7 WAYS WFP Uganda Is Changing and Saving Lives During COVID-19

On the 22nd of March 2020, the first case of coronavirus, or COVID-19, was announced in Uganda. The presidential directive and health guidance on movement restrictions have kept most of the population safe. However, they have presented challenges in the flow of assistance provided to the 1.2 million refugees across the country and the 200,000 people of Karamoja that the UN World Food Programme (WFP) serves. These challenging times compel humanitarian and development agencies, like WFP, to lean on innovation, efficiency, and perseverance to meet the needs of vulnerable populations through the delivery of quality services. As such, WFP in Uganda has been working closely with its partners and the Government of Uganda to ensure the delivery of essential services such as food and cash, as well as logistical support, are unhindered during this unprecedented global pandemic. Here are just a few of the ways WFP has continued to support Ugandans and those seeking refuge in Uganda on their quest to achieve zero hunger across the country during the COVID-19 response.

1. **LOCAL PURCHASES**

WFP lent ten trucks with capacity of 100 metric tonnes and availed one 5,000MT warehouse for food storage for a period of four months. The presidential initiative on urban feeding programme targets 1.5 Million.

2. **TEMPORARY SCREENING FACILITIES ACROSS UGANDA**

WFP Uganda built five large COVID-19 screening facilities across Uganda. One 900 sq. meter facility was built at the Entebbe International Airport with the capacity to accommodate at least 1,000 incoming travelers per day. The facility was commissioned by the Ministry of Health and funded by UKAid. We also built one screening facility at each of the following border points; Busa, Elegu, Malaba, and Matukula.

3. **LOGISTICS COORDINATION SUPPORT**

To assure the continued flow of goods into, and throughout the country, WFP offered its knowledge of logistics by co-leading the COVID-19 logistics cluster of the National Response Taskforce alongside the Ministry of Health, WHO and other UN agencies to sustain the national supply chain. WFP also seconded one of its international logistics staff members to the Ministry of Health full-time and the organization currently co-chairs the Logistics Cluster.

4. **STORAGE FACILITIES AND TRANSPORT OF GOODS**

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5. **LOGISTICS SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba have provided PPE support to 54 African countries through the African Union. WFP has transported all the donated materials and equipment to countries on the continent. WFP Uganda helped the Ministry of Health in the clearance and storage of the items and availed three trucks with a capacity of five metric tonnes each for transportation and distribution.

6. **PROVISION OF PPE 240,000 ITEMS**

WFP delivered nearly 240,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff, partners, and government nationwide, so that they would be able to carry out duties safely, without any interruptions. PPE items were donated, in part, by the Jack Ma Foundation of China.

7. **TREATMENT FOR MALNUTRITION**

WFP’s COVID-19-specific standard operating procedures have helped us reach a monthly average of 13,000 pregnant and nursing women, in addition to children with treatment for life-threatening malnutrition across the Karamoja region.