

WFP COVID-19 Update

Situation Report # 01

06 March 2020



Highlights

- WFP is taking measures to ensure employee health, safety and security.
- Operationally, WFP is:
 1. sustaining and monitoring a possible scale-up of WFP's response;
 2. leveraging WFP's expertise to support the humanitarian and health response;
 3. advising and supporting governments to maintain supply chains.

Situation Update



As the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to spread, reaching more than 100,000 cases as of 06 March, WFP is closely monitoring how the outbreak could impact the wellbeing of its personnel and affect its operations around the world. WFP is also putting actions in place to guarantee staff safety while ensuring business continuity and agility for WFP's operations and the broader humanitarian and health response.

Business Continuity:

All offices, including WFP HQ in Rome, have been advised to review and update as necessary their respective security and safety plans, business continuity plans and minimum preparedness actions in line with current developments.

Guidance and resources have been shared to facilitate the process and ensure that adequate measures are in place.

WFP Actions and Measures

Employee health, safety and security:



Guidance on staff health and wellbeing has been developed and shared across the organization and is being updated as the situation evolves. Essential office hygiene items (in line with specifications shared by WHO) are being procured.



WFP has advised all personnel worldwide that all international duty travel should be limited to mission critical and time sensitive travel only. Arrangements to hold workshops, seminars or large meetings involving international travel should be limited until further notice.

Corporate Crisis Management:



The WFP Crisis Management Team (CMT) has been activated to monitor and coordinate the situation at corporate level. An Operational Crisis Management Team (O-CMT) has also been established and is holding daily meetings to follow up on preparedness actions across three workstreams: Employee health, safety, security and travel; WFP operations and scale-up; and Service Provision. WFP is coordinating efforts across the various HQ Divisions, as well as Regional Bureaux and Country Offices.

Engagement with WHO:



WFP has dedicated staff in its Geneva Office for coordination with WHO. Current areas of collaboration include drafting of guidance on cargo handling and freight operations in the context of COVID-19 and the setup of a dedicated inter-agency Supply Chain Coordination Cell (UNICEF, WHO and WFP).

Inter-agency coordination mechanisms:



WFP is actively participating in all relevant coordination structures and mechanisms activated for COVID-19, such as the inter-agency Crisis Management Team (CMT), the Emergency Director's Group (EDG), the Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network (GOARN) and the Pandemic Supply Chain Network (PSCN). WFP is also coordinating closely with the Rome-based Agencies regarding contingency measures.

WFP Operational Plan, focusing on the following three priority areas:

Sustain and scale up WFP's operations:



The objective of the operational plan is to sustain and scale up WFP current operations through preparedness measures (guidance, resources and support) needed to continue to deliver life-saving assistance to populations

most in need, even in the context of active transmission. Such measures may include adjustments to operational plans and procedures, advance purchasing and pre-positioning of commodities, rosters of surge staff.

Leverage WFP's expertise to support the humanitarian and health response:



To enable the humanitarian and health response, WFP is further strengthening its existing services of WFP Aviation, United Nations Humanitarian Depot (UNHRD) and logistics and telecommunication clusters so that WFP will be able to continue and expand the provision of these services to humanitarian and health partners and national governments where needed.

Advise and support governments to maintain supply chains:

- ✓ — WFP is ready to enhance government
- ✓ — response capacities and continues to
- ✗ — monitor supply chain disruptions and implications and is considering the reinforcement of regional staging areas. WFP is committed to advocating and negotiating for humanitarian access – through appropriate inter-agency structures as required.

Contacts

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