



WFP Standby Partnership Annual Report 2020



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Foreword

In 2020, the triple threat of conflict, climate change and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 drove human suffering to a staggering scale. More than 30 million people face emergency levels of food insecurity in 41 countries, dependent on assistance to meet their most basic food needs. Any shock or reduction in humanitarian assistance could push them further into catastrophic hunger. An estimated 270 million people are acutely or at risk of being food insecure across 79 countries where WFP operates. These numbers show the awful reality – that the number of people facing acute hunger and suffering from malnutrition is rising. Our goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 is in peril.

WFP stepped up to the unprecedented challenges and provided assistance to 116 million people through food or cash distributions, nutrition support programmes, activities to build community resilience as well as technical support to governments and partners and the provision of logistics services to the wider humanitarian community.

The pandemic truly stress tested the deployability of the WFP workforce to meet growing operational needs. The WFP spirit was formidable. An extraordinary number of staff rose to the occasion to ensure delivery of humanitarian interventions were expanded upon rapidly to meet the complex food security and nutrition needs. With strong support from donors



Margot van der Velden
Director of Emergencies

and increased collaboration with partners, WFP set out a strategy to sustain ongoing levels of assistance to all beneficiaries across WFP operations, scaling up to reach those at the brink of acute food insecurity.

WFP's work with our partners was extremely crucial to ensure the demands of the growing operational needs were met. In living up to the challenges, WFP coordinated and collaborated with partners to achieve shared goals and overcome common bottlenecks. These joint efforts lead to a successful worldwide humanitarian response.

Our Standby Partners were crucial- 94 experts deployed to 40 WFP Country Offices, 4 Regional Bureaux and to Headquarters. This allowed WFP to access

expertise not readily available in-house, maintaining a rapid scale-up of operations that was so desperately needed. Standby Partners supported WFP also when travels were severely restricted, by providing remote support to WFP country offices until the situation allowed deployment to the duty station. Many Standby Partner experts that were already supporting WFP offices and emergency responses were extended to ensure operational continuity and scale-up of the operations. Moreover, Standby Partnerships did not only support through the deployment of experts, but also provided and delivered much-needed equipment such as hygiene kits, PPEs and improving workspaces, warehouses and distribution facilities.

At this time of immense global challenges, ranging from conflicts to climate shocks to economic instability, we must redouble our efforts to defeat hunger and malnutrition. After more than 25 years since the first Standby Partnership

Agreement was signed, Standby Partners lived up to new challenges once again, confirming their crucial role in supporting WFP and the overall humanitarian community. Only together with all partners, ranging from private sector to NGOs and governments will we be able to achieve the greatest results for the people in need.

Proven as an effective emergency response tool, WFP continues to be very proud of its longstanding collaboration with our Standby Partners and will continue to need their support to assist the people in need. On behalf of the entire WFP emergency global teams, I want to thank of all our Standby Partners for augmenting the work in averting, responding to and preventing humanitarian crises.



Margot van der Velden

Standby Partners are organizations who maintain a roster of specialized and rapidly deployable staff with various competencies. Partners provide pro-bono support in the form of personnel, equipment and/or services ready to deploy within 72 hours for emergencies if required. Their support also extends to the occasions when highly specialized skills are needed and not available within WFP.

To date, WFP has built agreements with a total of 27 governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It provides WFP with a vital mechanism to support WFP's operation and inter-agency interventions through a wide range of technical areas.

Executive Summary

2020 was an unforgettable year. WFP Standby Partnerships were faced with a ‘triple challenge’ – maintaining support to existing emergencies, responding directly to the COVID-19 pandemic and doing so in an environment of worldwide travel restrictions and compromised work environments. WFP and our Standby Partners faced the tremendous challenge and continued to deliver, proving Standby Partnerships as a critical tool for an effective emergency response to complement internal capacity augmentation. Over the past 25 years, the Standby Partnership mechanism has demonstrated its resilience and flexibility with the spirit of strong collaboration.

In 2020, WFP signed a new Standby Partnership Agreement with two organizations: the German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) and the Deutsche Post DHL Group. These agreements will bolster capacity in most of the core thematic areas relevant to WFP. DHL will increase WFP's capacity in Logistics and Supply Chain while ZIF brings a roster with a wide range of experts in a variety of areas, such as Information Management and Cash Based Transfers.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Standby Partnerships pivoted to increase the possibility of remote deployment. Likewise, for in-country

deployments WFP rapidly provided tools, information and communications on continually evolving travel and entry requirements and the securing of safe workplaces. WFP constantly reviewed, adapted, updated and provided guidance and standard operating procedure to sustain the mechanism under unprecedented circumstances in close collaboration with the Standby Network Duty of Care Working Group.

Despite all challenges, in 2020, 94 expert deployments supported operations in 40 WFP country offices and 4 in regional bureaux and headquarters. Standby Partners provided WFP with a total of 15,596 days' worth of expertise and equivalent to in-kind contributions of US\$10.4 million.

WFP and Standby Partners have explored opportunities for innovative engagement in the form of Service Modules. Seven Service Modules were implemented, that valued US\$5.8 million in total. Specifically for the COVID-19 response, two of these modules improved the workspace, warehouse and distribution facilities to hinder the spreading Covid-19 among beneficiaries in Burkina Faso and Cameroon; and a further two supported humanitarian workers and surge employees through the provision of office hygiene kits and personal protective equipment in Ethiopia and HQ .

In 2020, WFP took on the Chair of the Standby Network alongside long-standing partner Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The Network aims at fostering the implementation of best practices and new solutions to improve preparedness, response capacity and the care of the deployment personnel through collectively engaging the knowledge, skills, experience and unified voice. WFP drove significant achievements in 2020, including the adoption of a three year Strategic Framework, the establishment of a Secretariat of two full time staff, as well as key collaboration on how to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. This

encompassed information sharing and best practice establishment on remote deployments, travel, medical evacuation, insurance and contracting and allowed the Standby Network to continue to deliver to emergency responses.

WFP is proud of its longstanding collaboration with our Standby Partners that enables the effective and efficient delivery of food assistance in emergencies, and impacts the work with communities to build resilience and change their lives in support of over 100 million people around the world.

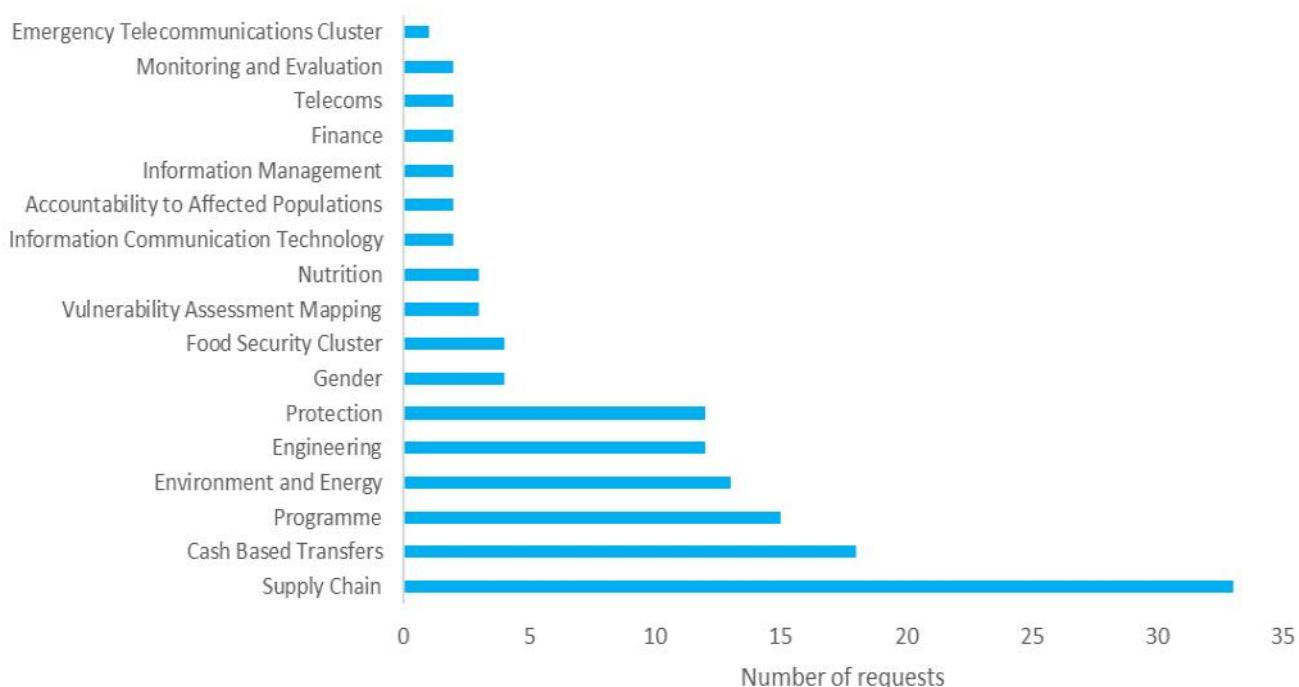
**94 deployments
and 7 service modules
from 15 partners supported
WFP operations in 40 countries
plus 4 regional bureaux and
headquarters.
This represents over 520 months
of personnel working full-time.**

Standby Requests

**WFP made 130 standby requests
to partners of which
72% were successfully filled**

Profiles

The following profiles were requested throughout 2020:

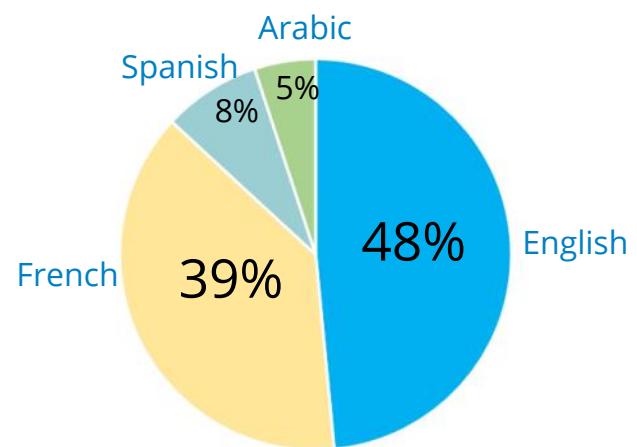


In particular, Engineering requests were well supported with 100% of the requests met. Protection requests were 92% successful, followed by Environment and Energy at 87% and Cash Based Transfers at 86%. The individual unmet requests were primarily in the profiles of Supply Chain (11 requests unmet), Programme (6) and Cash Based Transfers (3).

Languages

The largest group of requests were for English language fluency alone, with no other language required (48%). For the remaining requests, 38% required French fluency, with smaller numbers of roles looking for Spanish or Arabic speakers.

When drilling into the unsuccessful requests, 61% of unmet needs were requests which required French fluency—demonstrating that roles with this language requirement are much more difficult to fill.



Countries

Country Offices which saw higher numbers of unmet needs were Haiti and Fiji (3 unmet requests each), Ethiopia (2), Cameroon (2), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2), Armenia (2) as well as headquarters (2).



WFP distributing food assistance to drought affected communities and nutritional support to mothers and children in Taolagnaro district, Madagascar. © WFP/Tsiory Andriantsoarana

Masenda Tonderai

Ethiopia Transport Policy and Governance Specialist

Deployed by Danish Refugee Council

As a landlocked country, Ethiopia relies on supplies arriving at the Port of Djibouti and travelling overland primarily on trucks. This critical aid allows WFP to respond to crisis, such as the provision of food assistance to populations in the Tigray region in 2020.

Transport logistics have for years proven to be a difficult and time consuming exercise. WFP led an assessment of the core issues to address the problems on a systematic basis. The study highlighted transport congestion, poor infrastructure, barriers to private sector investment, road design, poor traffic controls and lacking safety and environmental standards. Addressing these symptoms relied on a wholistic, structural approach – the development of a national Road Transport Policy that would improve logistics and fleet management and provide Ethiopia with a world class road transport system that was also regionally integrated. This will ultimately reduce the time for the delivery of food items to people in need.

Tonderai, a transport policy specialist, deployed in February 2020 and began immediately, working inside the Ministry of Transport as a transport advisor to the Federal Transport Authority (FTA). As Tonderai's first deployment through the Danish Refugee Council standby roster, the work has been challenging but fulfilling: "*Being a standby employee has been quite exciting – WFP has been very supportive. There is no difference in how I am treated, I am treated the same as a WFP staff*". In particular, WFP have been supporting Tonderai with the consultations required to ensure high level engagement from various government partners.

Upon the advent of COVID-19 and social distancing requirements, Tonderai worked quickly to produce an animated video in the local language of Amharic that clearly and visually demonstrated the problems and strategies that the FTA would address in the Road Transport Policy, to allow wide buy-in and feedback from a wide range of stakeholders in many provinces.

The policy is the first of its kind for the FTA. It sets up directives for freight transport and urban transport to increase efficiencies in the transport sector of Ethiopia. The policy promotes lower emission standards, inclusive growth and poverty reduction and targets the UN Global Vision ZERO (Zero Road Traffic Deaths) through actively ensuring that Road Safety is a major part of the Policy.

The reform will ultimately help WFP provide faster and more reliable delivery of humanitarian aid.



Tonderai (middle left) presents the inception report to the FTA © WFP / Masenda Tonderai



Daphine 26, Oruchinga Refugee Settlement, Uganda. Her youngest daughter is malnourished, Daphine will participate in mother led malnutrition prevention measures.

© WFP/Hugh Rutherford

Standby Deployments

Standby Personnel are Experts on Mission deployed through the Standby Partnership mechanism for rapid and/or temporary mobilization to emergency operations or preparedness and readiness enhancing projects. Given the complex humanitarian assistance environment, needs on the ground and impact expected, a wide variety of expertise is activated. This ranges from supply chain and logistics, cash based transfers, food security, climate change and energy, nutrition, gender, protection, security, telecoms, engineering to other specialized profiles.

In 2020, 94 expert deployments supported operations in 40 WFP country offices and 4 regional bureaux and headquarters locations. Of these, 54 were newly deployed since the beginning of 2020 while 40 experts continued deployments from prior to 2020. Partners provided WFP with a total of 15,596 days worth of expertise and the equivalent of in-kind contributions of US\$10.4 million.

The largest partner providing support to WFP in 2020 was NorCap, who provided 34 deployments, followed by MSB with 19 deployments and the Danish Refugee Council³ with 11 deployments.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted deployments specifically through travel restrictions, border closures, lack of commercial flights, quarantine requirements, and the need to establish medevac and new in-country medical facilities specific to the pandemic. In response WFP launched the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, providing the worldwide common service and implementing the global air passenger service to enable the humanitarian community to continue movements of aid supplies and humanitarian workers. WFP proactively coordinated and shared the timely information of flight availability and ever-changing travel requirements with Standby Partners to continue physical deployments where possible. Approximately 35% of L3 emergency deployments were immediate staff capacity surge for the COVID -19 response at the onset of the pandemic in Afghanistan, Armenia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Haiti, Malaysia, Mozambique, Myanmar and Timor-Leste.

The Standby Partner mechanism also makes an impact on WFP preparedness and development interventions. With innovative initiatives, a group of energy experts have been deployed and are adding unique values to WFP and the local counterparts with integration of climate change and energy considerations into food security in multiple regions.

³WFP would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark for the provision of the WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement which funds deployments through Danish Refugee Council.



Celia Gonzalez

Social Protection and Cash Transfer Adviser Dominican Republic

Deployed by CashCap

Celia deployed in September, commencing remotely from Colombia before deploying to Dominican Republic. Celia role supported the implementation of WFP's first cash-based interventions in Dominican Republic Country Office. One of the pilot projects was designed alongside the IFRC and the Dominican Red Cross, in particular to test how Cash Based Transfer (CBT) programming would work and the best delivery mechanisms for this specific context. The program additionally had a Forecast Based Financing (FBF) pilot which aimed to provide cash before the event of a natural disaster. During Celia's first weeks an activation for this program was raised, with the alert of floods in November. This required Celia and the team to overlap preparedness with a potential implementation. Celia worked to design CBT procedures for intervention, communication materials (leaflets, SMS), supported the data collection process, activated the Western Union option for delivery, checked on the feasibility of using Western Union in such context and proposed alternative delivery mechanisms, carried out qualitative follow up on the process and designed a basic complaints and feedback mechanism.

Celia's prior experience in CBT programming was of great benefit in adapting the planning for COVID-19 context, such as considering delivery to populations without valid ID and planning for beneficiary collection with social distancing measures.

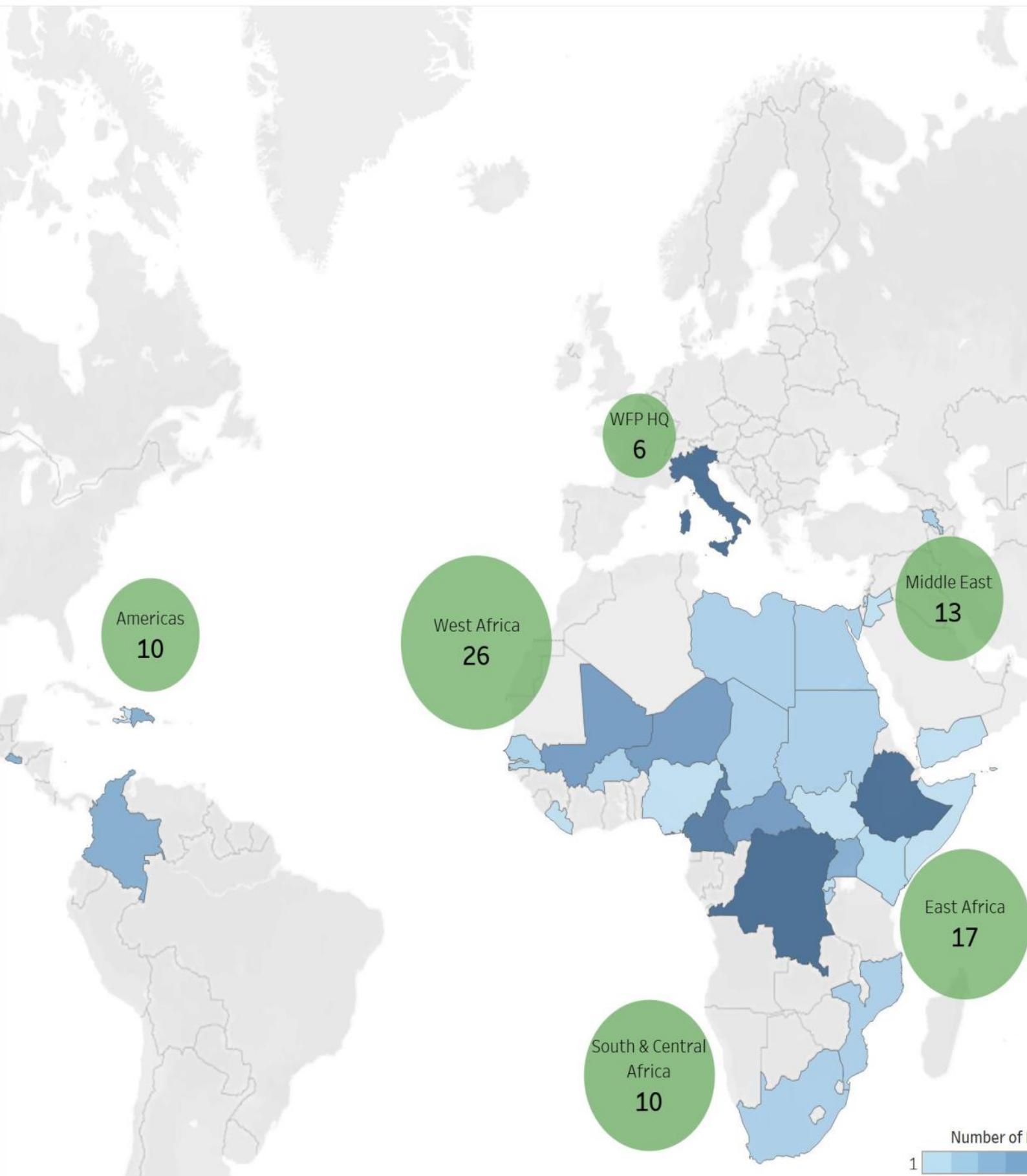
Accessing technical expertise for capacity building is a key benefit of a standby deployment, and this was a major component of Celia's role. By drawing on her previous experience in other humanitarian contexts, Celia could ensure that potential future issues were flagged and solutions discussed that were appropriate for the Dominican Republic context.

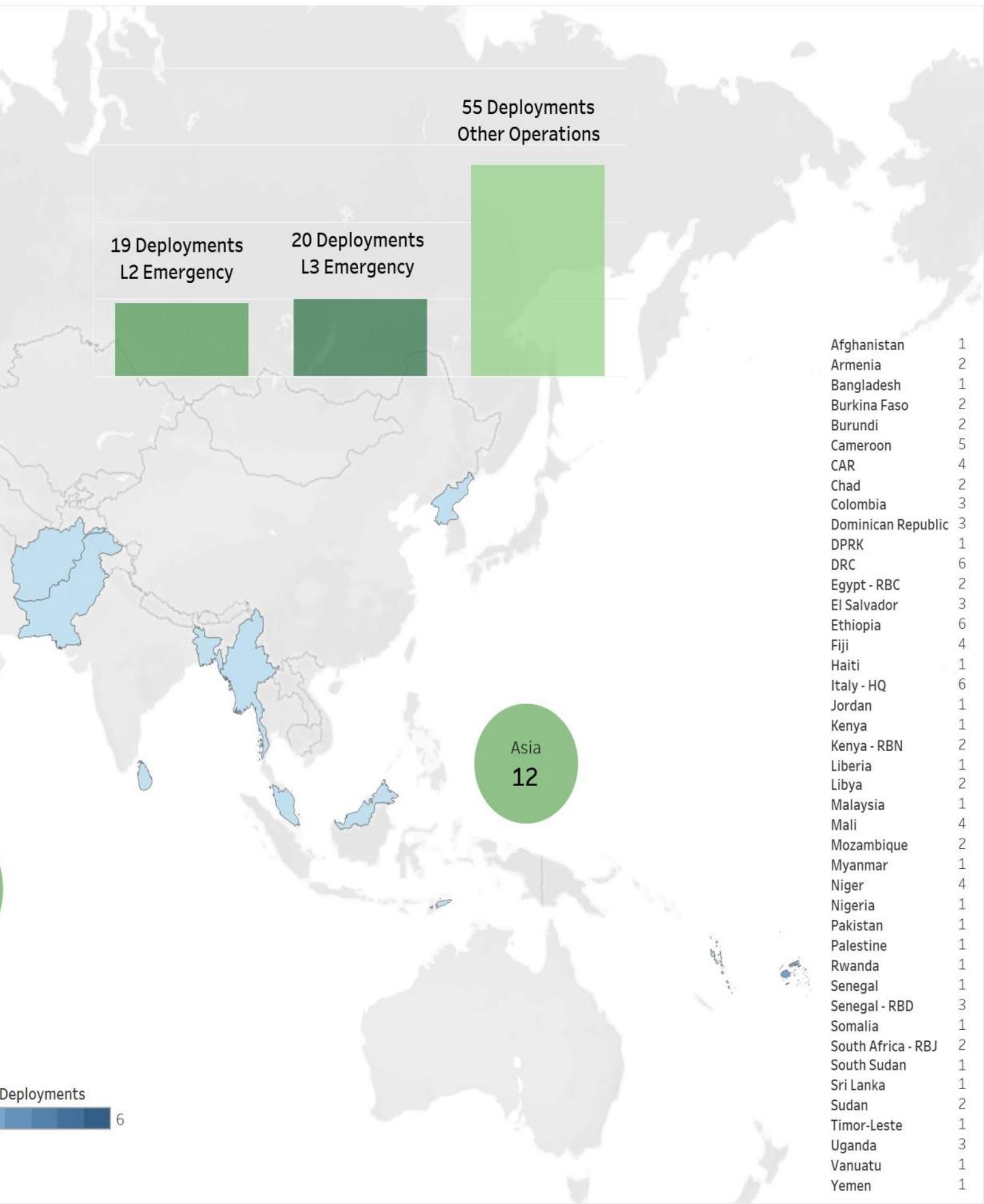


Celia introducing herself during a focus group discussion for the FbF pilot

© WFP/ Celia Gonzalez

Global Overview of Deployments





Service Modules

Service Modules are operational solutions comprised of technical experts and/or supporting equipment, provided through bilateral consultation with Standby Partners or through the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP): a voluntary multinational cooperation between governmental emergency management agencies who are active in humanitarian assistance.

Service Modules involves the provision of equipment and service capabilities, including access to data, information systems, service delivery, software and training packages owned or operated by Standby Partners. Where required, the related operators and experts are deployed alongside the equipment to ensure the effective and efficient set up and implementation of innovative, tailored solutions.

Given the restrictions of physical deployments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP and Standby Partners have explored opportunities for innovative engagement in the form of Service Modules.

7 Service Modules were active, total value of US\$5.8 million.

Four COVID-19 specific Service Packages improved workspace, warehouse and distribution facilities in Burkina Faso and Cameroon through MSB, and provided office hygiene kits and personal protective equipment in Ethiopia and headquarters through Help.NGO.

Despite the challenges of operating in a COVID-19 environment, WFP managed to agree and launch a new Service Module with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) to support WFP with a construction package in the Democratic Republic of the Congo including the renovation of existing office, accommodation and logistics facilities in Kananga and Kalemie, as well as the construction of a new inter-agency guest house in Kananga. This project will be an enabler of effective communications and improve health and security related aspects for humanitarian personnel through improved living and working conditions. It is expected that this will improve WFP's ability to deliver food aid and other humanitarian supplies to the affected populations also in remote areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo .

MSB are also collaborating on the rebuilding of office and accommodation facilities in Bria, Central African Republic due for completion in 2021. Within the International Humanitarian Partnership, MSB and DEMA provided base camp modules for humanitarian partners in North West Syria.

Margaret DeLorme

Market Systems Specialist Somalia

**Deployed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
(MSB)**



© Margaret DeLorme

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is supporting a package of experts aimed at long-term resilience of communities; recognizing the interconnected nature of relief, nutrition, safety nets, food systems, capacity strengthening and partnership. Margaret's role supports Somalia, a context of high poverty levels, chronic drought, frequent climate-related shock, poor infrastructure, and widespread insecurity due to decades-long conflict. WFP sought a market systems expert to improve sustainable food systems and value chains, to increase the availability, accessibility, affordability and consumption of nutritious and healthy diets in Somalia and to prevent and reduce the impact of man-made and natural shocks on vulnerable populations.

Margaret's previous role with WFP allowed her to integrate into the food systems team quickly – a critical factor considering that COVID-19 restrictions hit only a few weeks upon arriving and she was forced to work from home in Nairobi for the remainder of 2020. Originally envisaged as a roving position with multiple field missions across Somalia, this immediately changed the scope of the role, and Margaret notes the importance of ongoing communication with the deploying standby partner to ensure clarity on evolving needs and deliverables. *"MSB are a joy to work with. They are always available for check-ins and troubleshooting, and it really shows that they are experts at deploying people for these kinds of assignments".*

Since WFP Somalia's food systems work is just starting to take off, there were thankfully plenty of areas for Margaret to provide value virtually via tools, database and strategy creation, local partner onboarding, and knowledge sharing with government partners. *"I feel quite fortunate to be working on a flagship program and it has been personally rewarding to develop so many of these things for WFP from scratch".*

Margaret is developing a market engagement strategy for WFP that is rooted in a holistic approach to strengthening food systems and building more resilient value chains, focusing on all actors from smallholder farmers to traders to wholesalers and retailers. In addition to supporting current projects that aim to build the resilience of food systems and access to nutritious foods for Somalis over the next 3-5 years, Margaret is hopeful that the deliverables from this assignment will serve as the foundation for future WFP efforts in this space as the food systems portfolio continues to grow.

"I have learnt a lot in how to face a pandemic like this – even with my logistics background of 23 years this is still the first time I have faced a situation like this. I have gained so much knowledge, and I really look forward to share this knowledge with others so that we are all better prepared in emergencies such as these in future." Donny Maulana, Air Transport Officer and Standby deployee



"COVID-19 has exacerbated existing crises across the globe. WFP has scaled up to not just deal with the effects of the virus but the additional needs caused by increased food costs, conflict and reduced income."

Margot Van Der Velden
WFP Director of Emergencies

A B727 plane carrying cargo for the humanitarian response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Yemen is unloaded at Sana'a airport on 22 May 2020.

© WFP/Ebrahim Al Rawni

COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 caused global disruptions to the transport systems and links that health and humanitarian responders would normally rely upon to reach affected areas in a crisis. Specifically for the movement of personnel and equipment, travel restrictions, border closures and quarantines all hampered deployments. Standby Partners, UN agencies and the Standby Network worked to solve challenges and share information on medevac, access to medical facilities, insurance and remote working. Above all, WFP worked with partners to ensure Duty of Care for standby employees was paramount. This included rapidly establishing Work From Home arrangements for 30 employees who were repatriated to finish their deployments remotely, started remotely before being able to travel to their duty station, or in some cases completed their entire deployments remotely.

WFP quickly responded to the scale up, deploying over 500 staff to the field to bolster operations in 44 emergencies. To complement the scale up, WFP extended many of the existing standby employees already working in emergency responses and made 26 new requests for assistance. The primary profile required was Supply Chain (15 requests). Due to the difficulties in establishing new deployments, requests for COVID assistance saw only a 50% success rate, resulting in 13 deployments.

With Standby Partners, WFP also deployed four Service Modules for the COVID-19 response. In Burkina Faso and Cameroon, standby partners provided equipment and expertise to improve the workspaces, warehouses and distribution facilities to hinder the spreading Covid-19. Two other Service Modules supported humanitarian workers and surge employees through the provision of office hygiene kits and personal protective equipment in Ethiopia and headquarters.

Standby Employees contributed to WFP's COVID-19 response for example by:

- Ensuring nutritional treatment and prevention options for malnourished women and children in Timor-Leste was recommenced quickly following the lockdowns;
- Providing timely, coherent and effective information management support to the COVID-19 response in the Dominican Republic and the cross-border Humanitarian Corridor, in coordination with Haiti;
- Leading the Food Security Cluster in Armenia in conjunction with national authorities to coordinate immediate shock-responsive food assistance to vulnerable populations;
- Reviewing Community Engagement Mechanisms, protection and gender adjustments to programme implementation in Myanmar to reduce COVID-19 risks.

Burkina Faso and Cameroon tent facilities



© WFP/ Cameroon

In 2020 WFP partnered with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) for a Service Module tent solution in Burkina Faso and in Cameroon. The humanitarian response was scaling up in both contexts, to deliver food assistance to internally displaced people, those with increased vulnerability during the lean season due to the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19.

WFP, alongside other humanitarian partners (UNICEF, Oxfam, ACTED, NRC and DRC for example) required tent solutions for storage, offices and beneficiary services in a number of sub-office locations, to allow emergency responders to expand and modify the services in line with the evolving COVID-19 restrictions.

In response, MSB coordinated the establishment of 40 tents in Burkina Faso and 36 tents in Cameroon. These tents strengthened the distribution sites and humanitarian presence as:

- **temporary on-site storage** (for either food or non-food items);
- **shelter and safe areas for vulnerable beneficiaries** (elderly, women with children etc.) while waiting for pre-screening and/or isolation;
- **registration offices** for beneficiary registration;
- **field staff offices**; or
- **creating separate areas for testing, isolation and quarantine in the fight against COVID-19.**

These facilities had an immediate impact – for example many health staff and patients that previously had to share the same facilities as people affected by COVID-19, could now be provided with separate facilities, creating a safer work as well as treatment environment.



© WFP/ Cameroon

Donny Maulana

**Air Transport Officer Regional Bureau Bangkok
(Malaysia)**

Deployed by Danish Refugee Council

In May 2020 as COVID-19 spread across the globe, WFP prepared to extend support rapidly to all countries responding to the outbreak. One of the key services to ensure the continuity of supply chains and transport of aid workers and relief goods was the establishment of a network of strategically located transport hubs.

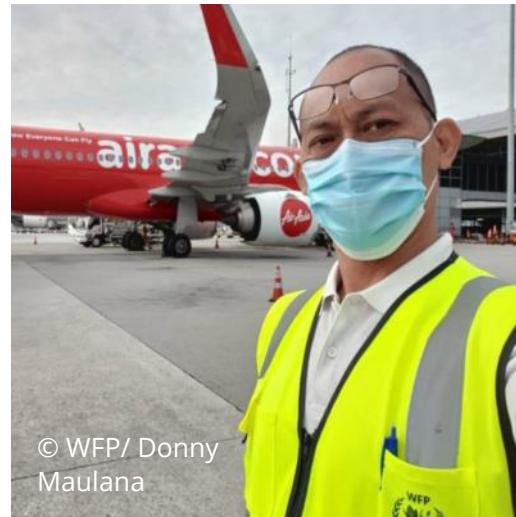
Within these hubs, WFP needed personnel who could establish and maintain the administration of safe, economical, efficient and effective air transportation for the movement of passengers and cargo. Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) Donny Maulana had an excellent background of experience in the commercial sector with passenger services, cargo, importing and exporting, but also humanitarian experience through his time as a UN Volunteer in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Donny had been supported by DRC to attend the WFP Logistics and Procurement Standby Induction training in Italy, as well as emergency response training with UNHCR.

The transport challenges posed by COVID-19 immediately impacted even Donny's own deployment, with the visa process taking many weeks before he could arrive to Malaysia. On arrival the WFP team dealt with the quarantine challenge by sending Donny his laptop and equipment, so that he could already begin induction on the software and commence working.

Donny's role was to assist and advise the HUB Manager in determining the air transport needed. They needed to design a scheduled service that catered to needs, without compromising safety, efficiencies or economies. Kuala Lumpur became a hub for UN, NGO and Government personnel who had difficulty getting transport to leave from or return to their duty station.

Many countries closed their borders including all commercial airspace so it required constant adaption, and Donny found it very interesting to apply his skills to manage the changing regulations such as changing PCR test validity and conditions on layovers. Added to this was the social distancing requirements which drastically reduced the capacity of each aircraft, and the complication of passengers caught mid-transport by expiring PCR tests or changing regulations on their onwards flights.

Donny also supported transport for cargo related to the pandemic in conjunction with WHO and UNICEF, including the transport of COVID-19 test kits and eventually vaccinations to be sent to UN staff in working in remote locations.



© WFP/ Donny Maulana

New Standby Partnerships

In 2020, WFP signed a new Standby Partnership Agreement with two organizations: the German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) and the Deutsche Post DHL Group. With these new partnerships, WFP increased the portfolio of available resources, both with regards to personnel and to services and equipment.

Deutsche Post DHL Group (DHL)

The new agreement with DHL also expands WFP's engagement with the private sector, particularly with a leader in the sector of Logistics and Supply Chain. This is expected to lead to several collaborations to strengthen WFP's internal capacity, as well as increasing the ability to respond to emergencies through standby services. Examples will be the deployment of DHL's Disaster Response Team for emergency airport operations and leveraging DHL's worldwide logistics networks for in-kind transport.

"DHL group's commitment to leverage its unique expertise and global footprint to help address today's social and environmental challenges contributing to WFP's mission of saving lives and changing lives."

Monika Schaller

Executive Vice President Corporate Communications, Sustainability & Brand

The German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF)

The German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) is an existing deploying organization in the Standby Partnership mechanism. ZIF has a long experience in deploying personnel to peace keeping operations, and recently decided to expand the roster also in areas relevant to WFP, therefore bringing valuable expertise to be better prepared to respond to emergencies. WFP will call on ZIF experts in the profiles of Information Management, Protection, Cash Based Transfers, Civil-Military Coordination, Humanitarian Affairs, Information Communications Technology (ICT), and others.

"While there is hunger, we will never have a peaceful world. I am looking forward to strengthening our partnership with the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize laureate to work towards peace and zero hunger."

Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi

Executive Director, Center for International Peace Operations

Standby Partnership Network

The Standby Partnership Network (SBP Network) is a Network of 15 participating UN Agencies and 56 Standby Partners that hold at least one bilateral Standby Partnership agreement, and that regularly contribute to the SBP Network initiatives.



Together, the SBP Network delivered more than 760 deployments during 2020, representing an equivalent value to UN emergency responses of \$90 million.

In 2020, WFP served as the Chair of the SBP Network alongside longtime partner Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). WFP and MSB drove significant advancements in the Standby Partnership Network. This included the adoption of a three year Strategic Framework and the establishment of a Secretariat function with two full time personnel. WFP drove high engagement through the Steering Committee, which was comprised of WFP, MSB, RedR Australia, ZIF, Help.NGO and UNHCR as well as the chairs of the Working Groups: UNFPA, WHO, RedR Australia and UNICEF. The Network saw stronger participation and achievements in the three ongoing Working Groups on Duty of Care, Learning and MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning).

Key achievements in 2020 included:

- **Consolidated data on deployments** across the mechanism and improvements to data quality and collection which allows the Network to better advocate to key stakeholders;
- A **revised Standby Partnership Network website** which allows increased visibility on the functioning and impact of the Network;
- **Adaptions due to COVID-19**, including webinars and working groups to establish how the Standby Partnership mechanism could continue to deploy with considerations on duty of care, remote deployments, insurance and medical evacuation;
- Improvements to the **collaboration on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** including key training paths and information sharing on reporting and support avenues;
- A **Duty of Care Resource Compendium** which brings together the best practice, tools and guidance produced by the Duty of Care Working group over the last two years;
- Preparations for an **evaluation on Work from Home deployments during COVID-19**, learning lessons from the SBP Network's collective response and the enabling and inhibiting factors.
- Preparation of a **library of training resources** to provide a resource for all members to access and share existing training and/or training materials and information. This will include an **updated version of the SBP Network Common Induction Training Package** to cover the core competencies required for employees.

For more information: www.standbypartnership.org

Paryss Kouta

Communication with Communities Officer Mali

Deployed by NorCap

In Mali, the World Food Programme developed a communication strategy in order to systematically communicate with communities through various approaches such as: the involvement of local radio stations and community social mobilisers, the use of telephone calls through a toll-free number, feedback on complaints from Crisis Affected Populations and regular sensitisation of WFP partners (traders, transporters, NGOs). To ensure the effective implementation of this strategy, the World Food Programme called on external expertise through NorCap, the Norwegian Refugee Council's expert deployment roster, and Paryss was deployed for six months from February 2020. to:

- provide the Crisis Affected Populations with clear information on food assistance;
- solicit as regularly as possible the views of the Crisis Affected Populations; and
- provide the Crisis Affected Populations with means to formulate complaints and provide feedback on areas relevant to operations in a safe and dignified manner.

The most critical challenge Paryss faced was the COVID-19 crisis, which had a huge impact on programme implementation in Mali. In high-risk areas, it was extremely difficult to have access and physical interaction with partners and communities. In addition, security and therefore access remains a big challenge in the Northern Mali.

Despite the huge negative impact of the insecurity and COVID-19 contexts in Mali, Paryss, colleagues and key partners set up a very clear, relevant and realistic communication with communities' strategy on behalf of the World Food Programme. This reinforced the understanding of food and nutrition assistance programs by beneficiaries. In addition, COVID-19 infection prevention messages were developed and disseminated in the communities with the full participation of the community members.

"Thanks to Paryss's contribution, key operational documents including a country-specific Standard Operating Procedure on Accountability to Affected Populations, a simplified version of WFP norms and principles for staff, a mapping of local radios and languages and monitoring and reporting tools have been developed and made available to WFP staff and partners to ensure effective engagement with crisis affected populations."

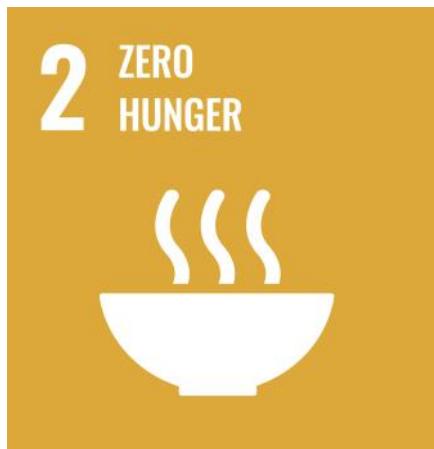
Djaounsede Madjiangar,
Head of Communications, Advocacy and Community



© WFP/ Paryss Kouta

Sustainable Development Goals

Throughout the years, Standby Partners have proven to be a crucial asset for WFP through rapid deployments to emergencies, as well as high-level technical expertise for operational preparedness, and through the provision of uniquely valuable service modules and equipment. In particular, Standby Partnerships contribute to WFP's Strategic Plan, aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which prioritizes **ending poverty, hunger and inequality**, and in particular to:



Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger

- 2.1** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- 2.2** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.



Sustainable Development Goal 17: Revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development

- 17.16** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Thanks to our standby partners

Australian Civilian Corps (ACC)
Canada's Civilian Response Corps (CANADEM)
Cisco Tactical Operations (TacOps)
Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)
Deutsche Post DHL Group
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
EMERCOM of Russia
Ericsson Response
Estonian Rescue Board (ERB)
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office UK (FCDO)
Fuel Relief Fund
German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Help.NGO
Iceland Crisis Response Unit (ICRU)
Information Management and Mine Action Program (iMMAP)
Irish Aid
NetHope
Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Pelastusopisto (formerly CMC Finland)
RedR Australia
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Swiss Federation for Mine Action (FSD)
White Helmets Commission of Argentina (WHC)
German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF)

ALITE



Standby Partnerships are run by the Augmented Logistics Intervention Team for Emergencies (ALITE). ALITE is an operational unit providing WFP with an integrated package of readiness and emergency response staff, assets, services, resources and tools by leveraging partners capacity to strengthen operational readiness and immediate response.

The unit develops strategic operational alliances to action an efficient humanitarian response. In addition, ALITE helps uncover and connect opportunities in and outside the organization to increase WFP's leadership in emergencies.

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