



WFP COVID-19

Weekly Situation Report #04

29 March 2020

\$ 350 million required to provide WFP logistics and support services as part of the Global Inter-Agency COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Accelerated funding of existing plans to pre-position stocks worth **\$1.9 billion** needed.

11 million children supported by WFP school meal programmes are affected by school closures.

Global COVID-19 Response

- WFP is appealing to government partners to accelerate an estimated **\$1.9 billion** of contributions to enable the urgent procurement and pre-positioning of buffer stocks so that at least three months of assistance can be provided in fragile places. These requirements are part of WFP's existing plans, already captured in WFP's Country Strategic Plans (CSP), reflected in updated country-based Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) or other relevant country or regional appeal instruments. Donors with forecasted contributions are urged to accelerate the confirmation of contributions under negotiation and provide WFP with early and specific indication of future support that can be used for WFP to advance financing and for immediate planning.
- The United Nations has launched a [Global Inter-Agency COVID-19 Response Plan](#), appealing for **\$2 billion** to help the most vulnerable communities, where the impact of COVID-19 will be particularly severe. As part of the plan, WFP is calling for **\$350 million** in rapid funding to be able to sustain operations and adjust delivery mechanisms and programmes and to provide vital transport, storage, and engineering services, expanded real-time remote vulnerability monitoring, and the response of the Emergency Telecommunications, Food Security and Logistics Clusters. WFP will also focus on the expansion and addition of common services, including the establishment and management of international staging hubs, facilitation of weekly cargo airlifts, ocean transport services, and passenger services to facilitate critical movement of humanitarians. In addition, WFP will provide air ambulance services (medical

evacuation) and establish medical treatment centres for humanitarian workers. The funding does not include resources for additional food assistance.

WFP Operations

- WFP's immediate priority is to ensure continuity of operations, including through the strategic pre-positioning of stocks, providing stability to vulnerable groups and markets and mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in already fragile, underserved environments.
- Government measures to contain the virus, such as border closures, suspension of services and movement restrictions, are increasing. WFP is actively engaging with local authorities to exempt humanitarian cargo from restrictions, where possible. WFP is also exploring alternative logistics routes.
- WFP has developed guidance to support Country Officers in adapting the way assistance is provided, including on [how to conduct safe food distributions](#) in a COVID-19 context through enhanced community engagement and distribution planning. WFP also continues to recruit and deploy staff to enhance its capacity.
- For example, in several countries, including in Cox's Bazaar in **Bangladesh**, WFP put in place a double-ration system whereby monthly rations are given every two months instead, reducing excess movement of people and supporting social distancing efforts. In **Afghanistan**, WFP has been limiting the number of people present at distribution sites, providing hand-washing stations, ensuring social distancing, and disseminating public awareness information on

COVID19. In **Zimbabwe**, WFP is increasing the number of distribution sites to limit overcrowding and is working to pre-position food. Where biometrics are used, WFP is reviewing safety minimum standards or considering alternatives to reduce risks, for instance in **Somalia**, where WFP is operating through 1,600 retailers throughout the country. WFP is closely monitoring impacts on the financial sector and measures are being taken to sustain Cash Based Transfers.

- Already nearly 11 million children supported by WFP school meals programmes have been affected by school closures globally. [WFP](#) is working with governments and partners to ensure that school children and their families continue to receive support. In countries where schools are still open, WFP is ensuring that hygiene, social distancing, and food safety standards are followed; in some countries WFP is closely collaborating with education partners to provide support in the form of take-home rations when and where feasible.
- WFP Country Offices are conducting prioritization exercises to ensure that life-saving programmes are implemented, if their implementation capacity becomes limited.
- In addition, WFP is expanding its operational analysis to better monitor the impact on its operations and increasing the use of remote food security monitoring tools like its phone-based vulnerability monitoring system, [mVAM](#), analysing potential supply chain disruptions, market functionality, access to markets and health care, and the impact of COVID-19 on food security.

Service Provision

- WFP is setting up a Service Provision Centre to respond to requests for procurement, storage, logistics, civil-military expertise and light engineering services from Governments, UN

organisations, NGOs, in coordination with the WHO-led [Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell](#) (SCICC).

- WFP is supporting the coordination and dispatch of medical supplies to 54 African countries donated by the Jack Ma and Alibaba Foundation.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots continue to support partners and are preparing to send materials on behalf of WHO to several countries. In addition, the UNHRD is supporting response efforts in Italy with hospital equipment.

Common Services

- Comprehensive COVID-19 guidelines have been implemented to ensure the safety of United Nations Humanitarian Air Service passengers across the globe.

Inter-agency Collaboration

- The [Global Logistics Cluster \(GLC\)](#) is actively coordinating supply chain activities with partners to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian logistics responses worldwide.
- The [Global Food Security Cluster](#) continues to support teams coordinating humanitarian activities around the globe and is monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on food security and preparing guidance for partners.
- The [Emergency Telecommunications Cluster](#) (ETC) is closely monitoring active operations, and coordinating with partner to ensure the efficient allocation of equipment and personnel to support the COVID-19 response. The ETC plans to provide services in up to three new countries with a focus on providing services to enable affected communities to access lifesaving information.

Contacts

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