



COVID-19 Global Common Service Provision

Eligibility Criteria Brief

This brief outlines the eligibility criteria for accessing WFP's global free-to-user cargo services on behalf of the humanitarian and health community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Background

The spread and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are having vast repercussions on supply chains due to border closures, import/export and port restrictions, reduced commercial aviation and shipping operations, and restrictions on movement to/from and within countries. These supply chain disruptions put the continuation of health and humanitarian programmes at risk, and significantly complicates potential scale-up by limiting the movement of goods and humanitarian personnel, endangering the continuation of life-saving humanitarian programmes.

The World Food Programme (WFP), as the largest humanitarian organization with proven expertise in supply chain and logistics, is working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN system and other humanitarian organisations to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic within the framework of the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan \(GHRP\)](#), originally launched on 25 March 2020 and then revised on 7 May 2020.

As outlined in the GHRP, WFP has established a Global Common Service Provision to provide the supply chain backbone of the humanitarian and health response and meet all the unplanned logistics needs created by the pandemic, all the while ensuring that supply chain efforts are not duplicated within the humanitarian community and that the response is implemented as collaboratively and efficiently as possible.

The following common services are offered to the health and humanitarian community within the Global Common Service Provision framework:

- Upstream cargo consolidation and transport by air, sea and land on a free-to-user basis
- Regional passenger transport services (partial cost recovery)

Services offered are subject to change based on consultations with partners and identified needs, as well as situational changes and availability of funds. These services should not impact the existing commercial market or conflict with current in-country structures, and they are not intended to replace the logistics capacity of individual agencies or organisations.

In light of the global nature of the crisis, WFP has established a Trust Fund to guarantee the capacity and resources to successfully support health and humanitarian partners through the implementation of critical services and supply chain activities, to ensure an effective and efficient response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Trust Fund was created to allow the implementation of the activities outlined above, and to centralize the mobilization of the required resources and capacity at a global level to then disburse resources as needed.

2. Cargo consolidation and transport: user eligibility criteria

Within the Global Common Service Provision framework, services for cargo consolidation and transport are offered by WFP on a free-to-user basis to enable the health and humanitarian community to deliver COVID-19 essential items, as well as other health and humanitarian commodities to the most vulnerable populations directly affected by COVID-19.



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These free-to-user services provided by WFP within the GHRP framework are made available to the UN system and other humanitarian and health organisations to serve the global health and humanitarian service requirements.

While the vast majority of countries benefiting from services are those included in the GHRP and its revisions, given the fast evolving nature of the crisis there will be countries not captured in them that become priorities of the health and humanitarian response, and for which free-to-user services will nonetheless be leveraged.

To ensure the efficient and appropriate management of donor contributions towards the GHRP to make available and implement free-to-user supply chain services, WFP must clearly identify which entities are eligible to use them and under which conditions.

2.1 Eligible entities

Eligible entities include organizations of the United Nations system and humanitarian and health sector, including GHRP and HRP participants, and other partners of UN agencies. To access and benefit from the free-to-user services, these organisations have to register on the WFP [Emergency Service Marketplace](#) and abide to its terms and conditions.

Eligible organisations may access free-to-user services to respond to constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and request WFP's support to transport:

- Essential COVID-19 items procured through the WHO Supply Portal;
- Other humanitarian and health supplies necessary to respond to unforeseen needs directly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible organisations should not submit free-to-user requests for logistics services to cover new or existing humanitarian programmes that have been budgeted for prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes programmes impacted by COVID-19 but not related to the COVID-19 response, and increased beneficiary caseloads due to the indirect consequences of COVID-19. However, service requests for this kind of logistics support may be submitted to WFP and supported through cost-recovery mechanisms (Bilateral Service Provision, UNHRD or other providers).

2.2 Non-eligible entities

Other entities may also be in need of supply chain services to respond to COVID-19. As WFP is committed to ensuring supply and delivery of essential health and humanitarian supplies during this unprecedented crisis, supply chain services may be provided by WFP on a cost-recovery basis to these entities which are not eligible for free-to-user services.

Entities not eligible for free-to-user services are: Government Member States, traditional donors as well as Bilateral Overseas Development Assistance (ODAs) Agencies (and their implementers), Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), Global Health Partnerships (GHPs), Private Philanthropic Foundations and their appointed procuring agents.

It should be noted that traditional donors and ODAs may contribute to the Trust Fund as donors for the Global Common Service Provision, in addition to funding other traditional programmes and activities. For programmed activities funded by ODAs and implemented by partners will be subject to



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cost recovery services. As for the other non-eligible entities, potential transport needs for ongoing and funded program continuity will be subject to cost recovery.

3. Regional passenger services: eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria for the regional passenger transport operated by WFP Aviation are outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures available at the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).