

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

# SUPPLY CHAIN

## Enabling WFP to be at the forefront of the fight against hunger

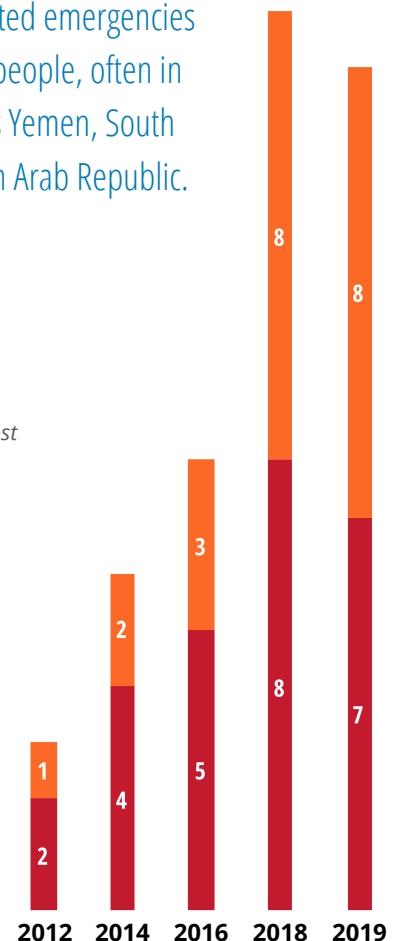
WFP Supply Chain is the backbone of WFP's operations, enabling the organization to deliver life-saving assistance to 87 million people in more than 80 countries. With close to six decades of experience and expertise in humanitarian supply chain, WFP Supply Chain is critical to all aspects of WFP's operations, be it emergency response, capacity building, school feeding, nutrition or other programmatic interventions.

This is made possible by an array of complex and diverse functions – spanning end-to-end planning, food procurement, goods and services procurement, food safety and quality, logistics, in-house shipping, aviation and cash-based transfers and markets – managed by WFP Supply Chain for the organization. Supply Chain also extends its expertise to partners and the wider humanitarian community, helping them to achieve their operational goals. Underpinning it all are 4,000 dedicated staff, often working in some of the most remote and challenging environments possible.

Supply Chain's work is fundamental to WFP leading the humanitarian community in its response to several complex and protracted emergencies affecting millions of people, often in conflict areas such as Yemen, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

- L3 Emergencies
- L2 Emergencies

*L3 emergencies are the most severe crises requiring the mobilization of the entire humanitarian system.*



November 2019





**411** MT  
OF FOOD BOUGHT PER HOUR

WEIGHT OF **103** ASIAN ELEPHANTS



**WFP Supply Chain’s functions can be broadly divided into three categories: core operational functions, core support functions and humanitarian partner support.**

## CORE OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS

Procuring and delivering food and other assistance to those who need it, especially in emergency contexts, forms the basis of WFP’s work, and hence forms the core of Supply Chain.

Food is at the heart of the WFP’s work. In 2018, the Food Procurement Unit bought 3.6 million mt of food, worth US\$1.6 billion, from 93 countries, with 79 percent sourced from developing countries. This, along with an increasing focus on regional and local procurement, contributes to strengthening local economies.

To keep WFP’s global operations running smoothly at all times, significant quantities of goods and services are essential. Whether jet fuel, trucks, mobile storage units, HR software, IT and satellite equipment, to name just a few among 260

different items, the Goods and Services Procurement Unit is responsible for cost-effectively and transparently procuring items for the whole organization. Upon request, the unit also purchases goods and services for the other Rome-based United Nations agencies, thereby enhancing inter-organizational efficiency.

The food and other assistance procured is delivered to beneficiaries through the seamless interaction of an in-house Shipping Service – a feature unique to WFP in the humanitarian sphere – an Aviation Service and a Logistics Service.

Depending on the context, trucks, planes, ships, trains, helicopters,

boats, barges, warehouses, ports and prepositioning hubs all play important roles in the journey of food from its source to where it is needed most. Ocean transport enables high volumes to be transported cost-effectively, while a surface transport and storage network enable food to reach even the most remote locations.

When no other option is available, the aviation service airlifts and airdrops vital assistance. Furthermore, the Cash-Based Transfers and Markets Unit engages with the retail sector to strengthen markets in 15 countries so that beneficiaries and local populations can benefit from a greater selection of food, lower prices and better customer service.

**In 2018, the WFP Goods and Services Procurement Unit bought US\$763 million of goods and services from 152 countries.**



WFP/Saleh Bahollis



**3.9M<sub>MT</sub>**  
OF FOOD DELIVERED IN 2018



**2.9 TIMES**  
AROUND THE EARTH  
(IN STANDARD  
25 KG/75 CM BAGS)

## CORE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

The effective delivery of assistance to millions of vulnerable people worldwide, often in complex and protracted emergency contexts, is predicated on vital support functions ranging from planning to insurance.

In 2018, WFP shipped **2.8 million mt** of cargo by sea, airlifted **14,912 mt** of cargo to **19 countries**, and airdropped **60,667 mt** of food to **81 zones** in South Sudan.



The Planning Unit uses advanced analytics to identify the best operational solutions, while the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Unit ensures the safety and quality of food at every stage of the supply chain.

The nature of WFP Supply Chain's activities also necessitate a comprehensive and rigorous insurance, risk management and compliance framework. Apart from creating training tools to help staff add to their skillsets, the Business Support Unit also innovates and harnesses technological solutions to enhance operational effectiveness.

**5.6K**

TRUCKS ON THE ROAD EVERY DAY



MORE THAN THE NUMBER PASSING THROUGH THE EUROTUNNEL EVERY DAY





# 21M<sub>KM</sub>

FLOWN BY WFP AVIATION AND UNHAS



55 TIMES THE DISTANCE  
FROM THE EARTH TO THE  
MOON



## SUPPORT TO THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

Supply Chain's expertise, coupled with its global capacity and reach, enables WFP to play a prominent role in supporting the wider humanitarian community. By providing supply chain solutions via a range of common services – United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) and the Logistics Cluster – which offer speed, agility and heightened operational efficiency, WFP Supply Chain enhances global emergency response capacity for the organization and its partners.

WFP Supply Chain prepositions and rapidly deploys life-saving relief items through UNHRD and transports humanitarian workers to sudden onset emergencies via UNHAS, which is managed by the Aviation Service. Moreover, WFP leads the Logistics Cluster, which bolsters global emergency response through coordination and information management on behalf of United Nations agencies, NGOs and government institutions.

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**In 2018, UNHRD handled **US\$58 million** worth of relief items sent to **93 countries** through **567 shipments****

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**In 2018, UNHAS transported **386,000** passengers and **3,656 mt** of cargo in **16 countries****

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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_4164](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4164)

