



WFP Caribbean COVID-19 Situation Report #1

2 JUNE 2020

COVID-19 In Numbers

403,500 people are estimated to be severely food insecure out of a total of 1.7 million food insecure in 17 Caribbean countries and territories.

1,763 people affected by the virus across 22 countries and territories.

536 active cases; **85** deaths; **1,142** recovered

21 countries with borders closed and/or lockdown policies in place.

Highlights

- WFP led a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) COVID-19 livelihoods and food security impact survey throughout the Caribbean, attracting 4500+ responses across 19 countries.
- WFP and the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) co-lead the Caribbean COVID-19 Logistics Cell.
- WFP is preparing to support the governments of Dominica and Saint Lucia with cash transfers through national social protection programmes.

Situation Update

- 20 governments in the region covered by the WFP Caribbean Office have temporarily closed their borders or suspended incoming passenger travel. At least 19 countries and territories have imposed internal movement restrictions and ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses.
- Restrictions on movement and closure of borders has had a severe impact on important economic sectors, like tourism, causing widespread loss of jobs/income and livelihood disruptions. This, in turn, has impacted access to food, particularly for the poorest communities.
- With the widespread closure of schools, many vulnerable school children are no longer receiving school meals.
- At least 16 countries have announced or implemented social protection measures to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. Out of these, at least 10 countries have modified ongoing programmes through top-up transfers to existing beneficiaries and/or expansion to new beneficiaries. The other 6 countries have introduced new programmes.
- With an active hurricane season forecasted, which commences in June, there are concerns about how countries and vulnerable populations will be able to cope should there be an event that could further impact food security and livelihoods in the region.
- The UN sub-regional team for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean launched a multisectoral response plan to COVID-19, appealing for USD 30 million of which approximately USD 10 million correspond to WFP requirements.

WFP Response

- WFP has published [a summary report and several country reports](#) from the CARICOM COVID-19 food security and livelihoods impact survey. The survey highlights that the pandemic has caused widespread disruption to livelihoods and that nearly half of respondents have faced a change in income. A follow-up survey is planned for late May/early June to track changes over time.
- The survey results, as well as engagement with governments and regional entities in the Caribbean, has been the basis for a budget revision to the WFP Caribbean interim multi-country strategic plan (2020-2021) which will see an increase in budgetary requirements for Strategic Outcome (SO) 1 (capacity strengthening/technical assistance), SO2 (cash transfers to affected populations) and SO3 (logistics common services). This scale-up and necessary preparations are already underway.
- WFP has been able to repurpose approximately USD 235,000 from SO1 to cover growing needs in SO2 with resources from the Joint SDG Fund and ECHO. WFP's support to CDEMA and national governments under SO1 has been largely refocused on COVID-19 related issues through assessment and analysis, end-to-end supply chain management and shock-responsive social protection efforts.

USD 16.5 million

Funding required for emergency cash assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations through government social protection systems; and common logistics services to support a unified Caribbean response and to establish delivery capacities to countries throughout the Caribbean.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Based on a series of recently published or to-be-published country case studies on shock-responsive social protection, WFP Caribbean is working with governments to develop tailored technical assistance support for governments to expand social assistance. WFP is coordinating with national governments, UN partners and international financial institutions to identify gaps and areas of support.
 - WFP Caribbean Office is supporting the Government of Saint Lucia to expand its Public Assistance Programme with cash transfers to support vulnerable households. This will bridge the gap to when a more permanent expansion of the programme takes place through World Bank financing.
 - WFP is also planning to provide cash transfers through the expansion of social assistance in Dominica, based on ongoing discussion with donors.
 - WFP is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Social Services in the British Virgin Islands to potentially expand its social assistance in response to COVID-19. WFP support is focused on policy, registration and beneficiary selection/targeting, cash delivery options, communications and accountability to affected populations and monitoring and evaluation.
- WFP and CDEMA have developed a concept for an Integrated Regional Logistics Hub (IRLH) and a bonded warehouse facility at Grantly Adams International Airport has been made available by the Government of Barbados. CDEMA and WFP continue to work with authorities to determine the requirements to activate this facility to receive and manage incoming COVID-19 medical supplies and equipment for Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries. WFP has also engaged an alternative commercial facility as a contingency for initial consignments.
 - WFP developed a concept for the development of an air bridge in the Caribbean for life-saving medical and technical support that could be activated subject to funding. Given the imminent arrival of COVID-19 related medical equipment and supplies, resources for onward transport from Barbados to receiving countries is urgently required.
 - A similar concept is under development for a sea bridge to strengthen Caribbean regional integration for food and other basic commodities should this become necessary.

Supply Chain

- Prior to border closures, WFP Caribbean pre-emptively scaled up its logistics capacities based in the Caribbean to provide greater support to the COVID-19 response.
- WFP established a Caribbean COVID-19 Logistics Cell (co-led by CDEMA) that includes PAHO, UNICEF, military actors engaged in the Caribbean through the Multi-National Caribbean Civil Military Coordination Cell (MNCCC), ECHO, Global Affairs Canada, UNOPS, IFRC and the French Red Cross, among others. The Logistics Cell was developed to strengthen coordination and understanding of regional supply chain needs and potential common service support from WFP.
- WFP has offered supply chain management advice to the UN system throughout the Caribbean to support procurement efforts within the region.
- WFP is increasing prepositioned logistics assets throughout the Caribbean building on existing kits in the CDEMA sub-regional focal point countries as well as

Donors

- WFP Caribbean is appreciative of the support from partners including the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Organisation (ECHO), Global Affairs Canada, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXID), The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), SDG Fund, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), UK Government, and the private sector.
- WFP is anticipating further imminent support from additional donors with an estimated USD 1.5 million for Activities 1 and 2.

Contacts

Regis Chapman, Head of Office
Email: regis.chapman@wfp.org

Juliette Maughan, Partnerships Officer
Email: Juliette.maughan@wfp.org

WFP interim multi-country strategic plan (2020-2021)*

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)	People to be Assisted	Female	Male
IMCSP Caribbean TOTAL (2020-2021)	26,026,728	4,597,262	16,508,993			
Activity 1 — Capacity Strengthening	7,155,382	4,014,615	900,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Activity 2 — Cash-based transfers	8,318,720	582,647	6,145,837	1,207	513	694
Activity 3 — Common services	10,552,626	0	9,463,156	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Figures are estimates based on ongoing budget revision