

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

WFP/Gemma Snowden



## WFP Common Services Brief

COVID-19 has caused global disruptions to the transport systems and links that health and humanitarian responders would normally rely upon to reach affected areas in a crisis. WFP, working closely with the World Health Organization, the UN system, the NGO community and governments, is using its logistics capacity and expertise to step in and provide these services where commercial capacity currently doesn't exist, ensuring that critical health and humanitarian personnel and cargo can move to where they are needed most.

### PASSENGER SERVICES

WFP is providing air passenger transport services where safe and reliable commercial options are not available, opening up transport to destinations that would otherwise be unreachable. Since its launch on 1 May, WFP has so far transported 1,875 health and humanitarian personnel, over 50 percent of whom are staff of NGOs, to 30 destinations over the course of 170 flights. WFP's air passenger service continues to expand its reach as appropriate governmental clearances are received, with a further ten destinations expected to be added over the coming week and negotiations ongoing for more. To ensure the most efficient use of air assets, WFP is also utilizing these regular passenger flights to transport COVID-19 response items whenever possible. WFP will provide these air passenger services until commercial services resume.

WFP Aviation is putting every possible measure in place to ensure the safety of both passengers and crew in the face of COVID-19. A dedicated

crisis management team has been established to monitor passenger volumes and all flights take place in full compliance with national COVID-19 procedures. WFP also continuously monitors scientific and regulatory developments related to COVID-19 reduction measures, upon which COVID-19 recommendations are updated appropriately. Social distancing of passengers and crew is strictly enforced, as is the wearing of personal protective equipment for crew, ground staff and passengers in both airports and aircraft. Temperature screening prior to flights, cleaning and sanitizing of all aircraft and shuttles, seating configuration with blocked middle seats and dedicated hand sanitization points in airports are implemented in all locations. Passenger transit information is checked to ensure onward bookings and transit arrangements have been made at all hubs, including the establishment of dedicated hotels in agreement with national governments and health authorities to ensure isolation from the national population.



170\*  
flights completed



30  
destinations reached



1,875  
passengers transported



82  
user organizations



\* combining cargo and passengers for an effective response

15 June



In the space of just over a month, Accra, Ghana has become the busiest regional humanitarian hub of the WFP Global Passenger Service. At least three flights take place daily to key locations in the region that are currently not served by any commercial airline, allowing hundreds of humanitarian and medical responders to continue their work on the ground. The 1,000-passenger milestone affirms all the efforts and commitment of WFP Aviation to support frontline humanitarian and health personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### MEDEVAC

To ensure the health and wellbeing of staff and to minimise the burden on host country healthcare systems, the UN Secretary-General activated a common COVID-19 Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) System on 22 May and established a MEDEVAC cell leveraging assets from WFP, WHO and the Department of Operational Support DOS to enable a coordinated and centralized approach, relying on local COVID-19 Coordinators at country level.

As part of this system, WFP has access to a global network of contracted air ambulances which have so far carried out nine MEDEVACs of UN staff and has actively taken preparedness measures to extend these services in line with growing needs.

MEDEVAC services are available for all UN staff and eligible dependents worldwide and all staff of eligible INGO partners and eligible dependents in GHRP countries. So far Accra and Nairobi have been officially designated as regional MEDEVAC locations for Africa by the Secretary General. Preparations for Costa Rica to be the regional medevac location for Latin America are underway. Asia and Middle East locations are still to be finalized.

 2 Field Hospitals (Accra and Addis) to be handed over to WHO

 9 Medevacs completed with WFP-contracted air ambulances

 24/7 Medevac Cell

### CARGO SERVICES

WFP, in support of the global COVID-19 response is ensuring the flow of critical COVID-19 related cargo into affected areas. WFP has also established a network of logistics hubs which are responsible for the consolidation and dispatch of humanitarian and health items to affected countries. Alongside this, free-to-user cargo movement services are being provided to transport critical COVID-19 health and humanitarian items by air, and where feasible and most efficient, road and sea.

Through these cargo movement services, WFP has delivered a total of 14,500 m<sup>3</sup> of COVID-19 related cargo to 129 countries through Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

 129 destinations reached

 14,500 m<sup>3</sup> of critical cargo transported

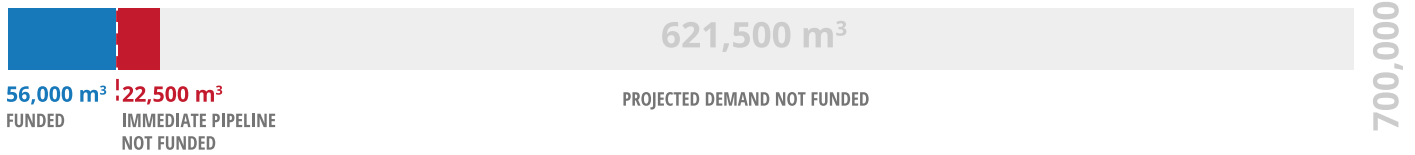
 45 partners supported (UN/IO/NGO)



WFP has finalized the construction of two field hospital sites in Addis Ababa and Accra. Equipped with essential infrastructure including beds and two road ambulances, the facility in Accra is currently in the final stages of handover to WHO and discussions are ongoing on the use of the Addis Ababa facility.

# CRITICAL CARGO PIPELINE

## FUNDING SHORTFALL



### LOOKING FORWARD

As commercial capacity slowly resumes to its pre-COVID levels, WFP stands ready to ensure that it can continue to fill critical transport gaps where needed. However, to do this it urgently requires funding.

Currently WFP has over 78,000 m<sup>3</sup> of life-saving cargo for over 30 organisations in the pipeline to be transported over the next six weeks, and sufficient funds to deliver 56,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Demand is expected to increase as supply comes online, and current projections indicate that approximately 700,000 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo will need to be delivered across the world by the end of the year. It is therefore paramount that the critical funding gap is filled imminently.

As the pandemic flares in Latin America, WFP is working to open passenger routes throughout the region from its hub in Panama as well as continuing to open additional destinations throughout Asia, Africa and the Middle East. With the majority of humanitarian workers having been under lockdown for months and additional staff required to meet the needs of the COVID-19 response, an exponential growth of passenger numbers is expected as

countries grant clearances to the WFP passenger service. This trend has been noted already, with twice as many passengers in June as in May.

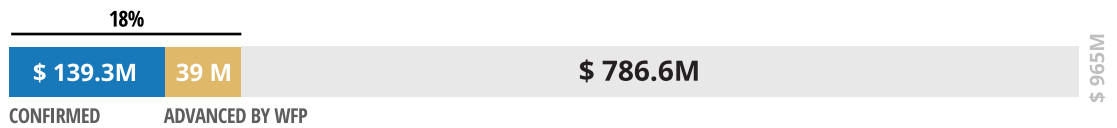
Funding is urgently needed to ensure that WFP is able to continue offering these vital passenger and cargo services to meet current and projected needs.

### DONOR REQUIREMENTS

WFP has moved to quickly set up the logistics infrastructure needed to support this global response and has been able to do this thanks to the generosity of its donors. However, this is a response on a scale never seen before and with the pandemic showing no signs of abating, it is crucial that the response does not stop now when it is needed most.

Now is a critical time for the donor community to support this collective response. As the global community rallies together to respond to this crisis, contributions are required urgently to enable WFP to maintain this vital logistics service beyond the middle of July.

**\$ 178.4M**  
CONTRIBUTIONS PIPELINE



### CONFIRMED AND ADVANCED CONTRIBUTIONS

