



World Food Programme  
Programme Alimentaire Mondial  
Programa Mundial de Alimentos  
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

WFP News Video: Responding to COVID-19 While Reaching 87million People Including the Most Vulnerable Struggling with Conflict

Shot: Feb-6Apr2020/Oct19

Yemen/Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh/Burkina Faso/South Carolina, USA

TRT: 3:28

### **SHOTLIST:**

**:00-:11**

GV's Taiz is on the frontline between the warring parties in Yemen

**Shot: 10Feb20**

**Taiz, Yemen**

**:11-:30**

**Distribution of WFP food vouchers**

WFP has introduced hygiene mitigation measures at all food and voucher distribution points and health centres. At nutrition centres, mothers and children are being given a two-month supply of nutrition supplements to limit how often they need to visit the facility.

**Shot: 3Apr20**

**Sana'a, Yemen**

**:30-:41**

**Drone shot(no sound)/GV Kutapalong Camp**

Nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar live in this massive crowded camp susceptible to flooding and landslides.

**Shot: Oct19**

**Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**

**:41-:57**

WFP is proactively implementing physical distancing and infection prevention measures at its food distribution and nutrition sites. This includes providing a month's worth of food at a time to limit frequency of visits, only allowing one person from each household to enter the sites, screening temperatures and implementing handwashing upon entrance

**Shot: 3Apr20**

**Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**

**:57-1:42**

**SOT David Beasley, WFP Executive Director (English)**



“At The World Food Programme, we are assisting 85-95 million people throughout the year. Whether it’s war zones or climate extremes or just poverty stricken areas, we are there helping people..changing lives and saving lives. Now that we have a pandemic, it makes our work that much more critical. In fact, if we lose our funding or lose access we could see 150,000 people could lose their lives on a daily basis over many months. This is why our operations must continue they are critical, whether supply chain emergency operations for food, delivering emergency medical supplies for WHO or UNICEF throughout the world, we are there working with nations and leaders to save lives and change lives.”

**Shot: 5Apr20**

**South Carolina, USA**

**1:42-2:04**

**WFP food distribution with COVID19 prevention methods.**

In Burkina Faso attacks from non-state armed groups and drought have displaced over 830,000 people in one year. On 09 March 2020, Burkina Faso registered its first two cases of COVID-19, a figure that increased rapidly and exceeded the mark of 300 less than 30 days later. It’s one of the worst affected countries in all of Africa. In addition to WFP provides health information and is distributing food to more than 530,000 people putting in place a number of COVID-19 prevention measures including social distancing, sanitization and utilization of personal protective equipment.

**Shot: 2Apr20**

**Kaya, Burkina Faso**

**2:04-2:23**

**Sawadogo Mariam receives a monthly ration of WFP food for her and her family.**

Sawadogo Mariam is from Tabrembin (Soum province, Sahel region) She is 29-years old with 3 children. Before the insurgency began she and her family were farmers and livestock breeders.

**Shot: 2Apr20**

**Kaya, Burkina Faso**

**2:23-2:49**

**SOT Sawadogo Mariam (Moore):**

“At the beginning, when the gunned men raided our village it was to steal our cattle and poultry. When they started killing people, men fled the village and they were later followed by women. When we reached Kelbo, they were killing people there too, so we had to flee again.”

**Shot: 2Apr20**



## **Kaya, Burkina Faso**

**2:49-2:59**

**Sawadogo Mariam prepares her family's meal with food from WFP**

**Shot: 2Apr20**

**Kaya, Burkina Faso**

**2:59-3:16**

**SOT Sawadogo Mariam (Moore):**

“Our habits have changed because of this disease (COVID-19). Now we wash our hands more regularly with soap before eating or drinking water. We strictly follow the sanitary rules that they taught to us to avoid the spread of the virus.”

**Shot: 2Apr20**

**Kaya, Burkina Faso**

**3:16-3:28**

**Sawadogo Mariam helps her children wash up before dinner**

**Shot: 2Apr20**

**Kaya, Burkina Faso**

**ENDS**

### **COVID-19 and WFP Operations:**

- It's vital that at this time of global crisis WFP maintain its food assistance programmes which offer a lifeline to 87 million vulnerable people around the world. WFP's top priority is to ensure it has the resources in place to meet the food and nutrition needs of the people that so depend on its assistance.

### **Enable the global health and humanitarian response:**

- WFP is leading global logistics in support of health and humanitarian responders around the world as they scramble to curb the spread of the virus and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.
- WFP is establishing humanitarian hubs and regional staging areas to facilitate the dispatch of essential cargo, setting up air transport links, contracting charter vessels where shipping has been disrupted, and providing passenger air and Medevac services for humanitarian staff. These will be built on WFP's global network of strategically-placed Humanitarian Response Depots ([UNHRD](#)), and will provide the logistics backbone for global efforts.



### **Track impacts and inform decision-making:**

- The pandemic is affecting countries in different ways. On behalf of the international community, WFP is providing real-time tracking of changes in the areas of food security, health access and markets in vulnerable countries. Data and analysis are visualized through web-based platforms such as the [Hunger Map Live](#). Monitoring will be complemented with early warning and security analysis of how the pandemic is impacting food and other vulnerabilities.

### **Yemen:**

All WFP food distributions in the north are on hold based on the request of local authorities to ensure that COVID-19 mitigation measures are in place.

WFP has introduced hygiene mitigation measures at all distribution points and health centres. At nutrition centres, mothers and children are being given a two-month supply of nutrition supplements to limit how often they need to visit the facility.

There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Yemen, which is classified as low risk to the virus due to the limited points of entry to the country. All airports were closed by authorities in mid-March. However, Yemen's healthcare system has been decimated by over five years of conflict. If corona virus were to reach Yemen it would have a devastating impact on a population already weakened by malnutrition, lack of healthcare and ongoing war.

WFP is providing monthly food assistance to more than 12 million people. There is limited medicine, equipment and personal protection equipment available. Yemen relies on imports for 80 to 90 percent of its basic needs including food, making it particularly vulnerable to disruptions in the world economy.

Over 3.6 million people have been displaced since the start of the conflict. One third live in camps and informal settlements which are overcrowded and lack proper access to sanitation.

### **Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh:**

Nearly one million Rohingya refugees are completely reliant on WFP food assistance every month.

WFP is proactively implementing physical distancing and infection prevention measures at its food distribution and nutrition sites. This includes providing a month's worth of food at a time to limit frequency of visits, only allowing one person from each household to enter the sites, screening temperatures and implementing handwashing upon entrance and



enabling refugees to simply scan their WFP SCOPE card and forego fingerprint verification in order to limit touching.

As of 5 April, no cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the refugee camps, however we are taking every measure to prepare for a potential outbreak.

WFP has additionally prepositioned food and non-food stocks in and around the camps and is ready to support food assistance for people in quarantine and isolation centres in Cox's Bazar District when needed.

### **Burkina Faso:**

On 09 March 2020, Burkina Faso registered its first two cases of COVID-19, a figure that increased rapidly and exceeded the mark of 300 less than 30 days later.

In Burkina Faso where attacks from non-state armed groups and drought have displaced over 830,000 people, WFP provides health information and is distributing food to more than 500,000 people putting in place a number of COVID-19 prevention measures including social distancing, sanitization and utilization of personal protective equipment.

The Government and its partners are running against the clock as some 2.15 million women, men and children are expected to be food insecure as the lean season sets-in in June, up from over 680,000 at the same time last year.

WFP Burkina Faso is starting to pre-position stocks of food to ensure that assistance to vulnerable people continues.

For the next six-month, USD 61.8 million additional funding are urgently required to assist the vulnerable and internally displaced people during the lean season.

### **FUNDING**

On 25 March, the United Nations Office Coordinating Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) launched the Global Inter-Agency COVID-19 Response Plan featuring an appeal for US\$ 2 billion to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. WFP's requirement as outlined in plan is **US\$350 million**. This is needed to fund common humanitarian services including vital aviation, shipping, storage and transport, as well as engineering services in areas affected by the pandemic. The OCHA appeal is additional to WFP's existing plans to provide food assistance to 87 million people in 2020.

WFP has separately asked donors to expedite an estimated **US\$1.9 billion** in already pledged but not yet received contributions so that forward procurement and pre-positioning of three months' worth of buffer stocks can be accelerated.

### **SUPPLY CHAIN & COMMON SERVICES**



WFP is pre-positioning three-month-stocks of food in or near the most fragile countries as well as ensuring three-month financing is available for cash transfer programmes. This means we can minimize disruptions, be flexible, and adapt and adjust our response as needs and circumstances change. In some locations where circumstances require it, WFP offices are distributing two-months' worth of assistance to ensure that beneficiaries have sufficient supplies to support them in the near future, and we are also adapting our distribution methods to ensure that we comply with state health requirements and adhere to WHO guidelines.

Restrictions on global movements, tighter border controls and commercial transport closures mean that the usual routes for humanitarian and health organizations are disrupted. WFP thus needs to ensure its equipment and staff can rapidly reach the areas where they are most needed. Using its proven expertise in this field, WFP is expanding its logistics and planning services to support the global humanitarian and health response.

We're setting up international hubs in key locations (Shanghai, Liege, Dubai and Atlanta) where supplies are being manufactured. Here, cargo is consolidated and prioritized on behalf of humanitarian and health partners as well as governments. From here, we'll work with the private sector to move that cargo by air (or sea) to strategically located regional hubs where it can then quickly be moved to the most vulnerable countries. Where that capacity is not available commercially, WFP will use its expertise to provide air and sea transport to move cargo.

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

**Nearly 1.6 billion children and youth** – or 91 percent of enrolled learners around the world – are having to stay away from schools and universities due to the COVID-19 pandemic (UNESCO figures). An [interactive WFP map](#) showing how COVID-19 is disrupting children's school meals provides daily on-screen updates on school closures and the number of children no longer receiving school meals as a result.

Nationwide closures are in force in some 188 countries while in many others, localized closures could become countrywide - with huge implications for students' learning - and for other key aspects of their lives such as school meals. Because of the pandemic, **nearly 370 million schoolchildren** are now missing out on school meals on which they depend.

Partial or country-wide closures of schools have been reported in 51 countries where WFP implements school feeding programmes. This means that **more than 12 million children** are no longer receiving WFP school meals.



### **Why should people give money to WFP or any aid agencies when there is so much need in countries in the developed world?**

The world is only as strong as the weakest health system. Global solidarity is not only a moral imperative, it is in everyone's interests. This is a global crisis and no one is immune as the virus spreads from one country to another. That's why we need a response that is truly holistic and international. This virus knows no borders. It might be rampant in the developed world right now but it risks spreading throughout the developing world, among some of the most fragile communities on earth, countries which are already grappling with conflict, climate change and high levels of economic marginalisation. WFP is on the frontlines in these countries, making sure that millions of vulnerable people are not pushed over the edge into starvation. Without funding, WFP cannot provide the assistance that these people so desperately need. We must save lives and protect the future of millions.

### **Is WFP reviewing the way it distributes food assistance, particularly for refugees and IDPs which involve large gatherings of people in one place?**

This is an area in which WFP acquired extensive experience during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014-2016. WFP is abiding by recommendations from local health authorities and the WHO to protect the health and safety of our beneficiaries, our partners and our staff. As a preventative measure, WFP has reviewed food distributions and other operations so as to reduce the risk of infection, organising food distributions so that less people gather at once, providing handwashing facilities for beneficiaries and staff, health and temperature screening at the entrance to sites, and information sharing on containment measures.

### **Are we facing a food crisis? Could COVID-19 have a major impact on food production, agricultural supply chains and markets?**

Disruptions are so far minimal - food supply is adequate and markets are relatively stable. Global cereal stocks are at comfortable levels and the outlook for wheat and other major staple crops for 2020 is positive. But we may soon see disruptions in the food supply chains. If big importers or governments lose confidence in the reliable flow of basic food commodities around the globe, resulting panic purchases would drive prices up. Although a drop in production of high value commodities (i.e. fruits and vegetables) is already likely, they are not yet noticeable due to lockdowns and disruptions to value chains.

We are seeing challenges in terms of the logistics involving the movement of food, and the pandemic's impact on livestock sector due to reduced access to animal feed and slaughterhouses' diminished capacity. And we may soon see disruptions in the food supply chains. Blockages to transport routes are particularly obstructive for fresh food supply



chains and may result in increased food loss and waste. Transport restrictions and quarantine measures are likely to impede farmers' access to markets.

Shortages of labour could disrupt production and processing of food, notably for labour-intensive crops, particularly in vulnerable countries in sub-Saharan Africa. However, price spikes are not expected in the major staples but are more likely for high-value commodities, especially meat and perishable commodities. For more on this topic, see the just-published [WFP report on the topic](#).

### **What countries is WFP most worried about?**

The situation is rapidly evolving, and WFP must ensure its response is flexible and adaptable to new circumstances. WFP is analyzing developments and impact of COVID-19 spread in real time to inform WFP's response and priorities. The pandemic is impacting all countries – and the countries most vulnerable will be those with fragile economies, services, and health systems. These are also the countries where WFP works.

WFP has carried out an analysis that looks at a range of factors including our own capacity to respond in-country, alongside a number of indices that track levels of development, capacity of national health authorities and national reliance on food imports, to name but a few. Based on this analysis, the Middle East and West and Central Africa are of the greatest priority, followed by East Africa.

The countries which we absolutely have to prioritise are those with high pre-existing vulnerability and compounding economic, socio-political, security and climate fragility factors; and within these, there are countries which are reliant on imports and which have weak logistics performance & supply chain systems. In Africa, think countries including Burkina Faso, DRC and Libya. Most of these countries - the ones already dealing with multiple crises and reliant on international assistance to meet minimum essential needs - are also those covered in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

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The United Nations World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies, building prosperity and supporting a sustainable future for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

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