



Logistics *We deliver* Bulletin

Mosquito nets are being moved to Zambian health centers by WFP Logistics on behalf of UNDP and Global Fund. WFP/Zambia

May 2014

WFP Zambia Delivers Millions of Mosquito Nets for Partners



Logistics Officer Edita Nichols at Chicobo Health Centre

More and more, WFP Logistics has been called on to support implementing partners of the Global Fund in the delivery of large scale health programmes in several countries, such as DRC, Zimbabwe and Zambia. As provider of last resort for logistics, WFP was approached by UNDP Zambia to support the delivery of mosquito nets equivalent to 450x 20ft shipping containers to 980 health centres across the country. Establishing a countrywide supply chain for non-food item had its challenges. Logistics Assistant, Chris Liswaniso explained that WFP was

brought into the project when it was already in its advanced stages, meaning that the team had to move quickly to get the job done.

"It was tough to set up hubs in the field and ensure that transporter contracts were awarded in time...nevertheless, despite these challenges WFP delivered!" says Chris. The supply chain begins in Arusha, Tanzania where UNICEF contracted a local supplier to procure the nets. UNICEF also organizes the onward transport of nets to Lusaka and other locations, which is where WFP's role begins. This includes de-stuffing containers, quality control, temporary storage, cargo tracking and secondary transport to health centres. UNDP provides programme guidance to WFP on the allocation of nets to health centres and liaises with government counterparts on programme related issues.

Tracking considerable amounts of relief items through a complex supply chain poses several challenges for WFP with systems designed for commodity tracking. The Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA), a web-based tracking tool developed by the Logistics Cluster, has been utilised for the Zambia project. RITA records the transfer of nets from UNICEF to WFP from the point of handover, usually a warehouse, and tracks the consignments through the various consolidation and loading points to its final health centre location. One key feature of RITA is that it allows clients such as UNDP to login and track their cargo. The logistics component of the project represents US\$2.3 million and is in line with WFP Logistics' strategic objective of diversifying activities and growing its service provision business.

—Andrew Jackson, Logistics Officer, WFP Rome



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Tents, water tanks, blankets and jerry cans from Irish Aid being dispatched to Bosnia by UNHRD Brindisi. WFP/Antonio Tedesco

Rapid Response to the Balkan Floods

WFP Logistics staff from various countries sprang into action to assist some 600,000 affected by recent large scale flooding across the Balkans region in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Damage to infrastructure combined with the ability to quickly access operational equipment such as boats and water pumps were among the key logistics challenges faced in the aftermath of what has been called the worst flooding the region has seen in over a century.



WFP Aviation staff provided essential air charter support to ensure relief was transported as quickly as possible. Within 24 hours of receiving a request for support, a chartered plane departed from UNHRD's Brindisi depot loaded with relief items from Italy and Norway. Within 48 hours, two other charter planes had left Brindisi, carrying WFP equipment, the first UN assistance to reach the affected areas. Over the next two weeks, UNHRD depots in Brindisi and Dubai dispatched 187mt (approx. US\$1.6 million) of emergency supplies on behalf of seven humanitarian partners, including Irish Aid, KOICA, UNDP, WHO, WFP, Cooperazione Italiana and Norway (supported by OCHA).



Logistics Officer Nenad Grkovic deployed to Serbia from WFP Sudan to assist the UNDAC team as a logistics expert, supporting with infrastructure assessments and providing recommendations on increasing logistics capacity. Pictured above, he stands in front of a sinking house. In Bosnia, Logistics Officer Dragica Pajevic-Alp organized and led a rapid logistics assessment, and coordinated the receipt and delivery of WFP's emergency

food assistance. She can be seen in the photo to the left standing with WFP Programme Officer Darko Petrovic in front of a truckload of WFP High Energy Biscuits. In just four days, Nenad and Dragica travelled to and assessed 43 destinations in Bosnia, averaging 12-15 hours/per day on the road!

Before departing Serbia, the UN teams received a letter of gratitude from Tomislav Nikolic, President of the Republic of Serbia. Below is an excerpt:

"On behalf of the people of the Republic of Serbia, I extend to you the most sincere gratitude for the selfless, timely, humanitarian and professional assistance that the United Nations has provided to my country. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your humanity and solidarity, assistance in personnel and equipment, without which the count of victims would be much higher, and the human existence after the rescue would be called into question."

New! 2013 Logistics Factsheet: Key Facts and Figures



Download the English version [here](#), Spanish [here](#), and French [here](#).

For the Arabic version, please check [here](#) within the coming week.

Now Published: 2013 Annual Reviews for WFP Aviation and UNHRD



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Smallholder farmers in Uganda reap the benefits of new storage trainings and technology. WFP/Simon Costa

Eradicating Food Insecurity: The Role of Post-Harvest Loss Reduction

Ask Simon Costa, the Project Manager for a new WFP Special Operation aimed at reducing post-harvest losses in Uganda and Burkina Faso. With the right tools and donor support, he's confident we can eradicate food insecurity in our lifetimes.

Undoubtedly, this is a big statement—and one that brings about different sentiments depending on who you talk to: hope, scepticism, determination. Simon is optimistic and committed. He's been to a number of countries where WFP operates, and has been struck by the debilitating effects post-harvest losses are having on smallholder farming families across Africa. Inadequate storage and poor farming techniques are largely to blame for global harvest losses that amount to at least 20-30% every year.

So when Simon had the chance to work on a grassroots level WFP 'action trial' in August 2013, aimed at teaching tried and true farming practices and testing improved storage technology with some 400 farmers, he jumped at the opportunity. The results were stellar to say the least: all participating farmers achieved between a 98-100% reduction in food losses when comparing the results of old and new storage technologies over a three-month period.

Since then, news of these results gained traction around WFP, bringing some strong support along the way: from the deep field all the way up to Headquarters in Rome. If we could only scale-up, Simon explained, we could change the lives of many more smallholder farmers. The potential was soon to be realised, and efforts made by teams in Logistics and Purchase for Progress started to bear fruits in early 2014 when a project providing for a large scale-up was approved by WFP's Executive Director.

In March 2014, a 14-month Special Operation was launched. The ultimate goal: to eradicate food insecurity amongst participating farmers. To reach it, WFP and local farming organizations have teamed up to provide trainings in improved farming practices, and most importantly, will give metal storage silos to 41,000 farming families across Uganda and Burkina Faso. Three months down the road from the launch, the future is bright, but funding is urgently needed. With enough support, positive change will come.

Last but not least, did we mention that Simon has already dedicated over two years of his time for free to this project? That's how passionate he feels about reducing post-harvest food losses. As the former CEO of a global logistics and agricultural organisation, he has brought extensive private sector expertise and great energy to this critical initiative.

—Leighla Bowers, Logistics Communications Officer, WFP Rome

*Grassroots-driven
Impact: Farmers in
Burkina Faso and Uganda
benefit from WFP's Post-
Harvest Loss Project*



A farmer in Uganda happily shows off her harvest after 90 days in the new storage units. WFP/Simon Costa

To find out more details about the project, below are a few useful documents:

Final report, action research trials:

[Reducing Food Losses in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Project Document:

[Logistics Capacity Development: Post-Harvest Food Loss Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa through Improved Storage and Handling at the Start of the Supply Chain](#)

Project Brochure:

[Reducing Post-Harvest Losses: Changing Lives, Changing Communities](#)

Article: [WFP Scaling Up Successful Post-Harvest Loss Programme for Smallholder Farmers](#)

For more information about the project, please contact us at:

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Markets lines the main street of Al Zaatari Camp in Jordan. Photo: Al Jazeera

Cash and Vouchers: Assuring Supply and Supporting Local Markets

The introduction of cash and vouchers has opened new possibilities for how WFP can provide food assistance to people in crises. At the same time, there is a growing need to work with the markets 'behind' a cash and voucher project to make sure there is a functioning, uninterrupted supply chain. Small traders in a cash and voucher project have their own supply chains, with their own vulnerabilities and who are better placed than the supply chain experts to assess and address these challenges.

Throughout 2013, Logistics has been engaging more and more in supporting cash and voucher projects in two main areas:

- Assuring the supply chain
- Stimulating local market recovery



UNAMID/Albert Gonzalaz Farran

Sudan Snapshot: Monitoring Retail Vouchers

In 2013, vouchers were delivered to 550,000 people by WFP in Sudan. For a project of this scale, it was critical that Logistics conducted a thorough market assessment and analysis beforehand across Darfur, Kassala and North Kordofan states. As WFP is increasingly choosing to leverage available spending closer to beneficiaries to aid micro-economic recovery, Logistics adapted their processes to seek out and assess more than 1,000 smaller traders close to the beneficiaries and who could meet the criteria to supply. The selection process was meticulous, and used a tailor-made tool (see right); each trader completed a questionnaire and was then visited by WFP staff at their store. Ultimately 300 traders were selected to supply 23 locations.

But assuring the supply chain is more than just an initial assessment. Supply chains, particularly in these locations, are fragile and can take time to respond to different shocks elsewhere. To make sure that beneficiaries can continue to exchange their vouchers for food, with uninterrupted supply, Logistics in Sudan reviewed each vendor on a monthly basis.

—Rebecca Vince, Cash and Markets Officer, Logistics Cluster, HQ Rome

UNHRD Staff Deployed to C.A.R. and Mali to provide partner support



Photo: WFP/UNHRD

In the last two months, three UNHRD staff from Brindisi and Accra depots have been deployed to C.A.R. and Mali to help set up prefabricated units and supervise cargo delivery on behalf of humanitarian partners. In the photo above, Alex Quarcoo from Accra installs the first of ten office prefabs in Bangui for OCHA.

Q: How did the Sudan logistics team assess vendor performance?



WFP/Odette Kishabaga

When the Sudan logistics team selected vendors to provide WFP's food voucher supply, each trader's performance was measured in four ways:

- ability to provide food as per the trader's declared capacity (reliability)
- ability to offer a sufficient variety and quantity of food
- ability to provide good quality food
- ability to complete required voucher distribution reports in a timely manner