COVID-19 Impacts on Fish and Aquatic Food Systems

SEAFDEC Webinar
Impact of the Covid-19 on Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia
2-3 July 2020

Michael Phillips
Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and CGIAR Research Program on FISH

Shakuntala H. Thilsted
Global Research Leader on Nutrition and Value Chains, WorldFish

Ben Belton
Senior Scientist, WorldFish
FISH Geographies

- Focal countries
- Scaling countries
COVID-19: Our hungriest, most vulnerable communities face “a crisis within a crisis”

Dominique Burgeon, Director of FAO’s Emergency and Resilience Division

- An additional 130 million people could face acute hunger by the end of 2020 (World Bank, May 4, 2020)
- Global poverty could increase for the first time since 1990 (Sumner et al, April 2020)
• Stronger Covid-19 effects among poor
• Concentrated in labor-intensive elements of value chains
• Important gender dimensions from IFPRI (2020)

• The important role of fish in improving nutrition and sustainable food: a critical dietary component at this time
Monitoring impacts on fisheries and aquaculture
Survey of Covid-19 impacts on fish supply chains

• Timor Leste; Myanmar; Bangladesh; India; Egypt; Nigeria
• Key value chain actors
• Weekly standardized phone surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feed mill</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed seller (pellet)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed seller (non-pellet)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatchery</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm (commercial)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher (small/medium)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish processor</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish trader</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish retailer</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td>~800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outputs**
• Interactive data platform
• Regular analyses and solution-oriented advisories
WorldFish COVID-19 Field Data Dashboard

COVID-19 Survey: Cover Sheet

User instructions and information
Data for February, March and April is based on recall interviews conducted in May; data from May onwards is based on regular (weekly or bi-weekly) interviews; some items are recorded from May onwards only.
- Select a page from the "Navigate to" dropdown list and click the "GO" button to navigate to the selected page.
- Click on parallel lines at top right of screen to display reports by type of business.
- Hover over any point on any graph to display detailed information.
- Click on any portion of any graph to present information on that item.
- Use drop down menus at the top of the page to filter results by location, value chain segment, currency, gender, etc.
- Use the check boxes to the right of the page to filter by time period.

Number of respondents interviewed by country

USD to local currency exchange rate used

Number of respondents interviewed by business type and gender
Covid-19 impacts on fisheries, aquaculture and food & market systems

- Input constraints (labour, seed, feed) disrupted, due to reduced transportation and movement. Lack of inputs leading to lost stocking/productivity.
- Fishing restrictions, shifting fishing pressures, though wild subsistence fisheries for community resilience.
- Market closures and disrupted access of producers to domestic and export markets
- Consumer demand, access and price changes
- Fish consumption shifts and product trends
- Labour intensive economic activity and informal value chains particularly impacted
- Implications of many of these changes are yet to be seen in incomes, environment and nutrition

Love et al, in review
Covid-19 emphasizes and exacerbates inequalities of all kinds

All epidemics are gendered
- **Disease**: Men more vulnerable
- **Disease risk**: Women & minority groups have higher exposure and risk
- **Health & safety**: Gender-based violence; increased maternal mortality
- **Economic**: Women and/in marginalized groups lose jobs fastest, slower recovery
- **Care & wellbeing**: Women, young women, those without support, marginalized groups bear the brunt of challenges

Labour and voice are gendered
- **Disease**: White collar men vs at sea
- **Disease risk**: Women via markets & factory work; poor communities via exposure, access
- **Health & safety**: Women face risks in homes, at borders
- **Economic**: Midchain, thus women
  - Losses as fish retailers
  - Slowest to recover
  - Pushed out in post-crisis consolidation?

Beat the pandemic, without turning equality and wellbeing into collateral damage...
- **Media** for equality & safety
- **Gendered data** to nudge policy
- Gender balance in decision making
- Inform inclusive safety nets, control by women of own assets
- Influence public and private sector re keeping and getting women back in the workforce
- Double-down on research into economic and multidimensional empowerment of women & girls
CGIAR Responses

- Food & Market systems
- One Health
- Inclusive programs
- Policies and investments
Responses: Food and Market Systems

- Understanding and responding in complex and diverse systems

- Aquaculture and fisheries as "essential" in govt policies
  - Transport, inputs, markets
  - Fish workers as “essential workers”

- Marketing innovations, *eg:*
  - Direct marketing
  - Digital approaches

- Support mechanisms, such as improving access of credit to farmers

- Knowledge exchange, policy influence, organization
Responses: Inclusive programs

- Mitigating the food and nutrition security impacts of COVID-19 for vulnerable populations and/or those most impacted
- Fish in school feeding programs, social protection and public awareness programs
- Gender awareness raising in research and policy development
Responses: Policies and investments

• Supporting evidence-based policy and investment solutions.

• Policy guidance and assistance to national and State governments, in key areas of Covid-19 response, including markets, school feeding and safe value chains.
Responses: One Health

- Engaging with CGIAR partners in guidelines and advisories on safe markets, production and value chains
- Health and nutrition awareness and behavior change
- Food safety of fish products and “wet” markets
Build back better – seizing the opportunities for fisheries and aquaculture in the food system

OECD, 2020

Overcoming as One:
COVID-19
Economic Relief Plan
27 April 2020
Thank You

Responding to Covid-19 challenges and building back better

https://worldfishcenter.org/pages/covid-19/