



World Food Programme

WFP Caribbean COVID-19 / 2020 Hurricane Season Situation Report #2 23 September 2020

PhotoWFP/Francesca Ciardi

In Numbers

407,000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure and an additional **2.5 million** moderately food insecure in English-speaking Caribbean countries

27,484 people affected by COVID-19 across 22 countries and territories

10,682 active cases; **470** deaths; **16,332** recovered

5 Caribbean countries with borders closed

23 named storms, including **8** hurricanes of which **2** were major hurricanes formed in the Atlantic this year, with an expected above-average hurricane season.

Highlights

- WFP implemented a second round of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey, attracting 5700+ responses across 23 countries and territories.
- WFP signed agreements with the Governments of Dominica and Saint Lucia, formally launching its support to respond to the negative impacts of COVID-19 through national social protection programmes.
- WFP continues to preposition food, logistics equipment and first responders, while continuing to provide logistics support to the COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 Situation Update

Most countries have reopened borders for international travellers, but five governments in the English-speaking Caribbean have either closed their borders or suspended incoming international passenger travel.

Countries accepting international travellers have established and continue to amend travel protocols in an attempt to manage the spread of COVID-19, whilst allowing for a gradual return to tourism-related activities.

However, the number of active cases tripled in the countries covered by WFP Caribbean between 10 August and 10 September. Still, in the same period, the number of recoveries rose at a similar rate.

In order to mitigate the social impacts of the crisis, all 22 countries and territories covered by WFP Caribbean have introduced, adapted and/or upscaled social protection programmes. Some of the most frequently implemented measures are unemployment benefits, in-kind (food) assistance



WFP supported the digitization of the registration process for new beneficiaries to the Public Assistance Programme in Dominica. Photo: WFP/Francesca Ciardi

USD 12.5m funding required for emergency cash assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations. This will be achieved through government social protection systems; common logistics services in support of a unified Caribbean response for COVID-19 and/or a high impact climatic event.

WFP's assistance to the Caribbean region is made possible through the invaluable support of our partners



COVID-19 Operations

WFP continues to support the assessment of COVID-19's impact on food security and livelihoods

- WFP has published a regional [summary report](#) from the second round of the CARICOM COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey. The findings show that people continue to experience disruptions to their livelihoods, with worsening impacts on incomes and food security. Low-income populations appear to be more strongly affected. Several forthcoming reports provide more detailed analysis at country level and can be found at the same [link](#).

WFP is supporting governments to expand the reach of social protection programmes to respond to COVID-19.

- In Dominica, WFP is providing support to the Government to temporarily expand the country's flagship cash transfer programme, the Public Assistance Programme (PAP), through technical assistance and financial resources covering beneficiary transfers (totaling USD 776,000). Over 2,000 PAP beneficiaries will receive two top-ups, each valued at USD 80. Selected vulnerable individuals and their families, not registered in the PAP, including people with disabilities, the elderly, fisherfolks and small craft vendors will also receive cash transfers. A national digital registration was launched to identify additional recipients of assistance. To date, over 4,000 individuals (59 percent female, 41 percent male) from 86 villages across all 10 parishes have applied. Of these, 38 percent reported a disability and 65 percent have lost their jobs or experienced a reduction or termination of their working hours. WFP is providing guidance, technical assistance and training on project implementation, including beneficiary registration, data verification, delivery mechanisms, referrals, monitoring and reporting.
- In Saint Lucia, WFP is also assisting the government to expand its PAP through financial support and advisory services. Cash transfers totaling USD 611,111 will be made available to 1,000 new households for six months which will trigger a permanent expansion covering these new beneficiaries. In addition, cash transfers valued at USD 39,111 will be provided to 88 PAP beneficiaries living with HIV/AIDS through monthly top-ups for six months. WFP serves as a technical advisor to the Government, as required, and will carry out close monitoring in consultation with national counterparts.
- WFP is in discussions with the Government of Barbados to support persons who do not currently qualify for national COVID-19 assistance or other social protection programmes, but face severe vulnerabilities, exacerbated by the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic.

WFP continues providing logistics support to the COVID-19 response in the region.

- With logistics support from WFP, international donations of over 52 metric tonnes of medical equipment – including testing kits, ventilators and personal protective equipment (PPE), that arrived at the seaport and airport in Barbados - were delivered throughout CARICOM in support of CDEMA. CDEMA's end-to-end supply chain management system, developed by WFP, was deployed and used in both sea and airport operations, and reports developed post action.
- The Caribbean COVID-19 Logistics Cell (co-led by CDEMA) established by WFP in March continues to hold weekly meetings and stands ready to be ramped up again, as required.

Donors

WFP values the support of its partners including the European Union Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO), Global Affairs Canada, the Joint United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and the WFP Immediate Response Account.

2020 Hurricane Season Preparedness Actions

In light of the extremely active hurricane season and challenges for responses in a COVID-19 environment, WFP has called forward on a no-regrets basis essential logistics assets, emergency food items and emergency response personnel that can be activated immediately should the need for a high-impact emergency response arise.

Regional food preparedness

- The procurement of food kits is progressing, with anticipated date of delivery by the end of September 2020. Over 11,000 kits totalling 360 metric tonnes (enough for 45,356 people for 15 days) will be procured and stored in the WFP warehouse in the Dominican Republic.

Expanding emergency operations capacity

- The increased emergency response capacity comprises additional staff, including aviation, shipping, civil-military liaison, security, cash transfer, social protection, vulnerability analysis and mapping and various support staff among others. A logistics emergency response kit has also been pre-positioned in the UNHRD/Panama and immediately deployable communications equipment are available in Barbados. WFP has also procured and pre-positioned four trucks, light vehicles, fork-lifts and various warehouse equipment for immediate response. End-to-end supply chain hardware and consumables were also received and are being prepared for deployment.
- WFP has put in place agreements with vendors of air assets that can be chartered within 24-48 hours to transport passengers and cargo for emergency operations when needed. Similar agreements are in place with a number of shipping assets, including landing craft, throughout the Caribbean.

Strengthening logistics coordination and partners capacities in end-to-end supply chain management

- WFP Caribbean has completed the development of its Emergency Logistics Operations online training which has been delivered to the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) in Guyana. The final version of the training will be presented to CDEMA and the four Sub-Regional Focal Points. A table-top exercise based on the experience with the distribution of PPE donations is planned in the Caribbean region.
- The Caribbean Logistics Mapping (CALM) platform is live and being populated with regional actors' emergency response stocks as well as logistics information on facilities, service providers and protocol requirements for various countries. CALM is a module of the broader end-to-end supply chain management platform under development by WFP and operated by CDEMA supporting digital data collection on emergency logistics assets for improved logistics coordination and evidence-based decision-making.
- Humanitarian partners across the Caribbean (30+ staff members including UN, IFRC, CDEMA, CDC Guyana, INGOs) have been given initial training on the CALM logistics module as part of its development and rollout. The purpose of the briefing was to onboard humanitarian partners on CALM and ultimately to have the data on pre-positioned cargo in the region uploaded to the platform. CDEMA and the Red Cross have used the CALM module system operationally as part of the COVID-19 response.
- WFP continues to collaborate with CDEMA to integrate the CALM system, which is logistics-centred, with CDEMA's Geo-Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) platform, which provides geospatial data platform related to support disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

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