WFP AVIATION POLICY

Supply Chain Operations Division
SCO

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INTRODUCTION

WFP's commitment to provide common services to all humanitarian actors

WFP Aviation prioritization of activities based on **evolving humanitarian needs** in a context of **required access** to populations in need:

- **UNHAS**
- **Specialized and on-demand aviation services**

WFP Aviation Policy key elements:

- Sets out **vision, objectives, principles and partnerships** that frame WFP Aviation and UNHAS operations
- Describes the aviation **governance framework**
- Describes the role of essential **enablers** in achieving the policy objectives
- Outlines the next steps for **implementation and monitoring**

WFP prioritizes UNHAS' role in providing critical air transport services to the humanitarian community

- **UNHAS implements a passenger prioritization system** with highest priority to programme criticality 1, emergency and life-saving interventions, as well as to medical and security evacuations

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

WFP Aviation Policy is grounded in WFP's leadership in humanitarian aviation operations to achieve its three key objectives:

1

Provide aviation services

Continuous leadership in UNHAS + on-demand and specialized aviation services

2

Act as a facilitator in humanitarian response

Leveraging WFP's role in emergency response to promote collaboration between aviation and humanitarian stakeholders

3

Strengthen aviation systems and capacity at the regional and national levels

Leveraging WFP's partnerships network and collaboration with international aviation organizations and regulators

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

HLCM – June 2003:

WFP accepted responsibility for administering all United Nations humanitarian and other air operations (excluding those for peacekeeping) as of 1 January 2004.

WFP Aviation Policy aligned with:

- **WFP's Strategic Plan (2022–2025)**
- **Supply Chain Strategic Roadmap (2022–2025)**
- **Humanitarian principles** of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and operational independence

WFP Aviation guided by:

- International and United Nations **aviation standards** – ICAO SARPS, UN AVSTADS standards and CAAs regulations, WFP participation in UNATAG.
- **Facilitation** standards and practices – agreements with countries of operation requesting WFP to operate humanitarian flights.
- **Environmental sustainability** – integration of sustainability measures in all aviation activities to measure and reduce environmental impact.
- **Emergency preparedness** – strategically located aircraft capacity, establishment of emergency regulatory frameworks.
- **Focus on service delivery** – activities tailored to users' needs to support an efficient and effective humanitarian intervention.

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Objective of governance framework: assuring adherence to the highest standards of aviation safety, security and quality of air transport service through external and internal mechanisms:

- **WFP Aviation safety regulatory framework** – Policies, standards and practices whose adherence ensure the highest level of safety and compliance

- **United Nations Aviation Technical Advisory Group** (UNATAG)

  - Supports the regulatory framework by ensuring compliance with international safety standards and operational requirements.

  - Promotes measures to reduce the level of risk associated with the United Nations system's civil air transport operations.

- **WFP Aviation Safety Board** – Chaired by the Deputy Executive Director – Supply Chain and Emergencies Department, advises on issues related to the safety of WFP Aviation operations.

- **WFP Air Transport Committee** – Chaired by the Director of Supply Chain, makes recommendations on contracting actions, evaluations/assessments, air transport guidance.

- **Procurement** – In compliance with WFP corporate procurement, ensure transparent, robust and rigorous tendering, evaluation and contracting process.

COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTION AND POLICY ENABLERS

Centrality of country-level action through:

- Key service modalities:
  - **UNHAS** – management at country level through UNHAS Steering Committee guidance + UNHAS User Group Committee
  - **On-demand short-term aviation services** (airdrops, medical and security evacuations) + **dedicated cargo transport** for humanitarian actors
- **Strengthening** regional and national aviation systems and capacity
- Promotion of **environmental sustainability** – WFP Aviation dedicated programme to reduce its carbon footprint ("we measure", "we reduce", "we offset")

Essential enablers to achieve Policy objectives:

- **Partnerships**
- **Sustainable financing – Centralized funding mechanism** will:
  - Allow for direct multilateral contributions to UNHAS operations
  - Enable the allocation of funds for UNHAS operations through transparent process approved by Executive Management
  - Allow donors to fund specific operations while maintaining flexibility for WFP to allocate funds based on the prioritization criteria for UNHAS operations
- High-performing and agile **workforce**

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND M&E

Implementation of the Policy ensured through:

- Necessary action at **headquarters and regional levels**

- **Normative and operational alignment** of relevant documents with the new WFP Aviation Policy, e.g. in Air Transport Manual

- **Distribution and understanding** of the Policy across relevant levels and stakeholders

- **Coverage** under WFP's existing planning and budgeting processes

M&E ensured through:

- **Key performance indicators** under WFP's corporate results framework and annual performance planning process

- **Independent evaluation** of the Policy by the WFP Office of Evaluation between four and six years since endorsement

QUESTIONS

World Food Programme

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