

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2006  
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**(A) Highlights**

- (a) WFP is re-establishing a presence in the Philippines with an Emergency Operation (EMOP) that will feed 2.1 million people in Mindanao in support of the peace process.
- (b) The results of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Rwanda indicate 1.33 million people in the five hardest hit districts are surviving largely on leaves and cassava of which 283,000 require urgent food aid.
- (c) In northern Uganda, over 35,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from three camps are initially targeted for assistance from food aid to self-reliance as they prepare to return to their villages of origin.
- (d) Between 1 and 24 April, WFP transported a total of 10,597 tons of food in the three Darfur states, realizing only 29 percent of the April plan due to a serious shortage of food available in Port Sudan and in the hubs of El Obeid and Khartoum.
- (e) The Southern Africa Regional PRRO 10310.0 is planning to scale down food assistance as harvest is underway. The aggregate maize import requirements of the countries in the region is estimated at roughly 1.7 million tons based on the preliminary forecast of maize production for 2006, and the historical utilization in the region.

**(B) Middle East,Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Occupied Palestinian Territories (2) Pakistan**(1) Occupied Palestinian Territories**

- (a) There was no improvement in the security climate in April. Hostilities and internal violence continued to worsen throughout oPt with increasing fear of civil war. Security in Gaza remains extremely delicate with continued cases of kidnappings.
- (b) WFP is facing increasing difficulties in providing timely food assistance to the most vulnerable and food insecure population in Gaza owing to repeated closure of the goods crossings between Israel and the Gaza strip. The attacks on Karni, and Rafah crossings on 26 April are expected to lead to additional access challenges in the

coming weeks. UN National Staff remain currently unable to cross through Erez crossing owing to security procedures still under discussion; UN national staff in the West Bank also faced increased access restrictions.

- (c) The food security situation is deteriorating rapidly throughout oPt as a result of the suspension of direct aid and tax repayments to the Palestinian Nation Authority (PNA), intensified closures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Since January 2006, Food security affecting non refugees in oPt has increased by 13 percent affecting a further 104,000 people who were previously able to cope. The entire population of the West Bank are affected on a daily basis by these restrictions. Prices of basic commodities are increasing owing to the travel difficulties faced by traders and farmers which are affecting the traditional rural- urban markets.
- (d) The current WFP operation which planned to cover the most affected 480,000 food insecure people is currently operating at 90 percent funding covering only 432,000 people (56 percent of the food insecure group).
- (e) In response to the deteriorating situation, WFP foresees a 25 percent increase of the current caseload to cover 600,000 food insecure non refugees (covering the most vulnerable 68 percent of the food insecure population).
- (f) Avian influenza and fishing restrictions continue to affect the Gaza populations' access to animal protein. WFP BR to add canned meat/fish to the ration to mitigate the impact of this on the poorest population has been approved.
- (g) In Gaza Strip, Cooperating Partners are distributing WFP food received through Karni and Sufa crossings and through local mills after a prolonged closure of crossings which resulted in delay of the timeliness of distribution cycles over the past three months. 7,000 tons of wheat flour orders are still outstanding from the local mills.
- (h) WFP met the MSA General Manager for Aid and Rehabilitation in order to reiterate WFPs' continued commitment to assisting Social Hardship Cases throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. WFP will continue to pursue efforts to mobilise resources for this important caseload.
- (i) During reporting period, in West Bank total of 345 tons of WFP food commodities was distributed to 1,143 Social Hardship Cases for Jan-Feb allocations. Distributions for Nov-December allocations, delayed by the closures, are now completed. Some 21 tons of food was distributed through MSA to 966 Social Hardship Cases beneficiaries for Jan-Feb allocation.
- (j) Food distributions started for phase II of the Food-for-Work and Food-for-Training (FFW/T) operation. Some 795 tons of food was distributed to 36,558 New Poor beneficiaries. Some 480 tons of food was distributed to 21,708 beneficiaries.
- (k) In Gaza Strip, some 1968 tons of food was distributed to 39,706 New Poor beneficiaries completing the Nov-Dec allocations and part of the Jan-Feb allocations. Some 476 tons of food was distributed to 25,908 New Poor beneficiaries. Implementation of WFP FFW/T activities in Gaza Strip is ongoing smoothly despite the deteriorating security situation.
- (l) WFP extended LOUs covering assistance to the New Poor caseload for two additional months May-June.
- (m) Meetings with CPs were held on several occasions through the month to discuss implementation and changes due closure of crossings, delay of distribution and new funding conditions.
- (n) The Institutional Feeding review exercise has started. It is foreseen that to mitigate the current deterioration of the food insecurity in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which is now affecting urban areas, WFP will expand the IF programme to include more social welfare institutions in these areas.

- (o) VAM produced the sixth market report. The main outcomes of the report: Continued closure of Karni is directly affecting both food prices and the livelihood of the poorest strata of the population, continued deterioration of the vulnerability profile of the food insecure population can be noted; 66,000 Social Hardship Case families are particularly affected by the current situation as they haven't received their allowance since February.
- (p) A total of 3,334 tons of food commodities have been delivered to the Gaza strip, out of which 2,721 tons have been imported through Karni and Sufa. A total of 30 containers have entered Gaza through Karni during reporting period. Deliveries of 1,000 tons of wheat flour through Kerem Shalom terminal have been approved as of 30 April. However, recent bombings on the Egyptian side of Rafah may affect planned deliveries.
- (q) WFP attended the interagency advocacy meeting to discuss upcoming advocacy issues over the coming months. WFP, FAO and UNICEF discussed the possibility of a press conference focusing on the deteriorating situation in Gaza Strip in mid May.
- (r) A joint meeting was held with UNRWA after WFP received a request for assistance for 30,000 people in the Northern West Bank. These families used to be assisted under the non-refugee programme of UNRWA but UNRWA has decided to pass them to WFP.
- (s) A joint interagency programme is being prepared to ensure a coordinated effort in mitigating the effects of avian influenza in oPt.

## **(2) Pakistan**

- (a) During the reporting period (15-28 April), the environment was tense in one of the operational site (Dhirkot) of Bagh due to demonstrations to protest the killing of a detainee in police custody. The general security situation in Pakistan remained stable. The continued increase in miscreant activities are alarming especially killing of innocent people and armed conflict between the security forces and local and foreign insurgents in Waziristan and Balochistan and the areas boarding Afghanistan is of growing concern.
- (b) The ongoing humanitarian activity levels remains low as to wait the approval of ERRA to proceed the transitional period from relief to recovery. The flabbiness arises from differences between UN agencies and ERRA over the National Action Plan. ERRA is reluctant to approve UNJLC's (United Nations Joint Logistic Cell) certain common service project of little direct benefit to the affected population. Moreover, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) working in transportation are no longer able to support such services. As a result many agencies/NGOs will need to organize for their own transport costs through their individual projects. After negotiation and discussion with UN Agencies, the project funds required for the execution of the plan \$ 286m of which \$188m, will be required and appealed for donor support.
- (c) Food was dispatched to 4 Union Councils of Muzaffarabad and Neelum District which includes, Heer Kutli, Machyara, Bheri and Barian/Jura as per the requirement made by the Forest Department. Food for Saidpur Union Council couldn't be sent due to non-availability of road transport. PRRO Activities including field terracing and wall protection have already started this week. However, food distribution will be made to the community next week. Some 21.tons of WSB was dispatched to camps in Muzaffarabad and Hatian Tehsils. Camp Management Organization (CMO) is yet to provide WFP with the figures of vulnerable families – the residual caseload. Distribution of Food to 5 consolidated Internally Displaced People (IDP) Camps couldn't start as the CMO hasn't finalized the figures for vulnerable in theses amps yet and has asked WFP to wait until advised. Media Team and the WFP Project Implementation Unit (PIU) team visited Women's Community Organization in Dacha and Govt. Girls Primary School in

Puthian, Muzaffarabad on 25 April 2006 and were very much impressed from the achievements made by Creating Asset for Rural Women (CARW) and Education Programme. The Annual Plan of Operation for CARW Programme for 2006 was reviewed with Forest Department and necessary corrections were advised. Final Annual Plan of Operations to be submitted by Forest Department next week.

- (d) Shifting of the WFP sub-office to the new building in Nomanpura is being finalized. The decision regarding the shifting of the UN-Agencies currently residing in the UN-Compound along with WFP is being considered. During the reporting period, 17 tons of food was distributed in camps in Bagh under PRRO upon request from Government. Planning for School Feeding was finalized. Food Release Notes (FRNs) for distribution of food to schools were issued. Distribution will commence from 27 April. Meetings were held with line departments for PRRO activities. Assessments were carried out and several FFW/FFT activities were finalized for distribution of food. Requests have been issued to logistics to transport green houses to selected communities for nursery raising at community level. The potential sites for nursery raising activities have been finalized in coordination with the Forest Department and based upon the recommendations of the Forest Dept.
- (e) FRN of 7 tons for Siren Sialkot 7 tons for Ghari Habibullah and 17 tons for Maira Camp were released to Mansehra logistic unit. Food Release Notes of 92 tons for Jared (Balakot) and 95 tons for Rashang Union Council in Allai were released to Action Against Hunger in context of Support to returnees. Some 65 tons was delivered by air to Jared UC Mahandri Tehsil Balakot district Mansehra and delivery is still in progress. During the reporting period, an assessment mission visited Shangla district to assess the background, expertise and role of Shangla Development Society (SDS) in the area. The mission reported that SDS is registered with provincial government and has the working experience in both relief and development. An assessment mission visited Battagram and Kohistan districts and met with Executive District Officer (EDO) Education for the School Feeding in PRRO. The mission reported that due to lack of roads in the target union councils, it was not possible to start school feeding immediately.
- (f) The PRRO is currently resourced 14.13 percent against the appeal of \$US 67,849,078.
- (g) The deliveries from the hubs to the Extended Delivery Points from 15–26 April 2006 were of 168 tons, out of which 120 tons were delivered by air.
- (h) During the reporting period, Special Operation UNHAS helicopters have airlifted 136 tons food, 103 tons Non-Food Items and 34,351 passengers.

**(C) East & Central Africa:** (1) Congo (2) Congo, DR (3) Eritrea (4) Ethiopia (5) Rwanda (6) Somalia (7) Sudan (8) Tanzania (9) Uganda

### **(1) Congo**

- (a) During the period (22 - 28 April), the security situation remained calm.
- (b) WFP distributed around 43 tons of food commodities to 2,891 beneficiaries including orphans, vulnerable children, Food-for-Work participants and pupils.

### **(2) Congo, DR**

- (a) Armed confrontations between government troops and militias are still reported in eastern DRC. In Ituri district, some of the confrontations occurred in areas located south east of Bunia.
- (b) In northern areas of North Kivu province, over 15,000 displaced households were registered by the NGO Solidarité. Scattered in small localities such as Bunyuka, Vuhovi,

Kavingu, Vutungera and Kisunga, the displaced households had escaped violence-linked confrontations between governmental troops and militias from Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)/National Army of the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) at the end of December 2005. It was only recently, with the improvement of security conditions on the Beni-Butembo axis that Solidarité was able to proceed with the registration process.

- (c) In South Kivu province, humanitarian attention was drawn to the food security of thousands of people in Bas-Burhinyi (Mwenga territory). The prolonged insecurity had kept the population in displacement for months. Their cultivated land and houses were looted by armed soldiers. According to OCHA, the population that returned to their homes after months of displacement are facing a looming food crisis.
- (d) In Maniema province, tension has been increasing between the population in Mungele (Lubutu territory) and the recent returning formerly displaced population. OCHA reported over 700 returning households harvesting crops from the local population without permission. The latter have no other means for food provision. Although FAO has enough seeds and tools for distribution to the 700 returning households, food protection packages will be needed to ensure the proper use of seeds and access to food to the returning households. However, WFP currently lacks sufficient food to carry out the project. The increased food requirements in Katanga province entailed a redirection of food resources to cover the needs of hungry displaced persons in Mitwaba, Sampwe, Dubie/Mutabi, Kasungeji, Malemba-Nkulu.
- (e) From UNHCR sources, 861 returnees from Sudan are expected to arrive in Oriental province. They will need assistance to reintegrate into their communities in Kisangani, Buta, Aru, Bunia and Isiro.
- (f) In Goma, WFP released 258 tons of food in favour of 36,240 beneficiaries attending various programmes (school feeding, therapeutic/supplementary feeding, support to victims of sexual violence) in localities such as Kirotshé, Kitshanga, Masisi, Walikale, Kayna. In the territories further north in the province, WFP availed 141 tons of various food commodities for 4,682 displaced households (23,400 individuals) in Vuhovi and Bunyuka (two localities between 15 to 20 km from Butembo). An additional 118 tons will be targeting 3,438 displaced households (17,200 individuals) in Kisunga and environs in the weeks to come.
- (g) In Katanga province, airdrops of 148 tons of food commodities over Mitwaba started and should continue until 29 April. Meanwhile, food distribution of 77 tons was completed in Nyonga. It targeted 17,600 displaced persons with 20 days food rations. A local NGO, Action Mieux Etre distributed the food. In Dubie/Mutabi, 81 tons of food was provided to 12,300 internally displaced persons (IDPs) through the NGO Association des Agriculteurs Sans Frontières (AASF).
- (h) Food delivery to various supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres in Kongolo (Northern Katanga), has been postponed due to the sudden rise in fuel prices.
- (i) Heavy rains over Kinshasa during the months of March and April have been causing serious damages. Existing erosion sites were further aggravated resulting in land slides, damaged houses and flooded cultivated land. WFP planned assistance to 629 households.
- (j) In Kisangani, Oriental province, WFP dispatched 101 tons of food for 20,300 beneficiaries involved in school feeding and therapeutic/supplementary feeding activities.

### **(3) Eritrea**

- (a) On 14 April 2006, the United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for another month, but warned that unless

both sides fulfilled its earlier demands, including lifting restrictions on UN personnel and recognizing a boundary decision, it will review other options ranging from transforming the operation into an observer mission to withdrawing it altogether. Voting unanimously on the extension until mid-May, the 15-member body also reiterated demands that, among other measures, Eritrea reverse its decision to ban the Mission's helicopter flights, and that Ethiopia accept the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

- (b) On 25 April 2006, Eritrea announced it would not lift restrictions imposed last year on United Nations peacekeepers monitoring its tense border with Ethiopia, despite fresh demands from the United Nations (UN). In March, the commission responsible for the border delineation met in London with officials from the two sides in a bid to resolve the matter, but the talks failed to break the stalemate. Another meeting is scheduled in London for 28 April 2006.
- (c) The Eritrean government has maintained the suspension of food distributions and continues to reformulate its food aid modalities towards a more food-for-work/cash-for-work oriented approach. However, no proposals or outlines have been conveyed to the WFP office. Food aid agencies and donors are concerned about the food sent since 2005, which is still in government warehouses, with the obvious risk of deterioration. The U.N. Secretary General's Special Humanitarian Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Kjell Magne Bondevik, was expected to raise the international community's concerns when he met Eritrean officials in Asmara this week.
- (d) WFP's food distributions remain suspended except for 72,000 IDPs in camps and recently resettled displaced people. In addition, WFP was requested by the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare to provide 6-month food rations for May - October to almost 22,500 IDPs who will be resettled at their places of origin.
- (e) The suspension of food deliveries to schools and to adult literacy learning sites has resulted in numerous dropouts of students, especially of girls, and high absenteeism rates in many locations in the coastal regions. In Massawa sub-region alone three adult literacy training sites were closed down.
- (f) According to the Ministry of Agriculture of the southern region, a dam with retention capacity of 150,000 cubic meters is under construction in Adi Keih sub-region. Once completed and functioning, the dam will enable farmers to cultivate about 15 hectares of land. Similar activities are reported to be ongoing in other parts of the region.
- (g) The contributions and transfers made from previous operations to PRRO 10192.1 had reached a total of USD 51,422,253 representing 25 percent of the total cost of the project. In light of the suspension of distributions, a 100,000 tons contribution of wheat was cancelled by WFP and other offers of donations declined. Currently, WFP's in country stocks amount to approximately 64,000 tons.

#### **(4) Ethiopia**

- (a) The latest update on the "belg" and "sugum" rains indicate that Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) had a generally good rainfall in both the first and second weeks of April with the exception of the lowland areas of Sidama zone where the rains have been well below average. In Derahe Special district and the rift valley areas of the region there have been localized floods following heavy rainfall in the first week of April.
- (b) In Oromiya, nearly all zones had favorable rainfall in the first week of the current month. As in SNNPR, pocket areas in the rift valley suffered from localized flooding during this period. In the 2nd week, West Harerge, lowlands of Arsi and nearly all the western zones of the region had no rains while East Harerge and West Shewa had poorly distributed rainfall. On the other hand, North Shewa, Jimma, Borena, Bale and most of

Arsi enjoyed good precipitations during this period. The rains in Borena resumed on 19 April after 7-10 days of dry spell. Currently, water availability has improved in the zone and water trucking operations are suspended. Pasture has improved, especially for the browsers.

- (c) Following the generally good rainfall during the first dekad of April, the 2nd dekad was dry in the whole of Somali Region. However, since 20 April, the "gu" rains have resumed across the entire region and several districts have reported 1-3 days of light to heavy rainfall over the last seven days.
- (d) No updates on eastern Amhara, where "belg" crops are grown and Afar. In last week's update it was reported that heavy rainfall in Afar region has caused flooding of the Awash River in Dubti district of Zone 1. However, recent reports from the region indicate that the flooding has receded and the Awash River has returned to its normal levels. As a response to the flood the Federal Authorities have dispatched food and non-food items to the affected population.
- (e) The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency's (DPPA) daily dispatches continue to Somali Region and Borena zone of Oromiya Region. From the 23,527 tons of food aid allocated for Somali Region for February, 74 percent has been dispatched to date. DPPA has also started moving small quantities of food allocated for March. For Borena zone of Oromiya Region the DPPA has allocated 2,501 tons of food aid for February and currently the dispatch status is at 88 percent. From the 2,238 tons allocated to Borena zone for the month of March, 97 percent has been dispatched. The Federal DPPA is transporting the March allocation of 875 tons to Afar and so far 76 percent of the allocation has been dispatched.
- (f) The first quarterly report 2006 of the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme indicates that the programme has distributed 5,672 tons of food to 204,032 beneficiaries. Regions covered included 105,000 beneficiaries in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR); 78,457 beneficiaries in Tigray and 20,575 beneficiaries in Oromiya. During the same quarter, training was provided to government staff, the monitoring system was established across all regions; and the programme was introduced to 3 new regions, Afar, Gambella and Beneshangul. A pilot study was conducted in SNNPR to test a new model of distribution by pre-positioning food prior to the nutritional screening. The finding from the study was that at present the logistics system is not sophisticated enough to cope with pre-positioning. However the study strongly recommended that the programme food distribution agents should be involved in the nutrition screening process, as a way to increase the effectiveness of the screening and reduce opportunities for beneficiaries to double register.

## **(5) Rwanda**

- (a) The results of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) indicate 1.33 million people in the five hardest hit districts are food insecure (surviving largely on leaves and cassava) of which 283,000 require urgent food assistance. This assistance will be through supplementary feeding centres. However, contingency plans are being prepared to address the food needs of the 1.33 million people in the event the June/July harvest is poor, in which case, the most vulnerable population will face even more severe hardships.
- (b) Due to serious pipeline shortages only about 250 tons of CSB can be immediately distributed to nutrition centres in most affected areas, which will be replenished against Immediate Response Account (IRA) emergency funding. Other sources for food aid are being sought, including regional loans and local procurement.
- (c) Harvest prospects are improving with good rains of season 2006B. However, pockets of food insecurity exist in the areas where production was poor during the last agricultural

season and which are now receiving poor or erratic rainfall.

- (d) The numbers of Congolese refugees in the camps increased to 41,158 (Gihembe - 17,301, Nyabiheke - 4,871, Nkamira Transit Centre - 1,309 and Kiziba - 17,677) as compared to last weeks total of 41,068.
- (e) Transfer of Burundian refugees continues with 284 moved from Nyamure to Kigeme camp, which now has 1,611 refugees, while Nyamure hosts 946 refugees. The remaining refugees will also be moved due to the planned closure of Nyamure camp. The number of Burundian refugees in Rwanda remains at 2,557.
- (f) A total of 414 tons of mixed commodities were distributed to 22,813 refugees in Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps. In addition, 96 returnees from DRC passed through Nkamira transit camp and received a three-month ration consisting of 5 tons before being transferred to their home communities.

## **(6) Somalia**

- (a) In April, the 2006 Gu rains started well in almost all the drought affected areas of Somalia; however, there have been no rains in the past few days. Reports from the northeast indicate no rains as yet in the area.
- (b) The first round of emergency food distribution is almost complete. There were delays of about three weeks due to pipeline limitations, security incidents and rain.
- (c) The number of people being assisted by WFP in south Somalia increased slightly from 1 million to 1.1 million. This figure is based on the estimates of the February 2006 Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) assessment and relevant WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) updates.
- (d) A total of 17,500 tons of food was planned to be distributed in the first round of distribution. To date, 14,000 tons of food commodities have been distributed and another 1,700 tons will be distributed shortly to complete the first round of food distributions. After completion, about 90 percent of the planned tonnage will have been distributed, due to commodity shortages.
- (e) The second round of the food distribution plan has been finalised. A total of 1.1 million beneficiaries are planned to be reached with a total of 22,500 tons of food over a period of six weeks.
- (f) Heavy rains contributed to 3-4 days delay in transportation of food due to temporarily impassable roads, which were already in a poor state. Furthermore, the fragile security situation in Mogadishu and the ongoing acts of piracy in Somali waters are some of the impediments that are adversely affecting the emergency response.

## **(7) Sudan**

- (a) During the reporting period (16-23 April), security in and out of IDP camps in North Darfur continued to be of major concern. The African Union (AU) group in Shangel Tobaya reported a shooting incident in the area, which caused over 1,200 IDPs to flee the camp and resettle around the AU group site for safety. Meanwhile, the SLA-Minnawi faction was reported to have attacked villages west of Tawila, causing an unconfirmed number of fatalities and population movements into Tawila area, and displacing up to 3,000 people. The Korma area is reported to be calmer, as a result of AU civilian police patrolling the area, but the security situation is still not good enough for food distributions to resume. Korma and areas west of Tawila therefore remain 'No-Go' for the UN.
- (b) Instability has increased in West Darfur during the reporting period, following the attempted coup in Chad on 13 April 2006. There are reports of Chadian opposition groups moving back into Sudan to prepare for another attack in Chad. Some of them

have been sighted in Habila locality. The Sudan border with Chad is now susceptible to further instability. The UN remains on Phase IV (high alert); though the general feeling is that Geneina is not under imminent threat.

- (c) Meanwhile, attacks on humanitarian vehicles and staff are continuing in Geneina town as reported in the following incidents that occurred during the reporting week: (i) A WFP vehicle was stolen in the middle of the town on 20 April by armed men in uniforms. It is not clear who these uniformed armed men are. (ii) A vehicle belonging to the Catholic Relief Services was also stolen at gunpoint, 8km north of Geneina, on 17 April. This stretch of road, previously closed due to insecurity and reopened in March, has subsequently been categorized as D (restricting travel) by UN security. Access to the north of Geneina is now by helicopter only. (iii) A WFP national staff member's house was broken into by armed robbers. These incidents have been reported to authorities and point to the volatile nature of security in the area.
- (d) The security situation has not improved from last week, as attacks on civilians are continuing and banditry on commercial and humanitarian vehicles ongoing in South Darfur. The traditional areas of insecurity and tension remain – Jabal Mara, Shearia and Gereida. This week militiamen attacked civilians in villages in Shearia and Gereida areas. More blatant civilian attacks by militiamen occurred outside the African Union compound in Shearia, where militiamen fired indiscriminately to scare off about 100 IDPs that have been camping there for the past four months. Also, movements of armed Arab militia have been observed in Shergeilla.
- (e) A convoy of three NGO trucks carrying CSB was shot at on Zalingei-Nyala road, about 20 km west of Nertiti, by two men in military and civilian clothing. Fortunately no fatalities were reported. Another commercial truck was attacked east of Billel, resulting in one casualty.
- (f) Authorities are continuing to harass WFP staff at the airport when entering Nyala, therefore contravening the SOFA agreement, which grants UN staff freedom of movement. The UN and Government of Sudan are discussing the SOFA implementation and access issues, which affect other parts of Sudan as well.
- (g) WFP food distribution in Maluakon, Northern Bahr El Ghazal was disrupted when an armed group demanded food and harassed beneficiaries at the distribution site. Consequently, WFP rescheduled the exercise until 25 April.
- (h) Movement of UN personnel between Torit and Kapoeta road in Eastern Equatoria was temporarily suspended following the discovery of a newly laid land mine on the road 20-km east of Torit. UNMAS is investigating the issue.
- (i) According to the Sudan Rehabilitation and Recovery Commission, some 1,265 persons were displaced from Nadiangere Payam in Yambio, Central Equatoria as a result of a conflict between farmers and cattle owners. The displaced are temporarily residing in Thaura and Lirangu where WFP cannot provide them with food assistance as both locations are under the UN Security Phase Four.
- (j) Movement restriction continued to hamper WFP activities in Kassala during the reporting period. A WFP mission travelling from Kassala to Hadalia area to monitor general distributions in IDP camps was denied access and turned back from Raiba checkpoint due to lack of travel permits. Another joint WFP/UNHCR mission travelling to Shagarab refugee camps was stopped at Sharagab checkpoint, 45 km from Showak, and had to return to Showak. Furthermore, WFP Head of Sub-Office was relocated from Kassala after having received a letter from the Humanitarian Aid Commission requesting him to leave the state in 24 hours due to failure in submitting required documentation.
- (k) Two military forces arrived in Kassala from Eritrea according to different agreements

with the government. The first force was the El Fatih force comprising of 400 soldiers of the opposition Democratic Union Party, who entered Kassala town after being disarmed at Shallalob area. The second force was SPLM troops who started the first phase of redeployment. These troops are expected to proceed to south Sudan through Girba Madani and Kosti, White Nile.

- (l) A WFP team was forced to stop a registration and verification exercise in Wadaga payam (Blue Nile) when a SPLM soldier interrupted the activity. Local security personnel who requested travel permits later stopped the same team, on their way to Kurmuk. Both incidents were reported to the state's government representatives who assured WFP that such actions will not reoccur.
- (m) Overall, the general security situation was reportedly calm. Despite lifting of movement restriction for UN staff in Abyei, UN police and UNMIS military observers were not allowed to move North of Abyei during the reporting period.
- (n) UNMIS vehicles were stopped and checked on the road to Kauda, South Kordofan by some SPLM soldiers who also tried to confiscate some communication equipment. UNMIS staff returned to Kadugli where they reported the incident. Additionally, another UNMIS convoy in Kurchi was stopped and drivers were demanded by force to take civilians on board. UNMIS is investigating both incidents.
- (o) WFP is continuing communication campaigns to inform local communities of the imminent ration reductions, which will be implemented from May, and the rationale behind the exercise. Food rations are being reduced due to the prevailing food pipeline shortfalls and the reductions will help the limited stocks to last longer during the hunger season, from around June to September, when needs are greatest. Insecurity is continuing to impede on food distributions and monitoring in various localities. In addition, banditry on humanitarian property is continuing. Insecurity is also continuing to displace and re-displace civilians as people flee from conflict areas.
- (p) The State level training for the Sudan Household Health Survey, launched in February, was completed during the reporting period. The survey, implemented by the Government of South Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian agencies, aims at establishing national health care strategies as well as social and economic indicators. It's the first survey of its kind since the civil war broke out in South Sudan. A WFP-supported food security component was added at a total cost of US\$ 90,000. WFP has also provided logistical support to the survey.
- (q) Staff of the Commission of Refugees in Kassala, Eastern Sudan went on a seven-day strike due to unsolved internal issues with their management. The action affected WFP food deliveries, distributions and monitoring activities in the refugee camps. Subsequently, three trucks loaded with WFP food commodities were stranded at the Shagarab refugee camps for one week, as they were not offloaded. A joint team from WFP and UNHCR visited Um Gargour camp to monitor the condition of refugees during the strike period. Refugees indicated that they have already received part of April food rations. Distributions will be resumed as soon as the strike ends.
- (r) A USAID delegation visited WFP's new field office in Kurmuk, South Blue Nile and discussed with WFP and the Norwegian People's Aid their activities. WFP briefed the delegation on its planned relief and recovery activities in Southern Blue Nile from April through October 2006. The delegation appreciated WFP's operational activities in the state such as pre-positioning of food stocks prior to the rainy season; the assessment conducted in March 2006 to identify required needs; ongoing registration and verification exercise; establishing new Final Distribution Points as well as WFP's logistics cost-effective strategy.
- (s) As a result of the current funding constraints and breaks in the food pipeline, a decision has been made to reduce the scope of Food-for-Asset programme under the

emergency operation in North Kordofan. WFP agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) to continue its support for implementing Food-for-Asset activities (watermelon bug collection) in North Kordofan state until the end of July 2006. Thereafter, the Ministry will continue to implement the project through the support of the Strategic Reserve. HAC will follow up with government authorities on the allocation of required food quantities.

- (t) Between 1 and 24 April, WFP transported by road a total of 10,597 tons of food in the three Darfur states, realizing only 29 percent of the April plan due to a serious shortage of food available in Port Sudan and in the hubs of El Obeid and Khartoum. The food will be pre-positioned in remote locations that are anticipated to become inaccessible during the rainy season to ensure the continuation of food aid during the 'hunger period'.
- (u) WFP dispatched 5,844 tons of food commodities by road to different locations in the South. Of the total, 2,909 tons was dispatched from El Obeid, 1,652 tons from Koboko and Tororo, Uganda and 1,283 tons from Lokichoggio, Kenya (1,283 tons). WFP continued to erect rub halls in the south to enhance storage capacity and allow pre-positioning of food stocks prior to the rainy season. Four additional rub halls were erected in Majakliet, Marial Bai, Acumcum and Barurud in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Lakes states.
- (v) Awareness campaigns are ongoing at community level to inform food aid beneficiaries, local authorities and community leaders of the new ration cuts in North Darfur. Food distributions in Korma and Shangil Tobayi are still suspended due to ongoing insecurity. In Tawila, distributions were also temporarily suspended due to insecurity. There is a new caseload in Tawila, fleeing attacks by the SLA-Minnawi faction, west of Tawila, which WFP hopes to reach as soon as the security situation allows. An inter-agency mission found that 2,000 to 3000 new arrivals into Tawila have settled around the AU camp. Most of them are already registered for food distributions from their previous locations. WFP will provide food assistance as soon as possible.
- (w) WFP has now verified the number of IDPs from Shearia who are currently in Wadaa, Dar El Salam. Some 9,905 IDPs were identified and will receive food in the coming days.
- (x) A new influx of people was reported in Tundosa and Gobe areas – about 1,800 returnees and 3,500 refugees. The UNHCR and Save the Children-US are verifying and registering the reported caseload. Once registered, WFP plans to distribute a one off distribution as per the standing agreement with UNHCR.
- (y) A monitoring team visited villages in Morni to inform them of upcoming food ration cuts and to inquire from the community if they preferred one or two-month ration distributions at a time. The communities informed WFP that they prefer one-month rations due to lack of storage and also the fact that 2-month rations may give them a false sense of food security, which may lead to exchanging the food for other goods.
- (z) A mission composed of WFP, UNHCR and UNDSS has verified that numbers of Chadian refugees in Gellu have declined from about 10,000 to about 1,000. The refugees are believed to have dispersed into the nearby villages. Those left behind are mainly the elderly, unable to travel long distances. UNHCR is looking into the situation further to establish needs and the new refugee locations.
- (aa) WFP is continuing to inform beneficiaries of ration cuts in South Darfur. OCHA is also assisting in disseminating the same information to the humanitarian community in Nyala and Zallingie. In Zallingie, MSF-F has reported a rise in malnutrition cases at Tebya camp. WFP plans to deploy a nutrition team to assess the situation further.
- (ab) During the reporting period, WFP distributed 2,665 tons of food to 165,939 beneficiaries

in all targeted locations in South Sudan. All commodities were distributed at full ration except for sugar and pulses that were distributed at half ration due to unavailability of these two commodities. Beneficiaries reached included returnees and vulnerable local residents.

- (ac) An inter-agency assessment team comprising of WFP, UNHCR, UNOCHA, Sudan Aid and Sudan Rehabilitation and Recovery Commission verified and registered 1,582 persons displaced from Rajaf and 64 IDPs displaced from Yambio in Katur, Western Equatoria. The mission recommended immediate provision of food and non-food assistance. In response, WFP distributed 28 tons of food commodities to these IDPs.
- (ad) An interagency rapid assessment was conducted in West Mundri County (Mundri and Mvolo Counties, Western Equatoria) following an ethnic conflict that resulted in displacement of the host community. This was compounded by a drought that hit the region last year. The assessment team recommended immediate provision of food assistance to the displaced. WFP plans to include these IDPs in the next round of distributions.
- (ae) The Sustainable Return Team and OCHA informed WFP that 126 returnees were received and registered in Adol Manyeil Payam, Central Rumbek County, arriving from Khartoum through Wau, Bahr El Ghazal. Another 12,000 persons are expected to arrive from IDP camps in Khartoum en route to Lakes state through Shambe Port.
- (af) WFP, ADRA and the Return Rehabilitation and Reintegration distributed two-week rations of 6 MT to 520 registered returnees and 125 refugees on transit on the barge to Sahmbe, Bor and Juba (Malakal, Upper Nile)
- (ag) An OFDA/USAID mission visited WFP sub-office in Kassala during the reporting period. The mission was briefed on WFP activities in the state and the challenges being faced in implementation of activities, such as movement restrictions and the future of Hameshkoreib after eventual withdrawal of SPLA. The mission requested WFP to resume general food distributions as soon as authorities lift restriction of movement outside of Kassala.
- (ah) The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) discussed with humanitarian agencies, including WFP, in Blue Nile the situation and possible means for providing assistance to returnees in Kelly. According to HAC and SRRC, an estimated 5000-6000 persons, who are in need of immediate assistance, arrived in Kelly from Bonga and Sharkole refugee camps in Ethiopia. HAC and SRRC jointly requested agencies to provide support to these returnees. OCHA and WFP are planning a joint needs assessment to verify and register returnees in Kelly. However, the road to Kelly is still 'no-go' to UN staff, thus OCHA is exploring the possibility of using UNMIS helicopter for the assessment on 27 April.
- (ai) During the reporting period, WFP distributed one-month rations of 6 tons of food to 356 returnees (54 percent female) who arrived in Challi payam in Kurmuk County from Sherkole camp. So far, only 28 percent of the 4,800 returnees, planned to be repatriated by UNHCR before the rains, have arrived in Blue Nile. WFP will continue to support these returnees until harvest time in October 2006.
- (aj) WFP distributed about 22 tons of food to 1,277 returnees (58 percent female) in several locations in Rosaries, Geissan and Kurmuk localities. Distributions were at 100 percent rations except for pulses and sugar, which were distributed at 50 percent due to unavailability of these commodities. Food was distributed simultaneously with assessments of the storage capacity in distribution centres for pre-positioning of food before the rains.
- (ak) WFP field office in Kurmuk conducted registration and verification for returnees and vulnerable groups residing in Jerru, Gos Rassien and Mayac Bomas in Wadaga and

Mayac payams. Teams registered 2,119 beneficiaries of whom 218 are returnees and 1,901 were vulnerable people who are eligible to receive WFP food assistance.

- (al) WFP and Save the Children-US dispatched and distributed 1,088 tons of food to 12,514 returnees in Rumamer, Mabok and Mijak returnee villages to cover food requirements during the rainy season. In addition, WFP dispatched 1,006 MT of food in eight returnee villages during the week. Pre-positioning of food stocks will continue in five returnee villages next week.
- (am) During the reporting period, the Norwegian Refugee Council reported that 223 returnees arrived in South Kordofan in way stations from northern and southern parts of Sudan. All returnees proceeded to their areas of origin in different locations in Kauda and Talodi.
- (an) Verification and registration of beneficiaries continued during the reporting period in South Kordofan. WFP teams reported the presence of 190,769 returnees and vulnerable residents in Kadugli, Lagawa, Dilling, Chawere, Abu Gebeiha, Rashad and Talodi. Of the total, 82,315 (43 percent) are returnees.
- (ao) As of 22 April, the Emergency Operation 10503.0 had received contributions totaling US\$238 million, 32 percent of the US\$746m requirement. According to the estimates of cash required to guarantee a healthy pipeline throughout the year, the operation should have received almost US\$400m during the same period. As a result of the slow response to the appeal, and with shortfalls in certain commodities anticipated from April onwards, reductions in food rations are continuing in order to mitigate the expected impact of the breaks. At the current resourcing level, and with limited borrowing ability this year, WFP will not be able to pre-position adequate stocks in remote locations that will become inaccessible during the rainy season.
- (ap) The Humanitarian Air Service (WFP-HAS) Special Operation 10181.3 requires a total of US\$27 million in 2006. With monthly operating costs of over US\$2 million, donor support is vital to allow WFP-HAS to continue to provide services to the humanitarian community in Darfur and throughout Sudan. Initially, the consequences of the funding shortfall will lead to an imminent and sizeable reduction in both the fleet size and the frequency of flights. Ultimately, the air service will be suspended cutting off access to remote areas, which are not covered by commercial operators and in many cases where humanitarian assistance is most needed. This will include the helicopter service in Darfur, which provides access for the humanitarian community to locations inaccessible by land due to current and prevailing insecurity.
- (aq) Phase III of WFP's Emergency Road Repair and Mine Clearance Special Operation 10368.0 in South Sudan faces a funding shortfall of US\$66.5 million. In the absence of funding, the project is now missing the beginning of the dry season for works under Phase III contracts.

## **(8) Tanzania**

- (a) The WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) continues to distribute reduced rations in order to extend resources in anticipation of shortfalls expected in June. A slight increase in pulses ration to 90 gram per person per day was implemented for the distribution of 10 April. As a result, refugees are provided with a daily intake of 1,588 kcal which is 76 percent of the approved ration level. It is expected that WFP will continue distributing reduced rations until additional resource are contributed to WFP.
- (b) Following the tripartite agreement in March on the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees, about 11,669 asylum seekers returned home, as of 14 April. Upon arrival at the Burundi's Nyabitare and Gisuru reception centres, the returnees received one-month food packages through the German development agency German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Immediately after having collected their food ration, the asylum

seekers returned to their homes. Distribution of food packages to the asylum seekers will continue on a monthly basis at the reception centres until June, when a needs assessment of the food support will be carried out. Some 170 asylum seekers are still hosted in Mugunzu transit centre in Tanzania.

- (c) General distribution covers 364,399 registered refugees. During the past week, WFP distributed 1,467 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Around 8,501 food insecure and otherwise vulnerable Tanzanians in the host communities surrounding the camps were also supported with WFP host community activities, including access to camp-based health care facilities, school feeding, home based care, food-for-training and vulnerable feeding.
- (d) A shortfall of 19,624 tons (USD 12 million) exists up to the end of December 2006. New contributions have not been received since the last update on 19 April.

### **(9) Uganda**

- (a) Over 35,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from three camps in Lira district are the initial caseload targeted for assistance to transition from food aid to self-reliance as they prepare to return to their villages of origin. To date, WFP has supported 12,693 households with 146 tons of assorted seeds, as well as tools (hoes and pangas).
- (b) The new US Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Steven Browning, visited Gulu district on 19 April to familiarise himself with the humanitarian situation among IDPs. He travelled to Pabbo IDP camp and witnessed relief distribution. He also visited Abera Primary School, which was displaced and is hosted by Pabbo Primary School. During these acquaintance visits the Ambassador was particularly concerned with protection, return/resettlement/decongestion and food security issues.
- (c) Following the signing of a tripartite agreement between the Government of Uganda, Government of Sudan and UNHCR for the repatriation of Sudanese refugees residing in Uganda in March, refugees will be voluntarily repatriated from Palorinya settlements in Moyo district to Sudan beginning in May 2006 with 165 persons in the first convoy. A total of 2,880 refugees will repatriate over the month of May 2006 in 13 planned convoy trips.
- (d) WFP, together with the Embassy of France, through its Social Development Fund (SDF), have entered into a partnership to co-fund small-scale development oriented projects designed by NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) that aim to enhance livelihoods of IDPs returning to their areas of origin in the Teso and Lango sub-regions. WFP will complement the cash grant from the French Embassy with food-for-work and food-for-training support through recovery activities.
- (e) The Italian Cooperation and Development (ICD) has completed drilling seven boreholes in seven WFP assisted primary schools in the Karamoja region. Under a contract signed in November 2005, ICD will drill 12 boreholes in 12 WFP-assisted schools in Karamoja to enhance access to safe water in schools in the region. Provision of water within school areas is expected to promote establishment of school gardens and help girls to regularly attend classes instead of walking long distances to fetch water.
- (f) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.45 million displaced persons, 165,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past two week, WFP distributed 3,250 tons of food assistance to 265,542 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (g) WFP pipeline shortfall through December 2006 currently stands at 63,000 tons representing USD 34 million. WFP is facing a pipeline break in cereals, CSB and

vegetable oil owing to a combination of defaulting suppliers and late arrival of shipments. As a result, the limited stock available is prioritized for food-for-health interventions. The high price of cereals and UNIMIX in country continues to cause concern. WFP general food distribution continues without oil and CSB with no commodity substitution.

**(D) West Africa:** (1) Cote d'Ivoire (2) Guinea (3) Niger

**(1) Cote d'Ivoire**

- (a) During the reporting period (20-26 April), the security situation remained calm. However, the security in the Western part of the country is worrying, particularly in the zone of confidence (Duékoué – Bangalo) where ethnic tensions between Baoulés and Guérés are still tense. Criminals and robbers took advantage of this situation to create panic amongst local populations. It was reported that some alarming incidents in the neighbouring villages of Bangolo (Gohouzagna, Bahébly, Diéouzou, Petit Pine, Glopou & Douekpé) occurred this week end with displacements of populations to Duékoué. The reasons of these disorders are not easy to determine. The Licorne Forces strengthened their presence in this sector by bringing one infantry company from Odienné.
- (b) Security recommendations to UN staff remained unchanged. Caution and high vigilance is advised all over the country.
- (c) The International Working Group held its 4th meeting on Thursday 20 April. It urged key players to press ahead to disarm and identify simultaneously ahead of the end October poll deadline.
- (d) Further to notification of a humanitarian crisis in Bangolo zone with displacements to Bangolo, an interagency mission has been conducted to Bangolo on Sunday 23 April. It has been evidenced that there is no humanitarian emergency but the security situation is worrying.
- (e) Voluntary repatriations of Liberian refugees were going on. Weekly convoys are organised by UNHCR.
- (f) During the reporting period, WFP delivered a total of 483 tons food to 73,565 beneficiaries.
- (g) From 24 to 28 April 2006, a training workshop on agricultural techniques and sensitization is being held in Fapaha (Korhogo) for Cooperating Partners involved in the implementation of the joint WFP/FAO agriculture programme. It aims at elaborating identification criteria for the targeted villages and at putting in place community-based committees. The WFP Bouaké and Korhogo sub-offices are attending the workshop.
- (h) As part of the joint WFP/FAO agriculture programme for 2006, a total of 11,054 households have been identified to be assisted with seed protection rations in the 18 Montagnes region.
- (i) A monitoring visit of school canteens was conducted in Toulépleu, West of Guiglo on the border of Liberia.
- (j) As of 26 April 2006, the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO);Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina, Ghana, Mali, has received a total of 36.8 million US dollars against the operational needs of 50.1 million US dollars (26.4% shortfall or 13.2 million US dollars against operational requirements). Additional funding is required in order to avoid pipeline breaks.

**(2) Guinea**

- (a) During the reporting period (3-16 April), attacks on private houses and businesses

continued to be reported frequently in Kissidougou and N'Zerekore. On 2 April, a GTZ car was reported stolen in Voinjama, Liberia, it was later found in Gueckedou, Guinea.

- (b) A total of 923 Liberian refugees were voluntary repatriated during the reporting period. As usual, WFP provided hot meals for the refugees in the convoys. Additionally, in order to accelerate the repatriation process, the 534 refugees received their May monthly food distribution.
- (c) A mission of officials from the US embassies in Monrovia and Abidjan went through N'Zerekore, where they met with partners and refugees in Kouankan 1 and Lainé camps. During its visit, the delegation made clear that the resettlement process for Liberian refugees will be over in September 2006 and humanitarian partners were encouraged to transfer their activities to the Liberian Counties where refugees and IDPs returned.
- (d) During the reporting period, under the Protracted Relief and Recover Operation (PRRO), 295 tons was provided to 23, 291 beneficiaries.
- (e) Guinean refugee camps host currently over 47,751 individuals who are assisted by WFP. The present count includes 2,999 refugees from Ivory Coast and the balance from Liberia.
- (f) During the reporting period, a total of 288 tons were distributed to 22,368 beneficiaries during the February General Food Distribution in Kouankan 1, Kouankan 2 and Kountaya camps.
- (g) On 8 April, UNHCR and WFP met to review the list of beneficiaries. WFP agreed to add 122 new beneficiaries, including new born and vulnerable Ivorian refugees, to Kouankan 2 caseload.
- (h) On 6 April, WFP N'Zerekore met with its Cooperating Partner AACG to discuss the monitoring of the activity, the progress of school gardens, the performance of parent of students associations and the ARGOS monitoring project.
- (i) During the reporting period, trainings on the school feeding activity were conducted for participant schools' directors in the Forest region. This training aims to familiarize them better with the activity, their roles and the monitoring practices.
- (j) On 12 April, the head of WFP N'Zerekore sub office met with the representatives of two local associations to prepare a first proposal of 47 households, beneficiaries of the pilot project of food support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

### **(3) Niger**

- (a) A 2006 plan of action has been developed through the National Food Security Mechanism (DNP-GCA), with the support of UN agencies. All food items, non-food and nutritional activities have been included in this plan, which has a total requirement of 100 million USD. Within this plan, United Nations agencies have appealed for humanitarian assistance for 50 million USD through the Consolidated Appeal (CAP) issued on 28 March 2006 including 11.7 million USD for WFP. Out of a total of 25 million USD required for WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in 2006, 13.3 million USD has been received to date. This plan of action is a major step forward and improvement from last year.
- (b) The current food security situation is characterized by pockets of food insecurity in the pastoral and agro-pastoral zones. This situation is the result of the fact that some areas of the country did not have a good harvest while others that did have a good harvest had to use a significant portion of their harvest to repay the debts they were forced to take on to feed their families during the 2005 food crisis. The situation is exacerbated by cereal prices that are higher for this time of year than the average of the last five years. For indebted farmers and the areas that did not benefit from a good harvest, the

2006 lean season has already begun.

- (c) During the lean season, food insecure households will have to again use response strategies when their cereal stocks are exhausted, including the search for daily labour, sale of animals, loans and request for kinship support. However, because these responses were stretched to the limit in 2005, their reliability and sustainability will be decreased in 2006, resulting in more extensive migration of household members in search for labour, more sales of animals and more debt.
- (d) Thus far in 2006, an estimated 5,800 tons of food have been dispatched to partners for nutritional activities and Food-for-Work (FFW), benefiting over 300,000 beneficiaries per month.
- (e) WFP, SAP (Government Early Warning System), INS (National Statistics Institute), SIMA (National Market Monitoring System), FEWS-NET and FAO are all collaborating a joint food security assessment which is currently ongoing. The objective is to evaluate and characterize vulnerability to food insecurity of households. The results will be used to guide the response activities of the DNP/GCA and WFP.
- (f) The assessment will be conducted through surveys of 10,530 households in all eight regions of the country. This sample will be representative at the national, regional and departmental levels to allow a more detailed analysis.
- (g) WFP, the SIMA (National Market Monitoring System) and FEWS-NET have put in place a partnership for market monitoring in vulnerable zones. The markets were chosen based on the list of vulnerable zones identified by the National Early Warning System (SAP). Thirty-five markets will be monitored, mainly in the agro-pastoral and pastoral zones. The market monitoring, which begin March 2006, will continue until October 2006 and a bulletin will be produced every two weeks. The first report, covering March until the 2 April, has already been published.
- (h) The prices of cereals are stable as compared to last month and at a lower level than this time last year, however, they are much higher when compared to the average prices over the last five years. Prices are highest in the zones considered the most vulnerable, limiting the access to food purchases of the most vulnerable populations.
- (i) The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10509.0-Strengthening the Means of Subsistence of Vulnerable Populations and Targeted Assistance for Malnourished Children- began this month and will last for 18 months, through September 2007. With a total budget of 37.3 million US dollars, the operation will reach 2.9 million beneficiaries, over 70 percent of which are malnourished children and their families, with 46,950 tons of food.
- (j) Contributions totaling 13.3 million US dollars have been received, representing 36 percent of the PRRO requirements. The current shortfall is 24 million US dollars or 64 percent of the PRRO requirements.
- (k) Although the WFP Niger's pipeline has improved dramatically over the last 2-3 weeks, the contributions were not early enough to allow for planned support to cereal banks, FFW and Food-for-Training (FFT) activities to be implemented at the level planned in the early months of 2006. Full implementation of these activities will only be possible beginning in June 2006 when the food purchased with new contributions arrives.
- (l) The pipeline for nutrition activities (CSB, vegetable oil and sugar), on the other hand, has been healthy and although a small pipeline break in WFP stocks is possible in May, WFP and UNICEF have developed a joint pipeline to ensure no pipeline breaks occur and activities are 100 percent covered through the end of the year.

**(E) Southern Africa:** (1) Angola (2) Lesotho (3) Madagascar (4) Malawi (5) Mozambique (6) Namibia (7) Swaziland (8) Zambia (9) Zimbabwe

### **(1) Angola**

- (a) WFP's new PRRO started on 1 April and will run until March 2009. At least 24, 000 tons of food or USD 19 million are urgently needed to ensure the project gets off to a solid start, enabling WFP to meet its obligations in support of the continuing return and resettlement programme, as well as to expand the school-feeding, health and nutrition programmes. Unless new contributions are soon confirmed the operation will not be able to adequately support the resettlement process, reducing the incentive for people to return to, and remain in, their areas of origin. Without additional contributions it will not be possible to extend the School-Feeding programme, which has become a priority of the Angola Government.

### **(2) Lesotho**

- (a) From 18-26 April, WFP and Cooperating Partners provided food to some 17,000 people. Beneficiaries were participants in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, mother and childcare, orphans and other vulnerable children programmes, as well as Food-for-Work and Food-for-Assets projects.
- (b) WFP finalized an agreement with the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative and the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare for the provision of supplementary rations (CSB & Oil) for children enrolled in the HIV/AIDS Paediatric Treatment Programme at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Maseru. WFP is repackaging the rations, using a local Home-Based Care Support Group that has volunteered. It is estimated that there are some 22,000 HIV-Positive children under the age of 14 years who may be in need to nutritional assistance in Lesotho.
- (c) Due to limited treatment facilities, around 450 beneficiaries are receiving treatment with 200 children to benefit from food assistance through the combined efforts of WFP and the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative. Adequate nutrition is crucial to treatment.

### **(3) Madagascar**

- (a) After a good beginning to the 2005/6 rainy season over southern Madagascar, rainfall significantly reduced during late February and March. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), many areas have received little rainfall since late February, resulting in seasonal rainfall deficits of 100 to 250+ mm, and an end to the rainy season that is two months premature. This early cessation of seasonal rains has resulted in the development of drought in some parts of the country and has likely resulted in reductions in crop production and crop losses. Losses will be highest for crops sown late.

### **(4) Malawi**

- (a) The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has released the final results of the crop estimates for maize. For the first time in five years, drought-stricken Malawi will have a bumper maize harvest, according to the estimates. Good rain and a successful government-sponsored fertiliser and seed distribution programme is reported to have boosted farmers' yields. The country is forecast to produce about 2.35 million tons of maize, just over the annual requirement of 2 million tons.
- (b) In Karonga and Nkhata Bay districts in the north, flash floods in April have affected sources of livelihood for some communities. About 10,600 households and 3,500 Ha of crops have been mildly or severely damaged. The crop includes maize, rice, cassava and bananas. The extent of livestock and crop damage was still to be fully assessed last week. This will give input to further discussions with government on how to assist the affected households.

**(5) Mozambique**

- (a) The price of maize continues to decline due to the increasing supply of this year's crops. As harvest continues, the food security situation of most populations is improving particularly in southern and central Mozambique. Targeted food aid distributions also continue to contribute to food availability. WFP plans to scale down the food assistance for drought affected households in southern and central regions. CSB pipeline break in the central Manica and Sofala provinces has prevented supplementary feeding distributions to take place as planned.
- (b) Joint WFP/UNHCR assessment is underway in northern Nampula province to determine the food assistance needs of the refugee population currently living in Marratane camp. The assessment should be completed by the end of the week and preliminary results are expected in May.

**(6) Namibia**

- (a) The Government of Namibia and WFP's new programme to provide food assistance to 111,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Namibia's Northern and North-eastern regions starting last week. The programme will secure food for OVC in six regions with the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the country and as a result has high number of OVC.
- (b) It is expected that WFP's food assistance will run for approximately two years, after which most of the children should be receiving Government grants to enable them to buy basic food supplies.
- (c) Joint UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP assessment mission (JAM) started on 24 April. The mission will assess the food security and livelihood conditions in Osire camp, which is home to approximately 6,000 Angolan refugees and asylum seekers. The outcome of the JAM will provide guidance for future food assistance programmes.

**(7) Swaziland**

- (a) WFP participated in a meeting of the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) to prepare for the upcoming crop performance and overall food supply assessment for the 2006/7 marketing year (April/March). Over the past decade, Swaziland has repeatedly experienced droughts or inadequate rainfall and resultant poor harvests. The rainfall this ending season, though more favourable overall, was characterized by isolated unfavourable weather raising concerns about the potential impact on the nation's food production.

**(8) Zambia**

- (a) Food distribution under PRRO 10071.2 started with reduced ration in January 2006. As a result of contributions received so far, full rations were restored in February 2006. However further contributions are still urgently needed to meet refugee requirements for 2006 particularly in Cassava meal, vegetable oil and maize meal. Agricultural land is very limited in most camps and as such, the majority of refugees depend solely on WFP food assistance to meet their basic daily nutritional requirements. Reduced rations can greatly jeopardise the overall health and nutritional status of refugees.

**(9) Zimbabwe**

- (a) WFP Field Monitors in Manicaland Province reported that food security remains a concern for communities throughout the Province with the winding up of WFP's

Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme at the end of April. Although some households in Buhera, Chipinge and Chimanimani districts have started harvesting sorghum, respondents indicated that yields will not last long. In April, the last month for the VGF programme, WFP plans to provide a half ration (5 kgs of cereals and 1 kg of pulses) to more than 3.5 million beneficiaries.

- (b) According to WFP's Vulnerability and Mapping Unit (VAM), maize grain prices in March 2006 continued to outpace overall inflation. Year on year comparison of maize grain prices in Mutare, Harare, Bulawayo, and Masvingo indicates that the current price levels are in average more than 1,800 percent higher than prices of same month last year.
- (c) Overall, food access will remain critical in 2006 due to the hyper-inflation, high unemployment, and improved—but still inadequate crop production.

**(F) Asia:** (1) Myanmar (2) Nepal (3) Philippines

**(1) Myanmar**

- (a) During the reporting period (12-26 April), five bombs exploded in downtown Yangon. Though the detonations were loud, no casualties, injuries nor damages were reported.
- (b) A sharp rise in the price of basic essential commodities and goods are still being observed. Salary raise for the Government employees is said to be the main cause of inflation.
- (c) At completion, the EMOP 10345.1 Evaluation/Formulation Mission held separate de-briefing sessions with NGO partners, Government counterparts and donors and presented their findings and recommendations. Based on the WFP nutrition survey result in project area which indicate high prevalence of chronic and acute malnutrition and as recommended by ODB led evaluation mission, WFP is planning to launch a pilot project on Community Mother and Child Nutrition to children under 3 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers, in selected villages in Northern Rakhine State, Magway Division and Laukkai area. In this pilot phase, WFP intends to provide a package of services including a weekly take-home ration of fortified blended food, nutrition and health education, de-worming, supplementation of vitamin and minerals etc, in close collaboration with Ministry of Health, UNICEF and other health NGOs.
- (d) Budget revisions to extend both Emergency Operation (EMOP) and Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) until 31 December 2006, as recommended by the Evaluation Missions are being prepared and finalized.
- (e) Under EMOP 10345.1, a total of 272 tons of rice was dispatched to Lashio, Laokai and Pang Kham Sub- Offices for Food-for-Education, Food-for-Work and Food-for-Training activities. It has been reported that unusual high temperature in Wa has caused insect infestation in the warehouses.
- (f) The EMOP is currently resourced 78 percent against the appeal of US\$8,301,577 and the PRRO is currently resourced 68 percent against the appeal of US\$12,270,456.
- (g) Under PRRO 10066.2, a total of 145 tons of mixed food commodities were dispatched to Maungdaw Sub-Office for General Food Distribution, Mother and Child Nutrition and Food-for- Work activities. Assessment for Vulnerable Group Feeding is being carried out in Northern Rakhine State. A series of discussions held with UNDP, UNOPS and NGOs on joint implementation of Food for Work and Food for Training activities in Chin State.
- (h) NGO Cooperating Partners were provided with AHI awareness posters in Myanmar and Chinese Languages to communicate health education to the beneficiaries. Masks and tamiflu for staff have also been pre-positioned both at the country office and the

sub-offices.

- (i) WFP presented a paper on "Rural Livelihoods and Food Security" at the DFID sponsored "Civic Society on Humanitarian and Development Activities" Workshop in Yangon.

## **(2) Nepal**

- (a) During the reporting period (10-27 April), the pro-democracy and anti-monarchy nationwide strike and political unrest which began on 6th April continued and gained momentum throughout the country. The government imposed numerous day curfews – often violently enforced by the use of baton charges, tear gas, rubber and live bullets – to prevent the demonstrations. Up to 16 demonstrators reportedly lost their life during the unrest.
- (b) With road travel severely curtailed, schools shut and major cities under curfew for the last three weeks, WFP has not been able to deliver critically needed food aid to communities around the country, including to over half a million school children.
- (c) After food shipments to the Bhutanese refugees were disrupted following the start of the general strike on 6 April, WFP and UNHCR organised food convoys to the camps and appealed to all parties for safe passage. The convoys have been travelling without hindrance since 18 April.
- (d) A full resumption of the activities is planned the soonest after the proclamation of a 3 month ceasefire.
- (e) Preliminary investigation has confirmed a particular difficult "hunger gap" for some mid-west and far-west districts where the last two harvests have been successively much lower than average due to an exceptionally dry winter and very poor/erratic monsoon rains of last summer. After collection of pre-EFSA data, it appears that additional external food assistance will be needed on an emergency basis. WFP, in collaboration with FAO, is currently considering launching an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (EMOP).

## **(3) Philippines**

- (a) During the reporting period (30 March-12 April), the security situation remains unchanged both in Manila and in Mindanao and there are no movement restrictions. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have stepped up operations against the communist insurgency group the New People's Army in Davao del Norte and Asugan Provinces. A commander of the Al- Queda linked terrorist organization Abu Sayyaf group and his relative were killed by security forces in Zamboanga City on 3 April 2006.
- (b) WFP will be working in five provinces in Mindanao: Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato. Two of the provinces, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, form part of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and are particularly affected by population displacement as a result of the conflict. It is estimated that the EMOP will reach 60 percent of the populations in the conflict affected targeted areas.
- (c) WFP is re-establishing a presence in the Philippines with an Emergency Operation (EMOP) that will feed 2.1 million people in Mindanao in support of the peace process. The operation will be carried out in two phases: Phase 1 (March-May 2006) will consist of setting up offices, conducting some key assessments to fine tune targeting and establishing a logistics network and partnerships with non-governmental organisations. Phase 2 will commence in June 2006 with distribution of food commodities to targeted populations along with monitoring and training activities for partners.
- (d) WFP will implement a total of seven activities under the EMOP, including

school-feeding for primary school children, Food-for-Work/Food-for-Training for vulnerable conflict affected populations, resettlement support for Internally Displaced People and a Mother and Child Nutrition programme for pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of two.

- (e) Out of the US\$27 million needed, WFP Philippines has so far received IRA/DSC/ODOC-advances of around US\$2.5 million to start up operations. Part of this has been repaid. WFP has received confirmation of a US\$1.2 million donation, the first direct contribution to the EMOP.
- (f) WFP is working closely with Government counterparts to define the parameters of WFP operations in the country. A Letter of Understanding will be signed shortly with main implementing partner the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and a Basic Agreement concluded with the Government of the Philippines in 1968 provides the legal basis for WFP presence in the Philippines. WFP is also meeting with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) the country's independent economic development and planning agency which coordinates all ODA and other assistance to the Philippines.
- (g) During the reporting period, WFP focused on holding provincial consultations with key departments in the five provinces targeted under the EMOP. Fruitful discussions were held with provincial administrators, the provincial planning office, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and WFP's main implementing partner DSWD. The input on perceived needs by these provincial authorities will assist WFP with finalizing programme specifics including target areas and ration compositions. WFP has also met with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Government's opposition group in the Mindanao conflict. The MILF have publicly expressed their support for the EMOP and WFP hopes that this will have positive implications on the security of WFP staff and operations.

**(G) Latin America and Caribbean:** (1) Bolivia (2) Ecuador (3) El Salvador (4) Guatemala (5) Honduras (6) Nicaragua (7) Peru

### **(1) Bolivia**

- (a) As of 26 April, 15,873 floods-affected families have received 518 tons of WFP food aid in the Departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, La Paz and Potosí.
- (b) A general strike was called by the Central Labor Union (COB) although many sectors refused to join the strike. In the Department of Oruro, the main road between the City of Oruro and La Paz was blockaded. Protesters demanded the reimbursement of their monthly contributions for housing. This blockade delayed for one day the transportation of IR-EMOP food between warehouses of the two cities. The population of Puerto Suarez in the Department of Santa Cruz continued their strike demanding the legalization of a foreign-owned steel plant in the village, which was considered illegal by the National Government.
- (c) During the reporting period (20-27 April), 71 tons of food was distributed to an estimated 3,290 families in the Municipalities of El Puente and San Julian in the Department of Santa Cruz; Chacarilla, Catacora, Santiago de Cachaca and Ixiamas in La Paz; and Sacaca in Potosí.
- (d) Distributions of Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 10511.0 will be completed on 30 April. These rations will last around 30 days (mid and end of May). Distributions to the most needed areas with EMOP 10517.0 resources are expected to continue. Meanwhile, EFSA information collection has been completed in all three intervention Departments. Data is currently being processed.

- (e) WFP's EMOP proposal to assist at least 9,000 families for a period of 10 months in the flood affected departments is in the approval process.

## **(2) Ecuador**

- (a) Flood victims are living in shelters in Huaquillas and Zaruma (located in El Oro); some returned to their homes and others moved to relative's homes. Eleven families sheltered in a school were moved to the Municipality Hospital and to a community center in Zaruma.
- (b) Heavy rains at El Oro's highlands have weakened El Calvario hill putting at risk hundreds of houses. Landslides have also affected Portovelo. According to the International Research Center for El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN) report as of 20 April, there will be scarce rains in the coastal areas and the north of the country until June. The National Meteorology and Hydrology Institute (INHAMI) stated that heavy rains registered since January exceeds the normal rainfall levels. As a result, energy in the atmospheric system was very weak producing excess of heavy rains and low sea temperatures. Weather forecasts announced that no rainfall will be reported for the upcoming months.
- (c) According to the National Geophysical Institute, on 18 April, a low intensity quake of 4.4 in the Richter scale was registered 196.90 km north from Quito in the coastal Province of Esmeraldas while on 21 April, a low intensity quake of 4.3 in the Richter scale was registered 234.76 km south from Quito in the coastal Province of Los Rios.
- (d) According to the National Geophysical Institute, volcanic activity is high and it is increasing its activity. Strong explosions were registered during the past days with moderate and strong emissions of ashes, steam and gas. Frequent loud roars are coming from the volcano and incandescent rocks were also reported. Continuous ash fall has affected several communities in the Provinces of Tungurahua and Chimborazo.
- (e) Seismic activity at Tungurahua Volcano is very high also. Several strong tremors were registered inside the volcano. Volcanic activity is increasing rapidly and abundant ash fall may occur in agricultural areas and communities near the volcano.
- (f) Monitoring and evaluation report will be presented at the end of April.
- (g) A WFP Team continues to assess affected areas and updating information in the Provinces of Los Rios, El Oro, Manabí, and Guayas.
- (h) During the reporting period, WFP in coordination with COE's will start distribution of 3,643 food rations to beneficiaries.
- (i) Some several cases dengue fever, leptospirosis, malaria have been reported in several areas in Manabí, El Oro, Guayas.
- (j) Ecuador EMOP 10381.0 has received a contribution of USD357,000 to continue its operations. In order to complete the operation, there is a need of funding for USD399,506.
- (k) The United Nations in Ecuador received a contribution USD80,000. The fund has been used for food aid, medicines and health supplies for floods affected provinces.

## **(3) El Salvador**

- (a) The "seismic chain" that for three days has been affecting the Department of Usulután, located in the east of El Salvador, diminished; however, the authorities still monitoring the situation. The "seismic cluster", began 17 April, and until 19 April, recording 158 tremors, between 2 and 4.5 in the scale of Richter. On 27 April, dawn tremors of 2.9 were reported.

## **(4) Guatemala**

- (a) A total of 11,648 families were assisted with 1,242 tons of food in departments of Jutiapa, Quetzaltenango, and San Marcos.
- (b) A total of 1,053 tons of food was delivered during the reporting period in the Departments of Quiché, Huehuetenango and San Marcos.
- (c) A total of 235 tons were repaid by the Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10497 to The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10212 and Country Programme. To date, the total repaid from the EMOP to the CP and PRRO is 1,053 tons, which represents 30 percent from the total borrowed (3,631 tons). At the same time, the EMOP has borrowed 15 tons of beans to the PRRO 10212 to attend food release notes for this project.
- (d) As of 25 April, the amount resourced for the EMOP 10497 is USD 8,579,334 or 60.9 percent a shortfall of USD 5,515,937, 39.1 percent of the appeal made to the international community in October 2005.
- (e) OCHA staff based in Panama conducted a two-day workshop on 18-19 April aiming at strengthening UN emergency response capacity by initiating the preparation of an Inter-agency Response Plan. During the workshop, the key concepts and tools of emergency preparedness and response were re-visited. As a result of the workshop, an action plan and timeframe for the preparation of the Inter-agency Plan was presented to the UN Resident Coordinators and Heads of Agency.
- (f) UN agencies are preparing the final Guatemala flash appeal Stan report covering the six months of the operation. As agreed in previous meetings, WFP emphasized that, together with the government, the EMOP 10497 was extended until October 2006 for the following reasons (a) there is still a high percentage of the population in high-risk of food insecurity and the next harvest of basic staple food is expected in October and (b) There is not a short-term solution for people currently living in shelters; therefore, they should be receiving food assistance from WFP through the joint program (UNDP/WFP/FAO/ILO). It is expected that during the expanded period the EMOP would continue receiving contributions to complete 100 percent of required funds.

## **(5) Honduras**

- (a) A yellow alert was issued on 27 April by the Honduran authorities of Civil Defense in four departments of Caribbean and North regions of the country, heavy rainy weather has begun to cause problems. According to the Service of Meteorology, landslides damaged houses, bridges, in several localities. According to the Permanent Commission for Disasters Contingencies (COPECO) the Departments of Atlantida, Colon, Cortes and Yoro have been declared a yellow alert, and a green alert of monitoring, in Isla de Bahía and Gracias a Dios.

## **(6) Nicaragua**

- (a) The labor conflict in the health sector continues on its fourth month without solution. As a result, medical attention at public health centers has been reduced since the 18th of January.
- (b) During the reporting period (23-26 April), several minor seismic activities were registered in the Pacific and northern part of Nicaragua due to activities of the volcano San Cristobal, which is located 135 km at the north-east of Managua. No serious damages have been reported and no eminent eruption on a large scale is expected; however, green alert has been declared. The national Government is monitoring the situation.
- (c) Because of scanty harvest in the current month, the nutritional and health situation of the population on the river Coco (Waspam) remains precarious.

- (d) An estimated 2,149 pregnant and lactating women and 3,012 children under the age of two continue to benefit from the food distributions under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10212.0. This significant decline of beneficiaries is due to the ongoing labor conflict in the medical sector. At present, WFP has positioned food for 55,162 school children in the Northern Autonomous Atlantic Region (RAAN) which will benefit them under the Food-for-Education programme.
- (e) Due to the fact that PRRO commodities were used in order to respond to other emergencies, the operation is in urgent need of resources to avoid pipeline break and continue to provide assistance to families living in areas vulnerable to recurrent shocks. The PRRO 10212.0 will experience shortfalls for the next six months, beginning in June 2006, of 930 tons of maize, 288 tons of CSB and 63 tons of vegetable oil.

## **(7) Peru**

- (a) The volcano Ubinas located in the Moquegua region, has been belching for some time. Specialists are expecting it to go from actual Orange phase to Red Phase quite soon.
- (b) The government will declare the area in emergency within the next days. WFP Country office is closely monitoring the situation. The regional authorities of Moquegua have put in place strategies to relocate the population in safe areas. The Regional President of Moquegua indicated that its office is not prepared to relocate six thousand settlers of the District of Ubinas in case the volcano erupts.

**Note:** All tonnage figures in this report refer to metric tons

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