



9 Lessons for Supporting Food Security During the Pandemic and Facilitating Recovery

Ensuring access to food and nutrition for the vulnerable

-  1. Integrating nutrition education, fortification, and micro-nutrient supplementation as part of a crisis response helps reduce the risk of malnutrition over time.
-  2. Projects that support local food production and vegetable gardens improve nutrition and enhance resilience.
-  3. When food is available in local markets, targeted cash transfer programs can be more efficient than food distribution at improving food security.
-  4. Both cash transfer and food distribution programs require rigorous and transparent targeting to reach the most vulnerable.
-  5. Non-targeted instruments, such as tax reductions for food staples, may not benefit vulnerable consumers.
-  6. World Bank partnerships to identify and reach the food insecure have not always been effective at targeting the most vulnerable.
-  7. To reduce contact during COVID, digital solutions can be used to provide cash to the food insecure, but donors must ensure that these solutions are accessible to the poor.

Building back better to increase food production and resilience

-  1. Strengthening risk surveillance and early warning systems is essential for responding quickly and effectively to food crises.
-  2. Building resilience in food security requires investing in food production and marketing systems that enhance resilience to shocks.