



WFP COMMON SERVICES

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Situation Report #7 | 31 January 2021

In response to the severe impacts to global supply chains and commercial transport markets caused by COVID-19, WFP leveraged its extensive supply chain capacity and logistics expertise to support the health and humanitarian community. Quickly building a Common Services structure designed to be flexible and driven by partner requirements, WFP was able to ensure the continuity of existing humanitarian operations and the global health response.

Following the stabilization of global transport markets, WFP has moved to scale down its services where commercial capacity is now available. The response phase down plan has

been developed following the same principles of flexibility and collaboration that drove the initial response, ensuring the full engagement of partners at all points.

WFP has now accepted all final requests for cargo transport, and remains committed to continuing passenger flights to hard-to-access destinations for as long as they are needed. In parallel, WFP is expanding its infrastructure at critical hubs to meet potential temperature sensitive storage and transport needs for the next phase of the response, and any future health responses.

HIGHLIGHTS



1,510
PASSENGER FLIGHTS



27,866 PASSENGERS
transported to 68 destinations

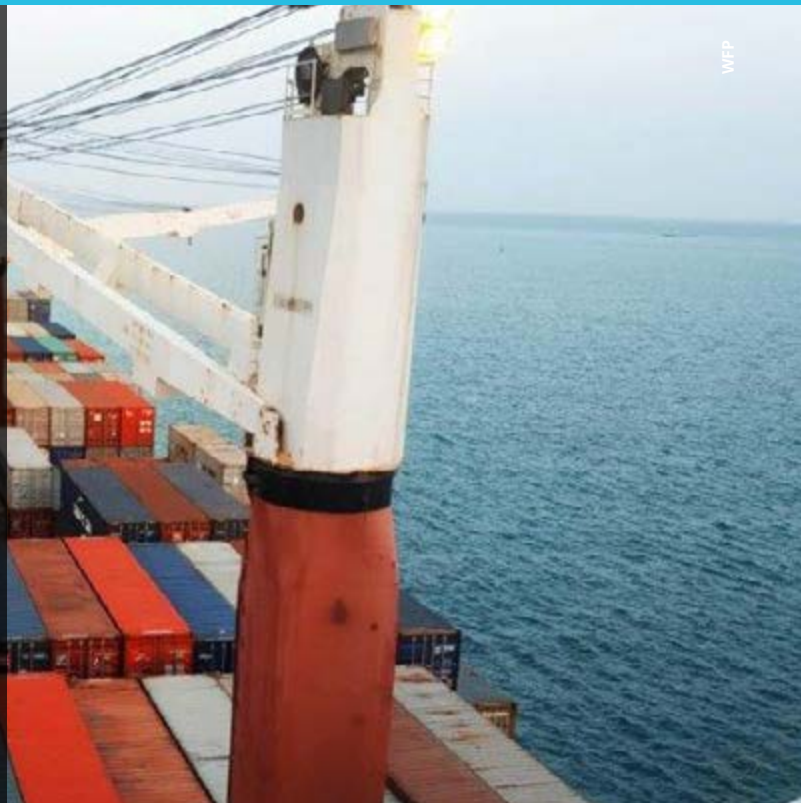


145,500* m³
of cargo transported to 173 countries

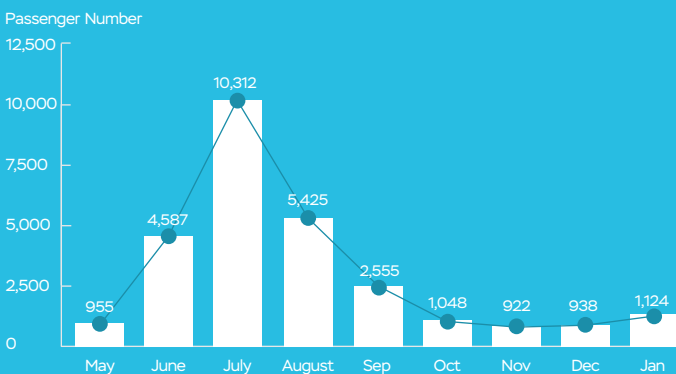


424 ORGANIZATIONS
Supported through WFP Common Services

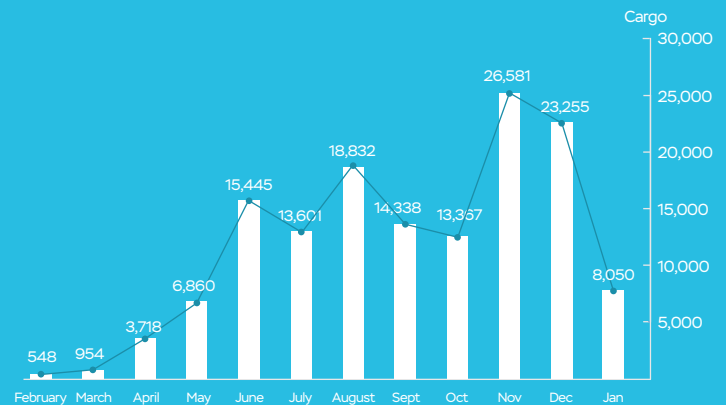
via COVID-19 free-to-user cargo services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP Bilateral Services and UNHRD dispatches (including those directly from suppliers)



Number of Passengers Transported Per Month (1 May 2020 - 31 January 2021)



Monthly Cargo Dispatch Trend (1 February 2020 - 31 January 2021) (BSP, UNHRD, Free-to-User)





AIR PASSENGER SERVICES

Since its launch on 1 May, WFP's Global Air Passenger Service has reached a total of 68 locations across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Commonwealth of Independent States, ensuring that nearly **28,000 essential health and humanitarian personnel from 424 organizations** could continue their critical work on the frontlines of the pandemic response. The work done by WFP to establish passenger networks across the regions of response has been credited for paving the way for governments, regions and commercial airlines to re-establish their own connections in line with all health and safety requirements.

As commercial operators have resumed services, WFP has discontinued flights to **58 destinations**, while services continue to **3 hubs and 7 key locations** such as Yangon and Asmara that are still without safe and reliable alternatives. WFP is committed to continuing passenger flights where no other viable options exist, ensuring that both essential personnel and light cargo - including critical items such as vaccines - can continue to reach these hard-to-access destinations for as long as they are needed by partners.

Due to operational savings realised by the discontinuation of flights throughout December 2020 and January 2021, based on current funds WFP will be able to continue its global passenger flights to remaining destinations through to the end of February 2021 - Yangon, Vientiane, Dili, Nadi and Port Moresby in the Asia-Pacific region, Asmara in the East Africa region, and Antananarivo in the Southern Africa region. Further funding will be needed to extend services beyond this date.



1,510
FLIGHTS



transporting
27,866
PASSENGERS



to
68 DESTINATIONS



on behalf of
424
ORGANIZATIONS

42% UN, 42% NGO, 16% Donors/Diplomats



UN MEDEVAC SERVICES

WFP continues to co-lead the UN Medevac Cell together with the United Nations Department of Operational Support (UNDOS), ensuring that health and humanitarian workers on the frontlines of the response can “stay and deliver” with the knowledge that they can be safely transported for treatment should the need arise. The Cell has now completed a total of **147 medevacs –93 carried out by WFP** and 54 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



173 COUNTRIES REACHED

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

CARGO DISPATCHED 145,500 m³
72 Organizations served
 (54% NGOs, 19% Gov, 10% UN, 17% Others)

Despite the disruptions to global supply chains caused by border and airspace closures, WFP has been shoring up global efforts to fight COVID-19 by providing the delivery of the health and humanitarian response.

To date, a total of **145,500 m³** of critical cargo has been dispatched on behalf of **72 organizations** to **173 countries** – covering more than **85 percent** of the world. Over **125,000 m³** of this has been transported via WFP’s free-to-user cargo services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

Initially the response was focused on air transport due to the urgent needs of partners to ensure that critical COVID-19 cargo could reach its destination as quickly as possible. As in-country availability of items improved, increasing quantities have now been sent by sea through the WFP’s specialized in-house shipping unit. **48,700 m³** of cargo – **39%** of the total quantity dispatched under the free-to-user services – has now been transported by sea, including large quantities for the resupply and pre-positioning of personal protective

equipment (PPE) and other critical health items to ensure preparedness for expected additional waves of the virus. **22 destinations** have now been reached by sea on behalf of **14 humanitarian organizations**.

Following improvements in the commercial market, and the progressive shift in focus to therapeutics, WFP has been slowly phasing down its free-to-user services in close coordination with partners. Final requests were received by the end of 2020, and the last dispatches are expected to be completed by the end of March 2021.

Several submissions were made through the WHO Portal prior to the deadline under the assumption that these goods would qualify for WFP’s free-to-user cargo transport, and WFP remains committed to supporting the humanitarian community by fulfilling these requests. Where feasible, WFP has also continued to accept requests received through the WHO Supply Portal after the final transport booking deadline.

1 M³ EQUALS

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

“WFP ENABLED CRITICAL SUPPLIES TO BE MOVED WHERE THEY OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE REMAINED IN STORAGE UNTIL ADDITIONAL FREIGHT OPTIONS OPENED UP. WFP ALSO ESTABLISHED HUBS AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY, ENABLING US TO SAVE TENS OF THOUSAND DOLLARS; THESE COST SAVINGS WERE LIKELY FELT THROUGHOUT THE HUMANITARIAN SPACE AND INCREASED SPENDING ON PROCUREMENT PROJECTS.”

Izza Drury - In-Kind Gifts and Strategic Partnerships Specialist, Partners In Health

LOOKING FORWARD

WFP designed and built the Common Services to be flexible in nature, with services driven by partner requirements to match the demand of health and humanitarian supplies in each country. In line with this approach, WFP remains committed to completing all final requests for cargo accepted for free-to-user movement. Meanwhile, the global health response has shifted towards therapeutics and vaccines, a logistics operation at an unprecedented scale in terms of quantities and geographical reach. In light of this, and of the uncertainty stemming from the different waves of the pandemic, WFP needs to maintain its strategic capacity to respond.

Leveraging its existing hubs, as well as those established for the first phase of the response, WFP is now focusing on growth of its temperature sensitive capacity via strategically positioned pharmaceutical-

grade refrigerated containers that can also be deployed in case of need. WFP will also focus on strengthening the capacity of its staff to ensure the proper handling of sensitive cargo, ensuring that the organization is prepared for the coming period as well as future health emergencies.

While donors have already generously provided the funds that allowed WFP to stand up its Common Services offering on behalf of the humanitarian community, based on current costs a further **US\$ 4 million is urgently needed**. These funds will allow WFP to sustain its passengers services to countries that remain without viable commercial options until mid-year. WFP will continue to closely communicate operational and funding needs with its partners and donors as the situation evolves.



WFP/Photolibrary

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. Particular thanks go to resource partners for their contributions to timely and flexible funding that allowed WFP to quickly establish the Common Services to make the right interventions at the right time:

Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, 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, Istat Foundation 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.