



WFP COVID-19

Situation Report #02

13 March 2020

In Numbers (March 13)

135,232 total confirmed cases

80,942 confirmed cases in China

10,075 confirmed cases in Italy

4,981 total deaths

Highlights

- The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was officially declared a pandemic by WHO on March 12.
- WFP put actions in place to guarantee staff safety while ensuring business continuity and agility for WFP's operations and the broader humanitarian and health response.
- WFP has developed an Operational Plan to ensure continued support to populations in need, including the strategic prepositioning of three months of food supplies for priority operations.
- WFP is actively engaging with WHO and relevant stakeholders at the global and country level to ensure continuity of humanitarian supply chains and to contribute to the health response as required.

WFP Priorities

Ensure the safety and wellness of WFP employees

- Continue to test and improve business continuity plan globally to minimize contagion risk to WFP staff, while continuing to support operations around the world.
- Review policies to ensure staff wellness and safety globally.

Sustain (and Scale-Up) WFP Operations

- Monitor food prices at global, regional and local levels to determine impact on current operations.
- Consider prepositioning of staff – on a no regret basis, and three months' worth of stock to ensure continuity in delivering life-saving food commodities.
- Assess and prepare in case of shift in delivering mechanisms – for instance, from Cash-Based Transfers to in-kind.

Leverage WFP expertise to enable the Humanitarian and Health Response

- Engage with WHO for Logistics and Supply chain support as part of a dedicated inter-agency Supply Chain Coordination Cell on request of WHO in Geneva.
- Reinforce and establish regional staging areas, capitalizing on the existing network and establishing additional strategic hubs as needed, in coordination with partners.
- Advise and support governments to maintain Supply Chains continuity whilst monitoring disruptions globally and assessing potential knock-on effects on WFP's own supply chain.

WFP Response

- More than 70 employees have been identified globally as the first wave of advance teams to support key operations and critical supply chain corridors.
- As of 13 March, WFP has not yet requested additional resources but is asking donors to step in earlier than usual, based on the regular resource forecast. WFP also requires funding flexibility for the destination of these donations and allowing the Programme to shift quickly and adapt as the scenario evolves.
- WFP has mobilized US\$ 4.5 mil through its wellness fund to support the centralized purchase of Office Hygiene Items.
- WFP is reinforcing its analysis to inform planning, response adjustments and preparedness measures, including through remote vulnerability monitoring, price monitoring and economic analysis to understand the impact of COVID-19, at the national and community level.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP is reviewing its global mechanisms for delivering assistance to populations in need of support to be able to respond to sudden changes in food availability. WFP has updated guidance on food delivery mechanisms, nutrition programming, cash operations and national response planning in a COVID-19 setting.
- Three dedicated working groups have been formed by key Divisions in Headquarters (Rome, Italy) to provide guidance to Regional Bureaus and Country Offices.

Business Continuity

- Given the evolving situation in Italy, testing of Business Continuity Plans is in place at WFP HQ this week as a preparedness measure to maintain the safety and wellness of staff whilst running operations smoothly. Only 15 percent of the workforce reported to the office this week. Next week, WFP HQ will be functioning with only 10 location-dependent employees present.
- Regional Bureaus and Country Offices are actively working on Business Continuity Plans, with HQ providing guidance and support.

Supply Chain

- As commercial supply chains are impacted by pre-emptive measures to contain the virus, such as border closures, suspension of services and movement restrictions, WFP is monitoring disruptions at a global level, carefully assessing potential knock-on effects on WFP's own supply chain. WFP is also closely monitoring food prices at global, regional and local levels and analysing potential impacts of increases in food prices, especially on fragile countries. At this point, no significant impact on WFP's operations has been observed.
- WFP has encouraged all its Bureaus and Country Offices to advocate for supply chain continuity with local Governments through established health structures to reduce the impact on humanitarian supply chains.

Clusters

- The Food Security, Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters have initiated processes to update analysis, guidance and best practices.

WFP's Operational Plan directly supports the strategic objectives of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV): Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan including:

Strategic Objective	WFP Contribution
Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships	Sustain WFP support to 87 million people, reducing reliance on negative coping mechanisms and helping to reassure and stabilize populations Support governments to maintain supply chains and stabilize markets Track impact through vulnerability analysis and market monitoring Leverage WFP platform & services as needed to support wider humanitarian and health response and government efforts

Contacts

For more information, please contact the WFP COVID-19 Coordination Cell: global.ncov2019@wfp.org