

## 5. BSFP, GFD or Specialised Food distribution adaptations in the context of COVID-19 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Version 1.0

There is a risk of skewing the COVID-19 response too heavily towards health, risk communication and IPC. Whilst measures here are obviously essential, we must be mindful that the risk of death or disability from existing morbidities, could potentially far outweigh the risks associated with COVID-19. As such, where possible, programs focused on malnutrition prevention, should be scaled-up where possible and/or adapted throughout the COVID-19 response period, using simplified or modified protocols and platforms to maintain interaction. Note, key message dissemination (modified to the context) should be used to complement COVID-19 specific activities.

WFP have provided [recommended actions for adjusting food distribution standard operating procedures](#) (v2 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020) available in GOAL's COVID-19 SOP folder on SharePoint.

### RECOMMENDATIONED ACTIONS

**Step 1: Organize and clearly mark the allocated spaces at the distribution site** (*see WFP Annex 1: Sample site plan for Food distribution sites in the COVID-19 environment*). GOAL have also developed an infographic (p.3) including the use of Community Outreach for key message dissemination/discussion and the integration of the Family MUAC approach, where beneficiaries can be trained on how to check for oedematous malnutrition and wasting using a MUAC.

- o Reception point /waiting area, (identity) verification point, collection point and exit to channel off traffic and allow for personal space of at least one meter (GOAL is using 2m) between each beneficiary.
- o Set up hand washing areas with adequate supply of hand washing solution (0.05% bleach solution) or GOAL is promoting use of soap and water.
- o Allocate areas for body temperature checks by health officials.
- o Establish sheltered/covered area for beneficiaries that do not receive clearance at the body temperature check point. The allocated area should be spacious enough to allow beneficiaries to sit/stand at least one meter (GOAL is using 2m) apart from each other
- o Ensure that there are clearly marked entrance and exit points in the distribution area.

### Step 2: Additional suggestion by GOAL

o GOAL is suggesting the inclusion of the Family MUAC approach at the verification point / point of registration. Training can be done verbally by staff, or beneficiaries can watch a short video (2min) on a tablet set up for viewing. At the point of registration, beneficiaries can be asked to demonstrate how to take a MUAC measure and how to check for kwashiorkor, then asked to explain how to act accordingly, i.e. what they should do if they find bilateral pitting oedema, or a yellow/red MUAC measurement. Tapes can be distributed to every family with a PLW or children U5, if not already in receipt of a MUAC tape.

### Step 3: Organize rations ahead of the scheduled distribution

- o If not already prepositioned, offload the food supplies into the temporary storage and organize rations ahead of the scheduled distribution.
- o Separate storage from the collection points where possible.

### Step 4: Do not allow crowding around the distribution point

- o Instruct beneficiaries to maintain a distance of one meter (GOAL is using 2m) from each other throughout the distribution process
- o One-meter area (GOAL using 2m) around the desk to be cordoned off (with a rope or tape) at the collection point if possible. This will ensure that the collection point is accessible to only one beneficiary at a time.

### Step 5: Manage the flow of traffic at the distribution site

- o Upon arrival at the distribution site, direct beneficiaries to the hand washing area and then to the temperature check area to have their body temperature assessed using a non-invasive thermometer. *Ideally, the temperature check should be conducted by a medical or health professional endorsed by government authorities.*
- o If a beneficiary is detected to have a fever, they should be directed to the specified sheltered/covered area for a follow up by the local government or health official. *CPs to inform identified beneficiaries that they will receive rations irrespective of the results of the temperature test.*
- o Beneficiaries cleared at the temperature check area are to be directed to the (identity) verification / registration checkpoint.
- o Beneficiaries should not pass through the distribution point more than once.

### Step 6: Consider hygiene and sanitation measures

- o There should be no physical contact between staff and beneficiaries or between beneficiaries.
- o Operators at the collection point should place the food rations on the tarpaulin/table at the distribution point and step back, permitting the beneficiary to collect the ration.
- o Following the collection of the ration, beneficiaries are to be directed to exit the collection site and encouraged to depart the distribution site.
- o Monitor the entry of beneficiaries into the distribution point channel.
- o Instruct beneficiaries to maintain a distance of one meter (GOAL using 2m) at all points during distributions.
- o Ensure that the hand washing point is supplied with appropriate quantities of handwash solution
- o Ensure that all beneficiaries wash their hands at the hand washing points and have body temperature checks before approaching the identity verification checkpoint.

### Step 7: SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM WFP FOR COOPERATING PARTNER STAFF AT THE DISTRIBUTION SITES (Reception point operator, Queue Management Operator and Distribution Point Operator etc.)

- o If a beneficiary presents with high temperature, they must be directed to the sheltered/covered area and referred to the relevant health authorities.
- o Oversee and assist with offloading and organising rations before distributions are scheduled to start.
- o Step back from the ration and direct the beneficiary to collect the ration and leave via the marked exit route.
- o Instruct the beneficiaries to leave the distribution site immediately after the collection of rations.
- o Upon completion of distribution, ensure that the distribution point (room/ area/ tarpaulin) is swept clean and sprayed with disinfectant (0.5% chlorine solution). Once dry, the tarpaulin should be folded away for storage/transportation. The broom may be used again after bleach spraying to remove any debris.
- o Remove all tapes, ropes and signage.
- o Clear hand wash station and remove/store hand washing solution.
- o It is mandatory for all staff at the distribution site to perform hand sanitation & follow general hygiene practices.

### Step 8: HYGIENE AND SANITATION

**Hand wash solution (0.05% bleach solution)** and can be made from a variety of chlorine bases available in the market. *Washing hands with clean water and soap is mandatory for all personnel, beneficiaries as well as any other party involved in the process/present at the distribution site. Instructions for making mild hand wash solution (0.05% chlorine solution): English / French. Instructions for making soapy water: English / French.*

**Disinfectant solution (0.5% bleach solution)** and can be made from a variety of chlorine bases available in the market. All washing and disinfecting solutions must be prepared prior to dispatching to distribution point and marked clearly. **Instructions for making disinfectant solution (0.5% bleach solution) from liquid bleach: English / French** NB: *Concentrated chlorine and bleach are highly toxic substances that can cause irritation and inflammation to eyes, throat and nose. When mixing and using 0.5% disinfecting solution, appropriate PPE (including impermeable coverall, apron, N95 mask, goggles and double glove ie. inner disposable latex gloves and outer heavy-duty latex gloves) must be worn.*

Infographic: Program Adaptations for BSFP or GFD for malnutrition prevention in the context of COVID-19

