



World Food Programme



World Health Organization

COVID-19 Supply Chain System – Brief

20 August 2020

The COVID-19 Supply Chain System (CSCS) was established in response to unprecedented supply and market constraints that followed the pandemic outbreak, namely: depleting stocks, reduced manufacturing capacity, logistics market constraints and lack of supply chain information.

THE CSCS IS BASED ON THREE PRINCIPLES:



Consolidated Demand

Demand is consolidated at national level and collected through the WHO Supply Portal, a platform built to facilitate national authorities and implementing partners to request essential supplies. Launched at the beginning of May it had received over a hundred requests in just two weeks.



Coordinated Purchasing

Procurement is led by three consortia responsible for the sourcing, validation and purchasing of essential items, namely PPE, Diagnostics and Clinical Care. The consortia made of UN agencies, NGOs as well as Foundations, agree on technical specifications, aggregate demand forecasts, source supplies, guide allocations.



Streamlined Distribution

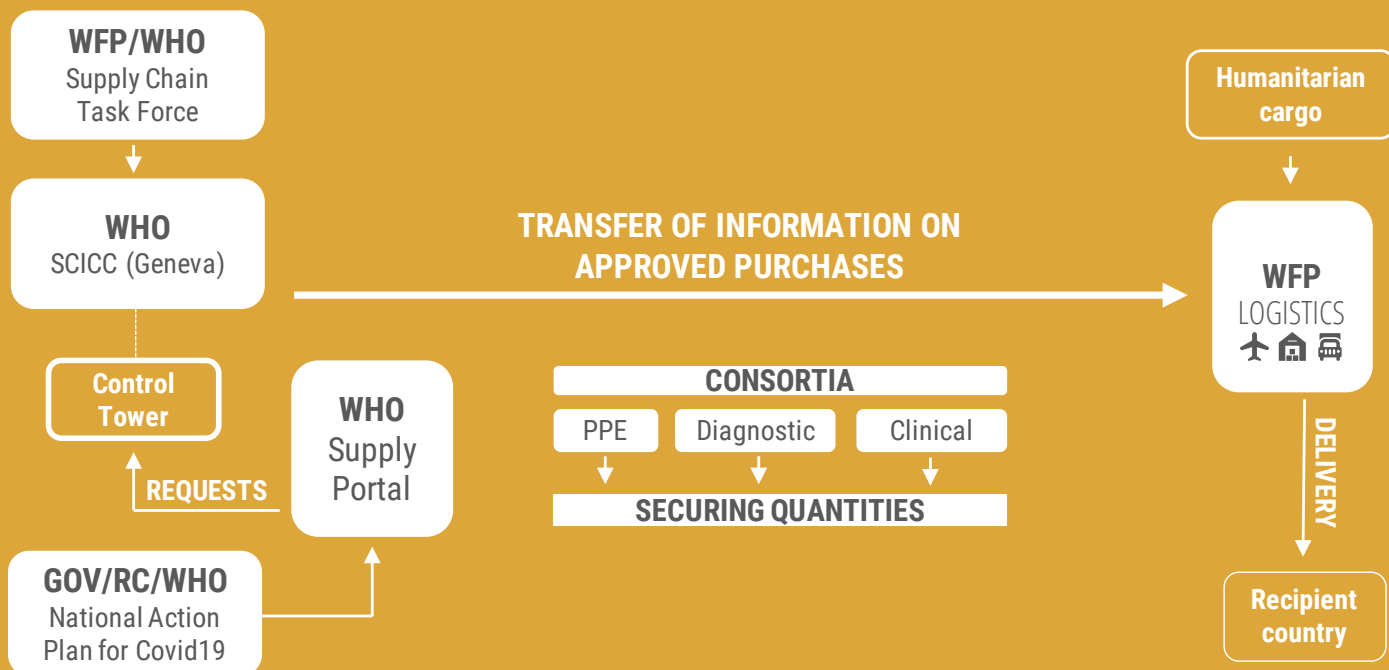
The delivery of supplies is led by WFP that arrange transport, according to volumes per destination, to strategic consolidation hubs and regional staging areas for subsequent delivery to the last point of entry or directly to point of entry. The delivery of supplies is managed through the Emergency Service Marketplace (ESM).

WFP and WHO as the co-leads of the Supply Chain Task Force, have been working with partners to implement the COVID-19 Supply Chain System.

The day-to-day operational activities under the Task Force are carried out by the Supply Chain Inter-Agency Cell (SCICC). The SCICC provides 'line of sight' to supply chain requirements, ensuring COVID-19 needs are prioritized within the wider humanitarian response. The SCICC is responsible for information management and operational activities, including coordination of the Consortia and the management of the Control Tower.

The Control Tower is the central interface where country demand, partner procurement mechanisms and allocation principles come together. The Control Tower manages execution of allocation against the principles and strategy provided by the Task Force/Consortia. The Control Tower ensures that the committed requests trigger the delivery and a hub-and-spoke distribution chain that will be operated and optimized for each category.

COVID-19 Supply Chain System – structure



CONSOLIDATED DEMAND

The demand for essential medical items is coordinated and validated at country level and submitted to the WHO Supply Portal. Demands are aligned by national governments in coordination with the Humanitarian Coordinators and Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to validate needs and set priorities under National Action Plan.



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In addition to WHO, significant quantities are being procured, allocated and dispatched by other organizations, particularly IOM, The Global Fund, UNICEF and UNOPS.

The collective work of these partners translates in millions of COVID-19 essential items delivered or on their way to affected countries.

During the first months of the response WHO secured COVID-19 essential items to kick start the operations:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
1.2B UNITS
Masks, gloves, goggles, etc.

DIAGNOSTICS ITEMS
25M UNITS
Tests, swabs, etc.

CLINICAL CARE ITEMS
180K UNITS
Oxygen Concentrators, ventilators

QUANTITIES ALLOCATED IN NUMBER OF ITEMS



STREAMLINED DELIVERY

The dispatches are led by WFP that arranges transport, depending on volumes per destination, to regional hubs for subsequent delivery to the last point of entry or directly to point of entry.

While first deliveries were predominately for WHO and government agencies, such as the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, WFP is now serving a variety of partners that include, the Red Cross and the Federation and NGOs. So far WFP cargo services have reached 165 countries (roughly 85 percent of the world), and enough cargo to fill the equivalent of 228 jumbo jets is expected to require WFP transport over the next weeks.



ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED
51



TOTAL CARGO DISPATCHED
48,676 m³



COUNTRIES REACHED
165



For more information, please visit:
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-operations>

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