

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

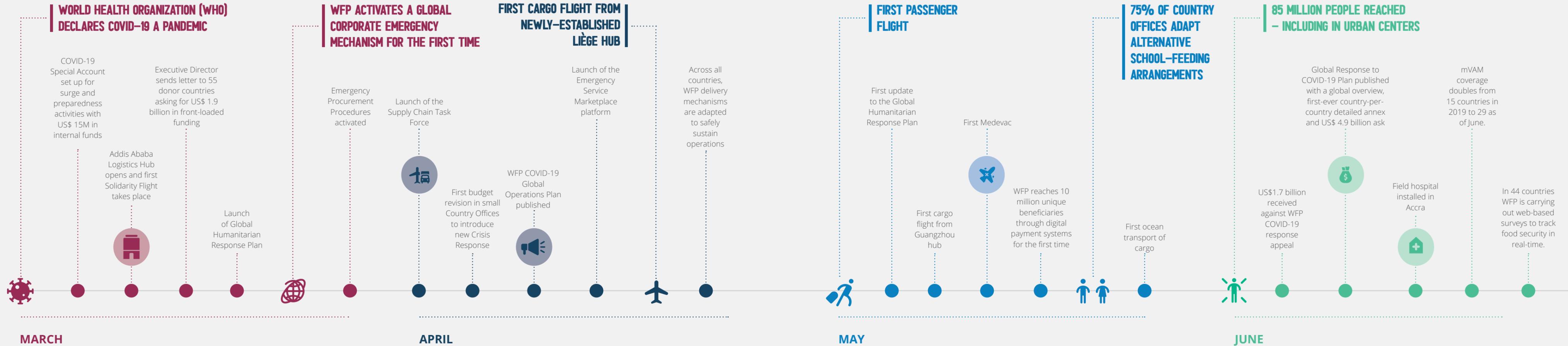
31 OCTOBER 2020



World Food
Programme

FROM OUTBREAK TO ACTION: HOW WFP RESPONDED TO COVID-19

TIMELINE



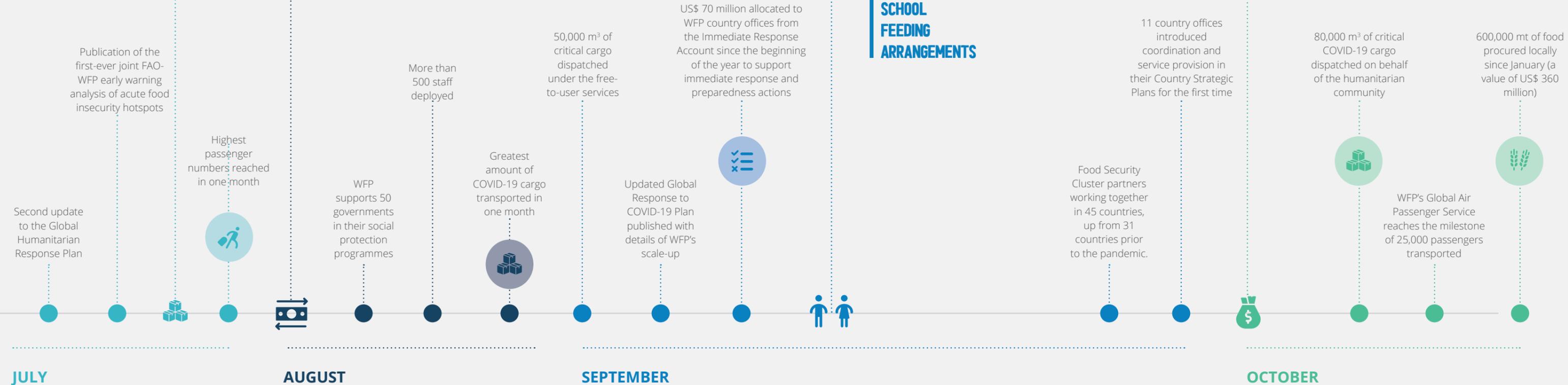
TIMELINE

TWO THIRDS OF THE WORLD REACHED WITH CRITICAL COVID-19 CARGO

US\$ 1.15 BILLION IN CASH-BASED TRANSFERS DISBURSED SINCE JANUARY

7 MILLION CHILDREN REACHED BY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS

US\$ 275.5 MILLION SOURCED FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WITH AN ADDITIONAL US\$ 117.5 MILLION PENDING FINAL APPROVAL BY GOVERNMENTS



“

EMERGENCIES BRING OUT THE VERY BEST IN WFP AND OUR PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN THEIR ALL TO THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19, WORKING DAY AND NIGHT WITH OUR PARTNERS TO REACH THE PEOPLE WE SERVE. TOGETHER, WE CAN BEAT THIS VIRUS.”

DAVID BEASLEY
WFP Executive Director

“

THE WOMEN AND MEN OF WFP BRAVE DANGER AND DISTANCE TO PROVIDE LIFE-SAVING HELP TO THOSE MOST VULNERABLE AND IN NEED. I AM PROUD AND GRATEFUL FOR THEIR COURAGE AND DETERMINATION.”

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
UN Secretary-General



WFP/DAMILOLA ONAFUWA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sustaining, scaling up, supporting and enabling a collaborative response

COVID-19 is the worst crisis the world has faced since World War II. The impacts of the pandemic were felt worldwide, in developed and developing countries alike. While conflict and insecurity remain the main drivers of hunger, the added dimension of COVID-19 exacerbated the ability of affected communities to cope, causing a drastic reduction in livelihood opportunities, employment and income - pushing many communities already on the brink further into desperate circumstances. In April 2020, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that if no action was taken 270 million people would become acutely food insecure in the countries in which it works; an increase of 82 percent on the figures prior to the pandemic.

Restrictions on travel and movement of goods, quarantine measures and the corresponding economic fallout as a result of the pandemic deepened the impact. Global supply chains suffered unprecedented consequences, leading to a slowdown, and in some cases shutdown, of supply chains worldwide. This impacted the ability of the health and humanitarian community to mount a global response to this pandemic.

WFP SCALED UP OPERATIONS TO REACH OVER 85 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2020

Following the World Health Organization's declaration of the pandemic in March, WFP, with critical support from donors, stepped up with a global platform of activities to mitigate the impact of this unparalleled disaster and support those at risk of being left even further behind. In close cooperation with its partners, WFP set out a strategy to:

- **Sustain** ongoing levels of assistance to beneficiaries across all WFP operations;
- **Scale up** to reach additional beneficiaries on the brink of acute food insecurity due to COVID-19 and its compounded impacts;
- **Support** governments to respond to growing needs through the provision of technical assistance, tangible assets and services;

• **Enable** the humanitarian and health response through the WFP Common Services, ensuring the critical movement of personnel and COVID-19 cargo despite supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic.

For WFP, responding to emergencies - whatever their cause or location - is second nature. COVID-19, however, has been an emergency on an unprecedented global scale. WFP has continued to demonstrate why it is a leader in emergency response, both continuing to serve its own beneficiaries while empowering the humanitarian and health community to respond to the global emergency.

SUSTAIN

Maintaining WFP's reach

When the pandemic hit, WFP's first priority was sustaining life-saving assistance. WFP's country offices moved quickly to adapt operations to ensure that amidst the pandemic and corresponding measures to limit the spread of the virus, they were still able to reach vulnerable populations. Some of the measures put in place were:

- Reduced congestion at distribution sites, retail shops and banks by staggering attendance, provided double distributions, redesigned layouts to allow for physical distancing, increased the number of assistance sites, and offered door-to-door delivery services.
- Health mitigation measures such as handwashing stations, educating communities on COVID-19 prevention measures, and promoting contactless alternatives to biometric verification and malnutrition screening.
- Adapted school-feeding programmes to provide take-home rations or vouchers to seven million children across 45 countries. WFP also supported 71 countries to adapt their own school-feeding programmes.

In order to mitigate against the risks of supply chain disruptions, WFP asked donors to frontload their contributions of USD1.9 billion to allow WFP to pre-position 3 months' worth of resources in or near the most fragile countries. This meant that regular food distributions were not affected by border closures or transport delays and no-one went without food.

Leveraging livelihoods support

The socioeconomic impacts of the crisis in the medium-term required WFP to safeguard its resilience interventions. When social distancing measures threatened livelihood support, WFP developed innovative approaches to sustain Food-For-Asset programmes safely, identifying alternative working methods to reduce crowding at community-level asset development sites. WFP also leveraged its livelihood programmes by providing essential trainings and materials, including sewing machines, to enable participants to produce face masks for the community.

Sustaining critical assistance

The economic contraction caused by COVID-19 led to the reduction of vital imports and increased food prices, a trend observed particularly in Eastern and Southern Africa. To ensure operational continuity, in addition to the pre-positioning of stocks nearer to beneficiary populations, WFP looked wherever possible to procure in local and regional markets, mitigating against any possible delays caused by a slowdown in global transport markets. 553,000 mt of food was sourced in countries of operation during the first half of 2020 – an increase of 17 percent compared to the same period in 2019.

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NOT ONLY DID WFP STAY
AND DELIVER DURING
UNPRECEDENTED TIMES,
WE ENABLED THE ENTIRE
HUMANITARIAN AND HEALTH
COMMUNITY TO STAY AND
DELIVER. THIS IS WHAT WFP
IS ALL ABOUT – RALLYING
TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CRISIS TO
SUPPORT THOSE MOST IN NEED.”

AMER DAOUDI

WFP Senior Director of Operations and COVID-19 Corporate Response Director

DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES WFP ADAPTED SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMMES TO TAKE—HOME RATIONS FOR OVER SEVEN MILLION SCHOOLCHILDREN.

WFP/HUGH RUTHERFORD





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COVID-19 HAS EXACERBATED EXISTING CRISES ACROSS THE GLOBE. WFP HAS SCALED UP TO NOT JUST DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS OF THE VIRUS BUT THE ADDITIONAL NEEDS CAUSED BY INCREASED FOOD COSTS, CONFLICT AND REDUCED INCOME.”

MARGOT VAN DER VELDEN
WFP Director of Emergencies

SCALE UP

In addition to maintaining support to its existing 100 million beneficiaries, WFP recognized the need to urgently scale up its operations to meet the needs of further vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19. Increasing food costs and reduced incomes saw once self-sufficient people sliding into food insecurity, particularly within urban populations, who often saw more restrictive measures to combat the spread of the virus than their rural counterparts. In June, WFP launched a Global Response Plan including a target to scale up to reach as many as 38 million additional people if resources allowed.

Extending support to urban populations

Although both rural and urban populations have been impacted by the pandemic, the crisis has highlighted the disproportionate affect crises can have on urban areas. More than half of WFP country offices expanded their targeting to urban areas, providing direct assistance in capitals and other urban centres. For some, like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, and Peru, this was the first time WFP had provided direct assistance in these urban centres.

As COVID-19 pushed new population groups into hunger (or back into hunger), WFP partnered with governments as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to extend assistance to refugee, migrant and host groups excluded from social protection and humanitarian assistance, including in the Middle East, East Africa, and South America.

Expanding cash-based transfers

Where markets were operating, WFP scaled up its use of cash-based transfers, transferring USD 1.15 billion to vulnerable people across 64 countries by August. These transfers empowered communities, particularly those in urban settings, to meet their food needs in local markets and allowed WFP to leverage technology to deliver assistance while reducing human contact and subsequent risk to beneficiaries and staff.

Staff surge

In order to meet the increased operational needs to reach additional beneficiaries while also supporting the humanitarian and health community through its COVID-19 Common Services, WFP deployed over 500 staff to the field to bolster its operations in 44 emergencies around the world.

WFP led and co-led Clusters

WFP mobilized key partnerships in the field to ensure support to the global response. The WFP-led and co-led clusters were scaled up to facilitate partner operations, as well as to provide inter-agency coordination and information management capacity. New cluster activations were triggered where requested by national governments to meet the needs of the pandemic.

OVER HALF OF WFP'S OPERATIONS EXPANDED DIRECT ASSISTANCE IN URBAN AREAS, WHICH HAVE BORNE THE SIGNIFICANT BRUNT OF THE CRISIS AND ACCOUNT FOR 90 PERCENT OF COVID-19 CASES.

SUPPORT

Support to governments

WFP has supported over 50 governments with their social protection interventions. This has been through technical assistance and advice, as well as operational support for national response delivery and complementary direct action. This includes providing key data, analysis, and technical support for needs assessment, targeting, and verification, monitoring, complaints and feedback mechanisms and third-party assurance services.

WFP has also supported governments with technical supply chain support and logistics infrastructure and services. A number of mobile storage units have been donated to countries around the world, both to augment storage capacity for COVID-19 response items such as personal protective equipment, but also to be used as COVID-19 screening locations at major entry points, and in South Sudan as part of a facility to expand bed capacity at the John Garang Infectious Diseases Unit in Juba.

Vulnerability analysis and real-time monitoring

WFP has played a key role in supporting the refinement of response plans through real-time data analysis, not only for its own operations but also for the wider humanitarian community.

This includes:

- Supporting over 15 countries to analyze the impact of the crisis on areas such as nutrition and school meals.
- Increasing WFP's Mobile Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping (mVAM) coverage from 15 countries in 2019 to nearly 40 countries.
- Tracking food security in real-time in 44 countries and publishing it through the [HungerMapLive](#)

Innovation

Blockchain technology has been deployed in Jordan and Bangladesh, making it possible for 600,000 refugees to safely collect assistance with a digital QR code, replacing the need to touch any devices.

WFP Somalia developed the e-Shop app which allows families to redeem their cash assistance and order food, including home delivery. The app provides families with real-time market information and fosters price transparency across retailers. Since the launch of the home delivery component of the e-Shop, almost 40,000 home deliveries have been made, supporting 240,000 beneficiaries.

In Iraq, WFP is working with food shops in camps for displaced and refugee families to accept new "cashless" payments through mobile phones, eliminating the need for banknotes and reducing the need for people to move around more than necessary.

WFP HAS SUPPORTED OVER 50 GOVERNMENTS WITH THEIR SOCIAL PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS.



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DURING THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC, IT WAS THE UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WFP AND WHO THAT HAS ALLOWED FOR THE UNPRECEDENTED CREATION OF THE UN SUPPLY CHAIN COORDINATION SYSTEM, ENSURING MILLIONS OF ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES GOT TO THOSE WHO NEEDED THEM MOST IN THE MIDDLE OF A GLOBAL MARKET FAILURE.”

DR MIKE RYAN

*Executive Director, World Health Organization (WHO)
Health Emergencies Programme*

OUTREACH MAP



“WFP IS CRUCIAL TO THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE.”

MARK LOWCOCK

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Director

ENABLE

Stronger Together: the COVID-19 Common Services

In March 2020, as it became apparent that the world was facing a global pandemic, the entire humanitarian community was forced to think of new ways to ensure that relief items and aid workers could make it to where they were most needed. The health and humanitarian community quickly realized that the response to the COVID-19 emergency had to be planned as something unique, utilizing new coordination mechanisms and new tools. It was an unprecedented call for agencies and humanitarians had to work together and cooperate in ways they have never done before.

In particular, the unprecedented market pressure, especially on critical medical items, as well as transportation constraints, created the need for a collaborative system to identify, certify, source, allocate, direct and deliver essential supplies to where they were needed most. To ensure operational continuity, WFP, working closely with the World Health

Organization, the UN system, the NGO community and governments, stepped up to lead the delivery of COVID-19 relief items through a hub-and-spoke distribution system.

In conjunction with this, WFP also stood up a global passenger service, ensuring that health and humanitarian workers were still able to move around the world to where they were needed, despite a large number of commercial carriers grounding services as countries closed their airspace to prevent the spread of the disease. To ensure that any humanitarian worker struck down by COVID-19 was able to receive sufficient medical care, WFP also participated in the UN Medevac Cell, leveraging its experience in carrying out medical evacuations and its network of aircraft to ensure that frontline workers had the confidence to stay and deliver knowing that medevac services would be available should they be needed.

WFP – THE LOGISTICS ARM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WFP’S EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN CORRIDORS AND CARGO/PASSENGER MOVEMENT WAS ALSO SIGNIFICANT IN ALLEVIATING ACCESS CHALLENGES: IN APRIL 2020, 90% OF RESPONDENTS TO AN OCHA SURVEY FLAGGED RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT AS MAJOR ACCESS CONSTRAINT – BY EARLY AUGUST THIS WAS DOWN TO 38%.

“I EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR ALL YOUR HELP! I HAVE DEVELOPED AN ENORMOUS SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY BEARING IN MIND THAT COVID-19 MADE THINGS EVEN MORE COMPLICATED, WITH MANY OF YOU WORKING REMOTELY. WHEN I SAW THE EXCELLENT COORDINATION BETWEEN YOU, I LET MY FAMILY KNOW HOW MUCH I RESPECT YOU. I JUST WANTED TO HUG YOU ALL, EVEN DESPITE SOCIAL DISTANCING.”

PASSENGER

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



WFP/BENOIT LOGNONE

WFP AIR PASSENGER SERVICES

WFP's air passenger services have provided a lifeline to health, humanitarian and diplomatic staff who still needed to travel, despite commercial airlines withdrawing services as countries clamped down on international arrivals to prevent the spread of the disease. Building on its experience as manager of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, WFP worked closely with governments around the world to open up humanitarian access, ensuring that all health regulations were followed to protect the safety of its passengers as well as local populations.

From the first flight on 1 May, the service quickly expanded to destinations throughout Africa, the Middle East, the Commonwealth of Independent States countries, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, reaching a total of 68 destinations at its peak, a span comparable with some of the world's biggest airlines. As of 31 October 2020, WFP has transported 25,000 health and humanitarian personnel on behalf of 389 organizations over the course of 1,400 flights. As air travel has slowly resumed and restrictions have eased, WFP has stood down its passenger services to locations serviced by safe and reliable commercial operators, however remains ready to resume services as needed.

TO DATE, WFP HAS TRANSPORTED 25,000 HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN PERSONNEL OVER 1,400 FLIGHTS ON BEHALF OF 389 ORGANISATIONS TO 68 DESTINATIONS.

“

IN THE FACE OF CRISIS, OUR ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRONGEST WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE RESULTS.”

HENRIETTA FORE
UNICEF Executive Director

“WORKING TOGETHER HELPS US TO REDUCE COSTS AND TO BE MORE EFFICIENT.”

CÉLINE THEIZEN
Freight and Customs Coordinator, MSF Belgium.



WFP/ELIO RUJANO

WFP CARGO SERVICES

With COVID-19 initially causing a global slowdown of transport markets and a widespread reduction in capacity, the movement of cargo became a challenge for the entire humanitarian community. In order to shore up the continuity of global supply chains for the movement of essential health and humanitarian items, WFP activated its extensive logistics network to provide cargo movement services on behalf of all humanitarian organizations, and immediately established eight humanitarian response hubs to facilitate these services on a free-to-user basis under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Four of these hubs leveraged the existing WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) network - the United Arab Emirates, Panama, Malaysia and Ghana - while four were established specifically for the COVID-19 response: China, Ethiopia, South Africa and Belgium. UNHRD's Brindisi hub in Italy was also utilized to provide global support to cargo operations as needed.

Since the first airlift was completed on 30 April, a total of 85,000 m³ of cargo has been dispatched to 171 countries around the world on behalf of 64 organizations. This has enabled the health and humanitarian community to maintain support to existing humanitarian operations, as well as scale up to respond to the global pandemic.

In addition to playing a key role in WFP's free-to-user cargo services for the COVID-19 response, UNHRD hubs have continued to support humanitarian partner organizations in their relief efforts across the world, while WFP has become the logistics provider for 11 governments accessing the World Bank's pooled procurement initiative for COVID-19 critical items through its bilateral service provision offering.

To facilitate the WFP Cargo Services, WFP launched the Emergency Service Marketplace, a digital platform that provides organizations with access to WFP free-to-user cargo transport services. Over 100 different humanitarian organizations registered to use the site, with requests received to date for the transport of more than 85,000 m³ of cargo to date.

AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2020, A TOTAL OF 85,000 M³ OF CRITICAL COVID-19 CARGO HAS BEEN DISPATCHED BY WFP ON BEHALF OF 64 ORGANIZATIONS TO 171 COUNTRIES.



WFP/MELCHIOR NSAVYIMANA

UN MEDEVAC SERVICES

To support all humanitarian and health staff on the frontlines and ensure their ability to “stay and deliver”, the UN Secretary-General activated a common COVID-19 Medical Evacuation (medevac) System on 22 May. As part of this, a medevac cell was established, leveraging assets from WFP, WHO and the United Nations Department of Operational Support (UNDOS) to enable a coordinated and centralized approach to COVID-19 related medevacs. As co-lead with UNDOS of the aviation arm of the cell, WFP has utilized its access to a global network of contracted air ambulances and leveraged its experience to provide medical evacuations on behalf of the response. Since the unified system was activated, the cell has now completed a total of 79 medevacs – 50 carried out by WFP and 29 by UNDOS.

In parallel, regional treatment and isolation centres were identified by the UN Medevac Task Force and arrangements with host governments put in place to receive eligible UN and INGO personnel and dependents. As part of this initiative, WFP completed the construction of a 68-bed field hospital in Accra, Ghana which has been handed over to the World Health Organization to operate. WFP also completed the construction of a 92-bed COVID-19 field hospital in Addis Ababa that has since been turned over to the Ethiopian Ministry of Health for COVID-19 treatment of the local population.



**2 FIELD HOSPITALS
CONSTRUCTED**
(ACCRA AND ADDIS ABABA)



**50 MEDEVACS
COMPLETED**



**24/7
MEDEVAC CELL**

“

In 2019, 135 million people suffered from acute hunger, the highest number in many years. Most of the increase was caused by war and armed conflict. The coronavirus pandemic has contributed to a strong upsurge in the number of victims of hunger in the world. In countries such as Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Burkina Faso, the combination of violent conflict and the pandemic has led to a dramatic rise in the number of people living on the brink of starvation. In the face of the pandemic, the World Food Programme has demonstrated an impressive ability to intensify its efforts.

UNTIL THE DAY WE HAVE A MEDICAL VACCINE, FOOD IS THE BEST VACCINE AGAINST CHAOS.”

THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE



WFP/MORELIA EROSTEGUI

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WFP would like to thank and acknowledge its many public and private sector donors for their contributions to regular resources in 2020. These predictable and flexible core resources save lives by enabling the organization to act quickly where and when a crisis occurs. WFP also wishes to thank and acknowledge the many governments, individuals, corporations, foundations and non-governmental organizations who have supported its work during the COVID-19 response, without whom these results would not have been possible. To all of you, from everyone at WFP, we extend our sincerest gratitude.

ANGOLA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CHAD, CHINA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, EUROPEAN UNION, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GHANA, GUINEA, HAITI, HOLY SEE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, KUWAIT, LIBERIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MONACO, MOZAMBIQUE, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, PRIVATE SECTOR (CORPORATES, FOUNDATIONS & INDIVIDUALS), REPUBLIC OF KOREA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, THAILAND, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI, TIMOR LESTE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED NATIONS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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