WFP COMMON SERVICES
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Situation Report #1 | 29 June 2020

COVID-19 has caused disruptions to global transport systems, affecting the ability of health and humanitarian workers to respond. WFP, working closely with the World Health Organization, the UN system, the NGO community and governments, is using its logistics capacity and expertise to step in and provide these services where commercial capacity currently doesn't exist, ensuring that critical health and humanitarian personnel and cargo can move to where they are needed most.

Due to measures put in place by governments to limit the spread of COVID-19, supply chains globally have seen a significant slowdown, with capacity across all sectors reduced and fluctuation in prices due to heavy demand for the limited available capacity. Major cargo entry points have seen delays due to reductions in staff numbers, reduced operating hours, increased sanitation measures, mandatory quarantines and the introduction of testing requirements. Commercial flights for both passenger and cargo services have been widely disrupted.

HIGHLIGHTS

338 PASSENGER FLIGHTS

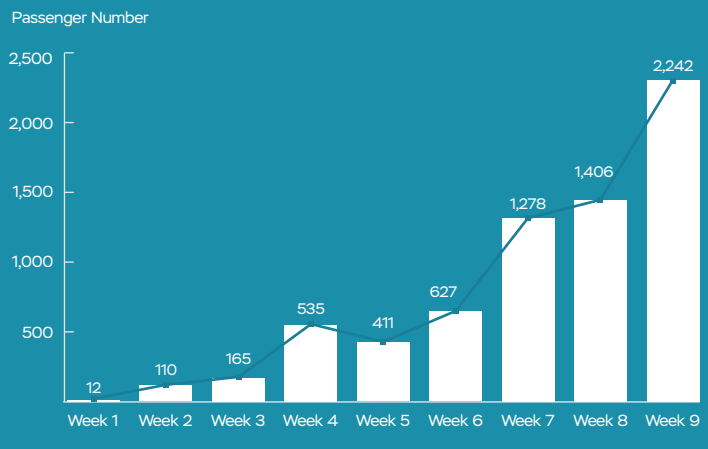
5,267 PASSENGERS transported to 43 destinations

24,500* m^3 of cargo transported to 138 countries

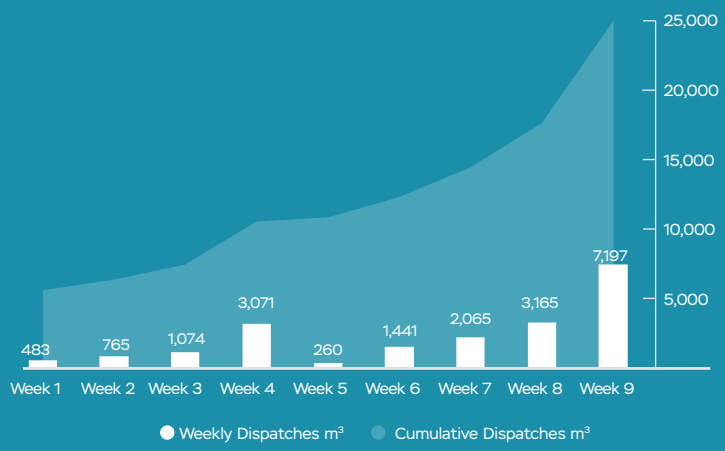
38* ORGANIZATIONS supported through WFP Common Services

**Via Covid-19 free-to-user cargo services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP Bilateral Services and UNHRD dispatches*

Weekly Passenger Trend, 1 May - 28 June 2020



Weekly Cargo Dispatches, 1 May - 28 June 2020



AIR PASSENGER SERVICES

WFP has established air passenger services to allow the continued movement of health and humanitarian personnel into affected countries where safe and reliable commercial operations are not currently available.

The passenger service launched on 1 May with a flight between WFP hubs in Addis Ababa and Accra. WFP has now opened routes serving **43 destinations** throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries that health and humanitarian workers could not otherwise have accessed due to lockdown measures and other operational constraints.

338 **FLIGHTS**

transporting
5,267 **PASSENGERS**
and critical cargo

to
43 **DESTINATIONS**
as of 29 June

Addis Ababa, Accra, Dar Es Salam, Entebbe, Abuja, Niamey, Yaoundé, N'djamena, Bangui, Bamako, Juba, Brazzaville, Monrovia, Conakry, Ouagadougou, Kigali, Kuala Lumpur, Yangon, Vientiane, Beirut, Freetown, Kathmandu, Bissau, Nairobi, Abidjan, Sao Tome, Banjul, Cotonou, Dakar, Mogadishu, Dili, Cairo, Sharjah, Yerevan, Baghdad, Erbil, Johannesburg, Lilongwe, Maputo, Bujumbura, Kinshasa, Goma and Lomé.

As soon as commercial capacity resumes, WFP air passenger services will cease.

WFP/Samir Sajet

Further destinations throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East as well as Latin America are expected to be added in the coming weeks as the appropriate government clearances are received. Obtaining flight clearances from host governments for passenger flights is a complex process and must take into account each country's specific COVID-19 regulations. In order to facilitate this, WFP has been engaging extensively with host governments at a time when many countries are in lockdown to protect their citizens.

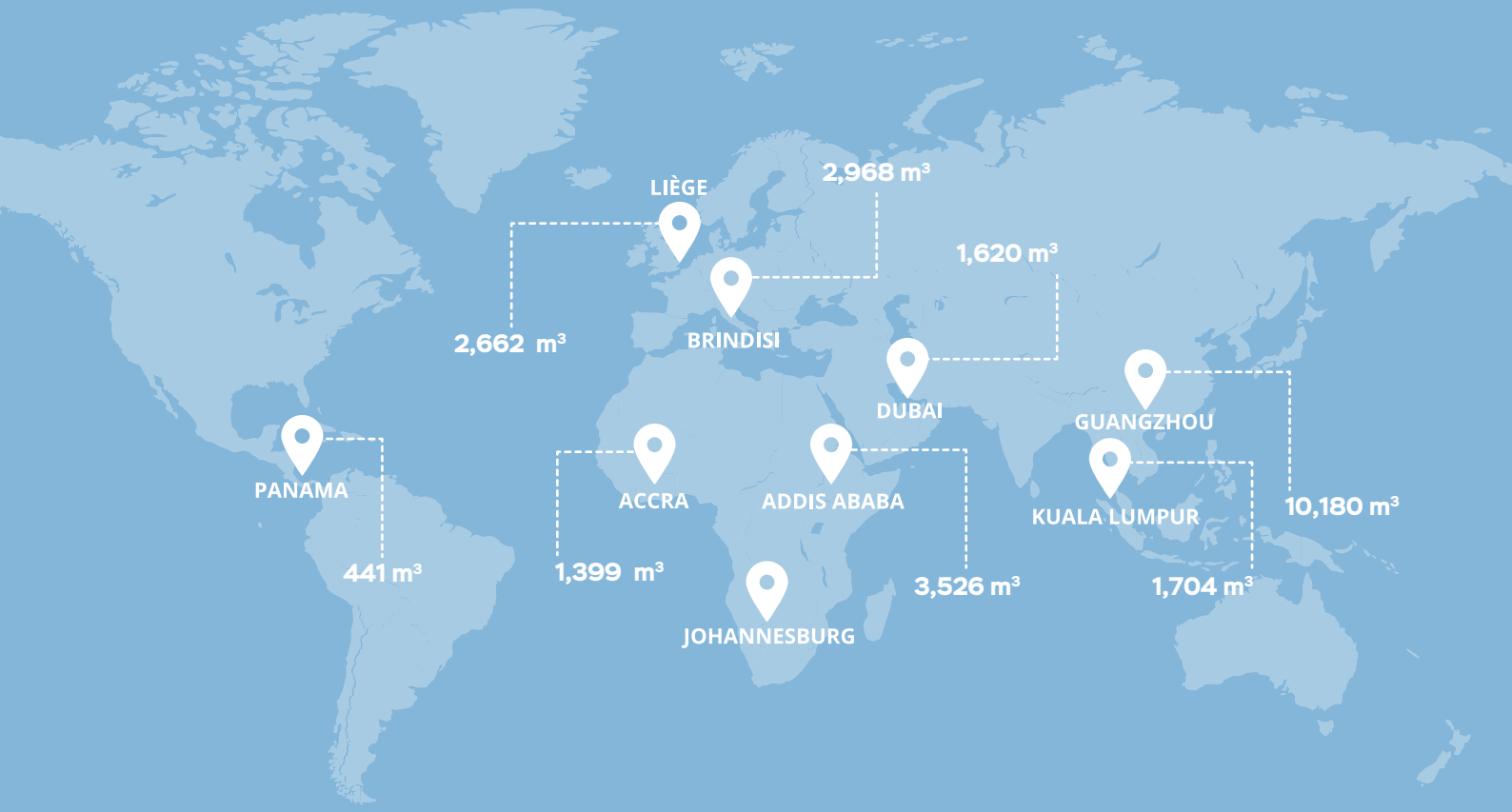
With the rapid expansion of WFP's passenger service, there has been a significant increase in the number of passengers, with the service now transporting more than **1,000 passengers** per week and passenger numbers for June double that of May. To-date, West Africa has the most extensive network of flight destinations, with **46 percent** of the total number of passengers of WFP's air passenger service traveling within this region. In comparison, **19 percent** are being transported between countries in East Africa, and **21 percent** are regularly connected between West and East Africa through the Addis Ababa-Accra-Addis Ababa route.

All WFP passenger flights adhere to strict COVID-19 measures, including temperature screening and empty spaces between the seats to ensure distancing. Transit arrangements at the established passenger hubs (Accra, Addis Ababa, Kuala Lumpur, Sharjah and Johannesburg) along with dedicated hotels to allow passengers and staff to isolate from the local population during layovers have been defined in agreement with national governments and health authorities.

All information, procedures and schedules are available on the Humanitarian Booking Hub. WFP's air passenger service is being conducted through the generosity of donors and is partially supplemented by service users on a cost-recovery basis.

% OF PASSENGERS BY CATEGORY

CARGO TRANSPORT



138 **COUNTRIES REACHED**
Via COVID-19 GHRP free-to-user cargo services, WFP Bilateral Services and UNHRD dispatches

24,500 m³
CARGO DISPATCHED

Please note that figures do not reflect cargo in transit, and hubs may handle larger volumes of cargo than shown above.

In order to support the global COVID-19 response, WFP has established a network of eight humanitarian response hubs to facilitate cargo movement on a free-to-user basis on behalf of all humanitarian organizations, leveraging existing WFP facilities (UNHRD) and assets where possible.

All of the hubs are equipped to handle medical items, dangerous goods cargo, and temperature-controlled items. These hubs are linked by chartered air services, although sea and road transport of cargo is used wherever operationally efficient and access permits. WFP is using this network of hubs and cargo transport links to continue to provide support to the COVID-19 response through its existing mechanisms such as the WFP-managed UNHRDs and bilateral service provision, but through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan is also offering free-to-user cargo movement services. **13,031 m³** of critical COVID-19 response items have now been moved via these free-to-user services on behalf of **23 organizations** to a total of **90 destinations.**

The first airlift as part of the free-to-user services took place on 30 April from WFP's Liege hub to Accra and Ouagadougou and **233 flights** have now taken place. Requests are consolidated where possible and delivered directly to country capitals when there is sufficient cargo to do so. For smaller consignments, cargo is consolidated at the most appropriate regional hub and dispatched from there to destination countries, or transported using WFP air passenger operations to ensure maximum efficiency.

WFP continues to work with governments and commercial entities to fill critical gaps in airlift capacity. Discussions are ongoing with NATO, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Canada for in-kind flights to support the delivery of essential COVID-19 cargo. Four flights provided by European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) have taken place from the Liege hub transporting **303 m³** of cargo to N'Djamena and Abuja, with more planned based on needs. The current focus is on ensuring that the capacity offered is distributed across the regions for maximum coverage.

As part of the free-to-user cargo movement services, sea transport is offered depending on flexibility of delivery schedules as well as final destination. The first shipment took place from Antwerp on 31 May carrying **82 m³** of hospital equipment and pharmaceuticals destined for Yemen. A second shipment has now been carried out from China to Timor-Leste. Road transport is already being utilized for transport of cargo from the Accra hub as well as to destinations in Central Asia, and is planned to be used for further locations depending on access constraints.

Demand for WFP's cargo movement services continues to grow, with a **127 percent increase** in the amount of cargo moved through WFP's network of humanitarian response hubs in the last week compared to the previous week. While cargo is moving, delays are being seen for some shipments due to documentation and clearance requirements for the import and export of health and medical items. WFP and the humanitarian community continue to advocate for the streamlined passage of humanitarian items. The increase in demand has also been seen through an increase in the number of requests for free-to-user transport services logged through the Emergency Service Marketplace.

1 M³ EQUALS TO

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

REUTERS/Tiksa Negeri

UN MEDEVAC SERVICES

Under the framework of the United Nations System-Wide MEDEVAC Task Force in response to COVID-19 which was established under the leadership of the Department of Operational Support (DOS), and which reports to the UN Executive Committee led by the Secretary-General, a UN MEDEVAC Cell has been set up to approve, manage and coordinate all COVID-19 MEDEVAC requests for UN and INGO personnel. COVID-19 Coordinators are in place in all countries and trigger the request to the Cell. While WHO leads the medical part of the cell out of Geneva, WFP and DOS co-manage the aviation element out of Brindisi.

WFP has access to a global network of contracted air ambulances which have so far carried out **18 medevacs** of UN staff, with measures underway to extend these services in line with growing needs.

Five strategic regional treatment locations have been identified by the UN (Accra, Nairobi, San Jose, Singapore and Abu Dhabi) and arrangements with host governments are in the process of being formalized to be able to receive eligible personnel or dependents.

As advanced preparedness, WFP has also completed construction of a **92-bed COVID-19 field hospital** in Addis Ababa, also with two road ambulances in place. Discussions are ongoing with WHO and the Ethiopian Ministry of Health on the use of this facility.

2 FIELD HOSPITALS (Accra and Addis Ababa) constructed

18 MEDEVACS COMPLETED with WFP-contracted air ambulances

24/7 Medevac Cell

COORDINATION

WFP is involved in a number of coordination structures to streamline the global COVID-19 response, including co-chairing the Supply Chain Task Force with WHO, which coordinates across the UN, NGO and government communities. WFP is also a member of the Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell, established by the UN Crisis Management Team, which is responsible for information management and operational activities related to the COVID-19 Supply Chain System. This ensures that a 'line of sight' is provided on supply chain requirements, ensuring COVID-19 needs are prioritized within the wider humanitarian response.

Within this framework, WHO leads the prioritization and destination for health items, while WFP serves as logistics lead to deliver the items on behalf of the humanitarian community.

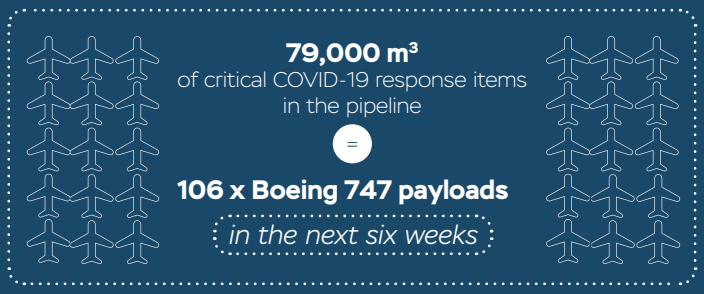
To-date the Logistics Cluster has coordinated with a total of **109 partners**, providing critical information to assist in their operational planning for the COVID-19 response, as well as providing an important forum for the discussion of logistics constraints.

Information is also being shared through dedicated COVID-19 operations pages on the Logistics Cluster and WHO websites.

LOOKING FORWARD

While commercial capacity is slowly resuming, the pandemic is accelerating globally, affecting all countries, some of which have very limited logistics and health infrastructure.

Currently WFP has over **79,000 m³** of life-saving cargo in the pipeline and sufficient funds to deliver only **56,000 m³.** Demand is expected to increase as supply comes online, and current projections indicate that approximately **700,000 m³** of cargo will need to be delivered across the world by the end of the year. Demand also continues to increase for passenger services, particularly as more destinations are added.



Adequate funding for WFP's global service provision remains the main operational constraint. **US$ 784 million** is urgently required to sustain these essential cargo and passenger movement operations until the end of 2020. Without this support, these services are at risk of ceasing by mid-July, severely disrupting the COVID-19 response. It is imperative that WFP receives adequate funding to ensure it can continue to provide this vital logistics backbone for the global humanitarian response to this devastating pandemic.

$ 181M
CONTRIBUTIONS PIPELINE

TIMELINE

23 March
Addis Ababa Hub opens

30 April
First cargo flight from Liege hub

1 May
First passenger flight

8 May
First cargo flight from Accra hub

15 May
First cargo flight from Guangzhou hub

31 May
First ocean transport

6 June
1,000 passenger milestone

9 June
First cargo flight from Panama hub

13 June
2,000 passenger milestone

25 June
3,000 passenger milestone

28 June
5,000 passenger milestone

For more information, please contact 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.