



# WFP COMMON SERVICES

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

Situation Report #3 | 11 August 2020

COVID-19 continues to pose challenges globally, causing severe interruptions to supply chains and logistics operations. To minimise the impact on humanitarian operations, WFP is using its logistics capacity and expertise within the framework of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) to support health and humanitarian partners as they respond to not only the global health response to COVID-19, but also to existing humanitarian crises around the world.

### HIGHLIGHTS



**1,013**  
PASSENGER FLIGHTS



**18,209** PASSENGERS  
transported to 55 destinations



**44,654\*** m<sup>3</sup>  
of cargo transported to 161 countries



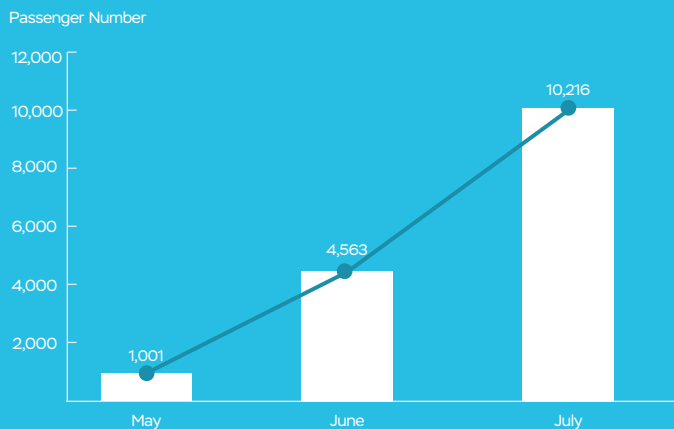
**316** ORGANIZATIONS  
supported through WFP Common Services

\*Via COVID-19 free-to-user cargo services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP Bilateral Services and UNHRD dispatches (including those directly from suppliers)

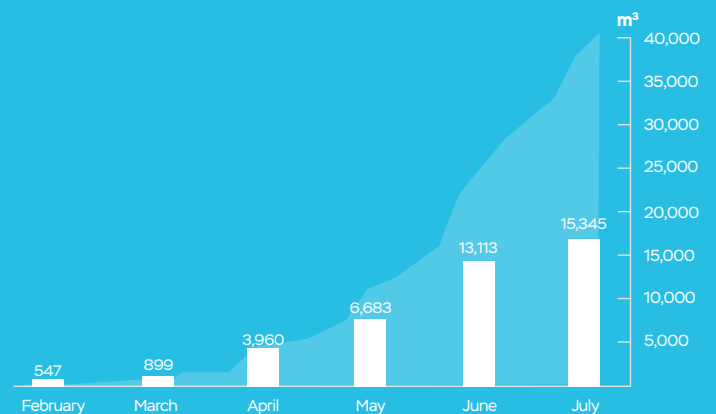


WFP/Jama Hassan

#### Monthly Passenger Trend, 1 May - 31 July 2020



#### Monthly Cargo Dispatch Trend, 1 February - 31 July 2020 (BSP, UNHRD, Free-to-User)



● Cargo dispatched monthly ● Cumulative cargo dispatched



# AIR PASSENGER SERVICES

WFP has commenced its first flights in the Latin American region, marking an important milestone in its air passenger operations as the region continues to be a hotspot for COVID-19 infections. The first flight took place between Mexico City, Mexico and Bogota, Colombia on 5 August. Additional flights to Panama, Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela are expected to commence shortly, providing a valuable connection into the continent for health and humanitarian responders.

In addition to services in Latin America, WFP continues to provide vital air links to destinations throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States countries, including a connection between Rome, Italy to Accra, Ghana, with over **55 destinations** now served. Since launching in May, **18,209 passengers** from **290 organizations** have taken WFP flights, with the service providing a vital means for health and humanitarian workers to make it to the frontlines of the COVID-19 response.

In line with its mission to fill gaps in commercial transport markets rather than replace commercial capacity, WFP continues to assess availability of safe and reliable commercial access to the countries it serves and where this becomes available, stands down its own passenger services. WFP air passenger services have already ceased to Tanzania, South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, and Djibouti. Services have also ceased to Lebanon due to the reinstatement of commercial flights, however WFP stands ready to assist should its aviation services be needed once more following the recent port explosion.

Addis Ababa, Accra, Dar Es Salam, Entebbe, Abuja, Niamey, Yaoundé, N'djamena, Bangui, Bamako, Juba, Brazzaville, Monrovia, Conakry, Ouagadougou, Kigali, Kuala Lumpur, Yangon, Vientiane, Beirut, Freetown, Kathmandu, Bissau, Nairobi, Abidjan, Sao Tome, Banjul, Cotonou, Dakar, Mogadishu, Dili, Cairo, Sharjah, Yerevan, Baghdad, Erbil, Johannesburg, Lilongwe, Maputo, Bujumbura, Kinshasa, Goma, Lomé, Zurich, Algiers, Bishkek, Djibouti, Nouakchott, Asmara, Dushanbe, Rome, Amman, Antananarivo, Mexico City, Bogotá



**1,013**  
FLIGHTS



transporting  
**18,209**  
PASSENGERS



to  
**55** DESTINATIONS



on behalf of  
**290**  
ORGANIZATIONS

WFP/Lila Ricart

The first WFP Aviation passenger flight between Mexico City and Bogotá launched the Global Passenger Service in Latin America.

# CARGO TRANSPORT



## 161 COUNTRIES REACHED

Via COVID-19 GHRP free-to-user cargo services, WFP Bilateral Services and UNHRD dispatches

## CARGO DISPATCHED 44,654 m<sup>3</sup>

50 Organizations served  
(59% NGO, 16% UN, 18% Government, 8% Other)

Please note that figures do not reflect cargo in transit, and hubs may handle larger volumes of cargo and reach more destinations than shown above.

Supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the measures put in place by governments to contain the spread of the virus put the continuation of health and humanitarian programmes at risk and severely complicated the immediate health response required to address the pandemic. To ensure the continued delivery of critical health and other humanitarian items, WFP rapidly leveraged its extensive logistics network to establish eight humanitarian response hubs, and the accompanying airlinks between them, dedicated to the COVID-19 response. WFP staff in these hubs have been working around the clock to ensure these essential goods can get to where they are needed, and volumes dispatched are only increasing. June and July each saw more than twice as much cargo transported as was in May. To-date, a total of **44,654 m<sup>3</sup>** of cargo has been dispatched on behalf of **50 organizations** to **161 countries** – enough cargo to fill 17 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

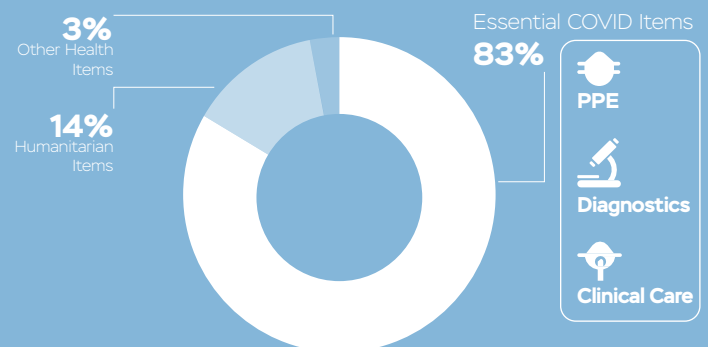
Of this, 31,494 m<sup>3</sup> has been dispatched via WFP's free-to-user cargo services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

To understand how WFP is working with health partners, including the World Health Organization, to

deliver these crucial health items to locations around the globe, watch this [short video](#).

In support of the global efforts to fight COVID-19, WFP continues to work with governments and the commercial sector to transport health and humanitarian cargo. ECHO continues to provide ad hoc flights from the WFP Brindisi, Dubai and Liege hubs, while for ten days in late July the Canadian government based a dedicated aircraft in Panama to support essential cargo deliveries throughout Latin America. Discussions are also ongoing with other partners for the provision of airlifts for the delivery of essential COVID-19 supplies.

### Type of cargo dispatched





## 1 M<sup>3</sup> EQUALS



**32,500**  
surgical masks

or



**1,650**  
safety goggles

or



**30,000**  
gloves

or



**1,800**  
face shields

## IN FOCUS - PANAMA HUB

As COVID-19 cases soar in Latin America, which has five of the top 10 most affected countries in total cases, the region has become a primary focus in the global response as ensuring a steady flow of essential health and humanitarian cargo into this part of the world becomes paramount. With the support of the Panamanian government, WFP recently inaugurated its new UNHRD warehouse which will reinforce the COVID-19 response throughout the region. 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> of the warehouse are dedicated to the cold storage

of medicines. These improved facilities combined with Panama's strategic geographical position in the region are providing WFP with the capacity to respond quickly and effectively to the emergency in Latin America and the Caribbean in support of governments and the humanitarian community. 7,769 m<sup>3</sup> of health and humanitarian cargo has now been dispatched by WFP to 40 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, of which 88 percent was transported under the free-to-user umbrella, including on two full charters to Haiti.

### WITH CANADIAN SUPPORT

To meet the critical needs of the response in the region, six charter planes over the course of ten days arrived in Panama from the Guangzhou hub in China with some 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> of essential COVID-19 cargo – and to support with onward movement, the Canadian government stepped up. A thirty-one personnel team began arriving in Panama on 19 July to accompany a CC-177 Globemaster III, one of the largest aircraft in the Canadian fleet. The complexity of dispatching from a location under curfew and subject to extremely strict COVID-19 protocols cannot be underestimated. Among other measures, the crew had to be in strict quarantine for 14 days before arrival and another fourteen upon landing back in Canada. The team and aircraft operated out of the Panama Pacífico airport, transporting over 800 m<sup>3</sup> of critical medical supplies to Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guatemala and Barbados on behalf of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Jack Ma Foundation and national governments to support health workers and hospitals on the frontlines of the pandemic.





# UN MEDEVAC SERVICES

To ensure that the personnel of UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations are able to ‘stay and deliver’ as part of the COVID-19 response, it is essential to ensure that these front-line workers have access to medical care in case of infection, but also that this does not cause an additional strain on the medical facilities of the countries hosting them, depleting already stretched resources needed for the national population. To support this essential mandate, WFP is utilizing its access to a global network of contracted air ambulances and its experience in carrying out medical evacuations to co-lead the aviation arm of the UN Medevac Cell together with UN Department of Operational Support, based out of the Strategic Air Operations Centre in Brindisi, Italy. The cell has completed a total of 51 medevacs - 35 carried out by WFP and 16 by UNDOS - since its roll out on 22 May when the unified system was activated by the Secretary General.



**2** FIELD HOSPITALS  
constructed (Accra and Addis Ababa)



**35** MEDEVACS COMPLETED  
with WFP-contracted air ambulances



**24/7**  
Medevac Cell



## COORDINATION

WFP is involved in a number of coordination structures to streamline the global COVID-19 response, including co-chairing the Supply Chain Task Force with WHO, which coordinates across the UN, NGO and government communities. WFP is also a member of the Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell, established by the UN Crisis Management Team, which is responsible for information management and operational activities related to the COVID-19 Supply Chain System. This ensures that a ‘line of sight’ is provided on supply chain requirements, ensuring COVID-19 needs are prioritized within the wider humanitarian response.

Within this framework, WHO leads the prioritization and destination for health items, while WFP serves as logistics lead to deliver the items on behalf of the humanitarian community.

In addition to providing ongoing in-country support, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated with a total of 138 partner organizations, providing critical information to assist in international and in-country operational planning for the COVID-19 response, as well as providing an important forum for the discussion of logistics constraints, challenges and opportunities.



# LOOKING FORWARD

Funding still remains a primary concern to ensure WFP's continued support to the global COVID-19 response. The pandemic continues to accelerate globally with almost 20 million cases reported as of 11 August and second waves of infection starting to appear in countries previously through to have the virus under control. While commercial capacity is slowly resuming, WFP's logistics services continue to be the sole method of transporting health and humanitarian personnel and cargo to many locations around the world.

To ensure that these vital services continue to operate beyond September, an urgent injection of funds is required. Of the US\$ 965 million requested to see these services through to the end of 2020, only US\$ 201 million – 21 percent of the funding requirements – has been received to-date. The funds already received have allowed WFP to directly support 316 organizations in their response to some of the world's worst humanitarian crises in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ceasing of these services will have a wide-ranging impact.



**US\$ 201M**  
CURRENT CONTRIBUTIONS



**“** International Medical Corps (IMC) has greatly benefited from World Food Programme Common Services and our teams worldwide are grateful for their professional and timely support. With WFP staff assistance, IMC continues to move large volumes of essential COVID-19 related PPE equipment and supplies. Our teams support local health care providers, or in absence of capacity and infrastructure deliver essential health care services directly in coordination with local health authorities in 30 countries. WFP support was instrumental to enable health providers around the world with urgently needed protection.”

**Marin Tomas,**  
Senior Advisor for Logistics,  
IMC

International Medical Corps

**“** WFP has supported IFRC to deliver critical PPE and other COVID 19 materials, with a total of 733 MT and 405 m<sup>3</sup> sent to 33 different countries. We are very happy with the overall support and agility of WFP common services, and we are looking forward to continuing in the future our collaboration with WFP in the humanitarian field”.

**Nikola Jovanovic,**  
Global Advisor, Supply Chain Management Unit, IFRC



## DONORS (in alphabetical order)

**Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America. Funds have also been received from UN CERF, and from private donors including: Latter-Day Saint Charities, Mars, Takeda and UN Foundation.**

**For more information, please contact [HQ.IM.Globalserviceprovision@wfp.org](mailto:HQ.IM.Globalserviceprovision@wfp.org)**

Please note that figures provided are the most accurate at time of publishing, however may be revised once further information becomes available.

Key documents including the [Concept of Operations](#), detailed [FAQs](#) and other guidelines are available on the [Emergency Service Marketplace \(ESM\)](#).