

World Food Programme's Covid-19 Response Update for Corporate Partners March 31, 2020

World Food Programme (WFP) is committed to save lives and minimize the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the world's most vulnerable populations. WFP has three objectives:

- Objective 1: **Sustain WFP Operations and Prevent Increased Hunger** (see page 1-3)
- Objective 2: **Enable the Global Health and Humanitarian Response** (see page 3)
- Objective 3: **Track Impacts and Inform Decision-Making** (see page 3)

In Photos: A Look Inside WFP's Global Coronavirus Response: [link](#)

Objective 1: Sustain WFP Operations – Prevent Increased Hunger

WFP has been working to pre-position three months of food supplies or cash for priority operations to counter the effects of the lockdowns on most vulnerable communities. It is vital that at this time of global crisis WFP maintains its food assistance programs which offer a lifeline to 87 million vulnerable people around the world.

Snapshot of WFP activities

- **In Afghanistan,** WFP has been limiting the number of people present at distribution sites, providing hand-washing stations, ensuring social distancing, and disseminating public awareness information on COVID19.
- **In Angola,** WFP will be conducting double distributions to refugees in April and is increasing the number of final distribution points and hand-washing stations, and implementing social distancing to reduce the risk of infection to beneficiaries and personnel during distributions.
- **In Bangladesh,** WFP put in place a double-ration system for refugees in Cox's Bazaar whereby monthly rations are given every two months instead, reducing excess movement of people and supporting social distancing efforts. WFP is also prepositioning and stockpiling food stocks.
- **In Zimbabwe,** WFP is increasing the number of distribution sites to limit overcrowding and is working to pre-position food.
- WFP is expanding the use of remote food security monitoring tools like its phone-based mVAM vulnerability monitoring system, looking at supply chain disruptions, market functionality, access to markets and health care, and the impact of COVID-19 on food security.
- Across all its operations, WFP is actively sharing information on prevention and spread of COVID-19 with its beneficiaries and is taking careful precautionary measures to ensure the virus is not spread.

News

- *Coronavirus threatens to turn aid crises into “humanitarian catastrophes”*, The Guardian, [link](#)
- *The Economic Impact of Coronavirus Could Worsen Food Security for the World’s Hungry People*: [link](#)
- *COVID-19 and the 5 Major Threats it Poses to Global Food Security*, Blog by Chase Sova, Senior Director, Policy and Research: [link](#)

School Meals - 367 million schoolchildren are missing out on school meals

WFP is working with governments and partners, such as UNICEF, to ensure that schoolchildren and their families continue to receive support that addresses their food and nutritional requirements during the COVID-19 crisis.

According to latest data, because of the COVID pandemic, **more than 367 million schoolchildren are now missing out on school meals on which they depend on.**

Snapshot of WFP activities

- **In Libya**, WFP in coordination with local teachers is distributing take-home rations of fortified date bars for children and their families. The ration is intended to cover the nutritional needs of children and up to five family members for five days. Teachers and school feeding focal points have been trained to ensure safe delivery of packages from house to house.
- Following **Colombia's** decision to close schools due to COVID-19, WFP in coordination with local school authorities began distribution of take-home rations to school children and their parents in La Guajira department which borders Venezuela. 34 MT of food from the local School Feeding Programs warehouse has been repackaged and distributed as take-home rations.
- In countries where schools are still open, the priority is to ensure that hygiene, behavior and food safety standards are followed and that social distancing measures are addressed to mitigate the risk of increased infections. WFP is working with partners to improve access to water and sanitation.
- In countries where schools are closed, WFP is evaluating possible alternatives. This includes providing take-home rations in lieu of the meals, home delivery of food and provision of cash or vouchers.

WFP launched a new digital interactive map that shows the terrible impact of Covid-19 on the school meals programs around the world.

- [Global Monitoring of School Meals during COVID-19 School Closures](#) - provides daily on-screen updates on school closures and the number of children no longer receiving school meals as a result. In addition to displaying global totals, the map shows how many children are affected in each country, with real-time data indicating both the scale of the challenges and the need for solutions -

News

- *Coronavirus: 300 million children to miss school meals amid shutdowns*, The Guardian, [link](#)

Objective 2: Enable the Global Health and Humanitarian Response

WFP is the logistics lead for the coordinated global humanitarian response implemented by World Health Organization (WHO), providing support for health and humanitarian responders around the world.

Snapshot of WFP activities

- WFP's role is to provide vital aviation, shipping, storage and transport, as well as engineering services in areas affected by the pandemic.
- WFP is extending its supply chain infrastructure, assets and partnerships, including the establishment and management of international staging hubs, facilitation of weekly cargo airlifts, ocean transport services, and passenger services to facilitate critical movement of humanitarian responders and medical staff. In addition, WFP will provide air ambulance services (medical evacuation) and establish medical treatment centers for humanitarian workers.
- **In China**, WFP has provided support to the Chinese government's efforts to curb the spread of the virus by delivering lifesaving medical equipment to hospitals in Hubei province.
- **WFP has deployed a team of supply chain experts to the WHO Headquarters in Geneva** to provide planning and logistics support to emergency teams, and - through the WFP-led UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) - has delivered vital health and protective equipment to 67 countries across the world on behalf of the WHO. WFP is also designing a prototype field treatment center with WHO.
- **In Iran**, WFP is providing a three-month supply of personal protection equipment – masks and coverall gowns - for more than 5,000 staff and volunteers from the Iranian Red Crescent Society. WFP arranged for the material to be airlifted via the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Dubai.

News

- On March 25, 2020 UN launched the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 to coordinate global humanitarian efforts to fight the pandemic in some of the world's most vulnerable countries in a bid to protect millions of people and stop the virus from circling back around the globe: [link](#)

Objective 3: Track Impacts and Inform Decision-Making

The pandemic is affecting countries in different ways. On behalf of the international community, WFP will provide real-time tracking of changes in the areas of food security, health and trade in vulnerable countries. Monitoring will be complemented with early warning and security analysis of how the pandemic is impacting food and other fragilities. Data and analysis will be visualized through static and web-based platforms.