



WFP COMMON SERVICES

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Situation Report #5 | 15 October 2020

As COVID-19 began to spread around the world in early 2020, severe impacts were felt across global supply chains and transport markets, impeding the ability of the health and humanitarian community to respond not only to the pandemic, but also existing humanitarian crises. To ensure humanitarian workers and cargo could continue to get where they were needed the most, WFP leveraged its logistics capacity and expertise to fill

gaps created by a reduction in commercial capacity, standing up passenger and cargo movement services to destinations around the world.

While the virus continues to pose challenges, supply chains and logistics operations are showing promising signs of improvement. WFP is continuing to support health and humanitarian partners as it adjusts its operations to reflect the changing circumstances.

HIGHLIGHTS



1,373
PASSENGER FLIGHTS



24,360 PASSENGERS
transported to 68 destinations



79,989* m³
of cargo transported to 169 countries



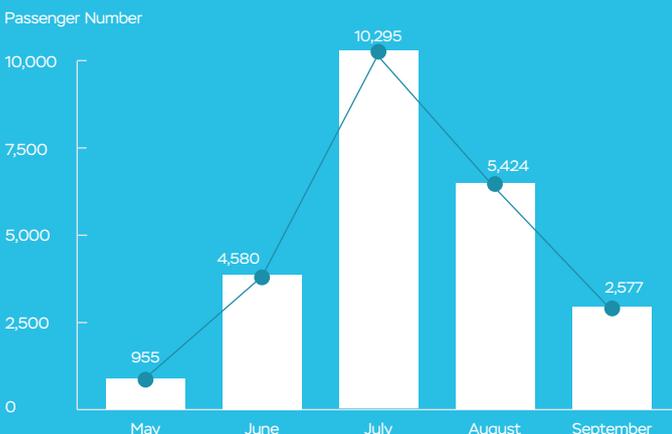
384 ORGANIZATIONS
supported through WFP Common Services

**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)*



Pixel Prod

Number of Passengers Transported Per Month (1 May-30 September 2020)



Volume of Cargo Dispatched Per Month (BSP, UNHRD, Free-to-User) (1 February - 30 September 2020)





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. Since the service first launched on 1 May, a total of 68 destinations across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Commonwealth of Independent States countries have been served, with WFP ensuring that 24,360 passengers from 384 organizations were still able to get where they needed to go, even when commercial options were no longer available.

As airspace restrictions have slowly relaxed in some countries and commercial carriers have returned to the skies, WFP has accordingly discontinued flights to 50 destinations (with the ability to resume as needed), but still maintains services to 18 locations around the world that remain without safe and reliable commercial options. WFP also continues to open up new destinations based on the needs of the health and humanitarian community. A connection has now been added to Nadi, Fiji, with the first flight taking place on 13 October from Kuala Lumpur.

Based on current availability of commercial options, remaining travel restrictions and the continued spread of the pandemic, WFP foresees that the requirement for its services to certain destinations, especially in hard-to reach areas, will continue at least until the end of 2020. Through monitoring of the commercial sector, WFP together with partners will re-assess the need for services to continue beyond 2020, with implementation contingent on funding availability, commercial gaps and partner demand.



*43 percent NGO, 44 percent UN, 13 percent Donors/Diplomats

A LAST RESORT



Since the emergence of the virus in the region in late February, the Latin American and Caribbean region has been one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of measures to contain the spread of the virus, a number of countries in the region suspended commercial flights, stranding many health and humanitarian workers and preventing others from reporting back to their duty stations in the region.

This included Espedito Nastro, a Research Assessment and Monitoring Officer based in Panama. An Italian national, Espedito found himself stuck in Italy and unable to return to Panama following a visit home, with all commercial flights cancelled. Needed in-country to conduct assessment missions on the ground, Espedito was in need of another solution.

This is where WFP's global air passenger service comes in. Like in other regions, once commercial services shut down, WFP immediately began negotiations with governments to allow humanitarian access, and began offering services to Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti. These services offered a lifeline to Espedito and others like him, ensuring their ability to move into, out of and around the region as needed.

"WFP's Global Air Passenger Service was the only option to reach Panama. I flew to Mexico via Paris from Rome, and I then took the WFP connection to Toluca. From there, I flew to Honduras, where I met some other colleagues on the plane and we then finally reached Panama City."

Espedito is now safely back in his duty station, working with colleagues to ensure that operations in the region can continue.

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 the International Air Transport Association, 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 **79,989 m³** of cargo has been dispatched on behalf of **62 organizations to 169 countries** – over 86 percent of the world – via WFP’s network of humanitarian response hubs. Of this cargo, **64,414 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 at over **17,000 m³** dispatched globally. This increase, almost **40 percent** more than July, was in part due to more direct deliveries being completed, including to some hard-to-reach destinations such as Yemen.



169 COUNTRIES REACHED

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

CARGO DISPATCHED 79,989 m³

62 Organizations served
 (57% NGO 16% UN, 14% Government, 13% 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.

Following a peak in April and May, a stabilization of airfreight rates and capacity was seen in July as restrictions in certain regions and countries were partially lifted. By August, airfreight rates had further stabilized to pre-COVID-19 levels, as a number of commercial carriers slowly resumed passenger and cargo operations. This market improvement coupled with a revised pipeline based on lower quantities of response items materializing than first predicted has led WFP to begin discussions with partners on a phasing out of its free-to-user cargo services.

As part of these phase out plans, cargo movement requests will continue to be accepted through the Emergency Services Marketplace until **31 October**, with all cargo ready to move by the end of November and dispatches complete by the end of 2020. This timeline is based on the current average delivery rate,

pace of operations and available funding, and is subject to change based on factors such as cargo readiness, destination countries and overall operating conditions, including potential resumption of COVID-19 preventive measures restricting commercial operations. The fluidity of the situation means that WFP will continue to monitor commercial availability and exercise flexibility in its planning, coordinating with partners to ensure that their specific needs are met while retaining the ability to resume should the need arise.

WFP remains committed to supporting the health and humanitarian community and ensuring that all allocated cargo will be moved, and beyond the phase-out of the free-to-user services will continue to support organizations needing to move cargo through its mandated services or via bilateral service provision.



WFP/Melchior Nsavijimana

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 **71 medevacs – 45 carried out by WFP and 26 by UNDOS.**

The timeframe for the continuation of medevac services is guided by the Medevac Task Force, and WFP will continue to support as long as needed.

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 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.

LOOKING FORWARD

In line with a partial recovery in the commercial sector, as well as better visibility on upcoming needs across cargo and passenger transport in support of the humanitarian community, funding requirements have reduced, resulting in WFP revising down its budget for the overall COVID-19 Common Services to **US\$ 316 million**. While donors have already generously provided the funds that allowed WFP to stand up its Common Services offering and to reach **169 countries** around the world with cargo and/or passengers, a further **US\$ 50 million** is still required to ensure that all remaining cargo can be moved and passenger services can continue as long as they are needed.

WFP will continue to communicate with its partners and donors as the Common Services transition to this next phase; key dates and procedures will be shared with service users and the wider humanitarian community and through established coordination mechanisms such as the Logistics Cluster and Hub Working Groups. While steps are put in place for a partial phase-out, given the unpredictability of this disease and its impacts, WFP remains committed to supporting the global COVID-19 response and stands ready to resume any discontinued services should the need arise and based on funding availability.



TIMELINE

- 23 March (Solidarity flight)**
Addis Ababa Logistics Hub opens
- 17 April**
Launch of the Supply Chain Task Force
- 30 April**
First cargo flight from Liege hub
- 1 May**
First passenger flight
- 8 May**
First cargo flight from Accra hub
- 15 May**
First cargo flight from Guangzhou hub
- 17 May**
First cargo flight from Kuala Lumpur hub
- 25 May**
First MEDEVAC
- 27 May**
First free-to-user cargo flight from Addis Ababa hub
- 31 May**
First ocean transport
- 4 June**
Field hospital installed in Accra
- 6 June**
1,000 passenger milestone reached
- 22 July**
2/3 world reached with cargo
- 31 July**
Peak passenger transport in one month
- 20 August**
20,000 passenger milestone
- 31 August**
Peak cargo transport in one month
- 14 September**
50,000 m³ of cargo dispatched under the free-to-user services

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.