

VALLIS GROUP LIMITED

WEEKLY BULLETINS IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE SUPPLY CHAIN

BULLETIN 4 – CASE STUDY: THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization whose primary mission is to save and change lives by delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. The WFP works with governments, NGOs, suppliers, and local communities to make sure that food and other essential items reach those who need them most.



1.2 They also engage with local smallholder farmers and businesses building capacity on food quality assurance and management as part of their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. VALLIS AND THE WFP



2.1 In September 2019, Vallis signed a three year long term agreement with the WFP in Madagascar to carry out regular inspections and audits (including sampling and analysis) of grain products coming into the country providing warehouse inspections, monitoring offloading and loading of products, and bagging and storage of products across various sites.

2.2 In October 2019, the Vallis team in Madagascar also delivered a one-day training for 40 small holder farmers on the techniques used to monitor the quality of rice, maize and pulses using moisture metres and electronic balances for spot grading.

3. PURPOSE OF THE BULLETIN

3.1 In this week’s bulletin, we would like to share some key examples of how WFP, an important Vallis client, has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED LONG-TERM IMPACT OF COVID-19 ACCORDING TO THE WFP?

4.1 The WFP’s latest projections indicate that there could be an additional 130 million people who could be pushed into severe hunger in low- and middle- income countries due to the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic alone.

4.2 The COVID-19 pandemic could also have far-reaching implications on socio-political stability, security, and conflict dynamics across regions.

5. WHAT ARE THE COST IMPLICATIONS?

- 5.1 Sustaining logistics and supply chain services throughout 2020 will cost an estimated USD 965 million, and adequate funding will be crucial to enable the global COVID-19 response in the world's most fragile settings.
- 5.2 The WFP has received USD 1.1 billion in confirmed contributions, following the Executive Director's appeal on 23rd March.

6. WHO ARE THE WFP'S TOP 5 DONORS?

- 6.1 The United States, Germany, the European Commission, Canada, and Switzerland.

7. WHAT ARE THE WFP'S PRIORITY AREAS?

- 7.1 Mobilise resources to provide food assistance for the most vulnerable population.
- 7.2 Augment its humanitarian response wherever needed.
- 7.3 Develop a framework to support governments in addressing and mitigating the socio-economic impacts of the spread of coronavirus.
- 7.4 Continue providing logistical services as the backbone for global COVID-19 efforts.

8. HOW IS THE WFP RESPONDING AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL?

- 8.1 The WFP's Country Offices are adjusting and adapting programmes in line with changing environments to best deliver assistance safely.
- 8.2 In many countries such as Mauritania, Cameroon, Nigeria, Madagascar, and South Sudan, food or cash distributions now cover two-month with physical distancing and hygiene measures in place.
- 8.3 In other countries such as Yemen, Lebanon, Central African Republic, and Rwanda, distributions are being staggered to limit group gatherings.
- 8.4 Country Offices are updating their plans to account for additional food or cash assistance needs due to the pandemic and other concurrent shocks, such as drought in West Africa, locust infestations in East Africa, continued conflict across many regions, and other factors that reduce access, and the availability of food.

9. WHAT ARE THE WFP'S GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HUBS?

- 9.1 WFP set up a network of global humanitarian response hubs across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.
- 9.2 Cargo and passenger air services linking these hubs have now commenced. This hub and spokes system will provide the logistical backbone of the global humanitarian response to COVID-19.
- 9.3 The first of the WFP's free-to-user air cargo services for the COVID-19 response **departed on the 30th April 2020.**
- 9.4 A WFP contracted Boeing 757 cargo flight took off from the newly established Global Humanitarian Response Hub in Liège, Belgium, carrying almost 70 m3 of medical cargo and personal protective equipment on behalf of UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross, destined for West Africa.

9.5 The WFP is accepting requests for these free-to-user cargo transport services through its newly launched Emergency Service Marketplace. The Emergency Service Marketplace is part of ongoing efforts by the WFP to digitally transform its operations and help drive the humanitarian sector forward, leveraging the most innovative solutions to reach those furthest behind. Figure 1 provides an info graph of the COVID-19 Global Service Provision Operational Plan.

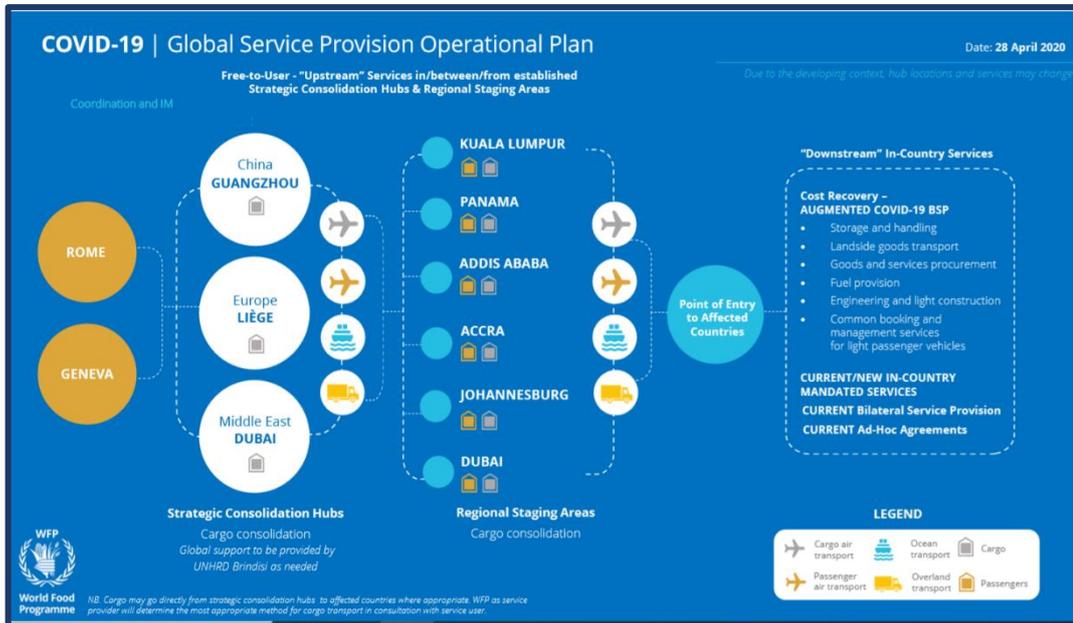


Figure 1: Global Service Operational Plan taken from the WFP website, 28th April 2020.

10. PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS BETWEEN UN AGENCIES ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION DURING AND POST-COVID-19

10.1 On the occasion of a G20 Agriculture Minister's Meeting held on the 21st April 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank and the World Food Programme (WFP) issued the following Joint Statement on COVID-19 Impacts on Food Security and Nutrition:

"The pandemic is likely to have significant repercussions on the delivery of humanitarian and recovery assistance. Maintaining ongoing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups and adapting to potential COVID-19 impacts is critical. Investment is needed to accelerate recovery efforts and build resilience of vulnerable populations, coordinating our efforts with all partners including with the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

Decisive collective action is needed now to ensure that this pandemic does not threaten food security and nutrition, and to improve resilience to future shocks. On this, we highlight the 2021 Food Systems Summit as an opportunity to drive transformative action and contribute to the UN Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030."

Joint Statement on COVID-19 Impacts on Food Security and Nutrition, 21st April 2020.