

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Adapted from the World Food Programme's Global Guidance on Ensuring Safety in Food Distributions during COVID-19

As the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread in an unpredictable manner it presents a growing risk to all stakeholders involved in food assistance, particularly during food distributions. The UN World Food Programme (WFP), as the world's largest humanitarian agency providing food assistance to millions of people across 83 countries, has revised its food distribution procedures to incorporate the emerging needs created by COVID-19.

This concise guidance, based on WFP's guidelines, aims to support organizations conducting food distributions to community members across different states in India, to follow processes that minimize the risk of exposure to their personnel, partners and beneficiaries.

### PROTECTION: IMPARTIAL ASSISTANCE ACCORDING TO NEED AND WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

- Focus on those who might be reluctant to come forward.
- Share sensitization messages ahead of distributions in line with lockdown norms.
- Alternative arrangements for people who are unable to come to the distribution.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS AND FEEDBACK MECHANISM

- Leverage the distribution activity to disseminate sensitization messages at

community level.

- Messages to be designed in local language and cultural context and aligned with national/state health guidelines.
- Messages should also address the needs of marginalized groups.

### DISTRIBUTION PLANNING: CRUCIAL TO AVOID LARGE GATHERINGS

- Reduce time on distribution site by making packages/kits prior to commencing the distribution.
- Stagger distribution timings.
- Organize and clearly mark allocated spaces at distribution site (marked spaces for reception, verification, collection).
- Allocate areas for special groups (elderly, pregnant & lactating women, disabled).
- Organize rations ahead of scheduled distribution (separate disinfected storage & packaging).
- Maintain safe distance (instruct beneficiaries to maintain a distance of 1-2 metres).
- In case of beneficiary showing symptoms, immediately refer to nearest Government health centre for screening after providing food packet/rations.
- Ensure hygiene and social distancing measures -there should be no physical contact between staff and beneficiaries, or with objects such as food containers.

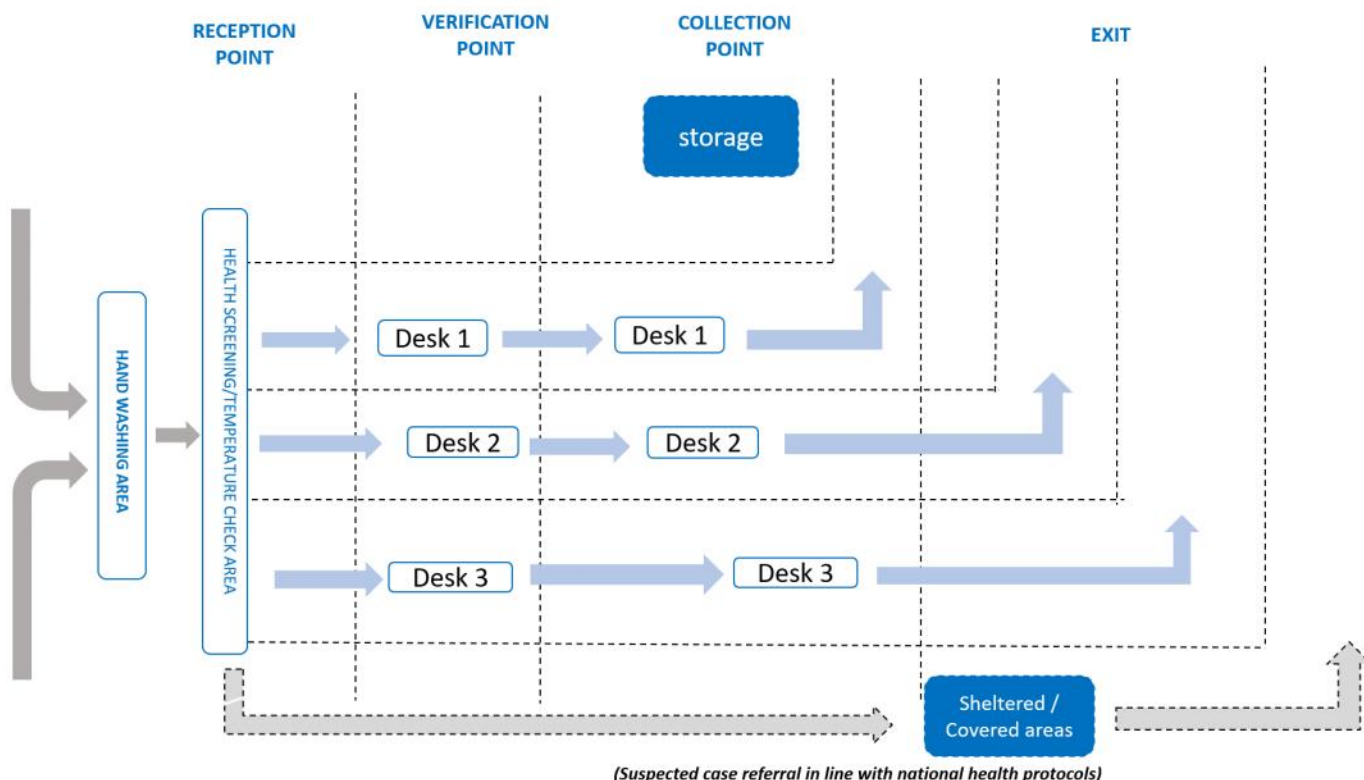
- Encourage departure of beneficiaries from the distribution site soon after collection.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAFF ORGANIZING THE DISTRIBUTION

- Ensure that all staff are aware of public health, COVID-19 specific guidance and WHO guidelines on protection against COVID-19. This includes frequent handwashing with soap or use of alcohol-based hand rub, maintaining at least 1 m distance, proper respiratory hygiene (covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze) and seeking early medical assistance for any symptoms like fever, cough or breathing difficulty.
- If distributing hot cooked meals, ensure a handwashing point, or ensure use of hand sanitizers. Supervise such points and ensure adequate supply of soap/sanitizer.

- Oversee and assist with offloading and organising rations before distributions are scheduled to start.
- In large distribution sites, beneficiaries showing symptoms could be taken to a sheltered or covered area and referred to health centre for screening/testing.
- On completion of distribution, ensure that the distribution point (room/ area/ tarpaulin) is swept clean and sprayed with disinfectant (0.5% chlorine solution). Once dry, the tarpaulin should be folded away for storage/transportation. The broom may be used again after being disinfected.
- It is mandatory that all staff at the distribution site perform hand sanitation regularly and follow general hygiene practices.

### LAYOUT: QUICK AND EFFICIENT FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAINTAINING SAFETY NORMS



For additional information or questions mail us at [WFP.NewDelhi@wfp.org](mailto:WFP.NewDelhi@wfp.org)

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