

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
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(A) Highlights

- (a) Protests in Afghanistan caused damage to UN and NGO property and prompted restrictions on the movement of UN staff, affecting humanitarian operations in some areas.
- (b) WFP is providing emergency food assistance to flood affected people in Afghanistan's Jawzjan and Badghis provinces.
- (c) Two drivers of WFP-contracted trucks were killed by gunmen, in two separate incidents in Sudan's South Darfur region.
- (d) WFP began airlifting food from Libya to Sudan, to put in place as much food aid as possible before the onset of the rainy season in Darfur.
- (e) This week's UN Flash Appeal for Benin included USD 1.6 million to assist 20,000 refugees and 10,000 host population with WFP food assistance.
- (f) In view of increased malnutrition in El Salvador's Morazan department, WFP carried out emergency food distributions to affected families.
- (g) In Djibouti, a rapid needs assessment mission of WFP, FEWS-Net and the government, reported that the number of drought-affected people in need of immediate food assistance increased to 47,500.

(B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe: (1) Afghanistan (2) Albania (3) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**(1) Afghanistan**

- (a) The security situation remained volatile in the eastern, southeastern and southern parts of the country. A blast in Kabul on 7 May, killed three persons, including a UN international staff, and injured five others.
- (b) On 11 May, a violent demonstration in Jalal Abad of Nangarhar province resulted in the death of five people while injuring over 50 others. The protesters caused damages to

several UN and NGOs' vehicles and other properties. More peaceful demonstrations were reported in Wardak, Khost and Kandahar provinces. As a result the UN staff movement remained restricted affecting humanitarian operations in the affected areas.

- (c) From 5 to 11 May, WFP assisted 395,000 beneficiaries.
- (d) Recent floods in Aqcha district in the northern Jawzjan province have affected over 800 families. In response, WFP dispatched 45 tons of food to meet the immediate food needs of the affected population. In addition, the Combined Disaster Management Team (CDMT) identified the need for assistance to 650 flood affected families in the western Badghis province. WFP has already dispatched 30 tons of food to three affected villages of Jawand district in Badghis.

(2) Albania

- (a) The security situation throughout Albania remained stable during April. Travel to the northern areas of the country required security clearance.
- (b) The upcoming parliamentary elections are likely to create increased tension in the political arena. The election process is one of the main indicators for future integration of Albania into the European Union and NATO.
- (c) All the activities under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10165.1, Assistance to Vulnerable Groups in the Construction of Community Assets, were implemented as per plan. Under the social sector component of the PRRO, some 4,265 women attended training and counselling sessions. In the communal forestry sector component, about 2,105 participants were involved in forestry activities. The Food-For-Work activities provided short-term employment opportunities to over 2,380 workers. During April 2005, about 475 tons of commodities were distributed for all the three sectors. Commodities included wheat flour and salt. The vegetable oil entitlement could not be distributed due to unavailability.

(3) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- (a) WFP this week began airlifting food from Libya's Al Kufra airport directly into western Sudan's Darfur region. The new air corridor will greatly contribute to the augmentation of WFP's existing monthly delivery capability to Sudan's Darfur region.

(C) East & Central Africa: (1) Burundi (2) Congo (3) Congo, DR (4) Djibouti (5) Eritrea (6) Ethiopia (7) Rwanda (8) Sudan (9) Tanzania (10) Uganda

(1) Burundi

- (a) Attacks attributed to the Front for National Liberation (FNL) rebels were perpetrated last week in Bujumbura rural. There were a number of casualties. Mop up operations against the FNL rebels were carried out by the national forces. Armed banditry persists in the country, including in Bujumbura town.
- (b) Burundi's political leadership headed for Pretoria, South Africa, last week to consult with the facilitator of the Peace Process, Deputy President Jacob Zuma, over a constitutional deadlock regarding the appointment of a new Interior Minister. The issue was resolved by 10 May, when the new Interior Minister was appointed by the President.
- (c) A Burundi court sentenced four former high-ranking government officials to death together with nine others, after found guilty of the murder of Mr. Kassi Manlan, World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative in 2001.
- (d) Burundi has launched a campaign to disarm all civilian population. Under a decree signed on 4 May by the President, authorities in Burundi are instructing citizens to hand

in their weapons or face legal consequences.

- (e) During last week, WFP distributed 920 tons of food aid to over 107,000 beneficiaries. WFP is dispatching over 500 new food ration information boards to all projects/distribution sites countrywide, to inform beneficiaries about their ration and entitlements.
- (f) Pipeline breaks are expected in August and September for cereals, pulses, oil and corn-soya blend. Pipeline will be almost entirely empty from September onwards. Rapid delivery of regional purchases remains critical to limit food shortfalls.

(2) Congo

- (a) On 25 April 2005, the UN Security Management Team (SMT) suspended all missions to the Pool region until further notice, following the attack on a UN convoy in the Pool region on 23 April. Starting 11 May missions to the Pool region resumed, but are subject to SMT and government clearances.
- (b) Last month, WFP was unable to distribute food to all planned beneficiaries, due to insufficient stock in Brazzaville and Nkayi. Recently, a WFP food transfer has been arranged from Pointe-Noire to the Extended Delivery Point (EDP) of Brazzaville. During the last seven days, WFP Brazzaville received 45 tons of salt, 185 tons of rice and 50 tons of peas. Another WFP food transfer from Pointe-Noire is on the way with 90 tons of rice and 145 tons of peas for Brazzaville. Nkayi sub-office, however, is still not supplied, due to unavailability of wagons. Transfer of food from Pointe-Noire to the EDPs and secondary transport are challenges that WFP is currently facing.

(3) Congo, DR

- (a) A worsening security situation in Kinshasa has been reported, including several incidences of shooting and armed robbery, involving unidentified gunmen. In one incident, armed men in Kinshasa killed a Belgian Jesuit Priest on 1 May. Owing to the troubled political climate, insecurity has affected all areas in the capital. Last week in Kinshasa, some pamphlets were distributed on the streets, calling for "ville morte" on 5 and 6 May. The population did not rise to this call for insurrection, however, on 5 May, some riots did occur in populous areas.
- (b) Reports from the media indicated that at least 30 persons, accused of plotting a putsch, were arrested in Lubumbashi. The President, H.E. Joseph Kabila, is currently in Katanga province to appease the tension.
- (c) Through the sub-office in Goma, WFP has signed an agreement with a local NGO, which aims at supporting 100 demobilized children in Beni. In collaboration with GTZ, WFP is also planning to assist displaced persons involved in the rehabilitation of the Rushogo-Ngungu axis (southern province). The road was partly rehabilitated last year with about 7kms to complete.
- (d) WFP has released food to supply nutrition centres in Punia, Kalima and Kasongo in Maniema province, pending the airlift operation and shipment by boat that will allow to reach more beneficiaries.
- (e) Following a pipeline break, families of malnourished children in South-Kivu did not receive their food ration. Action Contre la faim (ACF) provided food assistance to some 250 households gathered in Kamanyola site. These displaced people rely mostly on food aid because of the prevailing insecurity that prevents them from being self-sufficient.

(4) Djibouti

- (a) On 9 May, the follow-up committee on the Djibouti drought, composed of all Heads of

UN Agencies, the OFDA Regional Office in Nairobi, FEWS-Net, Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry in Charge of Presidential Affairs, and the Office National d'Assistance aux Refugies et Sinistres (ONARS) held a meeting at ONARS office. The purpose of the meeting was to review the donors' response to the Drought Appeal launched on 4 April by the Government of Djibouti for emergency assistance to 30,000 people affected by the current drought situation. During the meeting, WFP announced pledges for the upcoming Emergency Operation (EMOP) for a total amount of USD 111,000. In addition, the African Development Bank (ADB) promised to channel its contribution estimated at USD 500,000 through WFP.

- (b) However, according to the last joint Rapid Needs Assessment mission conducted from 20 to 30 April by WFP, FEWS-Net and the Djibouti Government, the total number of drought-affected people in need of immediate food assistance has significantly increased from 28,650 to 47,500. The increase is due to additional migration of pastoralists and their herds from northwest and southeast pastoral zones where the expected March - May rains have been too brief and intermittent to allow improvement of overgrazed areas. The combination of low income and low milk production, together with high staple food prices in neighbouring markets (in Ethiopia and Somalia) will contribute towards the worsening food deficit.

(5) Eritrea

- (a) Relations between the neighbours who fought a 1998-2000 border war have worsened in recent months and fresh violence has fuelled fears that war could break out again. On 20 April, unidentified gunmen shot dead an Eritrean militiaman close to the border with Ethiopia, a UN spokeswoman said, the latest in a spate of violent incidents near the the tense frontier.
- (b) The Eritrean Government expressed concern over looming hunger. An estimated 2.3 million Eritreans, roughly two thirds of the population, depend on varying levels of food aid, but according to the Deputy Commissioner at the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission, less than 60 percent of the needy population is reached. The Deputy Commissioner said that some 135,000 tons of cereals, pulses, and oils had already been pledged or delivered so far this year, but that Eritrea needed another 221,000 tons.
- (c) The cumulative effect of previous shocks has weakened existing coping strategies. Households with weakened reserves after the fifth consecutive year of drought conditions liquidate productive assets (by consuming seed grains or selling breeding animals) in order to meet basic needs, further increasing their vulnerability to future shocks. According to a report released by FEWS-Net, the price of animals has gone down since last year, while grain prices have increased, significantly, deteriorating the terms of trade for those who wished to sell their animals. The report also states that during January and February of this year, proceeds from the sale of one male goat sold in Asmara allows for the purchase of around 74 and 82 percent of the amount of sorghum compared to the same period in 2004. Grain prices in Eritrea have risen by between 50 and 100 percent.
- (d) Three out of four WFP sub-offices report aggravating acute water shortages. People, mostly women, are walking longer distances to water points. The queues at these water points are getting longer and prices for drinking water are increasing. The WFP Field Office located in the western region of Gash Barka reported an increasing admission of malnourished children to health facilities and hospitals, the reasons being lack of food and drinking water, including poor hygiene and sanitary conditions. Farmers are awaiting the Asmera rains to start land preparation; however, there are only a few oxen

available for land preparation and these animals have been weakened by the prolonged water and fodder shortages.

- (e) WFP commitment coverage for EMOP 10261.01 increased through a contribution of USD 9.7 million to now approximately USD 53.4 million, or approximately 148,500 tons of food commodities. This amount covers about 92 percent of this operation's total food commodity requirements. Commitment coverage for the PRRO 10192.0 has remained unchanged with USD 42.8 million, representing 83 percent of operation requirements.

(6) Ethiopia

- (a) With updated estimates released on 4 May in a Flash Update to the 2005 Humanitarian Appeal, the population in need of emergency food assistance has increased by 687,500, bringing the new total to 3.8 million. With safety net beneficiaries currently 4.5 million, the aggregate number of beneficiaries in need of food or cash transfers in 2005 has now reached 8.3 million. WFP intends to cover at least half of the emergency food requirements and has received around 64 percent of the total food contributions towards the Appeal and the Flash Update so far. WFP expects to increase its emergency food coverage in May to 2.4 million beneficiaries out of the total 3.8 million, with the remaining beneficiaries covered by contributions through the Government or NGOs.
- (b) In the updated Humanitarian Appeal, additional food needs are 66,200 tons bringing the revised emergency food requirement for general rations to 464,400 tons. Further contributions made since the Appeal was issued and coverage against the requirements has increased to around 87 percent for 2005, with an unresourced amount of 60,000 tons. Food requirements are expected to increase following the annual mid-year Belg/Gu assessment in June. Additional support is also needed for targeted supplementary feeding under the joint WFP/UNICEF Enhanced Outreach Strategy for Child Survival Interventions (EOS/CSI).
- (c) The floods in late April along the Wabe Shebelle River and in other locations in Somali Region left at least 154 dead, destroyed farmlands and houses and swept away livestock and household food stocks. Relief operations are continuing, with the greatest concerns being in the health and sanitation sector, to deal especially with the possibility of malaria and diarrhoea epidemics in flood affected areas. UN, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and NGOs are responding to health needs. After delivering some food and non-food items to cut-off locations along the Wabe Shabelle river, helicopters which were deployed to Gode ended their operations. Although some roads have opened up, further rain has meant that many areas still cannot be reached. Food and other supplies are being taken as far as the poor road conditions permit, for instance to villages near Kelafo in Gode zone, where beneficiaries walk up to two hours to collect the supplies. Further assessments will establish the extent of non-food needs. Food requirements for people in the affected areas are already included in the 2005 Appeal, as most of these people were considered in need of food aid due to drought last year.
- (d) Belg (short season) rains are continuing in many parts of the country, improving the outlook for the Belg harvest in July/August. The first weeks of March, when the Belg rains usually begin, were characterized by low rainfalls almost everywhere in the country. The middle of March was characterized by high amounts of rains in the highlands of Ethiopia. These heavy rains ended by the last week of March and a dry period of three to four weeks lasted until mid-April. Because of this long dry period, there was concern at the time about what was seen as a poor pattern of the Belg rainy season. However rains began again in a massive way by the third week of April with very heavy rains in the highlands, and rain extending into many lowlands where there

had previously been water shortages and poor pasture conditions. By the third week of April, Gu (main season) rains had set in throughout most of Somali Region. The heavy rains in the mountains in East and West Hararghe, where many tributaries of the Wabe Shebelle river start, produced an increase in the level of the river and led to the floods which began on 23-24 April. Floods have also been reported in Humbo district of Wolayita zone in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region.

- (e) Preparations have been taking place throughout the country for multi-party legislative elections to be held on 15 May.

(7) Rwanda

- (a) The influx of refugees from DRC and Burundi continues. Almost 260 new arrivals were registered during the past week, bringing the number of refugees in Rwanda to some 53,900, out of which 46,920 are Congolese and 6,980 Burundians. During the past week, 36 Burundian refugees arrived in Nyamure and 17 in Gikonko camps in Butare province and 293 Congolese in Nkamira transit camp in Gisenyi. Some 48 newborn babies were registered in Kiziba camp in Kibuye.
- (b) In the newly established Ngarama camp in Byumba, the transfer of refugees from Gisenyi continued. A total of 1,240 refugees arrived in the camp, which brought the total number to 1,805 people. A 15-day ration was provided to new asylum seekers in Nkamira transit camp. The total number of Congolese asylum seekers in Gisenyi now stands at 2,285 people.
- (c) In Ngarama camp, the construction of houses, a health centre, and warehouse and distribution sites is on going. A WFP assessment mission visited the camp to inspect the facilities for food storage and distribution, and assessed the most practical transport routing to plan the next food delivery.
- (d) Also during the week, 282 returnees from DRC arrived in Nyagatare and 73 in Nkamira transit camps. A total of 665 returnees still await transfer from Bukavu in DRC to Nyagatare.
- (e) Only 7 spontaneous repatriations were registered from Kigeme camp to Burundi.
- (f) Due to pipeline breaks, the returnee food package has now been reduced to one month instead of a three-month package, in addition to the reduction of refugee rations by 30 percent since April.

(8) Sudan

- (a) DARFUR:
- (b) On 5 May, a convoy of five WFP-contracted trucks heading towards Kutum was stopped between Kafod and Neni in North Darfur. Twenty-five tons of sorghum was looted and one truck was recovered in Neni later that day through the interventions of Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the JEM (Justice and Equality Movement). JEM has assured WFP that it is protecting the recovered food and will further ensure that efforts are made to recover any food that was already distributed.
- (c) Security continues to deteriorate along the road between Ed Daien and Nyala in South Darfur. On 8 May, two WFP-contracted trucks were attacked by gunmen in two separate incidents in the same area on the road . Two drivers were shot and killed and the drivers' assistant on one of the trucks was shot and wounded. WFP/UN condemned the killing. WFP anticipates that drivers' growing reluctance and in some cases refusal to transport commodities to Nyala will affect dispatches into the state until security improves in the area.
- (d) WFP has placed two assessment security officers in South Darfur to head and conduct

security assessments in coordination with UN Department of Security and Safety (UNDSS) and OCHA.

- (e) As of 7 May, headcounts have been completed in 71 percent of the total camps/locations, representing 49 percent of the total previously registered beneficiaries.
- (f) Cooperating Partner, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), observed increased admissions into their therapeutic feeding centre in Abu Shouk, most of whom were children under 5 years old. It was also noted that 50 percent of admitted children have not been vaccinated. ACF and GOAL have indicated plans to conduct nutritional surveys in Kebkabiyah, Kutum, Kasab and Fata Barno during the month of May.
- (g) Dispatches from the three Darfur state capitals to Cooperating Partners (CPs) between 1 and 8 May total 10,670 tons to some 562,510 beneficiaries (estimate based on dispatches).
- (h) WFP has commenced direct deliveries from El Obeid and Kosti to field offices in Kutum and Kabkabiyah, and plans to dispatch directly to Zalingie, Kass and Morni in May. During last week, WFP's fleet of 120 6x6 trucks delivered 2,250 tons to various locations in the three Darfur states.
- (i) On 7 May, WFP began airlifting food from Al Khufra in Libya to Darfur, pioneering a new route to move as much food aid as possible before the onset of the rainy season. An IL76 landed in Nyala and another landed in El Fasher, delivering a total of 38 tons of cereals. Flights are expected to continue on a daily basis to enable WFP to deliver up to 3,000 tons of food each month to Darfur over the next three months.
- (j) As of 4 May, the shortfall for Darfur EMOP 10339.1 remains at USD 186 million, representing 40 percent of total requirements (USD 467.1 million). The pipeline for Darfur has significantly improved in the past month, following an internal transfer of USD 28 million from various budget lines of the operation under the Business Process Review (BPR) mechanism. In order to guarantee a sound pipeline for the incrementally increasing caseload, the Darfur EMOP also borrowed 31,000 tons of commodities from other Sudan operations. Furthermore, a balance of USD 20.5 million in loans from WFP's Internal Response Account (IRA) still remains.
- (k) Donor support is critical to allow Darfur EMOP to repay 31,000 tons received from other Sudan operations and outstanding IRA loans of USD 20.5 million. In addition, WFP needs to reimburse the USD 28 million transferred from various budget lines of the emergency operation to ensure continued recruitment of staff and payments to transporters.
- (l) The Special Operation for logistics support in Darfur continues to face a shortfall of USD 25 million. The procurement of 100 long-haul trucks is on hold until funds are made available.
- (m) WFP-Humanitarian Air Services (HAS), which provides services to the entire humanitarian community in Sudan, faces a shortfall of USD 17 million. With monthly operating costs of USD 2 million, funds are immediately required to ensure existing contracts are extended for the coming months.
- (n) SOUTH, EAST AND TRANSITIONAL AREAS:
- (o) Access to the area on the west bank of the Nile in Galashel, Upper Nile is now officially NO GO area, due to inter-clan clashes between Dinka and Lou Nuers on 3 May.
- (p) Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) Security cleared areas in Lakes and Eastern Equatoria. On 5 May, Abuyong, Bunagok and Adior in Yirol County were cleared after measures had been taken as a consequence of inter-clan fighting in these locations in April. On May 1, 2005, OLS Security re-assessed and cleared Nimule, Parajok and Labone in Torit County.

- (q) WFP is preparing to undertake a joint security assessment mission with a mine survey component with UN Mine Action Sudan (UNMAS) on the Wau-Gogrial road.
- (r) According to reports by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) France and ACF, significant increases in admissions into feeding programs in Bentiu were recorded and causes were attributed, among others, to influxes of new arrivals displaced from Leek and Bul areas. MSF reported that the nutrition-related admissions doubled during the last month from 40 to 83 persons. In response, MSF started the implementation of a nutrition program in Bentiu in addition to scaling up an intensive phase 1 and adding an outpatient phase. WFP is exploring the possibility of providing full food rations at 100 percent instead of rations at 50 percent to targeted beneficiaries in Bentiu to assist in stabilizing the current nutritional situation.
- (s) Following consultations with the Government of Sudan/Humanitarian Aid Commission and the Sudan Relief Rehabilitation Commission, WFP and Save the Children Fund (SCF) US agreed to postpone the May 2005 nutrition baseline survey in the Nuba Mountains until after the rainy season. This will ensure sufficient lead-time for preparations on the ground, including Government of Sudan (GoS) and Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) representation.
- (t) WFP distributed 500 tons of assorted food commodities in Rumbek Centre County, Cuibet, Tambura/Ezo camps as well as in Ibba County in Western Equatoria targeting 46,940 beneficiaries, including 1,434 refugees from DRC, 8,000 returnees (from Uganda, DRC and various locations in the Northern Sector) and 4,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). In addition, WFP also distributed 147 tons of commodities to 15,600 vulnerable beneficiaries in Marial Bai, including 1,560 returnees from various locations in the Northern Sector and 1,040 IDPs.
- (u) WFP also provided 88 cartons of high-energy biscuits to UNICEF for some 350 people as part of an assisted return exercise organised by the Committee for the Eradication of Abduction of Women and Children (CEAWC). The biscuits will be provided in Muglad for these returnees en route from Nyala and Ed Daien in South Darfur and from El Fula and Muglad in West Kordofan to Northern Bahr El Ghazal.
- (v) Preparations are ongoing in Malakal for the upcoming inter-agency cross-line mission planned to start on 9 May. Technical assistance and installation of HF/VHF radios in the barge to facilitate communication commenced this week. The mission will conduct registration and simultaneous food/non-food distributions at various distribution sites for beneficiaries along the Malakal-Tonga/Sobat/Kodok corridors between 9 May and 3 June 2005.
- (w) Cross-line food delivery has reportedly improved with fewer restrictions on road movement. Some 15 trucks loaded with 285 tons of commodities arrived in Wau and 35 trucks delivered 348 tons in Aweil. Food delivery from El Obeid to Aweil is also ongoing. Truck drivers reported poor road conditions between Raja and Wau, due to the rains.
- (x) During the first week of May, WFP delivered 2,000 tons of food commodities out of 13,000 tons allocated for the month. WFP is prioritising despatches to Aweil, Raja and Abyei, which will become inaccessible in two weeks due to the rains.
- (y) A new contribution of USD 2.8 million was confirmed against Emergency Operaton 10048.3 during the past week. The EMOP faces a 77 percent shortfall against its operational requirements. To date, this EMOP, valued at USD 302 million, has received only USD 70 million, representing approximately 23 percent of the total operational requirements. Urgent contributions are immediately needed to respond to the pressing food requirements in the coming months to allow commodities to be pre-positioned before the rainy season and to ensure sufficient staffing capacity.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) The security situation within the camps of Ngora District is deteriorating. In response, the Government has further tightened restrictions on refugee markets and income generating activities. The Government believes refugees are responsible for this deterioration.
- (b) Over 2,100 refugees have voluntarily repatriated to Burundi in April.
- (c) Close to 400,500 beneficiaries received some 1,400 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. More than 7,000 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, Food-For-Work, Food-For-Training and Food-For-Hospital in-patients.
- (d) Due to resourcing shortfalls, reduced rations have been distributed for the PRRO since 2004. Further ration modifications will be introduced for the 23 May distribution cycle. No pulses will be distributed, whereas corn-soya blend rations will be temporarily increased to 40g. While refugees currently receive approximately 1,617 Kcal/day (87 percent of the usual Kcal level), their intake will be reduced to only 1,477 Kcal/day (79 percent of the usual Kcal level), which is far from what is nutritionally required for the healthy survival of beneficiaries.
- (e) During the past week, a donor contributed USD 952,066 for the purchase of vegetable oil to the Great Lakes PRRO. In addition, another donor contributed 2,010 tons maize and 1,400 tons corn-soya blend in-kind, with a value of USD 2,048,757.

(10) Uganda

- (a) The security situation in the week was marked with increased brutality by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Northern Uganda. On 5 May, the LRA rebels brutally hacked and chopped off victims at Koch Goma internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp, 24 km south west of Gulu. Seventeen people were reported killed, 15 people seriously injured and others missing. On the same day, the LRA ambushed a truck with civilians on the road from Patongo to Kalongo in Pader District. Five people were reported killed and the truck set ablaze. On 10 May, a heavy clash between the Government forces (UPDF) and LRA rebels was reported at Paloga IDP camp in Kitgum district. Seven civilians were reported killed. LRA rebels were spotted in Adjumani district and repulsed by the UPDF night patrol. In Karamoja region in north east Uganda, cattle raiding and fighting between the clans continued to be reported, resulting in the death of over 30 warriors over the past two weeks.
- (b) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period from 1 to 8 May, WFP distributed about 3,690 tons of relief food assistance to 288,395 persons, including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts; refugees; children in nutrition centers; and other vulnerable persons.
- (c) Preliminary findings of WFP/UNICEF supported Action Contre la Faim (ACF) USA nutrition assessment in Apach district in March, indicate a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 4.4 percent; a severe malnutrition rate of 1.4 percent; and a crude mortality rate of 1.4 deaths per 10,000 people per day. In Lira district, preliminary findings of a ACF-USA nutrition survey conducted in Feb-Mar 2005, in 25 camps, indicated an overall Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 2.5 percent and severe malnutrition rate of 0.2 percent.
- (d) WFP continued with its Emergency Food Security Assessment in Acholi and Lango sub-region (Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts) in April and May to review the food security situation in IDP camps and needs in the next six months. Due to the slow pace of the peace efforts and insecurity, IDPs were not able to cultivate their fields for the

April planting season. The second season in July-August 2005 will be the next opportunity for IDPs to cultivate their land if security prevails in Northern Uganda.

- (e) WFP Gulu has embarked on a major revalidation of the IDP caseload in collaboration with District authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders. A similar revalidation exercise is planned in the coming weeks in Kitgum and Pader District.
- (f) A group of some 50 people concerned with HIV/AIDS, from the District Administration; non governmental and faith based organizations; and UN agencies, met in Gulu from 9 to 11 May. The group visited three IDP camps for displaced people in Gulu District, reviewed the available data on HIV prevalence and existing interventions, and identified priority interventions in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and mitigation, including support for orphans and vulnerable children, which could be accelerated in the near future.
- (g) WFP's pipeline situation is still precarious with a shortfall of 99,380 tons of food commodities and a funding gap of USD 49 million required to maintain the food pipeline, necessary to continue providing relief assistance to IDPs and refugees through December. Unless new contributions are confirmed urgently, WFP will run out of commodities in June, and the nutritional status of 1.4 million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda, mostly women and children, will be jeopardized.

(D) West Africa: (1) West Africa Coastal Region (2) Benin (3) Burkina Faso (4) Chad (5) Cote d'Ivoire (6) Ghana (7) Liberia (8) Mali (9) Sierra Leone (10) Togo

(1) West Africa Coastal Region

- (a) Through the regional West Africa Coastal PRRO 10064.3, which is assisting displaced and resettling populations in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, WFP continues to take steps to ensure that support to refugees continues, despite significant pipeline shortfalls. Different programmes, including emergency school feeding, Food-For-Work and Food-For-Training, have been reduced and/or suspended. While general rations for refugees, IDPs and returnees are continuing, only reduced rations are being distributed. Additional donor support is urgently needed in order to enable distribution of full rations and full implementation of normalizing programmes like school feeding and Food-For-Work.

(2) Benin

- (a) According to statistics from UNHCR, more than 12,000 refugees have been registered in Benin; 5,000 of which are living in camps and 7,000 of which are living with friends and family. WFP is providing food in both camps, as well as assisting with the transport of non-food items. A three-day inter-agency needs assessment mission with WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF is continuing.
- (b) The UN has released a USD 5 million flash appeal to provide assistance to approximately 20,000 refugees in Benin over the next six months. Included in this appeal is USD 1.6 million for WFP, to enable the purchase and delivery of food for approximately 30,000 beneficiaries (including 20,000 refugees and 10,000 people hosting refugees).

(3) Burkina Faso

- (a) Through PRRO 10372, WFP's support to returnees is continuing through Food-For-Work and Food-For-Assets activities, as well as through school feeding support.

(4) Chad

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- (a) The overall security situation was relatively calm in eastern Chad. Registration problems, however, mainly in camps in Iridimi, Touloum, Mille and Kounoungou, are raising concerns as regards to the security of humanitarian staff.
 - (b) The WFP/UNHCR target caseload figure currently stands at 193,300 refugees, pending results of ongoing re-verification processes in Touloum and Iridimi camps. Results of the second phase of re-census in the camps of Djabal and Goz Amir indicate the presence of some 13,295 refugees (4,140 families) and 16,925 refugees (5,296 families) in each camp respectively. To date, a total of 540 refugees have been transferred to the new refugee camp of Gaga.
 - (c) A recent nutritional survey conducted by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in Am Nabak indicated a global acute malnutrition rate of 24.6 percent and severe acute malnutrition of 1.6 percent. ACF clearly expressed that those rates were not linked to the amount of food available, but to other factors, such as the situation of children left alone by their mothers, cultural refusal to attend to supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres, insufficient provision of water and poor sanitation. WFP is closely working with UNHCR to address these issues, particularly those related to protection of neglected children.
 - (d) WFP food rations for 1,500 beneficiaries in the camps have been pre-positioned to cover 10 days requirements. To overcome difficulties faced during the last distributions, due to lack of UNHCR trucks, it has been agreed that May distributions would be conducted on the basis of 30-day rations in northern camps and 15-day rations in southern camps. Distributions will be carried out simultaneously in all camps, with a complete food basket, equivalent to 2,069 Kcal/person/day.
 - (e) From 5 to 11 May, WFP distributed 20.4 tons of dates to some 23,000 school children in Iridimi, Touloum, Am Nabak, Mille, Kounoungou and Farchana camps. The remaining camps are expected to be covered during the current week. Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme, WFP distributed some 66 tons of food to approx. 15,000 children and pregnant/nursing mothers in Iridimi, Touloum and Oure Cassoni camps.
 - (f) Efforts are underway to speed up food pre-positioning with priority given to southern camps and central camps. Some 13,000 tons of food, out of a total requirement of 20,000 tons, have already been stocked.
 - (g) WFP is increasing its assistance to the local population through various targeted interventions, including Food-For-Work (FFW), school feeding and blanket supplementary feeding. While partner ADESK is preparing to commence an activity to construct a primary school fence in Iriba, it has also submitted a new project to WFP, which aims to build 15 classrooms in five primary schools in Touloum, Argouni, Bakaouri, Saharen and Sourabourkidi areas. Negotiations are underway with International Relief Development (IRD) to initiate a number of FFW projects for the local population. IRD staff are expected to arrive in Chad around mid-May.
 - (h) The first convoy of 63 trucks using the western route (through Faya) of the Libyan corridor has arrived in Abéché. A second convoy of 44 trucks, carrying a total of 1,010 tons of wheat, is expected to arrive in Abéché shortly. WFP is reinforcing its logistics capacities on the Libyan corridor, in close coordination with its offices in Sudan and Libya. Given the significant increase in tonnage and number of convoys, a WFP convoy coordinator is now organizing and monitoring the convoys.
 - (i) Six Wiikhalls with a capacity of about 2,200 tons have been installed in a site near Abéché, to facilitate stocking of food destined to Al-Geneina, Sudan.
 - (j) For the month of April, WFP Humanitarian Air Services served an increased total of 1,065 passengers to the destinations of Abéché, Bahai, Goz Beida, Adre, Koukou Angarana, Iriba, N'Djamena, Yaoundé and Bangui. Main users include international

NGOs, UN Agencies, Diplomatic Corps, Government counterparts and others.

(5) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) From 5 to 11 May, more than 400 tons of food were distributed to over 23,000 people. This includes distributions to nearly 3,300 refugees still living in camps in Tabou, as well as more than 1000 people being assisted through Seed Protection/Food-For-Agriculture projects. In this programme, seeds and tools are provided together with a seed protection ration to ensure that the families do not eat the seeds out of short term hunger and have enough energy to prepare their fields.
- (b) A disarmament workshop in Yamoussoukro ended on 7 May without an agreement on a start date or timetable for the disarmament process. However, representatives of the Government and the Forces Nouvelles agreed to meet again on 13 May to examine a new timetable.
- (c) A WFP nutrition training during which WFP partners are being trained on how to detect malnutrition and provide supplementary feeding, is ongoing.

(6) Ghana

- (a) While the movement of refugees has slowed down, it is estimated that a total of over 10,000 refugees from Togo have crossed into Ghana. Further to continuous needs assessments, the distribution of food and non-food assistance may now start in a targeted manner through local non-governmental and church organizations. Memoranda of Understanding with Catholic Relief Services and the three parish partners are being finalized.
- (b) Distributions to Liberian refugees reached more than 6,100 persons (70 percent of targeted number) during the last monthly distribution cycle through PRRO 10372. The food distribution was coordinated by the National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) in collaboration with WFP and UNHCR staff.

(7) Liberia

- (a) WFP participated in the annual technical meeting on the Results Focused Transitional Framework (RFTF) for Liberia, which took place in Copenhagen, Denmark 9-10 May. The meeting reviewed the progress so far achieved, analyzed the constraints faced during implementation and reviewed the revised RFTF document. The intention of the meeting was to strengthen RFTF priorities to better deal with emerging issues, particularly related to post-transition needs and the transition from emergency relief to recovery and development.
- (b) From 4 to 10 May, more than 76,000 vulnerable beneficiaries received nearly 700 tons of WFP food in Liberia. This included emergency school feeding support to nearly 62,000 children as well as over 10,000 returnees and IDPs who received resettlement packages in an effort to facilitate and encourage resettlement of displaced persons. Since the repatriation of refugees and resettlement of IDPs started in October/November 2004, some 15,000 returnees and 133,000 IDPs have been supported by WFP with resettlement packages.
- (c) In WFP's continued effort to progressively shift from emergency to recovery activities, WFP has approved seven new Food-For-Work/Food in Support-of-Local-Initiative projects, primarily consisting of cassava cultivation and low land rice farming. Additionally, in Bong County, over 730 ex-combatants graduated from skill development and vocational training programmes supported by WFP. These people received training in various disciplines including: auto-mechanics, carpentry, masonry and agriculture, and plumbing.

(8) Mali

- (a) WFP continues to contribute to the integration of returnees into their communities of origin (villages, suburbs) by trying to minimize the burden on receiving families.
- (b) Through PRRO 10372, ongoing Food-For-Work activities are enabling the preservation and valorisation of natural resources.

(9) Sierra Leone

- (a) During the month of April, WFP distributed more than 900 tons of food to over 210,000 beneficiaries, including more than 175,000 children who were fed through school feeding programmes.
- (b) Data collection for the "Food Security & Vulnerability Survey combined with the Crop Production Survey and Health & Nutrition Survey" is ongoing. This initiative covers all districts in Sierra Leone and is being carried out by an inter-agency team including WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, WHO, Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), Statistics Sierra Leone, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) and the Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development (which includes CARE, World Vision, CRS and Africare).
- (c) Plans are underway to conduct a baseline survey for the School Feeding component of the Country Programme and an evaluation of the Community-based School Feeding pilot project launched in 2003.

(10) Togo

- (a) Following violence resulting from the 26 April declaration of Faure Gnassingbe (late President Eyadema' son) as winner of the presidential elections in Togo, thousands of people crossed the border from Togo into neighbouring Ghana and Benin.
- (b) In the coming days, WFP will participate in an interagency rapid needs assessment in Togo.

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

(1) Regional

- (a) Joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions and national Vulnerability Assessment Committee exercises are still underway. WFP tentatively estimates the combined additional drought relief needs of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia to be around 217,000 tons of food, which together with a similar quantity for Zimbabwe would have an approximate total cost of approximately USD 240 million.
- (b) The latest forecast of 2005 maize output in South Africa, the sub-region's largest producer, is 11.8 million tons. This represents an increase of approximately 11 percent over the five-year average. Current ex-silo prices are around USD 90 per ton, which is over 40 percent less than the corresponding price a year ago. Subject to donor resources being available, this presents WFP with a valuable procurement opportunity.

(2) Angola

- (a) As of 10 May, the Ministry of Health in Angola has reported 316 cases of the virus in Uige Province, the epicentre of the outbreak. Of these cases, 276 were fatal. According to recent health reports, six new cases of Marburg haemorrhagic fever have been recorded. WFP continues to support the Government of Angola and UN efforts to halt the spread of the disease by providing logistical services.

- (b) UNHCR's voluntary repatriation operation of Angolan refugees from camps and settlements in the region is drawing to a close. By the end of October 2005, virtually all refugees should have returned and UNCHR convoys and airlift operations will conclude. More than 300,000 Angolans have returned home since 2002, either spontaneously or with the assistance of UNHCR convoys and airlifts. Upon arrival in Angola, refugees receive two month's rations from WFP along with a UNHCR reintegration package with basic non-food items. The repatriation of more than 53,000 refugees from surrounding asylum countries is planned during the next seven months. A group of 3,000 refugees in the Republic of Congo have not yet decided to repatriate, as the majority of them originate from the Angolan enclave of Cabinda, where preparations for return are still underway.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) From 4 to 10 May, WFP in cooperation with implementing partners, distributed some 590 tons of food to 41,000 beneficiaries. Recipients are participating in targeted programmes dealing with mother and child health care; early childhood care and development; vulnerable group feeding; orphans and other vulnerable children; HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis patients enrolled in clinics and home-based care projects; and Food-For-Work participants.

(4) Malawi

- (a) The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) have finalized their fieldwork and met with key government stakeholders. Analysis of the final CSFAM report is underway. In addition, the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment exercise has analysed data collection and put together a preliminary draft report. The final report is being consolidated and expected soon. Six teams comprising participants from various government departments, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO) took part in the countrywide exercise.

(5) Namibia

- (a) Remaining Angolan refugees at Osire Camp in Namibia are hesitant about returning home due to conflicting reports from previous returnees. On a recent visit to the camp, Namibia's Home Affairs and Immigration Minister urged the remaining refugees, estimated at 6,000, to sign up for repatriation before the organized repatriation exercise ends in December 2005. In 2006, refugees will have to bear the cost of returning home themselves. The two governments of Angola and Namibia and UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement in November 2002. Through the process, over 8,300 refugees have been repatriated to Angola.

(6) Swaziland

- (a) The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission have completed their fieldwork and a final report of their findings is expected soon. Preliminary data indicate that the harvest in the Lowveld have been severely reduced by irregular rainfall. According the national newspaper "Swaziland Today", the selling price of cotton has dropped by 50 percent from E800 to E400 (USD 131 to USD 66) per bale. Farmers are currently seeking government intervention in alleviating the numerous problems facing the industry and affecting farmer's income.
- (b) From 3 to 10 May, WFP and implementing partners distributed food assistance to 15,400 beneficiaries.

(7) Zambia

- (a) The voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees from Zambia has resumed for the third and final year. The organized refugee repatriation exercise began in 2003 with agreements between UNHCR and the Angolan and Zambian governments. A total of 46,000 refugees were repatriated during 2003/04. In 2005, WFP, UNHCR and partner agencies plan to help repatriate approximately 35,000 Angolan refugees. Zambia is currently hosting 84,840 refugees from other countries, for whom WFP is providing food.

(8) Zimbabwe

- (a) A government crop assessment will be concluded soon. A senior government official informed the state-owned media that the assessment would determine the number of people in need of food assistance. The state media also reported that technical experts conducting the assessment estimated that production levels for maize were between 500,000 to 800,000 tons this agricultural season.
- (b) To date, the government of Zimbabwe has not requested a Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission this year. However, reliable estimates from agricultural technicians indicate that maize production will not exceed 500,000 tons. This is less than half of the 2004 crop and compares with needs of approximately 1.5 million tons. Current information on the increasingly negative food situation in Zimbabwe during 2005/06 indicates a relatively large volume of WFP food assistance may be needed.
- (c) The needs assessment carried out under the aegis of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) is in progress, with the review of secondary data nearing completion. Twelve teams of five persons will undertake fieldwork towards the end of May. The teams will spend about two weeks assessing household vulnerability in 93 sites around the country. The final assessment report is expected towards the end of June 2005.
- (d) During April, WFP and implementing partners fed 950,000 beneficiaries in Zimbabwe. Approximately 54,000 people were assisted through home-based care programmes for people living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, 50,000 children were assisted through programmes specifically targeting orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC). Through urban-based supplementary feeding programmes, some 57,000 children below the age of five received take-home rations to assist in their recovery towards a better nutritional status. The majority of WFP beneficiaries during April were pre and primary school children in 40 districts and the cities of Harare and Bulawayo. In May, WFP plans to reach just over 1 million beneficiaries.

(F) Asia: (1) Bangladesh (2) Korea (DPR) (3) Myanmar

(1) Bangladesh

- (a) A mild heat wave is sweeping through the northwest, southwest and central regions of Bangladesh. Increasingly hot, sultry weather restricts work output and activities, particularly during midday. The highest temperature this month was reported at 40 degree Celsius. Rice harvesting has begun, and farmers expect a reasonably good harvest this season.
- (b) The school-feeding programme, that forms part of Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10380, Assistance to Flood Affected People in Bangladesh, will continue until July 2005 when food distributions under the Emergency Operation will end. Over 600,000 children in flood-affected areas receive high-energy biscuits under the programme.
- (c) Food-For-Work and Food-For-Asset activities are ongoing in four districts.
- (d) In consultation with the governmental counterpart, WFP will target beneficiaries and

locations to be covered by the new donation of rice, allocated to the EMOP's Rural Livelihoods Support programme. Government clearance for the distribution of this rice is expected to be received before the end of the current week. Distribution of wheat under the same programme may face delays, owing to some disagreement on the part of the government, about commodity (cereals) swap-ratios. WFP is optimistic that the situation will be resolved without delays.

- (e) Current resourcing levels of the Emergency Operation stand at almost 47 percent.

(2) Korea (DPR)

- (a) During the last week 18 out of 19 Local Food Production factories operated without major problems. Production for the week was almost 1, 400 tons, or 95 percent of the EMOP requirement.
- (b) Unless new donations of cereals are urgently made, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to elderly people, primary school children (take-home rations) and the poorest urban households from mid-June. By late July, rations for pregnant and nursing women (PNW) and children in nurseries and kindergartens will also have to be cut. Production of fortified food for children and PNW in WFP-supported factories will be maintained until end-August, and assistance to orphanages and hospitals until end-September.

(3) Myanmar

- (a) WFP continued to provide relief assistance through World Vision to Tsunami victims in Kawthaung, Tanintharyi Division. FFW activities implemented by WFP's cooperating partners, World Vision and ADRA, are on-going in Kawthaung and Delta region. A total of 745 tons was distributed since the beginning of the operation.
- (b) During the last two weeks, a total of 63 tons of mix food (rice, pulses and vegetable oil) was distributed to returnees, TB patients, Food-For-Training (FFT) and Food-For-Work (FFW) participants in Northern Rankhine State. FFT included on-the-job training of masonry and carpentry; tailoring training; and snack-making and needlecraft training for women and adolescent girls. FFW activities included the construction of village access roads, ponds and dam constructions among others.
- (c) Under the PRRO operation in Magway, a total of 265 tons of mixed food was distributed to approximately 12,000 vulnerable individuals, partially through FFT activities.
- (d) For the preparation of a new Emergency Operation (EMOP), WFP visited new expansion areas in Southern Shan, and discussed up-coming program activities and cooperating partner's involvements. Similarly, WFP food monitors and staff of cooperating partners carried out an assessment mission to the new expansion area in Lashio in order to verify the estimated caseload made by Cooperating Partners.

(G) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Bolivia (2) Colombia (3) Cuba (4) El Salvador (5) Guatemala (6) Nicaragua

(1) Bolivia

- (a) In Santa Cruz, some 620 peasants, acting as part of the "Landless Movement", occupied large extensions of land in eastern Bolivia on 5 May, taking some 60 people hostage. The government negotiated with the Movement the liberation of the hostages, many of whom were injured. On 10 May, 6 hostages were released, 3 of them are currently in coma due to heavy beating. Santa Cruz local leaders threatened to defend their lands with arms if the government fails to take action.
- (b) A general strike has paralyzed the city of Tarija since 5 May and affected staff

movement. On 10 May, the government and local authorities reached an agreement and protests were interrupted. On 10 May, President Mesa announced his decision not to promulgate the hydrocarbons law remitted by the congress and called for a national meeting on 16 May between authorities (local, regional and national), social and civic movements and political parties, to reach an agreement regarding the national energy and oil policy.

- (c) A counterpart's administrative problem delayed the last distribution of 37 tons of food in the Municipality of Charagua. The counterpart is ready to start the second part of the distribution. However, beans imported from Argentina could not be delivered to warehouses since the Bolivian government could not complete import documentation, apparently due to the strike of the Argentinean Agricultural Service. However, rations distribution will be ensured independently from the arrival of this beans delivery.

(2) Colombia

- (a) At least 21 members of illegal armed groups were killed in clashes between rebels and the Colombian military. Clashes took place in different areas in the provinces of Antioquia, Tolima, Guaviare and Arauca. Various weapons and ammunition were seized by Colombian authorities.
- (b) New displacements have been reported in the Province of Bolivar, where at least 38 families from rural areas of the municipality of San Pablo have been forced to flee to urban areas of this municipality, due to clashes and confrontations between illegal armed groups and the Colombian army. No further information has been released about this issue.
- (c) The situation remains volatile in Bojaya (Province of Choco) due to constant clashes between illegal armed groups. The situation caused massive population displacements in the past few weeks. WFP and some other UN agencies with presence in Colombia have expressed their concern by issuing a public statement asking the Colombian government for more support for all communities affected by the conflict in the province of Choco. Although the situation in Bojaya has remained calm for the past few days and no new incidents or massive displacements of population have been reported, the situation is still tense, as the presence of illegal armed groups in the area could trigger at any moment more massive displacements.
- (d) Particularly adverse weather conditions continue to affect different provinces of the country. At least 24 people died between April and May and at least 30 more have been severely injured due to this situation. During last week, areas were affected by landslides, floods and rains in the Provinces of Choco, Santander and Risaralda. WFP develops several food aid activities in the Provinces of Choco and Santander.
- (e) A total of some 540 tons of food was delivered last week in the context of the PRRO 10158, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence. The food was distributed in 13 provinces, reaching 76,720 people. The commodities were distributed under Food-For-Crisis; Community kitchens; Food-For-Work/Food-For-Training; Nutritional Recovery; Expectant and Nursing mothers; and Pre-School and School Feeding activities.

(3) Cuba

- (a) Sporadic rainfalls continue to be insufficient in the eastern provinces of the country and temperatures remain higher than average; climatic forecasts do not show significant improvements for the coming months.
- (b) Cuba's authorities are adopting measures to overcome the crisis, by planning new water pipelines in the eastern region, providing inhabitants with materials and pumps to

build reservoirs for collective use and setting up water filling stations for tank trucks. Priority is given to hospitals, schools, day care centers, schools and elderly people's homes as well as to other special institutions, so as to ensure a daily supply of water through all possible means.

- (c) The population in the six most affected provinces of Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Camaguey continues to receive a monthly -free of charge- ration of food consisting of rice and beans, in addition to the one distributed to the general population in the country through the national distribution network.
- (d) A three-month Emergency Operation for Cuba, EMOP 10423.0, was approved on 28 April . This Emergency Operation will reach 773,000 people by providing assistance to vulnerable groups (pregnant and nursing women, children under five years old and elderly people) affected by the drought, with a complementary food ration of rice, beans and vegetable oil. The total cost of this operation will be of USD 3,725,522. Several Ambassadors have been contacted locally to obtain support for this EMOP. Local loans are not possible, since government reserves are low and no other agency contributes with food to the country.

(4) El Salvador

- (a) A series of strong earth tremors have hit the Western Departments of Ahuachapan and Sonsonate over the past week. The movements have been low on the Richter scale, maximum 4.8, but the relatively low depth of the movements, between one and 20 km, have caused damages to houses and forced families to sleep outdoors or in provisional camps established by the National Civil Defense force.
- (b) Tension is high in the Northern Department of Chalatenango along the border with Honduras after claims of a military incursion by Honduran troops into Salvadoran territory on 5 May.
- (c) Emergency food distributions have been carried out in the Eastern Department of Morazan, mainly in communities along the Honduran border. Morazan is considered one of the poorest departments in the country and lies within the "drought corridor" where cases of malnutrition have been on the rise as the communities are facing the peak of the lean period before the next maize harvest in August. WFP is immediately assisting 350 of the affected families with three month rations and is coordinating the ongoing assessment and response with the National Family Secretariat, Catholic Relief Services and World Vision International. New confirmed contributions of corn-soya blend (CSB) and oil for the PRRO 10212.0 will improve the pipeline situation over the next few months; however, additional contributions of CSB and oil are required to fully meet the operation's needs over the coming six months.

(5) Guatemala

- (a) Guatemala's recently approved Law on Food Security and Nutrition was officially published on 2 May. Civil society representatives have expressed their high expectations for programs to be implemented to improve the country's food security and nutritional situation.
- (b) The Minister of Finance announced that the 2006 National Budget is prioritizing social investment and justice system as the basis for development in compliance with the Peace Agreements. The education sector will benefit from a budget increase of USD 45-65 million in 2006. A rural development commission, comprising government institutions and the social sector, initiated a series of joint assessments at the province level to identify potential development opportunities for long-term investments.
- (c) President Berger confirmed that the increase in fuel costs will not impact the electricity

bill during the next three months. However, no decision has been made regarding subsidies, and measures to reduce fuel costs are being analyzed.

- (d) The yellow alert in the country continues because of the forest fires.
- (e) A total of 80 tons of maize, beans, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil were distributed to community-based centers in the Province of Huehuetenango for the nutritional recovery of children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women. This food distribution will benefit a total of 943 families (4,715 beneficiaries).
- (f) PRRO 10212 is replenishing maize stocks with 900 tons of locally purchased maize, thanks to a cash contribution.

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) Phase I of the Security Plan remains for the entire country. Meanwhile, regular activities resumed in WFP Offices. According to press reports, a new wave of illegal land occupations is affecting the department of Chinandega, in the northern-central part of Nicaragua, with 5 new illegal land occupations.
- (b) The price of basic food commodities remains very high as a result of the increased prices of fuel, bad harvest, speculations in the grain market and substantial exports to El Salvador and Costa Rica. A hundred pounds of beans costed COR 800 (USD 48.00) this week, compared to COR 560 (USD 33.00) last month.
- (c) Approximately 10,365 pregnant and lactating women; 11,160 children under two years old; 1,790 vulnerable rural families and 53,805 schoolchildren in the central and northern Atlantic Regions will benefit of food distributions under PRRO 10212.0
- (d) If no commodities are announced in the coming months or those that are announced arrive late, Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10212.0 will face shortfalls of rice, beans, vegetable oil, maize and corn-soya blend through October.

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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1 [www.wfp.org] <http://www.wfp.org>

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