SHIPPING

Over 40 years of delivering hope by sea to those in need

With 200,000 - 300,000 mt of food on the high seas at any given time, WFP Shipping (Ocean Transport Service) is a vital link in WFP’s supply chain. The Shipping Service is a dedicated, in-house shipping service instrumental in enabling WFP to transport large volumes of food and other assistance by sea, often over vast distances, as cost-effectively as possible.

On average, some 75 percent of WFP’s food is transported by sea, using WFP-chartered vessels and regular liner/container shipping services. Upon request, the service also provides support to humanitarian partners ranging from other United Nations agencies and governments to international and national non-governmental organizations. This support can involve the shipping of cargo on behalf of organizations, as well as providing passenger transport where necessary during emergencies, including standby capacity for evacuations.

EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE

WFP Shipping uses its experience and expertise to ensure that assistance is delivered at the right time using the most suitable ocean transport modality. In-depth knowledge of global shipping markets, strong links and partnerships with the shipping industry, and decades of experience in humanitarian shipping provide WFP with the ability to ensure that commodities arrive at ports in a timely, cost-efficient manner, enabling a seamless supply chain.

This expertise and experience, coupled with strong relationships, also gives the Shipping Service the agility to effectively respond to both emergencies and non-emergencies, including the ability to divert or re-route shipments at short notice. Working closely with WFP country offices, the Shipping Service contracts spot and long-term arrangements for ocean freight and stevedoring services, arranges time charters, and secures other maritime solutions.

75,000 CONTAINERS SHIPPED IN 2018

2.8 M MT SHIPPED IN 2018

HEIGHT OF 22 MOUNT EVERESTS WHEN STACKED

WEIGHT OF 700,000 ASIAN ELEPHANTS

November 2019
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

The Shipping Service relies on partnership and cooperation to deliver services at the highest standards. This is achieved by maintaining strong relations with international shipping lines through global agreements which provide WFP with favourable terms and conditions thereby enhancing operational effectiveness.

Demonstrating the value that partnership can bring, WFP Shipping worked with the respected Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) to create a widely accepted and extensive maritime contract (charter party), which the Shipping Service uses to charter vessels for WFP needs.

The service also works to build relationships with governments and port authorities by engaging in capacity building initiatives in the form of training and the sharing of specific maritime expertise as requested.

PASSENGER TRANSPORT

When operationally necessary, the Shipping Service is responsible for managing passenger, standby and staff evacuation operations by sea. One of WFP’s long-running sea passenger services actively supports the complex humanitarian operation in Yemen. In 2018, two WFP-chartered vessels, the VOS Apollo and the VOS Theia, completed dozens of passenger and cargo voyages, safely carrying passengers and cargo between Djibouti and Yemen. The vessels are also kept available to support the humanitarian community in the event of an evacuation.