



# WFP COMMON SERVICES

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

Situation Report #6 | 15 November 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.

These common services have seen WFP reach 171 countries around the world with assistance, transporting over 95,000 m<sup>3</sup> of cargo and over 25,000 passengers to support ongoing humanitarian operations and the global pandemic response. While the virus continues to pose challenges and second and third waves are now taking hold around the world, supply chains and logistics operations are showing positive signs of improvement. WFP continues to support partners, adjusting its operations to reflect the changing circumstances while maintaining the infrastructure to step up if and when required.

## HIGHLIGHTS



**1,424**  
PASSENGER FLIGHTS



**25,357** PASSENGERS  
transported to 68 destinations



**95,392\*** m<sup>3</sup>  
of cargo transported to 171 countries



**397** 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)



Number of Passengers Transported Per Month  
(1 May-31 October 2020)



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



**“NOT ONLY DID WFP STAY AND DELIVER DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, WE ENABLED THE ENTIRE HUMANITARIAN AND HEALTH COMMUNITY TO DO THE SAME. 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



# AIR PASSENGER SERVICES

When countries clamped down on international arrivals in a bid to prevent the arrival of new infections, international commercial capacity between April and June dropped by a catastrophic 92 percent, severely impacting the ability for health and humanitarian responders to deploy. On 1 May, WFP launched its air passenger service to provide a lifeline for health and humanitarian workers. Since then, WFP has reached a total of **68 destinations** across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Commonwealth of Independent States countries over the course of **1,424 flights**. This has meant that that **25,357 passengers** from **397 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 over **50 destinations**, while maintaining services for 11 routes that currently remain without safe and reliable commercial options. Given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, WFP is ready to stand up discontinued services once again if needed.



**1,424**  
FLIGHTS



transporting  
**25,357**  
PASSENGERS

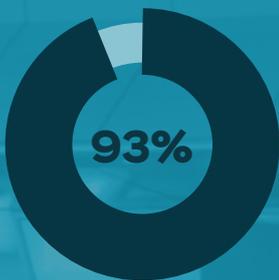


to  
**68** DESTINATIONS



on behalf of  
**397**  
ORGANIZATIONS

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



*of respondents to a recent user survey stated they were very satisfied or satisfied with the WFP Passenger Air Service.*

**“WFP DID SOMETHING WHICH NOBODY COULD DO.”**

*Dilip Niroula, Humanitarian Support & Logistics Manager, CARE USA*

**“I CAN’T SPEAK HIGHLY ENOUGH OF THIS SERVICE. IT HAS BEEN A CRITICAL LIFELINE, WITHOUT WHICH WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE OUR WORK IN THE COVID-19 RESPONSE. THE SUPPORT TO TRAVELLERS HAS BEEN UNBELIEVABLY GOOD AT SUCH A COMPLEX TIME WITH SO MANY VARIABLES AND DIFFICULTIES... IT HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY EXTRAORDINARY THAT AT A TIME WHEN ALMOST NOTHING IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY, THIS SERVICE HAS BEEN SO ADAPTABLE AND EFFECTIVE. WELL DONE AND THANK YOU.”**

*Dr Jeremy Beckett, CEO, Associação Maluk Timor*



# UN MEDEVAC SERVICES

To support health and humanitarian workers on the frontlines of the pandemic response, WFP co-leads the UN Medevac Cell together with the United Nations Department of Operational Support (UNDOS), ensuring that humanitarian personnel can be safely transported for treatment should the need arise. The cell has now completed a total of **85 medevacs** – 53 carried out by WFP and 32 by UNDOS – since its roll out on 22 May when the unified system was activated by the Secretary General. The UN Task Force is responsible for informing and advising on the timeframe of this service, and WFP will continue to support for as long as needed.

# CARGO TRANSPORT

With COVID-19 significantly impacting the global movement of cargo, WFP - as a leader in humanitarian logistics - immediately stepped up to provide cargo movement services on behalf of the humanitarian community. Via a hub-and-spokes system established for this global response that leveraged on WFP's existing logistics network, **over 95,000 m<sup>3</sup> of critical cargo** has now been dispatched to **171 countries** on behalf of **66 organizations**, 79,385 m<sup>3</sup> of which was transported via WFP's free-to-user services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

In line with improvements in the commercial market and a reduction in the pipeline of items requiring transport, WFP is now phasing down its free-to-user cargo services in close coordination with partners. The dispatch of remaining cargo is expected to be complete by the end of 2020. However, given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, WFP will retain the infrastructure to step up if and when required. Meantime partners can still rely on existing in-country WFP mandated services, alongside services provided through UNHRD and WFP's bilateral service offering.



**171 COUNTRIES REACHED**

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

**CARGO DISPATCHED 95,392 m<sup>3</sup>**

**66 Organizations served**

(56% NGO, 17% UN, 17% Government, 11% Other)

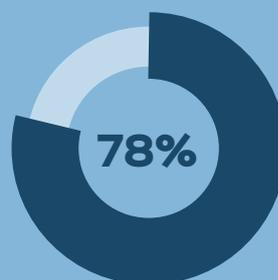
“ON BEHALF OF AKHS TAJIKISTAN, THANKS A LOT FOR THE PRECIOUS DECISION TO CREATE THESE CARGO MOVEMENT SERVICES, IT REALLY HELPED TREMENDOUSLY SUCH REMOTE AREAS LIKE PAMIRS OF TAJIKISTAN THAT ARE ISOLATED IN THE MOUNTAINS. THANKS TO IT WE COULD PROVIDE THE SAME HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICES TO OUR PATIENTS DURING THE WORLD LOCKDOWN.”

Alim Dorgabekov, Senior Administrative Officer, Aga Khan Health Service

“I WOULD LIKE TO RECORD OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF THE WFP TEAM IN SETTING UP THESE CARGO SERVICES. IT IS AN ASTONISHING ACHIEVEMENT AND WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL.”

Ed Blagden, Head of Supply Centre, Oxfam

EFFICIENT  
ENABLED RESPONSE  
TIMELY  
**FUND=SAVING**  
RELIABLE  
ACCESS TO DESTINATIONS  
TRANSPORT OF CRITICAL CARGO  
GAP FILLING



of respondents to a recent user survey were very satisfied or satisfied with the cargo services, with 56 percent of users stating that the services had been critical to their ability to access hard-to-reach destinations

# LOOKING FORWARD

Following a partial recovery in the commercial sector, better visibility on COVID-19 response item pipelines and need assessment with partners, the overall budget for the WFP Common Services has been reduced. However, a further US\$ 42 million is still required to ensure that all remaining cargo can be moved and passenger services can continue for as long as they are needed.

Given the unpredictability of this disease and its impacts, WFP remains committed to supporting the global COVID-19 response and to resume any discontinued services should the need arise.

“ THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME HAS STEPPED IN TO FILL THE GAP LEFT BY DISAPPEARING COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICES IN MANY COUNTRIES. WITHOUT THIS LIFELINE, MANY HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS WOULD HAVE SHUT DOWN. ”

Mark Lowcock, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator



# TIMELINE

- 11 March**  
World Health Organization (WHO) declares COVID-19 a pandemic
- 23 March**  
Addis Ababa Logistics Hub opens and first Solidarity Flight takes place
- 17 April**  
Launch of the Supply Chain Task Force
- 30 April**  
First cargo flight from newly-established Liège hub
- 1 May**  
First passenger flight
- 8 May**  
First cargo flight from Accra hub
- 25 May**  
First MEDEVAC
- 31 May**  
First ocean transport
- 4 June**  
Field hospital installed in Accra
- 6 June**  
1,000 passenger milestone reached
- 22 July**  
Two-thirds of the world reached with critical COVID-19 cargo
- 31 July**  
Highest passenger numbers reached in one month
- 31 August**  
Greatest amount of COVID-19 cargo transported in one month
- 14 September**  
50,000 m<sup>3</sup> of critical cargo dispatched under the free-to-user services
- 17 October**  
80,000 m<sup>3</sup> of critical COVID-19 cargo dispatched on behalf of the humanitarian community
- 31 October**  
WFP's Global Air Passenger Service reaches the milestone of 25,000 passengers transported

WFP wishes to thank and acknowledge the many governments, individuals, corporations and foundations who have supported its work over the course of the COVID-19 response, and extends its gratitude to resource partners for their contributions to the timely and flexible funding that allowed WFP to stand up quickly the Common Services and make the right interventions at the right time.

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For more information, please contact [HQ.IM.Globalserviceprovision@wfp.org](mailto: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.