Markets: Action against COVID-19, and five guidance and good practice videos were published to ensure the functioning of these markets. A script for public supply and marketing systems was not produced.

Activity 2.10	Strengthen regional spaces for dialogue between governments to maintain or promote intra-regional food trade		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	In order to strengthen the spaces for dialogue, a series of virtual instances were developed. One of these took place in the framework of the celebration of World Food Day 2020 and the commemoration of the 75 th anniversary of FAO, where a virtual seminar was held for high-level dialogue on "How to recover and transform agri-food systems". The objective was to convene relevant actors of food systems and to design an institutional response to the demands of the countries that arose during the pandemic. Panel 5 entitled "Agri-food Systems and Trade" discussed issues related to opportunities and challenges for trade facilitation.	
Output 3	The region's governments, members of parliaments, the private sector and organised civil society have a digital platform for monitoring public policy, which allows them to make informed decisions and exchange lessons learned on policy implementation		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	– A functioning digital platform for monitoring public policies, including those that facilitate or regulate distribution, storage, strategic stockpiling, industrialisation, food markets and retail, supply chain, marketing strategies, and those that incorporate data disaggregated by sex, age range, race/ethnicity, to name a few, and are developed with a gender focus.	– 1	
	– The digital platform has a virtual space for ministerial meetings which is used to interact and discuss public policies.	– 1	Partially
	– Countries in the region can access the platform in real time, including a public policy matrix.	– 10	
– The digital platform has a virtual space to disseminate and share initiatives from the private sector, academia and members of parliaments that promote access to healthy food for all people.	– 1		
Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 		
Comments	The platform was not developed because, as the months went by, other platforms were implemented that provided updated information on the pandemic in the region, which saved resources that were channelled to other initiatives. A constant dissemination of information was achieved through multiple channels, using social networks and also the official FAORLC website, where a section was created with all the material related to COVID-19.		
Activity 3.1	Design, development, management and maintenance of a public policy monitoring platform		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	FAO did not design a new platform but used the ECLAC website "COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean", which compiles and makes available the public policies that the countries of the region have adopted to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic together with an analysis of the economic and social impacts that these will have at national and sectoral level. FAO cooperated with information for this observatory.	
Activity 3.2	Dissemination of information contained in the platform: webinars, virtual discussion forums, etc.		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	The intention was to disseminate the information generated in the fastest and most timely manner possible, which is why social networks such as Twitter and YouTube were used, as well as the dissemination of forums, workshops, webinars and bulletins. They were also published on the FAORLC website throughout 2020.	

Output 4	The countries of the region have studies and analyses of the impact of COVID-19 on food system, as well as a series of public policy strategies		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food security, prepared, distributed and socialised in countries of the region.	1	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	A large amount of information was disseminated through various instances and publications; also, alliances were established with other institutions and within FAO, which made it possible to deliver recommendations from different perspectives to provide countries with strategies and recommendations on different topics. The major obstacle to implementing the policies and recommendations was the economic difficulty of the countries, as the economies of the region were hard hit by the pandemic and were unable to finance all the recommendations made by FAO.		
Activity 4.1	Elaborate the report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on food security in CELAC countries		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Within the first bulletin of the FAO and ECLAC series Food Systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: A first look at impact and country response, a preliminary analysis of the effects of the pandemic on the agri-food systems was carried out. Bulletin 17 Food Systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Recovery with transformation: a mid-term overview analysed the effects of the pandemic on the regional agri-food system and presented some initiatives and ideas on what to do to recover and transform regional agri-food systems.</p> <p>Information was also collected through the Task Force and a box was written for the Regional overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 on the possible effects of the pandemic on undernourishment and food security.</p>	
Activity 4.2	Preparation of technical notes, studies and analyses with specific policy recommendations on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the main components of food systems in the region		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>The following case study were developed: “<i>Políticas de protección social sensibles con la nutrición para promover dietas saludables en países de América Latina y el Caribe: los casos de Argentina, Chile y Uruguay</i>”. “<i>Recomendaciones de mejoras en el diseño, ejecución, seguimiento y evaluación de políticas públicas</i>”. The aim was to evaluate the design, results and impact of three healthy eating initiatives: “<i>Tarjeta Alimentar in Argentina, Tarjeta Verde in Chile, and Tarjeta Uruguay Social in Uruguay</i>”.</p>	
Activity 4.3	Development and implementation of tools to assess the impact of COVID and global socio-economic crises on FNS and livelihoods at the local level, with a view to designing livelihood recovery interventions		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>It was published in the FAO and ECLAC series: Food Systems and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Contingency plan for an eventual food supply crisis aimed at helping decision-makers to prepare strategies that enable them to face an unprecedented crisis. A series of online conferences in the framework of the Food systems and COVID-19 series were also held, sharing experiences, good practices and examples of public policies to assess the crisis and design interventions to enable the recovery of livelihoods. Some of these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – COVID-19 and its impact on food and agriculture. – How to strengthen food production in the context of COVID-19? – Enabling agricultural investment in the Caribbean for an effective response and post-COVID-19 recovery. – Post-COVID-19 sustainable recovery: the role of agriculture and rural areas. <p>A conceptual note and the structure of a surveillance system were developed, which allows gathering information to monitor interruptions in the supply chain, improving the information available, whose ultimate goal is to raise alerts and recommendations associated with situations that may cause food loss. This arose in the context of monitoring the impacts of COVID-19, in which numerous events occurred due to market closures or mobility restrictions.</p>	

Output 5	The public and private sectors have spaces for dialogue to promote the development and implementation of technological innovations, focused on contact and exchange between producers and buyers of food and its derivatives, and other tools that help the proper functioning of food systems		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Face-to-face and/or virtual dialogue instances involving the private sector, which are used to interact and discuss technology development and implementation.	1	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>In this context, several instances were developed to allow for dialogue. All of them took place virtually due to the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Four regional consultants were hired to provide technical assistance and support dialogues with FAORs and government authorities on strategies for implementing public policies to address the pandemic in eight countries in the region: Belize, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru. A Letter of Agreement (LOA) was signed with the Foundation for Agricultural Technology Development and Forestry of Nicaragua (FINICA, by its acronym in Spanish), and financial support was provided to El Salvador. – Two Hemispheric Meetings of Ministers of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries were held in cooperation with IICA, aiming to generate a space for dialogue on the policies and actions deployed, in terms of supply, agriculture and the functioning of agri-food systems. – The high-level dialogue virtual seminar "Agrifood systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: new scenarios and opportunities post COVID-19" was held in order to bring together relevant food systems actors to design an institutional response to the demands of the countries that emerged from the pandemic. 		
Activity 5.1	Space for dialogue with the private sector		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>It was implemented through the national agendas promoted by the regional consultants. These developed proposals for initiatives and investments in various areas such as strengthening family farming, guaranteeing food security and nutrition for the population, among others. For example, a proposal was developed for the programmatic, operational and budgetary structure of a Strategic institutional plan for food and nutritional security (PEISAN, by its acronym in Spanish), in support of the post-COVID-19 recovery in Guatemala, as well as a sustainable agricultural transformation plan for food security in El Salvador.</p> <p>A webinar was held with the Latin American Association of Supermarkets (ALAS, by its acronym in Spanish), in which challenges and some proposals for work and coordination with ALAS were raised.</p>	
Activity 5.2	Establish a community of practice with food system actors (national and sub-national governments, companies, civil society) for the exchange of practices and information on COVID-19 crisis management and socio-economic recovery		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Three communities of practice were held with wholesale markets, which allowed for capacity building through an exchange of information and experiences between representatives of wholesale markets, FLAMA and regional and local FAO representatives. Topics addressed included: supply chain information systems, price information systems, good sanitary and preventive practices in relation to COVID-19, management of surpluses and food banks, inclusion of products from family farming, responsible employment, product traceability and e-commerce.</p> <p>Another instance that allowed for the exchange of information on crisis management was the survey "Food Systems and COVID-19 - Municipal Response to the Emergency", which gathered information from 17 countries on the effects, measures, responses and coordination schemes to keep the local territorial food system active in the face of COVID-19.</p>	

Activity 5.3	Analysis of opportunities for the application of digital information resources such as bigdata for the development of sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	An assessment was carried out with an expert in big data and, together with the information obtained from the Task Force, the effects of the pandemic on digital media and social networks were monitored permanently to develop effective responses. Under this objective, a public access tool was designed in which a dashboard allows new alerts to be displayed on Twitter on various topics such as trade, economic situation, employment, social programmes, supply, among others, for the countries and/or sub-regions of LAC. A total of 19 editions of the series "Microanalysis: The pandemic in numbers" were published, which consisted of a quantitative analysis of the impacts of the pandemic on trade, labour market, food prices, poverty, agricultural production.
Activity 5.4	Systematise the findings, lessons and practices of the Community of Practice (CoP)	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The information from the community of practice of wholesale markets was systematised, a working agenda was established, and a final presentation was made with all the findings that were achieved during these instances of dialogue.
Activity 5.5	Promote the use of e-commerce as a tool to support small producers in opening markets and insertion in value chains	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The third issue paper of the series "Food system and the challenges of COVID-19" – "Food e-commerce: situation and perspectives were published, describing the momentum of e-commerce in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic". It also discusses future prospects and recommendations for the development of this marketing mechanism in a way that is fair to all components of the agri-food system.

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

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