WFP COVID19 Humanitarian Response Hub Launch
Shot: April 2020
Belgium/Burkina Faso
TRT: 3:35

SHOTLIST:

:00-:59
Various shots of a WFP-contracted Boeing 757 cargo flight being prepared to depart the newly-established Global Humanitarian Response Hub in Liège, Belgium carrying almost 16 mt of medical cargo and personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves on behalf of UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) destined for Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Shot: 30Apr20
Liege Airport, Belgium

:59-1:31
SOT Jean-François Milhaud – WFP Global Fleet Manager (French):

Shot: 30Apr20
Liege Airport, Belgium

1:31-1:49
SOT Jean-François Milhaud – WFP Global Fleet Manager (English):
“Today we are loading this plane with UNICEF cargo. UNICEF sent this cargo from Copenhagen yesterday. Today we are loading this plane and this plane will leave tonight to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This is some medical equipment to reply to this Covid-19 crisis.”
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.

Sawadogo Mariam receives a monthly ration of WFP food for her and her family.
Sawadogo Mariam is from Tabremin (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.

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
Sawadogo Mariam prepares her family’s meal with food from WFP
Shot: 2Apr20
Kaya, Burkina Faso

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

Sawadogo Mariam helps her children wash up before dinner
Shot: 2Apr20
Kaya, Burkina Faso

ENDS

COVID-19: HUMANITARIAN AIR DELIVERIES TO AFRICA RAMPED UP WITH DISPATCH FROM UN’S NEW CARGO HUB IN BELGIUM

ROME/LIÈGE – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today kick-started a network of global logistics hubs that will support the entire aid community and ensure the delivery of vital medical and humanitarian supplies to developing countries at a time when commercial air transport is at a virtual standstill.

“The window of opportunity to surge medical and humanitarian equipment into Africa to curb the pandemic is closing fast,” said Amer Daoudi, WFP’s COVID-19 Response Director. “Our global logistics support system is up-and-running, and this delivery marks the first of many cargo shipments we will fly to all corners of the globe,” he added.
A WFP-contracted Boeing 757 cargo flight departed the newly-established Global Humanitarian Response Hub in Liège, Belgium carrying almost 16 mt of medical cargo and personal protective equipment like masks and gloves on behalf of UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) destined for Burkina Faso and Ghana.

WFP is setting up the logistics backbone for global COVID-19 efforts, rolling out a global hub-and-spokes system of air links to dispatch vital medical and humanitarian cargo and transport health workers to the front lines of the pandemic. Global Humanitarian Response Hubs located close to where medical supplies are manufactured in Liège, Dubai, and China will link to regional hubs in Ethiopia, Ghana, Malaysia, Panama, Dubai, and South Africa, where a fleet of smaller aircraft will be on standby to move cargo and personnel into priority countries. The network builds on pre-existing UN Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) - including Brindisi in Italy.

WFP expects to transport the equivalent of 37 Boeing 747 planeloads over the next six weeks from China and Malaysia to 130 countries around the world. Once the service is fully up and running, as many as 350 cargo and another 350 passenger flights could fly every month.

While this flight is the first from the new hub in Liège, WFP has dispatched more than 300 metric tonnes of humanitarian and medical cargo to 89 countries, since late January, supporting governments and health partners in their response to COVID-19. These shipments include masks, gloves, ventilators, testing kits and thermometers.

Aid agencies and health authorities have been struggling to get supplies to fragile settings. They are hindered by the breakdown of global supply chains, the collapse of commercial air travel, border closures, and disruptions to shipping. WFP’s logistics network will bridge the gap in essential services, ensuring humanitarian and health responders on the frontlines of the pandemic can stay and deliver lifesaving assistance.

WFP is also mounting a regional passenger air service to ferry humanitarian and health workers across East and West Africa to overcome disruptions to commercial air services, with the first flights expected in coming days. The service will be expanded to the Middle East, Latin America and Asia soon. WFP also stands ready to set up air links with Geneva and Rome if commercial services are disrupted.

“To put it simply – without our logistics support, the response to COVID-19 in the world's most fragile settings would stutter to a halt, leaving millions at risk” Daoudi added.
WFP appealed for an initial US$350 million to kick-start global common logistics services, a call echoed by humanitarian partners in April, who highlighted the urgency of these vital WFP-led efforts.

Photos available - https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/a1VhaEGIwM

The United Nations World Food Programme - saving lives in emergencies and changing lives for millions through sustainable development. WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

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