



WFP COVID-19

Weekly Situation Report #05

06 April 2020



Practicing social distancing. WFP Food distribution, Cameroon, Mora, - WFP/Glory Ndaka

Global COVID-19 Response

- It is vital at this time of global crisis that WFP maintain its food and cash-based assistance programmes which offer a lifeline to 87 million vulnerable people around the world. WFP is appealing to government partners to accelerate an estimated **US\$ 1.9 billion** of contributions to enable the urgent procurement and pre-positioning of buffer stocks, so that at least three months of assistance can be provided in fragile places. These requirements are part of WFP's existing plans, captured in WFP's Country Strategic Plans and reflected in updated country-based Humanitarian Response Plans or other relevant country or regional appeal instruments. Donors with forecast contributions are urged to accelerate the confirmation of contributions under negotiation and provide WFP with specific indication of future support that can be used for advance financing and immediate planning, before global and local supply chain disruptions significantly impact food availability.
- As part of the UN [Global Inter-Agency COVID-19 Response Plan](#), WFP is calling for **US\$ 350 million** in rapid funding to be able to sustain operations and adjust delivery mechanisms and programmes. In fact, WFP is already assessing the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable communities, and estimates it may require scaling up operations to as many as 100-120 million people in 80 plus countries. A network of strategically located hubs (Shanghai, Liege, Dubai and Atlanta) and regional staging areas in East and West Africa, Southern Africa, Central America, Asia and the Middle East will be established to support the effective and efficient global movement of cargo and serve

countries prioritized in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

WFP Operations

- Humanitarian supply chains are at risk as food exports are blocked, borders are closed, the price of staple foods rise, and manufacturing industries are disrupted. Many countries are entering their annual lean season when access to food is most limited and the hurricane and monsoon seasons are looming. Securing a sufficient buffer of resources is critical to sustain operations, as well as to ensure WFP is able to shift resources and respond to changing circumstances as required. It is also vital to reinforce corridors with assets and technical assistance to ensure the continued flow of humanitarian cargo.
- WFP continues to monitor and adjust delivery modalities to meet critical needs throughout lockdown periods. In **Djibouti**, in coordination with partners, WFP began distributing two-months' worth of food assistance to 18,500 refugees. In **Honduras**, WFP works with the government to ensure that families unable to receive food rations will receive cash-based transfers, and teachers and local school authorities in rural areas have started to distribute food rations to the families of schoolchildren. WFP in **Haiti**, will be delivering one-month rations to 2,185 households in quarantine.
- In **Bangladesh**, WFP has amended its feeding cycle to ensure beneficiaries receive the full entitlement both as part of general food distribution and the e-voucher modality once every month. In light of the anticipated market price fluctuations, WFP will

provide an additional top-up of USD 2 to each beneficiary within the e-voucher provision.

- Real-time monitoring will be complemented with early warning and security analysis on the interaction between the pandemic and pre-existing food, nutrition, socio-political, economic, and security fragilities. Data and analysis will be visualized through static and web-based platforms and made available to partners, including through the [hunger map](#) live platform.
- WFP has launched a [global COVID-19 map on school closures and School Meals activities](#). More than 12 million children are no longer receiving school meals provided by WFP. Jointly with FAO, WFP is developing guidance for government-led programmes to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on food and nutrition of schoolchildren. A partnership between UNICEF and WFP on school health and nutrition is being strengthened. Among other things, the agencies will work together to determine the number of children missing out on school health and nutrition services and work on a prospective back-to-school campaign.
- As part of WFP's emergency preparedness measures, a market assessment was carried out revealing key insights impacting WFP's cash-based transfer programmes globally, including price increases, lower availability of commodities, inflation and depreciation, and health risk of retail operations. WFP is supporting retailers on how to operate during the pandemic, for instance by facilitating access to larger storage spaces to increase the stock of products. WFP is assessing national and global supply chains to prepare contingency plans for a shift to in-kind food or commodity vouchers should markets be severely affected.

Service Provision

- The network of strategically located hubs will serve as cargo consolidation points, accepting and preparing cargo for prioritized countries,

coordinated forwarding to the regional staging areas and/or final destinations. Where possible, WFP will build upon the existing UNHRD network and leverage in-house emergency telecommunications expertise, assets and partnerships to equip the hubs. The hubs will be sufficiently equipped to handle medical, and hazardous air cargo as well as temperature-controlled items.

- UNHAS operations continue to see a downturn in passenger numbers with operations in Yemen, Somalia and Niger currently suspended due to government restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. WFP Aviation continues to work with aviation industry bodies such as ICAO and IATA to advocate for the continued movement of humanitarian flights.

Inter-agency Collaboration

- The [Global Food Security Cluster](#) is creating a Technical Working Group to address COVID-19 matters. While further guidance is being finalized for Food Security Cluster teams supporting operations around the globe, existing guidance can be found [here](#).
- Following a request from the Libyan Ministry of Health's National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster-managed inter-agency call centre is now acting as a nationwide COVID-19 information channel. The call centre is being used to provide critical information and official health guidelines to the population. Any calls regarding the confirmation of severe symptoms are immediately referred to the NCDC.
- The Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) hosted its [second global call](#) for over 120 participants from 45 organisations on 31 March. The GLC works closely with the Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell to jointly share supply chain information for the pandemic response. Documents can be found on the Logistics Cluster website [here](#).

Contacts For more information, please contact the WFP COVID-19 Coordination Cell: global.ncov2019@wfp.org