

Highlights

WFP is facing a highly demanding and increasingly complex operating environment.

COVID-19 cases have surpassed 25 million and food insecurity is increasing globally, compounding additional incidents such as the devastating explosions in Beirut, **Lebanon**, the recent coup d'état in **Mali**, widespread flooding and an active hurricane and monsoon season.

Resourcing remains the primary challenge to WFP's ability to scale up and wage a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For WFP's Global Response to COVID-19 plan, only USD 977 million in resources mobilized against the required USD 4.9 billion. WFP's global Common Services also face significant funding shortfalls, with only USD 242 million mobilized against the USD 965 million requirement.

WFP has been forced to [reduce food or cash transfers](#) by up to 30 percent for over 2.7 million refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda due to funding shortages. WFP will need to cut deeper in the coming months unless urgent additional funding is received. Reduced assistance could lead to increased population movements and related risks for COVID-19 transmission.

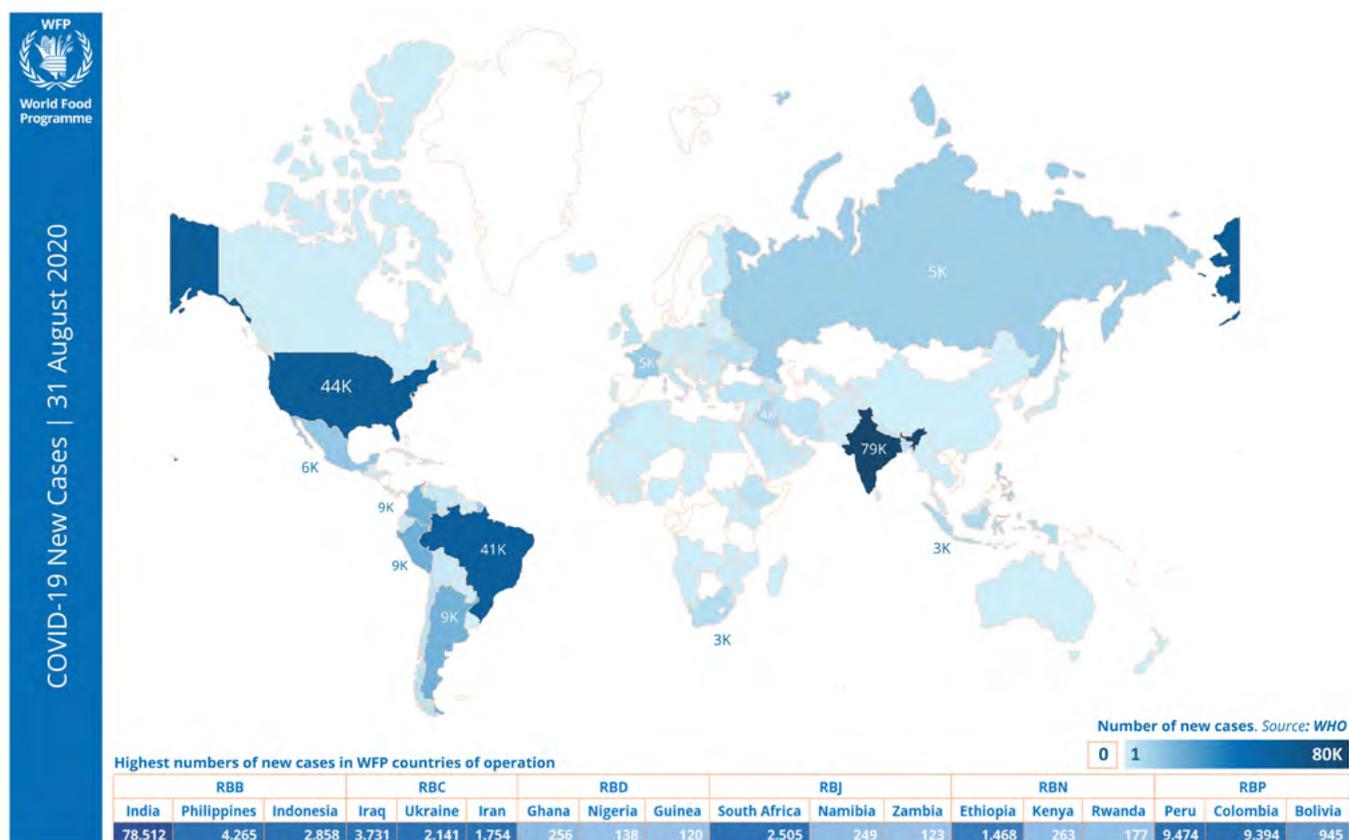
More than 3 million people are facing acute food insecurity in Burkina Faso as the country grapples with insecurity, conflict, climate change and COVID-19. The latest analysis indicates the number of people struggling to feed themselves has increased more than 50 percent since March. As it is the case in many other countries with WFP operations, experts say the crisis has been exacerbated by the pandemic's impact on people's ability to earn enough money to cover their daily needs.



Displaced Burkinabé people gather in a camp in Pissila town, Burkina Faso.

WFP has launched its [Innovation Challenge 2020](#), seeking cutting-edge solutions to transform emergency response and achieve Zero Hunger for communities impacted by COVID-19 and beyond. Innovators can apply to the WFP Innovation Accelerator by 14 September for the chance to attend the next WFP Innovation Bootcamp and receive up to US \$100,000 in equity-free funding as well as mentorship from industry experts.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP



Asia and the Pacific: The number of COVID-19 cases in Asia and the Pacific countries of WFP operations (including oversight countries) now exceeds 4.1 million, up from 2 million one month ago. WFP activities have been modified to sustain assistance while avoiding risk of infection, including supporting over 90,000 people with general food assistance to support government quarantine measures in **Myanmar, Laos** and **Nepal**. WFP is facilitating the movement of COVID-19 essential items in the region, transporting 8,500 protective gowns for health workers in isolation and treatment centres in Cox's Bazar, **Bangladesh** and delivering 20,000 COVID-19 tests in **Myanmar**.

East Africa: The food security situation remains precarious amid the compounded effects of floods, locust invasion, socio-economic impact of the pandemic and recurrent conflict. WFP continues working closely with governments and partners to support the expansion of social protection programmes in the region and provide support to vulnerable populations in the urban areas. In **Kenya**, WFP has disbursed cash transfers to 27,270 urban households affected by COVID-19 out of the target of 70,500 households in 13 informal settlements in Nairobi.

Latin America and the Caribbean: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to drive hunger and food insecurity in the region and is forcing vulnerable families to migrate due to conflict and political unrest. WFP's operations continue, notably through cash-based transfers, school feeding and resilience activities. In **Nicaragua**, WFP is assisting over 183,400 children through its school feeding programmes, is providing support to smallholder farmers for the first harvest of the year and is assisting the government in identifying other initiatives to respond to the pandemic.

Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa: There are now over 1.2 million reported cases of COVID-19 within countries in which WFP is active in the region. WFP's livelihoods and resilience activities have started to resume in several countries with measures in place to mitigate contagion. In **Algeria**, the world's first fish farm in a refugee camp continued its operations despite the camp's COVID-19 lockdown, providing both food and livelihood opportunities. In **Kyrgyzstan**, WFP transferred most of food-for-training project activities to online platforms such as Skype, WhatsApp and Zoom in order to encourage social distancing and reduce the spread of infection.

Southern Africa: The pandemic continues to significantly affect national economies, food security and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. WFP is supporting social protection programmes, urban safety nets and sizeable cash transfer programmes to counter the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and drastic fall in remittances for wage earners in the region. In **Zimbabwe**, WFP adopted a new e-voucher mechanism allowing recipients to redeem points for commodities, reducing transaction costs and enhancing purchasing power.

West and Central Africa: Countries with the highest increases in COVID-19 cases in the region include **The Gambia**, where the rapid surge in COVID-19 cases has overwhelmed isolation and treatment centres, along with **Togo, Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso** and **Nigeria**. In **Nigeria**, WFP is finalizing beneficiary targeting as part of the urban response targeting 200,000 people, while in **Guinea**, COVID-19 response targeting 25,000 affected households in Conakry was launched on 13 August. In **Sierra Leone**, WFP is also continuing to provide food assistance to people in quarantine homes and self-isolation.

Resource Mobilization and Partnerships

With global recorded COVID-19 cases topping 25 million, **resourcing remains the primary impediment challenging WFP's ability to scale up and wage a global response to the pandemic**. The WFP Global Response to COVID-19 plan, issued 29 June, **remains significantly underfunded**, with only USD 977 million in resources mobilized against the required USD 4.9 billion. Several operations face enormous resourcing constraints, among them in contexts where WFP is responding to needs across larger operations in **Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen** and **Zimbabwe**.

To minimise the impact on humanitarian operations, WFP continues to deploy its logistics capacity and expertise to support health and humanitarian partners as they respond to not only the global health response to COVID-19, but also to existing humanitarian crises around the world. However, as with WFP's global response plan, **WFP's global Common Services face significant funding shortfalls**. To date, USD 242 million has been mobilized against the USD 965 million requirement.

Passenger numbers continue to rise as more destinations are added to WFP's flight network, and requests to transport cargo are increasing as supplies come online. With the pandemic showing no signs of slowing down, and worrying accelerations of infections noted in vulnerable regions, it is crucial that the response continues when it is needed the most. **Funding is still urgently required to enable WFP to maintain its vital logistics support to humanitarian and health actors across the globe.**

WFP Operations

WFP'S GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Cash-based transfers continue to be a dominant trend in response to COVID-19, with 139 countries worldwide using cash-based transfers to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. WFP is providing technical assistance to governments in their cash-based transfers and urban cash-based transfers responses and is currently engaging with over 27 governments worldwide.

Over half of WFP's global response to COVID-19 plan will be delivered in cash and vouchers, empowering **urban communities** to meet their food needs in local markets. 36 country offices are scaling up cash-based transfers and more than 800 additional retailers have been contracted to provide more shopping outlets for food and other essential needs. So far this year, WFP has so far transferred over USD 1 billion through cash-based transfers across 64 WFP country offices.



[Fighting against an invisible enemy in Mozambique](#)

WFP is using cash-based transfers to maintain food assistance in times of social distancing, providing people with the means to buy food and other essential items, such as soap bars and cleaning products.

A new [UNAIDS Call to Action](#), supported by WFP, calls on countries to adopt urgent measures to reinforce **social protection programmes** to shield the most vulnerable people from the health impact and socio-economic fall-out of the COVID-19 pandemic. In **Bangladesh**, WFP is increasing its operation to support 1.1 million more people through the development of urban safety nets in at-risk, low-income urban slums in Dhaka and Chittagong Hill Tracts, and through expansion of in-kind food and cash transfers to vulnerable host communities in Cox's Bazar. WFP has so far reached approximately 500,000 host community members affected by COVID-19 in Cox's Bazar.

Sixteen countries where WFP implements **school feeding** are reopening their schools in September, bringing the total number of countries that have reopened to 27. In consultation with the governments and local authorities, WFP will resume school feeding activities in most of these countries, ensuring that all precautions are in place. Although some students are returning to school, the effects of COVID school closures on children are huge, leading to the largest education crisis in history.

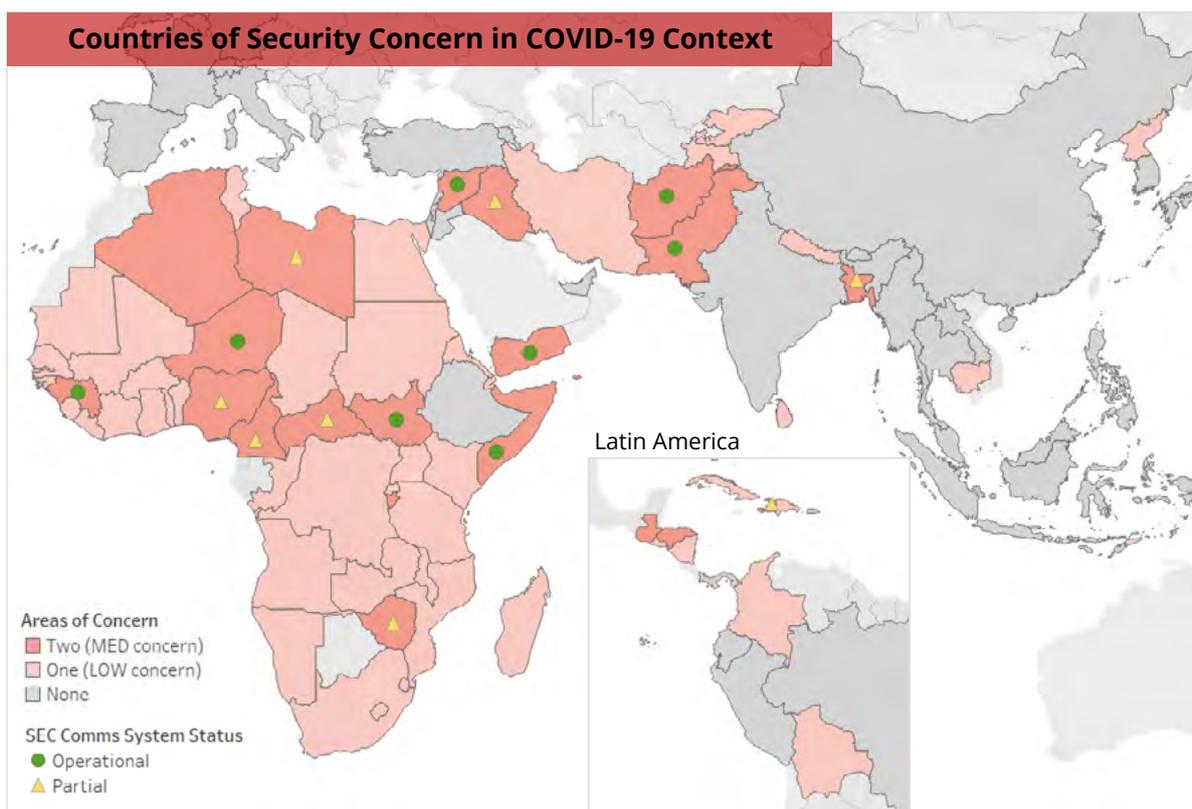
Livelihoods, asset creation activities and vocational skills training that had been temporarily halted are slowly resuming where strict COVID-19 preventive measures can be guaranteed. In **Guinea**, WFP is providing equipment and training so that face masks, soaps and handwashing stations can be produced locally. More than 25,500 people including smallholder farmers, artisans and their families are benefiting from the programme, which provides cash transfers in return for work on the equipment.



WFP helps communities create potentially life-saving equipment while boosting incomes

In Guinea, WFP is providing equipment and training for the local production of face masks and soaps, and the installation of handwashing kits

SECURITY



For further details and methodology, please see the COVID-19 Fortnightly Security Update produced by SEC ([available on OpWeb](#))

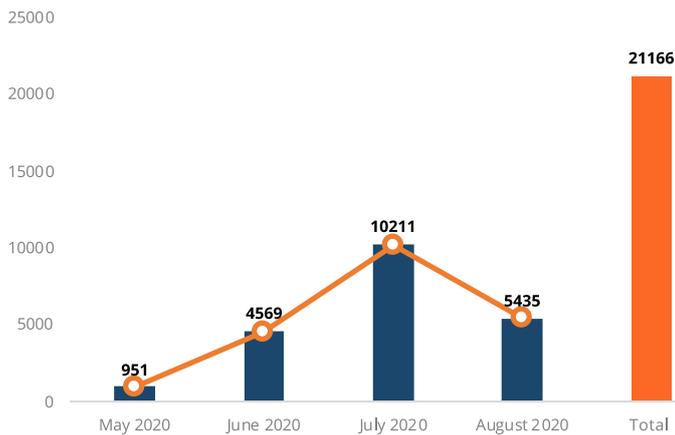
Twenty countries are of medium concern for security due to COVID-19's impacts on civil unrest, crime, armed conflict, spread across all WFP region. Moreover, the previously highlighted factors that exacerbate the COVID-19 response – mounting protests with frequent violence, unabated armed conflict and political instability at a varying degree – continue to have impact on the WFP operating environment in several countries.

In addition to the ongoing monitoring of the situation in **Lebanon** in the wake of massive explosions in Beirut mentioned in the previous report, **Mali** is also on watch in the aftermath of the 18 August coup d'état that has destabilized the political and security environment in the country, which may be further complicated by COVID-19.

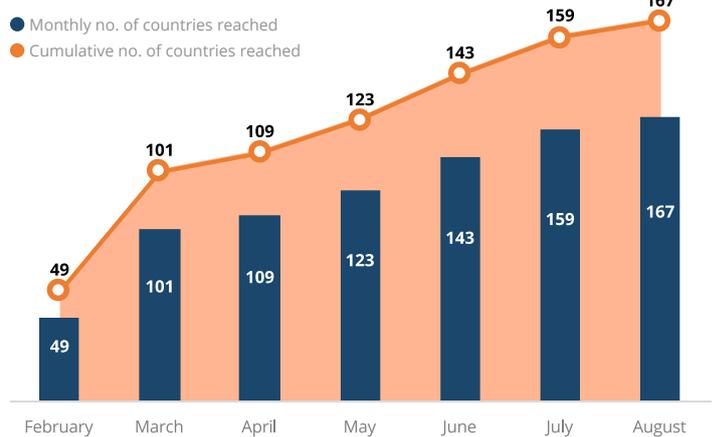
Common Services

WFP continues to transport humanitarian and health workers to the frontlines of the COVID-19 response. Since its launch in May, **21,217 passengers from 338 organizations have been transported to 65 destinations** throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States and Latin America and the Caribbean. In line with demand and need, new destinations have been added over the last three weeks, with WFP now flying to Panama, Luanda, Port Moresby, Guatemala, and Port-au-Prince.

Monthly Passenger Trend, 1 May - 31 August 2020



Countries reached through WFP dispatches 1 February - 31 August 2020 (BSP, UNHRD, Free-to-User)



While WFP continues to reach new destinations as needed, it also continues to monitor the availability of safe and reliable commercial access to the countries it serves. Where suitable commercial options become available, WFP stands down its own passenger services, albeit with ability to stand these services back up again should they be needed. This is in line with WFP's mandate to only provide services as a last resort, filling gaps where commercial capacity does not exist. **As global air transport markets begin to show signs of recovery, WFP has now ceased flying to 29 locations** and on 15 August, operated its last flight from its passenger hub in Accra, Ghana as commercial capacity throughout West Africa has greatly increased. Remaining destinations which cannot be reached by commercial means, such as Abuja and Accra, are being accessed from Lome. Some flights in East Africa and the Middle East have also ceased, while operations are ramping up in Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, which still largely remain without commercial access.

As part of its commitment to provide the logistics backbone of the global COVID-19 response, WFP continues to dispatch essential health and humanitarian cargo throughout the world. **The month of August saw the highest volumes of cargo dispatched since the start of operations.** To-date, a total of **56,989 m³** of cargo has been dispatched on behalf of **55 organizations to 167 countries – enough cargo to fill 23 Olympic-sized swimming pools.** **43,502 m³** of this has been transported via WFP's free-to-user cargo services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

To support all humanitarian staff working on the frontlines of the response and to ensure their ability to "stay and deliver", WFP is co-leading the aviation arm of the UN Medevac Cell together with the UN Department of Operational Support (UNDOS), out of the Strategic Air Operations Centre in Brindisi, Italy. **The cell has so far completed a total of 58 medevacs - 40 carried out by WFP and 18 by UNDOS** - since its rollout on 22 May when the unified system was activated by the Secretary General.

The 68-bed field hospital in Accra, erected by WFP, has now been handed over to WHO and the Tripartite Agreement between WFP, WHO and the Government of Ghana is in its final stages. In addition to European hospital destinations, patients are being sent to hospitals in San Jose in Costa Rica for the Latin American Region and Nairobi for Africa. Negotiations on the details of regional hubs for Asia and the Middle East continue.

To learn more about WFP's common services in support of the health and humanitarian response to COVID-19, read the latest publications [here](#).



[WFP flights between Europe and Africa prove critical during pandemic](#)

WFP's Global Air Passenger Service means humanitarians can continue work assisting others despite severe air-travel restrictions.

Regional Updates

Regional Bureau Bangkok

The number of COVID-19 cases in Asia and the Pacific countries of WFP operations (including oversight countries) now exceeds 4.1 million, up from 2 million one month ago.

WFP activities in the region have been modified to sustain life-saving relief assistance while avoiding unnecessary exposure to risks of infection. This includes supporting over 90,000 people with **general food assistance** to support government quarantine measures in **Myanmar, Laos and Nepal**.

Significant **scale-up** is underway for Afghanistan and Bangladesh. In **Bangladesh**, WFP is increasing its operation to support 1.1 million more people through the development of urban safety nets in at-risk, low-income urban slums in Dhaka and Chittagong Hill Tracts, and through expansion of in-kind food and cash transfers to vulnerable host communities in Cox's Bazaar. Out of these, WFP has so far reached approximately 500,000 host community members affected by COVID-19 in Cox's Bazar. In **Afghanistan**, WFP has begun its scale-up to an additional 3 million people impacted by COVID-19 with food and cash transfers during the second half of 2020, having reached up to now 77,000 beneficiaries in urban areas. The COVID-response focuses on urban poor households to complement WFP's regular programming, which primarily targets households in rural areas.



[Rohingya refugees refuse to lose hope](#)

WFP food assistance outlets are spreading awareness about COVID-19 and answering questions from other refugees.

WFP is supporting governments to address the impact of COVID-19 through **national social protection systems**; basic service delivery; analysis of food systems, food security and nutrition; emergency relief; and humanitarian common services. COVID-19 is compounding the risks already faced in many parts of the region due to escalating conflict and climate change.

The **ongoing monsoon season** has already affected several countries, triggering heavy rains and landslides. Preparedness efforts for heavy rains are found to be particularly challenging this season and funding is stretched for critical operations such as **Myanmar and Afghanistan**.

WFP has adjusted **nutrition-specific and -sensitive interventions** across the region to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. In Cox's Bazar, **Bangladesh**, WFP continues to engage refugees supported under WFP's self-reliance programme in mask production. More than 206,000 reusable cloth masks have now been produced, including 96,000 child-size masks.

While thousands of schools across the region remain closed, WFP has adjusted its **school feeding programme** to reach over 800,000 children with take-home rations or cash-based transfers in **Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka**.

In **Pakistan**, under the shock-responsive social protection project implemented together with the Government, WFP has now completed the disbursements of cash top-ups (USD 72 over three months) to 50,000 drought- and COVID-affected families, in addition to their regular entitlements.

WFP is also supporting **supply chain services** in the region, facilitating the movement of COVID-19 essential items. In **Bangladesh**, WFP transported and handed over 8,500 protective gowns to the health sector for use in isolation and treatment centres in Cox's Bazar refugee camps, donated by the Join Together Society. A further 1,500 gowns were kept for WFP frontline staff. In **Myanmar**, WFP and UNHCR recently delivered 20,000 COVID-19 test kits to the Government.

Regional Bureau Cairo

There are now over 1.2 million reported cases of COVID-19 within countries in which WFP is active in the region.

WFP continues supporting vulnerable individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through various **social protection** programmes. In **Armenia**, WFP handed over more than 800 litres of vegetable oil to the House of Hope Charity Center Foundation that will be further distributed as part of their food assistance to 289 children and their families. Furthermore, WFP transferred around 20 mt of vegetable oil to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia that will be delivered to 20,000 vulnerable individuals in regions of Armenia during the month of August. In **Iran**, 32,100 reusable and washable nano masks have been produced at a WFP-supported tailoring workshop in the Sarvestan settlement.

Livelihoods and resilience activities have started to resume in several countries across the region with measures in place to mitigate contagion. In **Algeria**, the world's first fish farm in a refugee camp continued its operations despite the camp's COVID-19 lockdown. The farm not only provides Sahrawi refugees with access to fish, but also aims to serve as a training center for young Sahrawis for new livelihood opportunities. In **Kyrgyzstan**, WFP transferred most of food-for-training project activities to online platforms such as Skype, WhatsApp and Zoom in order to encourage social distancing and reduce the spread of infection.

Nutrition activities in the region are continuing in line with COVID-19 precautionary guidance. In **Iraq**, WFP plans to conduct a nutrition survey in governorates covered by the school feeding programme. The objective of the survey is to assess the prevalence of diabetes and understanding the nutrition status and dietary habits of children attending primary school (from 5 to 12 years) and to support with the Iraqi government the nutrition of children, in line with the framework and policy of Iraq.

Cash-based transfers are a key modality in responding to the needs of those most impacted by the ongoing pandemic. WFP **Tunisia**, in cooperation with the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs, has started its first ever cash transfers in Tunisia in July. The three-month initiative, financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), intends to support a total of 537 families from the Siliana region whose children are no longer receiving school meals due to the closure of schools during the COVID-19 crisis. To complement this initiative, WFP has prepared educational materials to help schoolchildren and their families develop good eating habits through fun and educational games.



[School feeding in Sudan, before the coronavirus and beyond](#)

To address schoolchildren's food and nutritional requirements during the COVID-19 crisis, WFP is providing take-home rations in lieu of in-school meals in 11 states, targeting nearly 1.1 million students.

Several WFP country offices in the region are preparing for the start of the new school year and resumption of the **school feeding** programmes.

In **Tajikistan**, WFP has been working with the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan, UNICEF and other development partners to prepare for the reopening of schools under the context of COVID-19. Through this effort, guidance on management of school canteens and mealtimes has been drafted and discussions to ensure feasibility and adherence to the new guidance are underway. In addition, preliminary consultations were held to conduct a joint water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assessment in schools as longer-term measures. Furthermore, WFP **Jordan** worked with UNICEF, UNESCO and other partners from the education sector on a "Safe back to school" campaign including support on outreach, national media campaign and feeding activities planned in August and September.

The West Africa region currently has over 185,000 COVID-19 cases and has undergone a 10 percent increase in cases between 10 – 26 August. Countries with the **highest increases** include **The Gambia, Togo, Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Nigeria**. In The Gambia, the rapid surge in COVID-19 cases has overwhelmed the few isolation and treatment centres in the country. Moreover, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Niger are developing a testing strategy for COVID-19 to improve case detection, contact identification and contact tracing.

WFP continues to sustain and scale up operations to reach refugees, internally displaced persons and complement national social protection programmes to reach vulnerable communities. In **Burkina Faso**, WFP and FAO have launched a joint [press release](#) to highlight that some 3.3 million people are estimated to be facing food insecurity during the current lean season, marking an over 50 percent increase compared to forecast made in March 2020.

COVID-19 response, lean season response, other relief food and nutrition assistance as well as resilience-strengthening activities (which have been gradually resuming since June) are ongoing, with reduced rations in some countries due to critical funding gaps, such as in the **Central African Republic**, where WFP changed the target beneficiary age group from 6-59 months to 6-23 months, and **reduced rations by 33 percent** because of the **constant shortfall in specialized nutritious foods (Super Cereals)** partly due to low funding and lead-time in receiving commodities.

WFP continues to provide support to vulnerable communities in urban settings through cash-based transfers and in-kind assistance. In **Nigeria**, WFP is finalizing beneficiary targeting as part of the urban response targeting 200,000 people during the first phase in Lagos, Abuja and Kano State, while in **Guinea**, COVID-19 response targeting 25,000 affected households in Conakry was launched on 13 August. In **Sierra Leone**, WFP also continued to provide food assistance to individuals in quarantine homes and self-isolation.

The **deteriorating security situation in the region** continues to cause widespread population **displacements** in the **Central Sahel** and **Lake Chad Basin**, where WFP activities were temporarily suspended in the last two weeks (i.e. in certain regions of Cameroon, Central African Republic and Niger) and population unrest due to political tensions was reported recently in **Côte d'Ivoire** and in **Mali** as well. Security and access constraints have also been impacting the delivery of WFP assistance. In **Burkina Faso**, the last round of distributions is ongoing for August as part of the lean season response, following suspension of distributions in the Sahel region due to security incidents in Djibo (Soum province) and Sebba (Yagha province). The country office is taking measures to resume activities in Djibo during the week of 31 August with reduced rations. There is also an increasing risk to the safety of humanitarian workers in the region, with increasing targeting of humanitarian workers by non-state armed groups. In the past month, six humanitarian workers were killed in Niger and one in Cameroon (North West Region), following the killing of five humanitarian workers in Nigeria in July.

Following the President's resignation and the **dissolution of the Government in Mali**, financial sanctions were imposed by ECOWAS, and neighbouring borders have been closed. **The consequences have already impacted neighbouring Niger**, where prices of food items imported from Mali could increase. WFP continues to progress with activities to enhance the local production of fortified food in Mali – this programme continues to grow in criticality due to the global and regional supply chain breaks in fortified nutritious foods. Moreover, due to critical supply chain disruptions anticipated starting November for the emergency response, WFP began implementing a 60 percent ration to all beneficiaries receiving emergency food assistance except for COVID-affected people, newly displaced populations and host communities.

Further, in **The Gambia**, preparations are underway for the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP), with WFP co-leading the focus areas on social protection, agriculture, food security, nutrition and resilience. The SERP will align with the five streams of work under the Global UN Framework on the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

**Regional Bureau
Johannesburg**

In the region, the pandemic continues to significantly affect national economies, food security and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. **WFP projects that some 42 million people will need food assistance in the next 12 months in the 12 countries where WFP operates in the region.** In a worst-case scenario, the number of food insecure people could raise to 52 million, 90 percent up from the pre-COVID projection of 27.5 million people. Relatedly, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has also projected that 44.8 million people in 13 of its 16 countries are food insecure, while stressing that the number is likely to significantly increase as the pandemic progressively impacts the urban poor in Southern Africa.

Further, primary sources of household income for communities and revenue for national governments have substantially diminished. In addition, joblessness has soared, remittances from breadwinners in South Africa and the region vital for millions in **Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique** and **Lesotho** have drastically fallen.



[How drought is pushing more people into hunger in southern Madagascar](#)

WFP is providing vital food assistance as 1.6 million people face the impact of the upcoming lean season and the COVID-19 pandemic

In response, WFP has reinforced existing activities while adjusting programmes to a new reality. WFP has initiated or plans sizeable cash transfer programmes for poor people in urban areas in several countries: **Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi, the Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho** and **Eswatini**.

In **Lesotho**, WFP in collaboration with the Government are planning to **implement an urban response programme** in five districts to reach 8,500 vulnerable households (34,000 individuals) with mobile money transfers.

Meanwhile, in **Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo**, WFP will provide an additional 500,000 people with assistance through a social safety net programme. WFP, FAO and UNICEF aim to mitigate the impact of the pandemic by providing mobile money transfers enabling recipients to meet their essential needs. The first transfers are planned for November.

In **Zimbabwe** amid soaring joblessness, **WFP envisages a more than fivefold increase to 550,000 in the number of people in poor urban areas receiving assistance through cash transfers.** Further, WFP has explored new mechanisms for cash delivery to reduce transaction costs to enhance purchasing power of cash transfers. WFP has adopted new e-voucher mechanism allowing recipients to redeem points for commodities.

**Regional Bureau
Nairobi**

In East Africa, the food security situation remains precarious amid the compounded effects of floods, locust invasion, socio-economic impact of the pandemic and recurrent conflict. The latest seasonal forecasts indicate a **60 percent likelihood of below-average rainfall for the upcoming lean season in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya which is expected to exacerbate food security outcomes. This may significantly hamper the harvests and affect food security outlook for 2021.** Further, refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and urban populations remain of significant concern. **WFP estimates the number of acutely food insecure people in East Africa could increase by 73 percent – from 24 million pre-COVID-19, to 41.5 million before the end of 2020.** Among the food insecure, **14 million are estimated to be in urban areas.**

The East Africa region is hosting some three million refugees and six million IDPs. Refugee populations remain of significant concern due to the high-density population in the camps and their dependence on humanitarian assistance. WFP continues to prioritise refugee assistance across the region, however, response efforts are hampered by funding constraints. WFP has reduced food or cash-based transfers for over 2.4 million refugees in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan and Djibouti. WFP will have to reduce rations further in the coming months unless urgent additional funding is received.

Increasing ration cuts for refugees could prompt refugee communities to move within host countries or even across borders; these displacements would be of significant concern especially in the COVID-19 context. **WFP requires USD 286 million to assist refugees in the region over the next six months between September 2020 - February 2021.**

**Regional Bureau
Nairobi**

WFP continues working closely with governments and partners to support the expansion of social protection programmes in the region and provide support to vulnerable populations in the urban areas. Relatedly, WFP Kenya has disbursed cash transfers to 27,270 urban households affected by the pandemic out of the target of 70,500 households in the 13 informal settlements of Nairobi. In Ethiopia, WFP is supporting the government in the scale-up of the urban Productive safety net Project (PSNP) to reach 17,500 people with cash assistance from September. WFP is also supporting refugees in the quarantine and isolation facilities in the camps in Kenya and Rwanda.

As schools reopen, WFP is resuming the school feeding programme. In **Somalia**, WFP is implementing a Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) modality across the country using cash transfers. WFP is planning to reach 103,000 children in the next ten months. In **Burundi** where schools have remained open, WFP is prepositioning food stocks to ensure school feeding is not disrupted when schools re-open in September after the summer holidays. WFP requires USD 5.3 million to cover critical shortfalls for this activity in 703 schools in September. Unless additional resources are received, WFP will have to reduce the number of assisted schools by 30 percent. Meanwhile, WFP is working with governments to provide alternate distribution modalities to over 500,000 children through take-home rations (THRs) in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan** and **Uganda**.

WFP is strengthening its efforts to build resilience to prevent shocks. In **Burundi**, WFP in cooperation with the European Union/ECHO, the Burundi Red Cross, and the Government is preparing for the implementation of **Forecast-based Financing interventions**. WFP will provide support to the Burundi Red Cross in enhancing the early warning system to be more efficient and to issue alerts in real time. WFP has also scaled up its remote monitoring and analysis through use of Mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM) near-real time monitoring in **Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan**. WFP is working with partners and Governments in making use of mobile phone-based surveys to contribute to IPC analysis including in urban areas in **Kenya, Ethiopia** and **South Sudan**.

**Regional Bureau
Panama**

The **health pandemic continues to drive hunger and food insecurity in the region** and is forcing vulnerable families to migrate due to conflict and political unrest. **Civil unrest remains a prevalent security threat in the region. Protests were reported notably in Haiti** for several political or socio-economic reasons such as the high of the cost of living. In **Colombia a significant rise in violence is reported**, this has not directly affected operations but is of concern. Sporadic violence was registered in the tri border area between Brazil, Peru and Colombia. WFP is monitoring the situation and continues to operate in the area.

Operations continue across the region, notably cash-based transfers, school feeding and resumption of resilience activities. In **Nicaragua** where school feeding to over 183,400 children in some of the poorest and most remote areas is ongoing, as well as support to smallholder farmers -prioritizing assistance for the first harvest of the year- and technical assistance to the Government to adjust the national school feeding programme and identify other initiatives to respond to new needs related to the pandemic. **El Salvador** entered a new phase of economic opening this week, with more than 50 percent drop in new cases while in **Honduras** red alert for COVID-19 was extended for two more weeks until 06 September. Nonetheless WFP is implementing all activities, emergency, resilience, nutrition and School Feeding and a simulation exercise is under preparation for emergency preparedness.

The region is currently **impacted by Tropical Storms, however operations are not disrupted.** In **Haiti** although floods were recorded along with ensuing damage to homes, the country was not as affected by Tropical Storm Laura as predicted, but preparedness measures were in place and prepositioned food stocks can also be used elsewhere in the Caribbean if needed. WFP is scaling-up operations, especially in urban areas and schools are open, but there have been access issues to reach certain areas near Gonaives due to security constraints. In the **Dominican Republic** Tropical storm Laura impacted several communities but WFP does not expect the Government to request assistance.

In **Cuba** no severe damages were reported from Tropical Storm Laura as the impact was lower than expected.

**Regional Bureau
Panama**

WFP is working with civil defense and local governments to have an accurate evaluation of damages and needs. However, the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing in country and special flights are now forbidden. Schools will reopen in September, except in Havana.



[Coronavirus pandemic robs Guatemalan youth of jobs, education and food](#)

WFP cash transfers are lightening the burden for the families of 100 young people in rehabilitation programmes in Guatemala.

As a result of a cooperation agreement signed between WFP and the Honduran Government, a **Central America Humanitarian Corridor was established in Honduras, facilitating WFP's trans-shipment and repositioning of food and non-food items**, leading to an augmented logistics response.

In **Bolivia** schools will not reopen for the 2020 school year but online education will continue, and the Government will ensure that municipalities have resources budgeted for school meals in 2020. WFP carried out the second intervention for 255 Venezuelan migrants' families and 345 Bolivian families living in vulnerability conditions in the cities of La Paz and El Alto. The country office will be expanding the value voucher operation in La Paz and El Alto. In **Colombia** movement related restrictions remain in place in seven municipalities, and Bogota, Medellin, Cucuta and Cali are amongst the most affected cities.