Main Discussion Points

1. Opening

- **DCA** chaired the meeting today. On behalf of the civil society group, the co-chair gave an overview of several COVID-19 impact assessments that have been conducted, including CARE’s rapid gender assessment, PIN and DCA’s assessment of small and medium enterprises, PIN’s assessment in Phnom Penh’s 4 Sangkats, Plan’s assessment of children and young people, Save the Children and RCCE’s assessment of children’s understanding, knowledge, attitudes and practices toward COVID-19, and World Vision’s assessment in its target areas.

- **WFP** provided updates on 3 key areas.

  (1) Logistics services and supply chain management: WFP circulated an online survey to various NGOs and UN organizations and will share the results soon. For international supply chain, the government responded positively to support the humanitarian services into Cambodia for both cargo and people. So far, there is no demand to utilize the global hub for supply management and more commercial flights to PNH will start again in July.

  (2) 3Ws: HRF’s 3Ws is useful in tracking where and how HRF members are responding and can assist in better coordination. The UN has also introduced a 3Ws focusing specifically on socio-economic response in Cambodia. The idea of extending the 3Ws to the sub-national level is welcomed by the Ministry of Interior, but the current 3Ws at the national level is not effective for that purpose yet.

  (3) HRF secretariat did not yet receive any inputs from sector groups on contacts of the working groups in the government and development partners to respond to the COVID-19 and how each sector group can be better connected to those working groups to align the responses.

Actions/Way Forward

- HRF members should share assessment reports with the HRF secretariat for posting on the HRF website.

- WFP will share the supply chain assessment results and follow-up with interested organizations on next steps.

- Sector members should update the 3Ws regularly.

- WFP will continue discussions with the Ministry of Interior on a 3Ws framework that could be effectively self-managed at the sub-national level by those who want to be part of the system.

- Sector leads will collect and share with the HRF secretariat information on the government’s and development partners’ working groups to see how HRF could be aligned with those groups for wider coordination.
2. Covid-19 context and national response update

- **FAO** presented the findings of the rapid assessment on COVID-19 impacts on agriculture and food security. Key findings included:

  (1) Food supply is generally strong, and food availability is not a concern in short and medium term, though pig supply has suffered from the impact of the African swine fever.

  (2) The demand side is largely affected by the immediate collapse of the tourism and hospitality industry, together with the altered household demand as a result of income loss and other constraints resulted from the containment measures. Even though food prices remain largely stable (except for the imported foods), households’ economic access to food (i.e., food affordability) is not, particularly among the vulnerable households.

  (3) Food-related businesses at all scales suffered from the plummeting demands both at the industry level and at the household level. Some optimism is seen in trade in rice and other crops abroad.

  (4) Small-holder households already resorted to borrowing (24% of the surveyed respondents) from either MIF or the private loaners, selling their assets, and other negative coping strategies for food consumption purposes—which could lead to longer-term problems.

  (5) Respondents expressed they want help regarding economic access to market, provision of agricultural inputs and capacity development programs in production and financial capacity, financial assistance in the form of grant or loan with lower interest rates, and infrastructure support in terms of irrigation and water storage facilities.

  (6) Challenges: (a) While government placed a lot of emphasis on the agricultural sector, it is now reducing the budget allocated for the sector—which is a challenge. (b) WFP raised concerns over the practicality of the government’s strategies to promote local vegetable production and small husbandry at a time when demand plummeted. The earlier drought conditions and upcoming flood risk season may pose significant challenges.

**Assessment Report** FAO

- **World Vision** presented the findings of their assessment. Key findings included:

  (1) Livelihoods: 72% of the respondents reported having either lost or reduced their income, particularly workers from the garment industry, construction, returning migrants, petty traders, small scale farmers, and households with debts as a result of COVID-19 fear of contamination, rules on social distancing and overall low economic activity. Coping strategies included borrowing from other people

- **World Vision** will focus their priorities on (a) food security through cash transfers, food distributions and nutrition programs, (b) livelihood and income generation

- **FAO, MAFF and CARD** will (1) work on policy brief and recommendations for agriculture and food security; (2) map out the commitments of each institution on those recommendations; and (3) design a more detailed assessment and contribute to a recovery plan for the agriculture, food security and nutrition sectors.
(only 1/5 borrowed from formal MFIs), reducing meal consumption, and selling of productive/household assets, among others.

(2) Food security: Over 70% reported to be only partially able to meet food expenses; over 1/3 had no food stock at home; and drought has affected their agricultural activities. Coping strategies include reduced meal intake and consuming less expensive food.

(3) Education: Home learning is very challenging for children in terms of limited availability of learning materials and limited support. Technological barriers such as internet connectivity and cost were found to not be the highest challenges. Findings seem to set light on the linkage between school closure, school dropouts and child labor.

(4) Other impacts: Domestic burdens increase as 57% of the respondents reported parenting to become more challenging. Water availability for daily use is not a problem despite the drought implications, but may respondents are giving low priority to personal hygiene and the use of water for their latrines => awareness raising efforts should continue to improve these practices. Access to health facilities is more difficult since the beginning of the outbreak, more studies are needed to understand access to health facilities among pregnant women and children below 5.

Assessment Report World Vision

3. Sector Updates

3.1. Food Security and Nutrition

- DCA and WFP presented the following updates: sector coordination meetings have been held; a rapid joint assessment was shared with HRF members; group members’ individual assessments are still ongoing; a high-frequency social impact assessment led by UNICEF and partners will be conducted 6 times between July and December, this includes a FSN module; UNDP has produced model-based estimates of economic impact; the Government’s Covid-19 cash transfer program will be launched soon.

- FSN sector members have provided assistance, including food, cash, WASH, hygiene, etc. These are recorded in the HRF 3Ws template. Updating the 3Ws is time-consuming, and members have asked if the updates could be done only down to district level, leaving the commune level update to the HRF secretariat. Sector co-leads have also requested partners to fill in the HRF’s 3Ws as well.

- WFP is now working on the construction of safe evacuation centres in several flood-risk areas around the Tonle Sap Lake and will reach out to the health and WASH sectors.

- Sector leads will better link with other sectors, such as health, WASH, and shelter, and connect with social protection/social assistance actors.

- Sector leads will discuss minimum cash/food response package and advocate to government for standard response package(s).

- Sector members and partners will do more in-depth observations and consultations on the ground before deciding on response options (as the results of assessments are not adequate).
3.2. WASH

- **World Vision** presented the following updates. Sector held a coordination meeting to update their activities using the HRF 3Ws, share findings of assessments, and plan for the next 6 months.

- Sector also coordinated with many NGOs who work on WASH and also coordinated with IOM to discuss the WASH needs in the quarantine centres; for the latter, they have also proposed the design of the WASH stations in the centres.

3.3. Shelter

- **IOM** presented the following updates. Sector is focusing specifically on the response in the quarantine centres. They are now working together on a rapid assessment on the centres, focusing on health care facilities. The assessment targets around 25 hospitals, and they would also like to focus on two types of quarantine centres: formal referral hospitals and schools. Now, the team is coordinating with authorities and relevant sector groups such as health and WASH to collect information and see how they could coordinate the response. The team does not have information on the number of people kept in the quarantine centers.

- Sector will finish the guidelines for quarantine sites, and information on the quarantine sites will be shared with HRF.

**Presentation** [Shelter sector](#)

3.4. Health

- **WHO** presented the following updates. Cambodia is still in scenario 1 (imported cases) and has a total of 128 confirmed cases, 90 of which acquired overseas. Of the total, there were no deaths, and 126 recovered and discharged from hospital. Currently, the nation has three labs with the capacity for 12,000 tests/day.

- The country’s leadership and coordination are generally responsive, with National COVID-19 Committee convened on 18 March 2020 and chaired by PM, and inter-ministerial committee, line ministry committee, and provincial COVID-19 committees—all established to monitor and combat the spread of the virus.

- Currently, WHO’s health focus has been on strengthening the surveillance, active case finding and contact tracing, in partnership with CCDC, WHO, US CDC, MSF, FHI360, and IPC. Field missions have been made to provinces to support such actions. Community-based surveillance has also been piloted to strengthen early case detection.

- WHO’s priorities going forward include but are not limited to expanding the lab capacity, introducing social/physical distancing measures, strengthening health system readiness for response particularly at the sub-national level, protecting vulnerable populations, supporting local government leadership and coordination, etc.
3.5. Education

- **Save the Children** presented the following updates. Sector has completed the joint workplan and priorities on continuous learning between INGOs and technical working group. They will continue to support continuous learning in pre-, primary, and secondary schools.

- Their assessments and intervention mapping have been ongoing. They are also drafting the ‘back to school’ campaign, and, together with school health department, are developing a booklet for safe and healthy learning environment.

- MoEYS and UNICEF are procuring supplies for all schools, including disinfection materials, soap, mobile handwashing stations, etc.

- UNICEF is working on the EU's 2 million Euro fund top-up to the Capacity Development Partnership Fund for MoEYS for use in COVID-19 supply and continuous learning.

- Recently announced national budget cut in the coming year could have significant impacts on the education sector. Already at the subnational levels, there are reports of contract teachers’ salary freeze.

**Presentation Education Sector**

3.6. Protection

- **UNICEF** presented the following updates. A national Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) meeting was organized and chaired by MoSVY to discuss the 2020-2021 contingency plan and other plans on sub-group coordination, case management and alternative care, mental health and psychosocial support to children, and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). CPiE contingency plan has been translated into Khmer, and it is now being reviewed, revised, and submitted for the minister to endorse.

**Presentation Protection Sector**

4. Wrap-Up and Looking Forward

- HRF members discussed the implication of the upcoming flood risk season on the COVID-19 response and how best to include these potentially simultaneous shocks in future HRF meetings, i.e., whether members prefer to cover both in the same meeting or have separate meetings. Sector leads/co-leads will discuss this issue within their sector groups and partners both at the national level and sub-national level first before deciding on which one is better. Joint meeting with NCDM on flood preparedness is also proposed.

- Sector leads/co-leads were requested to inform the HRF secretariat of the date and agenda of the next sector meetings. The next HRF intersectoral meeting will be organized after these are held.

- Education sector will prepare and share documents related to the sector to HRF for wider circulation and will coordinate more with other sectors.

- Education sector will reflect on how the broader economic impacts may ultimately affect the team’s continuity of the work in the education sector and what kinds of assistance may be needed from the humanitarian community.

- Protection sector members will review the COVID-19 response work plan, to update their activities to include the latest number of their beneficiaries, geographical coverage and timelines.

- HRF secretariat will follow-up with sector co-leads on dates of next sector and intersectoral meetings as well as flood preparedness agenda.

- HRF secretariat will follow-up with NCDM on flood preparedness meeting