



WFP COMMON SERVICES

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Situation Report #4 | 31 August 2020

COVID-19 continues to pose challenges globally, and while disruptions to supply chains and logistics operations are slowly reducing, capacity has still not returned to pre-pandemic levels. To minimise the impact on humanitarian operations, WFP is using its logistics capacity and expertise within the framework of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan 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



1,184
PASSENGER FLIGHTS



21,166 PASSENGERS
transported to 64 destinations



56,823* m³
of cargo transported to 167 countries

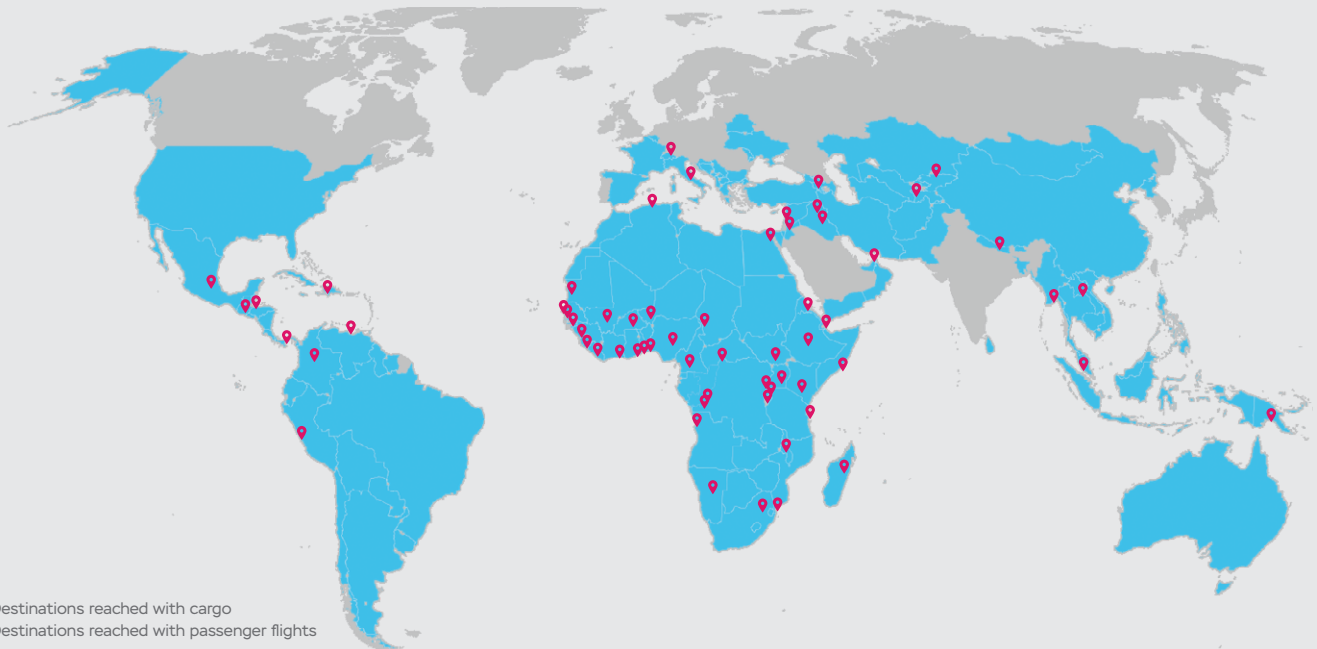


338 ORGANIZATIONS
supported through WFP Common Services

**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)*



COUNTRIES REACHED BY WFP COMMON SERVICES




- Destinations reached with cargo
- Destinations reached with passenger flights




AIR PASSENGER SERVICES

WFP continues to ensure that health and humanitarian workers can get to where they're most needed via its global air passenger service. While commercial operations are resuming in some areas, WFP's passenger services continue to ramp up across Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, areas which still remain largely without commercial access. As part of this, WFP's first flight to Angola took place on 27 August. Flights have also begun to Panama, Port-au-Prince, and Guatemala, with flights to El Salvador, Honduras and Botswana expected to commence shortly.


These air passenger services have been a vital link for humanitarians and health workers trying to reach the frontlines of the pandemic response. Between April and June 2020 as COVID-19 began to sweep across the world, the largest drop in air passenger capacity was seen in years, with a 92 percent global reduction in international flights according to the International Civil Aviation Organization. Markets have shown some improvement since then, and in line with its mission to fill gaps in commercial transport markets rather than replace commercial capacity, where safe and reliable commercial services resume, WFP stands down its own passenger services. As a result, WFP air passenger services have now been discontinued to 29 locations, however should there be a need WFP stands ready to reinstate these flights.




1,184*
FLIGHTS



to
64
DESTINATIONS



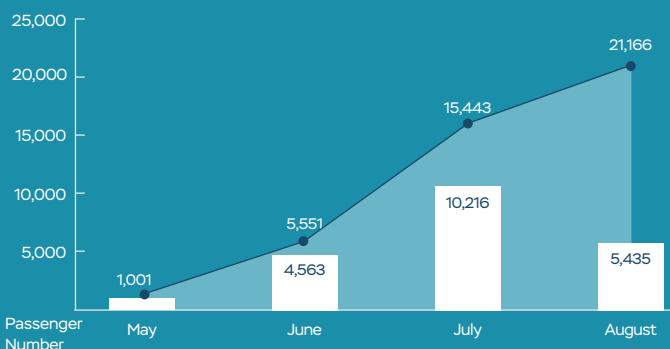
transporting
21,166
PASSENGERS



on behalf of
338
ORGANIZATIONS

*97.7% of received requests for passenger movements fulfilled

Monthly Passenger Trend, 1 May - 31 August 2020



WFP FLIGHTS BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA PROVE CRITICAL DURING PANDEMIC

“The organization urgently needs me to fill a vacant position in Mali. Thanks to this flight, I am finally able to reach my colleagues in Bamako and start my new assignment.” The words of one World Food Programme staffer but echoed amongst many humanitarians and diplomats reliant on WFP's air passenger service.

COVID-19 has severely interrupted the aviation industry, and Europe is far from immune. The pandemic saw passenger numbers at European airports fall by a staggering amount as flights were grounded and travel networks shut down, and figures continue to remain dramatically lower compared to 2019 despite an increase in recent months, according to the International Air Travel Association (IATA). WFP stepped up to fill the gap, ensuring that health and humanitarian workers were still able to move around the world via its Global Air Passenger Service and reach destinations where they are most needed by the people they serve.

As part of this service and through a collaboration between the Italian Government and WFP, a twice-weekly flight route was established between Rome and Accra, creating a vital air link between Europe and West Africa. From there, passengers were able to move through WFP's air hub in Accra on to further destinations throughout the region.

Follow the journey of one of our Aviation team members as she joins passengers on this route, and learn more about WFP's air passenger service [here](#).



WFP/Derrick Botchway

WFP Aviation staff speak with immigration officers at Accra International Airport

CARGO TRANSPORT

The initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global air capacity was significant. Prior to the pandemic, some 50 percent of cargo was carried on passenger aircraft according to IATA, and the grounding of passenger flights to stem the spread of the virus therefore resulted in massive reductions in available cargo capacity. Demand for the remaining space was such that rates for air cargo dramatically increased, and similar issues were seen for overland and sea transport, challenging the ability of health and humanitarian organizations to get critical supplies to countries in need.

In order to shore up the continuity of global supply chains for the movement of this essential health and humanitarian cargo, WFP immediately activated its extensive logistics network to provide cargo movement services on behalf of the humanitarian community. To date, a total of **56,823 m³** of cargo has been dispatched on behalf of **55 organizations** to **167 countries** – over **85 percent** of the world – via WFP’s network of humanitarian response hubs. Of this cargo, **43,502 m³** has been transported via WFP’s free-to-user cargo services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, with August seeing the highest dispatches to-date due to large volumes of supplies becoming available for shipment.



56,823 m³ CARGO DISPATCHED

55 Organizations served
(59% NGO, 17% UN, 17% Government, 7% Other)

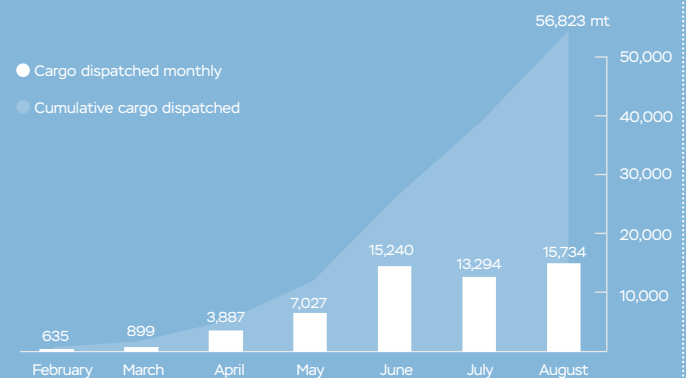


167 COUNTRIES REACHED

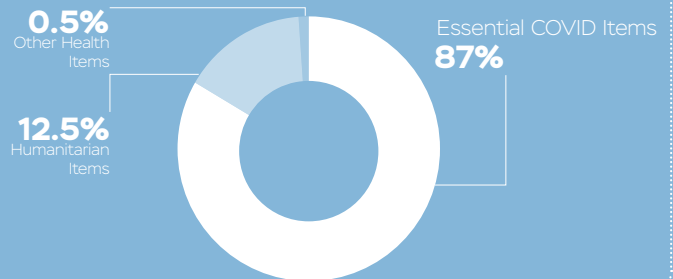
Via COVID-19 GHRP Free-to-User cargo services, WFP Bilateral Services and UNHRD dispatches

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.

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



Type of cargo dispatched



1 M³ EQUALS

32,500 surgical masks or **30,000** gloves
 or
1,650 safety goggles or **1,800** face shields

• PARTNERING TO FLY FURTHER •

With a response on such a global scale, partnerships are key for WFP to continue to support the health and humanitarian response to COVID-19. One such partnership is that with Singapore Airlines, who recently announced their donation of ad-hoc charter flights and freight space on scheduled services, kindly supported by a generous donation from the Temasek Foundation. The first of these flights took place on **August 21**, transporting health items to Bangladesh, and subsequent flights have now taken place to the Philippines, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Fiji, with a total of **1,836 m³** of supplies transported over 13 flights. Additional flights are planned in the coming period.

More information on the partnership can be found [here](#).





UN MEDEVAC SERVICES

To support all humanitarian staff on the frontlines and ensure their ability to “stay and deliver”, WFP is co-leading the aviation arm of the UN Medevac Cell together with the UN Department of Operational Support (UNDOS), based out of the Strategic Air Operations Centre in Brindisi, Italy. WFP was chosen as a member of this cell due to its ability to access a global network of contracted air ambulances and its experience in carrying out medical evacuations. Since the unified system was first rolled out on 22 May by the Secretary General, the cell has completed a total of 58 medevacs – 40 carried out by WFP and 18 by UNDOS.

• MOVING FORWARD IN GHANA •

A 68-bed field hospital constructed by WFP earlier this year in Accra, Ghana has now officially been handed over to WHO and is expected to open within three weeks. This coincides with the recent signing of the tripartite agreement between WFP, WHO and the Ghanaian Government to accept COVID-19 medevacs to the facility, demonstrating partnership at its best.



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 and NGO 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 WFP-led Logistics Cluster has coordinated with a total of **139 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.

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 the UN Foundation.

For more information, please contact 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 \(ESM\)](#).