

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP COVID-19 Response Global Service Provision Plan

9 June 2020





Introduction

The UN Secretary-General has warned that the COVID-19 pandemic is the worst crisis the world has faced since World War II. Governments are closing borders, restricting trade and grounding transport to try and contain the virus. National health structures are overwhelmed, understaffed and cannot cope with the pace the virus is spreading.

As of 9 June 2020, nearly 7 million cases have been confirmed worldwide. COVID-19 does not distinguish between individuals or countries and the entire world is exposed. Countries with weak health systems and fragile socio-economic, political and security environments are particularly vulnerable.

To fight this, we need a coordinated global response and we need it now.

The World Food Programme (WFP), as the largest humanitarian organisation with proven expertise in supply chain and logistics, is working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN system and other humanitarian partners to deliver this global response – as outlined in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) launched on 25 March 2020.

As WFP invests in sustaining its own operations, WFP is setting up a comprehensive platform of services to enable the humanitarian and health response. Existing partnerships with the public and private sector are being leveraged and used to complement WFP's logistics capabilities, assets, expertise and services.

The objectives of this are:

- Support health partners and country efforts to augment national health systems and enable access to critical medical supplies including equipment, treatment facilities and training.
- Ensure that those furthest behind, who rely on WFP and humanitarian partners for day-to-day support, continue to receive assistance.
- Ensure duty of care for WFP staff and the broader humanitarian community.

As outlined in the revision to the GHRP on 7 May, **USD 965 million is urgently required** for WFP to provide the common services as well as ensure real-time monitoring of the global situation and provide critical investments required to safely deliver operations and services worldwide.



Budget

The first GHRP included a budget of USD 350 million as an initial investment to set up WFP’s common services, on behalf of the global humanitarian and health community. In the revised GHRP launched on 7 May, this increased to USD 965 million – reflecting the ask from the humanitarian and health community to increase services. Reasons for this increase are:

- The need to sustain operations until the end of 2020.
- An increase in requests from partners illustrating the scaled up needs in the humanitarian and health community.
- An increase in priority countries from the initial GHRP.
- Disruptions in the market including increased costs and border restrictions.

Service	Cost (USD)
Establish, equip and manage international consolidation hubs and regional staging areas	56.3 million
Air cargo operations	663.2 million
Passenger air services	81 million
Medical Evacuation Services (MEDEVAC)	116 million
Shipping services	26.8 million
Augmentation in Logistics, Telecommunications and Food Security Clusters	12.1 million
Real-time remote data collection and visualization	4.8 million
Office hygiene items for personnel and dependents	4.8 million
TOTAL BUDGET	965 million

NOTE: All costs are approximate and subject to change, depending on how commercial markets and demands evolve.

Strategic Consolidation Hubs and Regional Staging Areas

WFP has established **strategic consolidation hubs** in Guangzhou, Liege and Dubai to support the effective and efficient global movement of cargo. These international hubs are connected to **regional staging areas** in Africa (Accra, Addis Ababa and Johannesburg), Latin America (Panama), Asia (Kuala Lumpur) and the Middle East (Dubai).

This network of strategically located hubs are serving as cargo consolidation points, accepting and preparing all cargo for prioritized, coordinated forwarding to the regional staging areas and/or final destinations. Where possible, WFP is building upon the existing UNHRD network, including Brindisi, and leveraging in-house emergency telecommunications expertise, assets and partnerships to equip the hubs. Both at international and regional level, hubs are sufficiently equipped to handle medical, dangerous air cargo as well as temperature-controlled items.



Cargo being loaded for a flight from Liege to West Africa. Photo: Pixel Prod

Air and Sea Cargo Transport

Unprecedented restrictions on global international movement coupled with tightening of border controls worldwide has led to the disruption of global health and humanitarian supply-chains. WFP has set up air transport links, on a free-to-user basis, between strategic hubs and regional staging areas – and onward to final destination countries where required – to ensure the predictable and sustained movement of life-saving humanitarian and health cargo.



COVID-19 Response

Depending on priority of cargo, and taking into account constraints such as border closures, overland cargo transport will be explored where possible.

- **Regular long-haul cargo flights** are taking place between the strategic hubs and regional staging areas. When at full capacity there will be approximately 43 flights per month.
- **Regular regional cargo flights** are taking place between regional staging areas and countries within each region.
- For slow movement cargo, and specialised cargo that requires transport by sea, **WFP shipping services** are being availed.

WFP has launched the [Emergency Service Marketplace](#), an online service provision platform where partners can request cargo services.

As of 30 April free-to-user cargo flights have been taken place across the network transporting humanitarian and medical supplies on behalf of partners.

Passenger Air Transport

WFP is operating passenger air services to ensure that humanitarian and health staff are not restricted by commercial transport closures and can rapidly reach the areas where they are most needed. Such air services will only be used to fill the gap where commercial airlines are unavailable.

- **Twelve medium-sized passenger aircraft** (150-seater) will be based in the regional hubs to transport humanitarian and health staff between regional hubs and critical countries of operation.
- WFP is ready to stand up a regular **international passenger service** from Geneva and Rome to/from Africa if commercial flights become unavailable.

As of 1 May WFP has launched the regional passenger service. Regular flights are now transporting passengers across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Flights across the entirety of those regions and others are expected shortly. Passengers can view up-to-date schedules and book flights on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

WFP's global passenger air service is partially funded thanks to the commitment from donors and supplemented by cost recovery fees at around 35%.



Preparing COVID-19 supplies in Panama to be dispatched to support healthcare workers in South America. Photo: WFP/Diana Mora

Medical Evacuation Services

Due to the increased risk of exposure to COVID-19, worldwide movement restrictions and the grounding of commercial transport systems WFP is working with partners to set up medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) services for UN and INGO personnel. This is through the UN System-Wide Task Force on MEDEVAC, led by the UN Department of Operational Support. We must ensure the safety and wellness of humanitarian and health responders whilst not creating additional burdens on host governments and their health systems.

The plan is to base COVID-19 MEDEVAC services out of five regional hubs serving field operations across the globe according to the needs in each region. All facilities will be sufficiently equipped to handle critical patients affected by contagious diseases. Locations are chosen according to the willingness of governments to receive COVID-19 patients and based on advice from the UN Medical Doctors Network.

WFP is offering the below services in the five locations:

- The establishment of the infrastructure of a dedicated **COVID-19 field hospital**, if there is no available existing private medical facility. This will be used for the treatment of humanitarian and health staff with a COVID-19 infection. Facilities will be managed by WHO or other health partners.
- **10 air ambulances** (two in each hub) will be positioned to facilitate the swift and safe movement of infected staff from operations back to hubs for treatment.
- **10 road ambulances** will be positioned for use at each of the COVID-19 field hospitals.

WFP is in the final stages of establishing field hospitals in Accra and Addis Ababa.



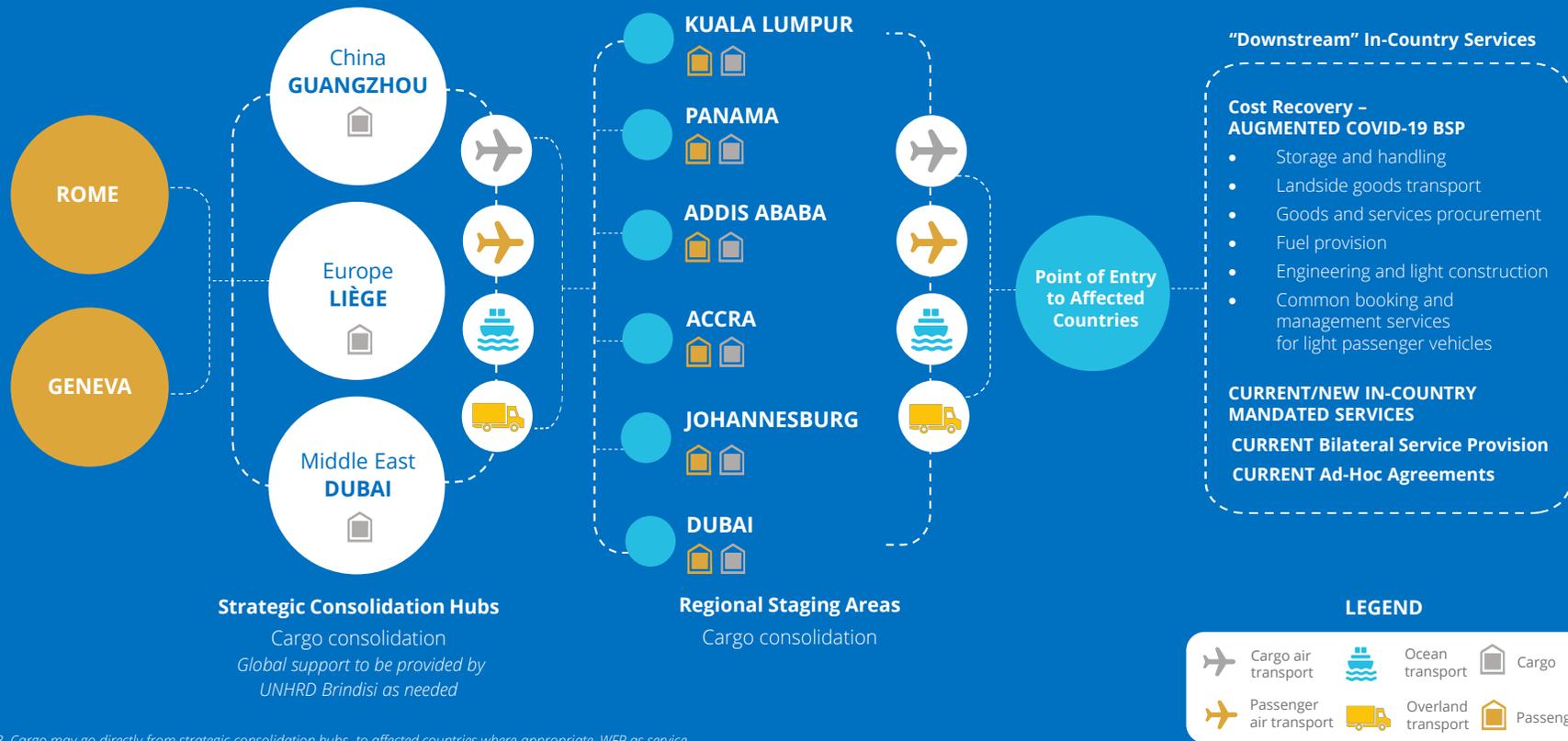
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Date: 28 April 2020

Due to the developing context, hub locations and services may change

Free-to-User - "Upstream" Services in/between/from established Strategic Consolidation Hubs & Regional Staging Areas

Coordination and IM



NB. Cargo may go directly from strategic consolidation hubs to affected countries where appropriate. WFP as service provider will determine the most appropriate method for cargo transport in consultation with service user.