COVID-19 Update
18 November 2020
Global Situation Update

• The global economy is expected to recover to pre-coronavirus levels only in 2022.

• The latest WFP/FAO Hotspots report describes a combination of conflict, economic decline, climate extremes and the pandemic that is driving people further into the emergency phase of food insecurity.

• Four countries are at risk of famine:
  • Burkina Faso has registered the biggest increase with the numbers of food insecure people almost tripling compared to 2019.
  • Concerns remain for Northeastern Nigeria due to access to humanitarian assistance being heavily constrained.
  • Unless urgent action is taken in South Sudan, we could see the first outbreak of famine since it was last declared in 2017.
  • Food insecurity combined with conflict and a deepening economic crisis in Yemen could lead to a further deterioration of an already critical food security situation.

• In Afghanistan and northern Mozambique violence has soared in recent months, while new conflicts are observed in Ethiopia and the Southern Caucasus.
WFP estimates that **271.8 million people in 79 countries are acutely food insecure** – or directly at-risk – due to the compounded effects of COVID-19.

Increases are observed in the Middle East, Central Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean where hunger has quadrupled in countries where WFP operates.

WFP’s early analysis of a significant deterioration in food security levels over 2020 has been validated – assessments show the number of people in acute food insecurity is 73.2 million people in 16 countries.
Updated Global Response Plan – Achievements

- WFP scaled up to reach **96.6 million people** by the third quarter of 2020.
- **USD 1.7 billion transferred** through cash-based transfers to vulnerable people in 67 countries.
- **600,000 mt of food** procured locally since January.
- **13 million schoolchildren** benefited from WFP school-based programmes.
- USD 281 million sourced from International Financial Institutions (compared to USD 21 million confirmed in 2019).
- Continuous real-time monitoring (mVAM) is **live in 39 countries** (up from 15 in 2019).
- Supported 50 governments with their social protection interventions.
Due to market improvements and reduced pipelines WFP is phasing-down the Common Services, not phasing out.

We still require USD 46 million to ensure all remaining cargo can be moved and passenger services continue where needed.

We are retaining flexibility and the ability to stand up services again if needed.
Ensuring equitable access and distribution of an approved vaccine is crucial for ending the pandemic.

**Key concerns:**
- Balancing production and absorption capacity in lower-and middle-income countries
- Reaching populations outside of recognized government’s reach
- In country and last mile delivery in lower-and middle-income countries
- The delivery of PPEs, syringes, swabs etc.

WFP is **upgrading cold chain infrastructure** across our hubs, to ensure we are prepared for this and future health responses.

WFP is not looking for a role in COVID-19 vaccine supply chains. However we are in conversations with key players (WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, The Global Fund, CHAI, MSF and others) to ensure that if we are to receive a call for support, we are prepared.
Looking to 2021

• Must keep improving and expanding remote analysis and real time data collection.
• We need to urgently invest in logistics, emergency preparedness and response.
• Anticipating crises is more important than ever.
• Prepare for more health emergencies – this is not the last.
• Increased reliance on local actors – they will tell us what they need.
• Continue to reinforce ability to work in conflict.
• Heightened advocacy to achieve greater accountability.
• Invest in national governments, communities and partners to improve resilience.
• Continue to be the service provider and partner of choice.