

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2006
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(A) Highlights

- (a) In Pakistan, despite the grounding of UN flights due to the cartoon protests earlier in February, WFP distributed 16,814 tons of food to 1, 047,579 beneficiaries.
- (b) The humanitarian situation continues to be of great concern in Somali region and Borena zone of Oromiya region in Ethiopia, and is likely to deteriorate further with the progressing dry "Jilal" season.
- (c) In Somalia, some 4,000 tons have just been distributed to 170,000 beneficiaries in Lower Juba and Gedo region and another 1,000 tons will be distributed shortly in Bay and Bakool regions.

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Occupied Palestinian Territories (2) Pakistan (3) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

(1) Occupied Palestinian Territories

- (a) There are clear signs of mounting violence in oPt. This month has seen a significant increase in hostilities in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel, and internal violence in oPt. Security threats of kidnapping against foreigners and national staff of International organisations have increased in Gaza and the West Bank. Karni Crossing was closed from the 1st-5th and from the 21st-28th of February owing to security concerns. As a result, the Gaza mills have run out of wheat grain directly impacting WFP operations, and prices of basic commodities showed an increase by 10-15 percent. Erez Terminal, the passenger crossing point from Israel into Gaza Strip, was closed for two days following a barrage of attacks in early February. UN National Staff are currently unable to cross through Erez crossing owing to security procedures. UN national staff in the West Bank also faced increased access restrictions.
- (b) Many major donors are threatening to disengage themselves from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). WFP is concerned that a reduction in donor support to Palestinians may lead to deterioration of the humanitarian situation in oPt. If further

donations do not materialize soon, WFP will be forced to reduce the level of food assistance to the population as of May 2006. WFP is conducting multi-sector contingency planning to prepare for all eventualities of the humanitarian and financial situation. WFP has also taken the pre-emptive step of establishing two separate pipelines to handle programmes implemented through the Ministry or otherwise.

- (c) A new Palestinian Prime Minister, Ismail Haniya, has been appointed and is in the process of convening his Government. This process is expected to be completed around the end of March, just after the Israeli elections.
- (d) Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10387, basic food needs of both the Social Hardship Cases (SHC) and New Poor (NP) will be met through distribution of monthly family rations. While the SHC will receive relief food as part of the MSA programme, 'new poor' beneficiaries will receive food through participation in Food-for-Work (FFW) and Food-for training (FFT) activities implemented through CRS, CHF and MOA. The most vulnerable individuals living in institutions will be provided a daily food ration through Cooperating Partners (CPs).
- (e) Under the Social Hardship Case programme, distributions and work projects went on normally. In the West Bank, over 7,114 chronically poor families received about 700 tons of mixed food commodities for the November-December allocation. This completes the second distribution cycle since the beginning of the PRRO. In the Gaza Strip, some 9,981 chronically poor families received about 1000 tons of mixed food commodities for the January-February allocation.
- (f) Under the Food-for-Work and Food-for-Training Programme, in the West Bank, about 24,105 New Poor families received over 2,723 tons of mixed food commodities in February. The current phase of FFW and FFT implemented by CRS and CHF was completed in Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus and Jenin. The preparations for the next phase have already started. In addition, over 100 training sessions were held with women. In the Gaza Strip, distributions are ongoing. MOA Bedouin selection has been completed in the South and is ongoing in the Middle areas. FFW activities with landless daily wage -earners are on-going as per activity plan.
- (g) Under the Institutional Feeding Programme, WFP visited new institutions that were previously targeted by UNRWA but are now covered by WFP in accordance with the new WFP-UNWRA agreement. The next food distribution to institutions will be in mid-March.
- (h) Preparatory meetings were held in West Bank and Gaza Strip with FAM and CPs to plan International Women's Day celebrations and contingency planning. CHF Gaza Strip, funded by WFP, have developed a beneficiary database to be shared with the MOA. The database is currently under joint pilot testing.
- (i) WFP maps for West Bank and Gaza Strip of intervention versus food insecurity were completed.
- (j) As a result of the Karni closure, the Palestinian Ministry of Economy reported that the flow of commodities between the Gaza Strip and Israel is "of great concern". WFP monitoring in the past weeks has shown a shortage of basic commodities in Gaza Strip and West Bank and an increase in prices of some basic commodities. In the mid-term, price changes will have a negative impact on purchasing power of low income families.
- (k) The oPt SPR Exercise 2005 has been completed. Commodity purchases are ongoing locally and internationally. WFP have developed two separate pipelines to manage the new donor constraints.
- (l) The closure of Karni interrupted WFP operations as, owing to shortage of grain, the Gaza local mills cannot deliver the required wheat flour quantities. WFP is in negotiations to agree an alternative cargo entry point for the humanitarian cargo into

Gaza Strip.

- (m) The contracted West Bank mill is fully operational, supplying WFP with around 4,400 tons of WHF to cover West Bank beneficiary needs for the period of March/April 2006. Iodized salt production and delivery is ongoing to meet the allocation requirements until the end of March.
- (n) WFP met with representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, OCHA, WHO, and UNESCO in West Bank and Gaza Strip to discuss inter-agency contingency planning. VAM and UNRWA have agreed to conduct a joint mapping exercise of UNRWA and WFP interventions.

(2) Pakistan

- (a) During the reporting period (22-28 February), nationwide protest rallies continued. The situation remains volatile and could deteriorate when US President George W. Bush visits Pakistan on the 4th of March. Islamabad will be sealed off during the President visit. The opposition and the main protest group, the Muttahida Majlis-e-ammal (MMA) have announced nationwide demonstrations this weekend. On the 24th of February, 25,000 people demonstrated in Lahore and some 15,000 policemen and 3000 paramilitary troops were deployed to patrol the streets. The demonstrations have hindered UN operations and movement in some parts of the country and the security cell continue to issue security advisories to all staff.
- (b) The snowline has receded significantly since its maximum on the 19th of January and no significant further snowfall is forecast at the moment. However, heavy rain has hampered relief efforts and caused fatal landslides to the local population and UN staff. Several main roads remain blocked.
- (c) Despite the grounding of UN flights due to the cartoon protests earlier in February, WFP distributed 16,814 tons of food to 1, 047,579 beneficiaries, 106 percent of total requirement for February.
- (d) Food distribution for the month of February has been completed in seven Union Councils (UCs) in Bagh. The two remaining UCs have been covered up to 80 percent. Food distribution to 16 camps was completed for 7,622 beneficiaries and an estimated 162 tons of mixed food distributed. The security situation remained calm in the district and operational areas. However, as per advice of the Government, UNDSS in Bagh disallowed staff movements on 24 February (Friday) as a precautionary measure. A few peaceful processions around the city were organised by local politicians. Call forward of food for March distribution has already been initiated and taking stock balances into account, it consists of 1,800 tons of wheat flour. Vegetable oil and pulses are in sufficient quantities to cover the food requirements for March. Distribution for UC Baidi to 11,350 beneficiaries for March will commence on the 6th of March and to be completed through helicopter operations.
- (e) In Ghari Habibullah, an estimated 309 tons food was dispatched. Supplementary feeding program initiated with the partnership of Action Against Hunger. 12 tons of food was dispatched for four Supplementary Feeding centers for four months in Mansehra and Balakot as per agreed proposal. In February WFP sub-office's total caseload in tented camps was 44,068 tons. A meeting was held with the Regional Relief Commissioner this week to discuss the WFP remaining caseload for camps for February. At the meeting, it was agreed that out of February's remaining balance of 6,468 people, the Havelian camp be provided to 6,088 beneficiaries. Food distributions have been completed for the month of February in Balakot, Satbani, Gahnool and Hungrai UCs. Food dispatches to Kawai and Mahandri UCs could not be completed due to road closures and landslides.
- (f) During the reporting period, 1,354 tons of mixed food commodities were distributed to 38,172 beneficiaries in Battagram (Allai), Mansehra (Kala Dhaka) Shangla and

Kohistan. 410 tons of mixed food commodities from Battagram, 287 tons from Chatterplain and 88 tons from Abbotabad warehouse were dispatched to Allai, Palas, Dassu, Kala Dhaka and Alpuri Tehsils. Last week, security measures was upgraded and all vehicles moving out of Battagram are required to have police or military escort. This has reduced WFP transport capacity. Weather conditions continued to be unfavorable, heavy rain on the 24th and 25th of February caused road closed by landslides. Meanwhile, on the 26th of February a small quantity dispatches to Maidan Camp in Battagram was possible. Also deliveries from Peshawar was interrupted. A sustainable return strategy has been worked out for Battagram district focusing on assistance in the organized return of IDPs from planned camps, and assistance in the return of spontaneous IDPs from both inside and outside the district. In Chatter Plain, no air operations could be undertaken for two days as a result of bad weather. Introduction of helicopter sling use for both food and NFI was undertaken.

- (g) WFP consulted AJK Government on the upcoming Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan visited WFP Muzaffarabad to see the sling operations undertaken by the Australian Black Hawks. She visited WFP airport warehouses and flew to Danna Machiara to observe distributions. General food distributions for the month of February is almost completed. Pre-positioning for March has started in some UCs. Air dispatches as well as road deliveries were disrupted on the 25th and 26th of February due to unfavorable weather conditions. Food deliveries by air to Banamula (area declared No-Go in December 2005) have resumed.
- (h) The Emergency Operation (EMOP) is resourced 71 percent against the appeal. Currently, UNHAS funding is due to run out very soon and US\$24 million is urgently needed to maintain the helicopter 'lifeline' operation, the largest relief helicopter operation in UN history, until the end of August to assist thousands of victims of last year's earthquake. Road access is expected to remain limited for some time due to ongoing landslides. According to the International Landslide Center/Landslide Observatory Open File Report, the snow melt could result in further landslides in March and April, with a second round of landslides during the July monsoon season. It could take several months to repair and open primary and secondary roads.
- (i) The deliveries from the hubs to extended delivery points from the 20 – 26th of February 2006 amount to 3,251 tons, out of which 740 tons were delivered by air.
- (j) 20 UNHAS helicopters are currently operational and flying when the weather allows it. In addition, UNHAS is on a day to day basis tasking four US helicopters and two NATO helicopters bringing the total air assets under UNHAS tasking to 26. Since the start of the air operations UNHAS has airlifted 15,799 tons of Food Items, 4,045 tons Non-food Items and 27,326 passengers.

(3) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

- (a) During the reporting period (16-28 February), kidnapping and low level conflicts resulting in the death of servicemen and militants continued in Chechnya and neighbouring republics. On the 27th of February in Nazran, Ingushetia, the President's father-in-law was kidnapped. At the end of February, the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner in a statement asked the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to resume its operations in Chechnya. DRC suspended activities in Chechnya in the beginning of February following the suspension of DRC in the region.
- (b) During the reporting period, there was no general relief distribution either in Chechnya or Ingushetia due to lack of food commodities and a break in the pipeline. The monitoring of the situation conducted in both republics showed a need of food aid. Many IDPs have requested WFP to resume relief distribution.

- (c) During the reporting period, WFP through its Cooperating Partner, CPHC, distributed an estimated 15 tons of food to 210 Food-For-Work (FFW) beneficiaries for the works implemented in November and to 183 FFW beneficiaries for December. No FFW projects were undertaken in February due to the current shortage of food. The Food-for-Education (FFE) programme was implemented in 401 schools in Chechnya to provide High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to 135,000 schoolchildren.
- (d) Under the IMC/WFP Food-for-Training project, 45 trainees continued vocational courses in Chechnya and Ingushetia. They will receive food upon completion of the courses. WFP also provided the Dining Hall project with an estimated 13 tons of food. WFP jointly with the Local Government and Caritas are preparing to set up 4 new canteens in all districts of Grozny City. WFP also supported the TB project by providing an estimated 10 tons of food to 337 TB patients in Ingushetia, and an estimated 12 tons of food to 349 TB patients in Chechnya.
- (e) WFP has appealed for urgently needed funds to resume basic food distribution for thousands of people in Chechnya and Ingushetia. Three months ago, WFP suspended general relief distribution due to insufficient funds. WFP has received only 12 percent of the US\$22 million needed for its ongoing twelve-month operation.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) Hostilities between the army and the remaining fighting movement National Liberation Forces (FNL) prevailed in Bubanza and Bujumbura Rural provinces. Moreover, armed banditry continued to be reported.
- (b) Rwandans continued to cross the border into Burundi in search of alleged asylum. Some reports also indicate that they are fleeing hunger in the southern part of Rwanda, which is part of the Bugesera natural region currently affected by food shortage in both Burundi and Rwanda. The same information is also spread regarding Burundians crossing into Tanzania.
- (c) WFP continued the distribution of seeds protection rations (SPR) to support the agricultural season 2006B. Thus far, a total of 3,585 tons out of the planned 5,428 tons have been distributed in fourteen provinces. Between 20 and 26 February, WFP distributed 1,424 tons of food aid to 262,614 beneficiaries.
- (d) Insects' attacks on beans, peanuts and rice have been reported in Bubanza province where important farming grounds are already devastated. Other diseases destroying cereals (maize and rice) were also reported in one commune of Rutana and Ruyigi provinces. The continuous outbreak of new plant diseases is another important factor that complicates the current food shortages in the country, especially because they affect the most fertile regions.
- (e) WFP urgently needs deliveries of food commodities to respond to the SPR and food crisis requirements.

(2) Congo, DR

- (a) A joint mission of the Executive Directors of WFP and UNICEF as well as the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) visited the DRC during the reporting period. Several joint projects of the three agencies, including nutrition, school feeding and education programmes, activities supporting returnees and orphans and vulnerable children were visited. The WFP Executive Director also met with staff of the Country Office and Kinshasa sub office before proceeding to South Kivu, where the team ended

its tour of DRC.

- (b) In South Kivu, the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)-backed Congolese army launched an attack on the position of the Forces Démocratiques de la Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) rebels in the Kahuzi-Biega Park, territory of Bunyakiri. Meanwhile, the President of DRC visited Bukavu and instructed the military commanders of both North and South Kivu to reinforce their military operational capacities in order to restore calm in the provinces. However, international NGOs working in Bunyakiri had earlier evacuated due to constant harassment and threat by the FDLR.
- (c) In North Kivu, a dispute in Goma between elements of the 8th military regiment and guards of the governor of North Kivu resulted in an exchange of gunfire, leaving five soldiers dead. There is still high level of insecurity in the territory of Rutshuru due to frequent attacks by troops of Laurent Nkunda and FDLR rebels on Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) positions. As a result, about 84 houses in Katwiguru (Rutshuru) were burned down by troops of the 5th military brigade; the owners of the properties were accused of conniving with the FDLR.
- (d) Both MONUC and Congolese military troops are preparing to launch an offensive on militia troops in Tcheysi, Irumu territory, after sensitising the population to disassociate with the rebels. Four assembly points have been established for populations fleeing the eventual clashes. Meanwhile, the UN agencies working in the region are concerned about respect for universal laws (by opposing troops) regarding the protection of civilians and wounded people during fighting.
- (e) In Maniema province, the local government has officially declared an outbreak of measles in the health zone of Kindu.
- (f) In South Kivu, around 380 tons of assorted food commodities were delivered to Cooperating Partners (CPs) for distribution to beneficiaries of nutrition programmes, school feeding and vulnerable feeding activities. In North Kivu, WFP sub offices in Goma and Beni dispatched together nearly 390 tons to CPs for 51,300 beneficiaries of various feeding activities. A total of 80 tons of food were distributed to 5,496 beneficiaries of different programmes in Bunia.

(3) Eritrea

- (a) The UN and some NGOs have started to work on the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) in anticipation to respond to the unfavourable weather conditions in the Horn of Africa including Eritrea. Sectoral Working Groups have been established and started planning in their respective area.
- (b) According to WFP field offices, some indications of food insecurity have been reported in most regions due to government's restrictions on the free flow of grains and the unwillingness of farmers to sell their outputs to the Eritrean Grain Board. High price of food commodities and the limited purchasing power of poor households are already apparent.
- (c) Reportedly the number of children visiting the health centres (Shieb, Northern Red Sea Region) has increased since October 2005 and many children were reported with diseases such as Kwashiorkor and Marasmus. According to the health assistant working in this area, part of the problem is attributed to overall food shortages.
- (d) Some schools under the WFP School Feeding Programme (Dankur, Northern Red Sea Region) are facing water shortages for cooking due to insufficient winter rainfalls since October 2005; they were forced to truck water from Asmara 60 km away.
- (e) Contributions registered under the PRRO 10192.1, have reached US\$ 51.5 million, covering almost 25 percent of the total food requirements of the project. Further food

deliveries to Eritrea are kept in abeyance at the request of WFP.

(4) Ethiopia

- (a) The humanitarian situation continues to be of great concern in Somali region and Borena zone of Oromiya region, and is likely to deteriorate further with the progressing dry "Jilal" season. High levels of livestock migration in search of water and better pasture is commonly observed during WFP field missions, as is lack of water, health care and food. Market conditions are also not favourable for the pastoralists due to lack of external demand. Some showers of rain have reportedly been falling in Gode district of Gode zone, Somali region on 25 February and in Moyale, Hudet and Filtu district of Liban zone of the same region from 25-27 February. Light rainfall has also been reported in Kabridahar, Shilabo, Debeweyin and Shekosh districts of Korahe zone of Somali Region and in Borena zone of Oromiya region. While the rainfall is bringing some relief to the water shortage of the communities, it is too early to estimate whether this indicates the beginning of the "Gu" rainfall season, which usually is from late-March to early-June.
- (b) The Government's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) continues the daily dispatches of WFP relief food for some 1.5 million people in Somali region, and some 155,000 in Borena zone of Oromiya region. As of 1 March, the DPPA has completed transporting 19,200 tons of food to Somali region from the food allocations of 29,100 tons made in January (ie 66 percent has been dispatched); dispatches are being made to over 540 distribution points in Somali region alone. The deliveries are also ongoing to Borena zone of Oromiya region: 5,500 tons out of 6,000 tons allocated in January have been transported (ie 90 percent has been dispatched). The transport capacity for deliveries of relief food for Somali region had been limited in January and early February; however, in order to increase the dispatch rate, DPPA has engaged their emergency transport fleet and the Road Transport Authority are now coordinating the commercial transport fleet for priority loads to the drought-affected areas. WFP has increased its monitoring capacity in order to better track the food movements and distributions. WFP has sub offices in Jijiga and Gode for monitoring Somali region where dedicated food monitors are based. The sub office in Nazareth covers Oromiya region and a field monitor has been deployed to Borena zone on permanent basis to monitor the food security situation and food distribution.
- (c) Coordination of interventions are ongoing both at regional and federal level. The DPPA convened a donor consultation in Addis Ababa on 22 February. Particular concern was raised on the lack of response for the non-food requirements of the Appeal. There was concern about the supplies of fortified blended food - such as corn soya blend (CSB) and famix - but WFP estimates that the combination of local production, re-blending, and CSB in-transit should be able to keep pace with the requirements and dispatches of blanket supplementary food as well as for targeted supplementary feeding. WFP's estimations are based on forecasts of production performance from local factories and scheduled arrival of vessels.
- (d) The overall resource situation for relief food for WFP remains encouraging; there are also indications of bilateral contributions for local purchase of relief food for 2006 to the DPPA. The current estimate of food requirements for relief rations and blanket/targeted supplementary feeding is 375,000 tons under the 2006 Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Appeal, and 282,000 tons (76 percent) is already covered by carryover stocks confirmed contributions currently in transit. Thus, relief food requirements are covered until the end of May. Further contributions will have to be confirmed to cover requirements beyond May and additional food requirements for the July-December period are anticipated following the "Belg" season and pastoral areas assessment in June. The resource situation for the "non-food" sectors of the Appeal

(health and nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, agriculture, disaster response and coordination) remains critical with confirmed contributions only covering around 12 percent of requirements as of late February.

(5) Rwanda

- (a) In Bugesera, UNICEF conducted with health authorities a rapid assessment on the nutritional status of children under five in three most affected areas: Mayenge, Ngenda and Gashora. Out of 552 children that have been assessed, 35 children (6 percent) are severe malnourished and 16 of them presented oedema; 96 children (17 percent) are moderate malnourished and 405 children showed a good nutritional status.
- (b) WFP visited Bugesera on 23 February. Very few people seem to afford to buy the required food commodities due to limited purchasing power and high prices. Lower prices were reported for animals, mainly goats, perhaps due to distress sales. Used roofing iron sheets were being sold at commercial centres and in a number of houses roofs had been recently removed, suggesting that the households had resorted to selling the roofing materials.
- (c) WFP's visit to Ruhuha nutritional centre confirmed an increase of admissions for children under-five and adults. The management of the centre complained that adults are reluctant to go back home after treatment/recovery at the therapeutic centre, arguing that they have not fully recovered or have nothing to eat at home.
- (d) Currently WFP is planning to address the most urgent food insecurity issues in the most affected areas through joint WFP/UNICEF food/nutritional interventions where UNICEF establishes therapeutic feeding; increasing food/nutritional intervention in the centres currently already assisted by WFP; and initiating a few Food-for-Work (FFW) projects in Bugesera.
- (e) A total of 49 asylum seekers were received in Nkamira transit camp and 20 urban refugees were transferred to Nyabiheke camp, which increased the number of Congolese refugees in Rwanda to 40,780. Burundian refugee camps remained stable and the figure currently stands at 2,570 refugees.
- (f) The distribution of around 730 tons of food in Kiziba, Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Nyamure camps was finalized.
- (g) A total 160 returnees from DRC crossed the border to Rwanda through Nkamira transit centre and received a three-month repatriation package before being transferred to their home communities.

(6) Somalia

- (a) Fighting erupted in Garowe in Puntland and as a result all UN International Staff members have been evacuated. UN Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS) is monitoring the situation.
- (b) Some 4,000 tons of the 5,000 tons borrowed by WFP from Sudan have just been distributed to 170,000 beneficiaries in Lower Juba and Gedo region. The remaining 1,000 tons will be distributed shortly in Bay and Bakool regions.
- (c) Another 5,700 tons are being transported to Bay, Bakool and Lower Juba regions. Distribution will commence as soon as food is delivered. Additionally, a plan has been finalised for distribution of, 5,200 tons for Hiran and Bay regions. Out of the total, loading of 2,800 tons will commence this week.
- (d) WFP's advocacy and sensitisation campaigns among drought-affected communities in preparation of relief distributions have been completed in Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Bay, Bakool and Gedo. Elders, community members, local and regional administrations actively participated.

- (e) Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), World Vision International, Somali NGOs AFREC and HIMILO Foundation and the Community Based Organization (CBO) Juba Shine have signed Field Level Agreements (FLAs) with WFP and will be WFP partners for relief food distributions.
- (f) After several meetings, WFP, Care International and ICRC have tentatively agreed on the area coverage for relief food distribution. Bilateral discussion is ongoing in sharing implementation details.
- (g) Considering the deteriorating malnutrition situation in South and Central Somalia, the Health and Nutrition Cluster has recommended blanket supplementary distribution of blended fortified food among vulnerable groups (children under five, pregnant and lactating mothers) in an increased quantity. WFP is looking at possibilities to increase the CSB ration as part of the general food distribution.
- (h) The February 2005 Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) Nutrition Update indicates that Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) in Wajid Town is as high as 27 percent. WFP has made the distribution of food to IDPs in need as one of its top priorities, since some time ago.
- (i) Available WFP food stocks and confirmed new funding now amount to 78,000 tons out of the total 95,000 tons to cover needs until July 2006. Therefore, the unmet requirement is some 17,000 tons until the end of July 2006 (valued at about US\$13 million). Depending on the performance of the upcoming long rains, subsequent requirements for food aid to cover needs until the end of the year will be between 25,000 and 85,000 tons.

(7) Tanzania

- (a) WFP continues to be concerned about the health condition of the more than 4,000 new arrivals from Burundi accommodated in Kibondo's three way stations. The facilities are intended to cater for less than a hundred persons and only for a couple of days. Since the beginning of the year, nine persons have died in the way stations of various illnesses and malnutrition. The majority of the new arrivals are waiting to appear before the Ad Hoc Committee, the Government body determining whether they qualify for refugee status in Tanzania.
- (b) WFP is distributing full rations of 2,100 Kcal to the new arrivals at the way stations. The distribution is done on a ten-day cycle. Medical staff from IRC is providing health screening to primarily children and pregnant and lactating mothers in the way stations. It has been reported that a number of children have visible signs of malnutrition. Some of the malnourished children are referred to the refugee camp hospitals where WFP provides therapeutic and supplementary feeding to the children.
- (c) The number of new arrivals to Tanzania continues to increase. From the 1st – 20th of February 2006, a preliminary figure of 4,751 newly arrived refugees was recorded in western Tanzania.
- (d) Repatriation trends remain significantly low. UNHCR has confirmed that a total of 696 Burundian refugees and 2,813 DRC refugees repatriated from Tanzania to Burundi from the 1 – 21 February 2006.
- (e) The WFP refugee operation (PRRO) is back on full rations and provides refugees with a daily intake of 2,100 Kcal, which is 100 percent of the approved ration level.
- (f) General distribution covers 359,219 registered refugees. During the reporting week, WFP distributed 1,675 tons of food through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Around 11,200 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 and Food-for-Training.

- (g) No new contributions were received during the reporting period. A shortfall of 27,500 tons (US\$ 16.4 million) exists up to the end of December 2006.

(8) Uganda

- (a) Presidential and Parliamentary elections were held in Uganda on the 23 February 2006, resulting in the re-election of President Museveni to a further 5-year term of office. The main opposition candidate, Dr. Kizza Besigye has rejected the results and is appealing to the Constitutional Court. Final reports from election observer missions are awaited. The security situation has remained relatively calm in the post election period.
- (b) Over 6,000 families in Anaka Internally Displaced Camp (IDP) camp in Gulu District received WFP emergency rations following a fire outbreak that razed 5,700 huts between 5 and 15 February. WFP, in collaboration with the Gulu District Disaster Management Committee, OCHA and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will conduct fire prevention/mitigation training in 10 IDP camps in Gulu District.
- (c) The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is finalizing a revision of the Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal 2006 (CAP). No increase in food needs is envisaged. The revision will focus on improving sector coordination through the cluster approach being implemented in Uganda.
- (d) The Government and the UN are finalising the planning and coordination of the return of some 50,000 IDPs in the coming months in Lira district. WFP will supply three-month return rations to all those who wish to voluntarily leave the IDP camps. UNHCR, in its role as lead of the protection cluster for IDPs, will coordinate the process.
- (e) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.45 million displaced persons, 165,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the past week, WFP distributed 3,817 tons of relief food assistance to 417,193 persons including IDPs sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centres and other vulnerable persons.
- (f) Access to land around the IDP camps generally increased over the last 18 months due to a gradual reduction in violent LRA attacks. IDPs should be able to provide 40 percent of their daily food needs starting January 2006, but will still require 60 percent from external sources until at least the July 2006 harvest. Without this assistance, malnutrition rates would rise significantly and the death rates of young children would increase rapidly.
- (g) WFP pipeline shortfall through December 2006 currently stands at 73,000 tons with pipeline breaks anticipated in June 2006.

(D) West Africa: (1) Cameroon (2) Cote d'Ivoire (3) Guinea (4) Liberia

(1) Cameroon

- (a) The preliminary results of a joint Government, WFP, FAO and UNICEF food security assessment mission in Northern Cameroon show a satisfactory 2005-2006 rainy season leading to a normal rain-fed crop production. The mission took place from the 13th to 24th of February in the Adamaoua, North and Far North provinces. It indicates that in some areas, early cessation of rains resulted in the poor performance of the dry season crops.
- (b) Due to the relatively high number of traders intervening in Northern Cameroon commodity markets since the beginning of the harvest, food prices are above their normal level for this time of the year. These interventions would result in a significant

reduction in food availability in particular during the “hunger season”.

- (c) The mission recommends that local authorities take conservative measures to safeguard market supply in order to keep food prices at a level acceptable to the rural population.
- (d) A mission, headed by WFP Cameroon Country Director, Mrs Fatma Samoura, is currently assessing the impact of some of the 33 village granaries set-up last year by WFP in the Logone and Chari division. The granaries provide rural communities with small food stocks to help them mitigate the effect of food shortages in the region. Mrs Samoura is also visiting schools assisted by WFP through its country programme.
- (e) The Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10474, “Food Assistance to Populations Affected by Drought in the Division of the Logone and Chari (Far North Province)”, was extended for five months from the 28th of February to 31st of July 2006. Logone and Chari was affected by serious food shortages due to poor and irregular rains during the 2004-2005 agricultural season. EMOP 10474 has so far received a total of US\$1.5 million out of the US\$2.1 million required to provide food assistance to over 237,000 people for one month.
- (f) In October 2005, due to funding shortage, 1,197 tons of maize was distributed instead of the planned 2,853 tons. New donations will allow food distribution to vulnerable groups in the Logone and Chari division (Cameroon Far North division). Food is being purchased locally and distributions are planned for May 2006, the beginning of the “hunger season”.

(2) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) During the reporting period (22 February-01 March), the security situation improved but still remained unpredictable. The international community is particularly concerned about the Moyen Cavally region (Guiglo – Duekoue – Toulepleu – Zouan Hounien) further to the absence of UN peacekeepers and the recent incidents between the Ivorian soldiers and the French army inside the zone of confidence. Security recommendations to UN staff remained unchanged. Caution and high vigilance is advised all over the country.
- (b) On the 28th of February, four Cote d'Ivoire leaders (President Gbagbo, Bedie, Ouattara and Soro) met for the first time in the country since 2002 conflict. The meeting marked a breakthrough in the peace process. The leaders agreed to meet frequently to discuss the peace process and ensure a peaceful political climate. They also agreed that citizens without identity cards would be able to get new ones when voters register for elections, efforts should be made to calm incendiary reporting by local media, the post of a fourth vice-president for the Independent Electoral Commission could be created to balance out representation and that Military chiefs from both sides would meet to arrange disarmament.
- (c) According to the National Service for Support and Assistance to Refugees and Stateless Persons (SAARA), an estimated 25,000 refugees will be repatriated to Liberia in 2006, as well as the refugees sheltered in the transit centre in Tabou that is scheduled to be closed by April 2006.
- (d) School examinations for BAC and BEPC started on the 27th of February as scheduled in the Forces Nouvelles zones. The supervision of examination centres is ensured by joint teams with UNPOL, FN and UN or other international organisations staff.
- (e) During the reporting period, WFP delivered a total of 520 tons food to 92,751 beneficiaries.
- (f) As part of the 2006/2007 agriculture programme, WFP and FAO joint preliminary assessment mission continued in the 18 Montagnes region. Bangolo, Sipilou,

Sanguine and Danane areas were visited. The monitoring of nutritional activities in Bouaké and Brobo showed that Cooperating Partners are improving in taking care of moderate malnutrition cases.

- (g) As of the 1st of March, the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina, Ghana, Mali has received a total of 37.1 million US dollars against the operational needs of 50.1 million US dollars (26 percent shortfall or 12.9 million US dollars against operational requirements).

(3) Guinea

- (a) During the reporting period (6- 19 February), cases of attacks on private houses and businesses continued to be reported, especially during nighttime. Cote d'Ivoire– Guinea border points were reported calm. On the 17th of February, fuel prices increased. No violent reactions from the population have been reported yet.
- (b) Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), 460 tons of food was distributed to 37,923 beneficiaries.
- (c) A total of 1,555 Liberian refugees were voluntary repatriated during the reporting period. WFP provided hot meals for the refugees.
- (d) WFP assists an estimated 52,000 individuals in refugee camps, 3,003 refugees from Ivory Coast and the rest from Liberia.
- (e) During February's General Food Distributions, 2,961 refugees, non-beneficiaries of WFP food rations, who have received refugee certificates, were added to the WFP beneficiary list.
- (f) During the reporting period, a total of 351 tons of food was distributed to 26,613 beneficiaries in Kouankan 1, Kola, Kountaya and Madina camps.
- (g) On the 10th and 17th of February, joint missions were conducted to Kola and Laine camps to sensitize beneficiaries on the coming food distributions.
- (h) Under Emergency School Feeding (ESF), on the 17th of February, the second trimester's food distributions to schools were completed in Beyla prefecture. A total of 107 tons was distributed in this prefecture. Dry take home rations were distributed to cooks and mothers of schoolgirls.
- (i) On the 9th of February, WFP N'Zerekore finalized the agreement with the local transport syndicate for the food dispatching to schools. The dispatch to schools in Lola prefecture started on the week of 20 February.
- (j) From the 13th to 22th of February a WFP official from school feeding unit in headquarters visited Guinea to conduct training of trainers for the installation and the use of monitoring satellite devices (Argos). Guinea is one of the 15 countries participating in this monitoring and evaluation pilot project. 152 of these devices will be installed in schools of both country programme and PRRO.
- (k) On the 25th – 26th January, a workshop organized in Mamou by the VAM unit of WFP Guinea. This consisted on training on tools and techniques for emergency needs assessment. The participants included UN (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, OCHA, FAO and WFP) and governmental (SENAH) partners.

(4) Liberia

- (a) During the reporting period (20-26 February), the general security situation in Liberia remained calm, with no protests or unlawful gathering of security concern. However, criminal activities continued to pose a threat to staff safety and security. Two cases of armed robberies in Monrovia were reported. Money and other personal valuables were reported to have been taken. No one was injured but gun shots were fired.

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- (b) Three UNMIL soldiers are reported to have died of Lassa fever, and five other cases are being observed.
 - (c) On the 24th of February, a team of joint police headed by the local Criminal Investigations Department (CID) conducted raids in various locations in Monrovia city and arrested 13 people for illegal possession of narcotic drugs. The police also confiscated unknown quantities of marijuana, cocaine, and opium. Investigation is continuing.
 - (d) Rumors of ritual killing are going round in Harper, Maryland County, after the body of a three year old boy was found floating in the Hoffman River, near the Harper fish market area on the 26th of February. Investigation is in progress with a suspect arrested.
 - (e) During the reporting period, WFP distributed 1,357 tons of food to over 215,574 beneficiaries under the various feeding programmes.
 - (f) Distribution of general rations to IDPs in camps continued during the reporting period, with delivery of 103 tons to an estimated 10,752 IDPs residing in Buchanan camp, River Cess County.
 - (g) WFP continued to provide food assistance to resettle IDPs and Liberian refugees returning to their communities of origin. During the reporting period, a total of 1,596 facilitated and 275 spontaneous returnees from Guinea, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone arrived in Cape Mount, Lofa, Maryland, and Montserrado Counties. The new arrivals received a total of 62 tons of assorted relief food commodities as a 1st tranche (two months ration) resettlement package.
 - (h) Furthermore, distribution of the second tranche food ration which completes the four months resettlement food package to Returnees and de-registered IDPs continued in Montserrado, Bong, Bomi, Capemount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties. During the reporting period, over 8,185 beneficiaries received up to 270 tons of food.
 - (i) As of 24th of February, a total of 55,406 returnees have been repatriated by UNHCR and 306,261 persons de-registered from IDP camps since October 2004. Of which, some 32,406 Returnees (69.30 percent) and 234,775 IDP beneficiaries (85.30 percent) have received their four months resettlement food package provided by WFP.
 - (j) So far, 21 IDP camps have been declared closed since the beginning of the resettlement exercise in October 2004. The number of IDPs remaining in the camps is reported to be 23,544 persons, located in the two IDP camps of Conneh and Buchanan. Meanwhile, de-registration of IDPs commenced in Conneh Camp on the 21st of February. The resettlement exercise in Liberia is planned to be completed by end of April 2006. WFP plans to complete distribution of the second trache of resettlement package to all returnees and de-registered IDPs by July 2006.
 - (k) WFP received a consignment of 725 cartons of learning materials and handed it over to Liberia Transition Initiative (LTI) for onward distribution to schools. On the 1st of March, LTI in close collaboration with WFP, Books for Africa and USAID will launch the books distribution to USAID partner schools participating in the Accelerated Learning Program.
 - (l) A total of 867 tons of food was distributed to over 190,400 school children through the eight WFP sub offices in Liberia. In addition, WFP provided some Non Food Items to schools in Voinjama, including 410 drinking cups, 410 Plastic Plates and 410 table spoons. School Feeding is currently the biggest feeding activity in the country, where up to 64 percent of the food distributed during the week was delivered to schools.
 - (m) WFP distributed a total of 13 tons of assorted food commodities to some 1,107 persons supported under the FSLI programme in Nimba County. Additionally, two tons was distributed under Food-for-Training (FFT) to 230 beneficiaries through Buchanan Sub office.

- (n) Assessment of more Food-for-Work (FFW) and Food-for-Training (FFT) projects continued during the reporting period in most of the WFP Sub-offices. Distribution of food to approved projects is expected to commence in March. Most of the projects assessed are community based, mainly involved in agricultural activities in areas where returnees are being resettled.
- (o) WFP distributed a total of 40 tons of various assorted food commodities to several institutions under the various Nutrition Intervention Programmes.
- (p) WFP Liberia still has a total food shortfall of 6,096 tons valued at US\$ 4.7 million over the next six months, February to July 2006. The pipeline break will start in April with cereals and a critical food shortfall affecting the rest of the commodities will commence in June. Additional pledges and resources are needed to avert shortfalls of 4,348 tons of cereals, 420 tons of pulses, 666 tons of CSB, 504 tons of vegetable oil, 96 tons of Salt and 63 tons of sugar.
- (q) Food deliveries from Monrovia to various sub-offices improved during the month of February due an increase in the capacity of commercial transporters. Subsequently, a total of 1,686 tons of assorted food commodities was dispatched from Monrovia during the reporting period, in continuation of the February 2006 distribution cycle. The commodities loaded included 1,249 of Bulgur, 135 tons of Pulses, 48 tons of Corn Soya Blend (CSB), 90 tons of Vegetable Oil, 134 tons of Canned Meat, 6 tons of Sugar and 23 tons of Salt.
- (r) Preparations are underway to begin the comprehensive food security and nutrition survey countrywide. Testing of questionnaires is being finalized. Training of the 80 remunerators will start on the 6th of March 06 up to 11th of March. Data collection will commence on the 15th of March for a period of 4 to 5 weeks.
- (s) WFP was part of the working group, led by Africare which proposed a structure for the Food Security Cluster in Liberia. In a meeting held on 20th of February, the working group agreed that the food cluster should comprise of a steering committee, secretariat and three technical advisory bodies, namely CFA, ACC and the Nutrition working group. World Vision Liberia was requested to draft the TORs of the food cluster. A follow up meeting was scheduled for Monday, 27 February, during which the proposals will be finalized for further review by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- (t) A Committee on Food Aid (CFA) meeting was held on the 24th of February and members present included representatives from EU, ICRC and WFP. Issues discussed in the meeting included the current food pipeline situation, resettlement update and need for revision of the TORs for CFA to be in line with the new Food Security Cluster.
- (u) In preparation for the coming Walk the World event in May, the Country office held the first preparation meeting on the 21st of February, together with World Vision and Ministry of Education as the main partners of the event this year. Various sub-committees were formed and subsequent preparation meetings will continue.

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

(1) Lesotho

- (a) During the reporting period (22 to 28 February), WFP and Cooperating Partners provided food to an estimated 46,000 beneficiaries. Recipients were participants in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, mother and childcare, orphans and other vulnerable children programmes, as well as Food-for-Work (FFW) and Food-for-Assets (FFA) projects.
- (b) According to the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS), since the beginning of 2006, the amount of rainfall received to date has been comparatively the highest amount

received in almost two decades for this period. The national agricultural NGO, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management, has reported the recent heavy rains may have destroyed more than a third of the crops in the ground. The Ministry of Agriculture and the government's Disaster Management Authority are still assessing the damage. While the rains are expected to continue in March, the LMS warned the weather could also negatively impact the winter harvest due in September/October 2006.

(2) Malawi

- (a) The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has released the preliminary first round of crop production estimates. Current findings indicate a maize harvest of 2.4 million tons against a national requirement of 2 million tons. The maize estimate represents a 96 percent increase over the 2004/05 production. The second round of crop estimates is expected by the end of March or early April.
- (b) The Ministry of Health and various agencies continue to carry out activities aimed at reducing the spread of cholera. According to the IFRC, at least 137 people have died since the outbreak in August 2005 and over 5,000 cases have been treated in 26 districts. To date, all provinces, with the exception of the Western and North-Western provinces have been affected.
- (c) Throughout the country, maize continues to be scarce in local markets and ADMARC depots. Other commodities such as potatoes, rice, beans and groundnuts are available, however prices are steadily rising and remain out of reach for poorer households.

(3) Mozambique

- (a) Following last week's magnitude-7.4 earthquake that struck southern Mozambique, government authorities have reported at least four people have died and 36 injured. In addition, approximately 300 houses and 12 schools were destroyed. The epicentre was located near Espungabera, a small farming town in a remote and sparsely populated area near the border with Zimbabwe. WFP is prepared to offer assistance if required and is working closely with government counterparts.

(4) Namibia

- (a) The Hardap Region received heavy rainfall on the 22nd and 23rd of February, causing the Hardap Dam, which is fed by eight rivers, to reach its maximum level. On the 24th of February, 14,000 inhabitants of Mariental were advised to evacuate the town and move to higher ground. By the evening of the same day, the dam overflowed and flooded Mariental town. Reports indicate that two people have drowned and one person is missing. As of 26th of February, 2,100 people were displaced, and 122 houses and 80 businesses submerged. At the national level, the Emergency Management Unit in the Prime Minister's Office organized an emergency team to manage the situation and to coordinate relief efforts. The Government also dispatched military and police teams as well as a rescue helicopter to conduct search-and-rescue operations and to facilitate the evacuation process. The Namibian Red Cross Society is supporting the Government's efforts and is supplying Non-Food Items. The UN has not received any requests for assistance to date.

(5) Swaziland

- (a) Field reports indicate most maize crops in the Lowveld are in good condition and are likely to produce a significant harvest. However, there are isolated areas that have been damaged by high temperatures in January and a lack of sufficient and/or excessive rainfall. Lowveld farmers have replanted crops to compensate for the potential loss.

- (b) The Government has allocated approximately USD5 million towards the improvement of water supplies in drought-stricken communities within the Lowveld and Lubombo regions during the 2006/07 financial year. An additional USD423,000 was set aside for earth dam construction. The earth dam construction project is also targeted at high rainfall areas to increase local agricultural production.

(6) Zambia

- (a) New contributions are needed to ensure refugees do not face further ration cuts later in 2006. WFP's shortfall for the refugee operation for 2006 now stands at USD4.6 million. Contributions are also required for WFP's relief operation. USD13 million is needed to repay outstanding internal loans and provide food for those people affected by drought and crop failure before the next harvest. In February, WFP will provide 15,000 tons of food to over one million Zambians and 72,000 refugees.
- (b) The 2005/06 rainy season has progressed fairly well in most parts of the country. For the most part the rains began on time, with the exception of parts of the Northern and Eastern provinces where the season started thirty days later. Rainfall in almost all of these districts has since improved. There were isolated reports of armyworm infestation in parts of the Central, Southern and Western provinces, which damaged some crops, however the situation has been brought under control.

(7) Zimbabwe

- (a) According to the Government-controlled Herald newspaper, the Reserve Bank Governor reported that Zimbabwe grain imports accounted for USD135 million in 2005. At an estimated price of USD240 per ton delivered, this would be sufficient to purchase 562,500 tons. Since the beginning of the lean season, WFP has imported more than 120,000 tons of grain into Zimbabwe against an estimated May 2005 to April 2006 cereal gap of 1.2 million tons.
- (b) Verifications exercises conducted by WFP Field Monitors and Cooperating Partner staff in three districts in Mashonaland Central Province and four districts of Matebeleland North Province, led to the removal of 2,100 people from the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme beneficiary list.
- (c) WFP monitoring reports from Mashonaland West and Central provinces, confirm some improvement in household vulnerability levels with the availability of green maize, pumpkins and vegetables. Some urban households are also able to obtain green maize and pumpkins from their small plots. However, the harvest is not expected until April and improved food security has not been reported in other parts of the country. In Buhera, Chimanimani, Chipinge and Mutare districts (Manicaland Province), field reports note the loss of maize, sorghum and millet crops due to wilting, leaching and the lack of fertilizers. Due to limited rainfall since the first week in January, a reduced cereal harvest is expected in six districts in Masvingo Province.
- (d) According to district-level officials, Bikita and Zaka district's (Masvingo Province), livestock have been affected by black leg, a disease that can inflict heavy losses in young livestock during warmer months. While treatable if detected early, farmers have expressed fears that unless remedial actions are taken immediately, additional livestock may die of the disease.

(F) Asia: (1) Myanmar

(1) Myanmar

- (a) Further to the request from local authorities in northern Wa area, WFP and its Cooperating Partners (CPs) held a meeting to review access and security issues. Wa

authorities have introduced a travel permit system for all visitors on the 11th of February and missions will be accompanied by plain-clothes police or government staff. However, for the rest of Wa area like in Weinkao and Mongpaw business continued as usual.

- (b) Last week, the security situation was tightened in Chauk, in the central dry zone where WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is implemented, following inter-communal unrest. The situation had improved and returned to normal on Wednesday.
- (c) A joint AusAID/ADRA/WFP team visited the Wa (Namtit and Mongmaw areas) between 24-28 February. Meetings were held with the Wa authorities and field visits included rice distributions for Food-for-Education (FFE), Food –for-Work (FFW) and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) activities. Chinese Narcotics Control Police and UNODC joined the visits and meetings on the 25th of February in Namtit and the 26th of February in Mongmaw respectively.
- (d) WFP is fielding an evaluation/formulation mission on the current activities of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10066.2 in Northern Rakhine State and Magway Division from the 20th of February to the 4th of March 2006. The objective of the mission is to assess the current portfolio of food assistance activities and propose recommendations for a subsequent phase of the PRRO.
- (e) During the reporting period (15 February to 1 March), under PRRO 10066.2, a total of 450 tons of rice were distributed in Maungdaw to 43,400 school children and 560 Food-for-Work (FFW) participants. A total of 1070 tons of rice was dispatched to Cooperating Partners' warehouses in Magway division for VGF and FFE.
- (f) Under the Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10345.1, a total of 130 tons of rice was distributed for FFE and VGF activities in Taunggyi and Laukkai area. Around 500 acres of poppy fields have been destroyed since last December in Na Khite village tract in Sisaing Township in Southern Shan State and WFP is planning to expand its assistance to that village tract once the ground confirmation has been completed. In Kokang, WFP has approved FFW infrastructure activities including school renovation, water supply, latrines and road rehabilitation, in Parsinkyaw, Namtit and Mongmaw areas.

(G) Latin America and Caribbean: (1) Bolivia (2) Colombia (3) Cuba (4) Ecuador (5) Guatemala (6) Nicaragua (7) Peru

(1) Bolivia

- (a) More effective management of emergency shelters is still needed in the Department of Santa Cruz. Due to the constant movement of families, it is difficult to determine the exact number of affected people at the camps; however, it is estimated that 3,000 families are currently receiving assistance in some of the 18 shelter camps in Santa Cruz.
- (b) During the reporting period (25-03 March), a case of hanta virus was detected in the flood-affected area in the department of Santa Cruz, in San Julian Municipality. Health authorities are monitoring the situation and preventing possible yellow fever and malaria outbreaks.
- (c) 40 tents are being arranged as schools for some 3,000 children at the shelter camps. Classes will start on the 6th of March.
- (d) An inter-agency mission assessed damages and needs in the recently flooded areas of the departments of Beni and Pando in northern part of the country. On the 27th and 28th of February, the mission met regional emergency committees in the cities of

Riberalta (Beni) and Cobija (Pando). The results of the assessments indicate that approximately 1,600 families need assistance in Riberalta and 560 families in Cobija. Access by road to the region is difficult because of the destruction of the roads. WFP and national authorities are exploring the possibility to purchase food locally in Riberalta and Cobija.

- (e) Under the Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 10511.0, the second distribution of food aid continued in Santa Cruz. An estimated 93 tons were provided to 3,000 families in camps and other evacuation areas. IR-EMOP commodities have been procured, distributions will continue with Cooperating Partner resources.

(2) Colombia

- (a) WFP vehicle and two WFP staff were intercepted by an illegal armed group on the 18th of February at in the province of Norte de Santander. The rebels retained them for more than 20 hours, releasing them on 19th February. The WFP vehicle was not returned. WFP Colombia announced that due to insecurity in the area food deliveries in the province of Norte the Santander will be temporarily suspended while delivery and security conditions are evaluated.
- (b) Massive displacements have been reported in the province of Norte de Santander. An estimated 200 people from Catatumbo Region have fled due to threats issued by illegal armed groups after the Colombian Government decided to implement manual eradication processes of illegal crops in this province. Most of these families are temporarily settled in the municipality of Ocaña waiting for humanitarian assistance.
- (c) Massive displacements were reported in the Province of Bolivar. At least 600 families from the areas of Barranco de Loba were forced to flee after threats issued by illegal armed groups. Most of these people are fleeing to Cartagena. No detail of the situation was available.
- (d) WFP Antioquia announced that food deliveries and normal operations in the eastern part of the province would be suspended on January 20th 2006 after a WFP truck was stopped by rebels at an illegal check point. The rebels took almost one ton of food. Authorities from the province have announced they will work closely with WFP to prevent such incidents.
- (e) The situation is still tense in the province of Meta. Several clashes between illegal armed groups and the Colombian army have caused massive displacements. Colombian Government implemented manual eradication processes of illegal crops in this province. WFP is supporting two implementing activities in nearby areas of this municipality as part of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10366.0 and is evaluating additional interventions in the province.
- (f) The UN and 160 Non-Governmental Organizations dedicated have condemned the recent increasing attacks by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In the past two weeks, FARC has killed dozens of people (including more than 24 civilians), attacked police and army bases and destroyed transport and electricity infrastructures in several Colombian provinces.
- (g) Several clashes between the Colombian Army and members of illegal armed groups have been reported in the province of Antioquia. In rural areas of La Esperanza (eastern Antioquia) an ambulance was attacked by rebels. Additional combats were also reported in nearby areas of the municipalities of San Carlos, Valdivia and San Rafael.
- (h) A rebel-imposed traffic ban in southern Colombia to protest the Colombian President's re-election campaign is causing food shortages as drivers refuse to drive on insecure roads. Illegal armed rebels have torched trucks and a school bus that defied the ban.

More than 1 million people are affected by the ban, which spans parts of the southern provinces of Putumayo, Caqueta and Guaviare. This situation has forced the government to airlift food, gasoline and other essential items to residents in the affected provinces. WFP will open two new sub-offices in the south on the second quarter 2006.

- (i) Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10366, WFP distributed 857 tons of food in 14 provinces to 115,831 beneficiaries, in the Food-for-Work (FFW), Food-for-Training (FFT), School and Preschool Feeding, Nursing and Expectant Mothers, Nutritional Recovery and Emergency Food Aid.

(3) Cuba

- (a) Monitoring mission found that the availability of food in the eastern provinces is not enough due to the bad conditions for crops, and food have to be brought from the central part of the country causing higher prices.
- (b) Under the Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10423.0., WFP provided food to 773,000 beneficiaries.
- (c) EMOP 10423.0 received low levels of funding. WFP advanced US\$1.2 million from the Immediate Response Account (IRA). These funds were used to cover one month requirements.

(4) Ecuador

- (a) During the reporting period (25 February to 03 March), heavy rains and floods continued in the coastal provinces of Los Ríos, Esmeraldas, Guayas and Manabí. Houses, basic infrastructure, and crops were severely affected.
- (b) On the 17th of February, the Ecuadorian Government declared a state of emergency in the coastal provinces of Guayas and Los Ríos. According to weather forecasts, heavy rains will continue in March and April in the coast.
- (c) 21- 22 February Napo was chaotic. Several protesters were reported wounded as confrontations with the police continued. Majors from Tena and Santa Clara were detained, and the government declared a state of emergency in Napo province. Oil fields in the Amazon region are militarized after oil production and delivery was disrupted by angry protesters.
- (d) Protests have spread to other regions that also demand government's support for basic infrastructure services. Protests developed in the framework of government negotiations with Occidental Oil Company regarding tax revenues the company owes to Ecuador.
- (e) On the 23rd of February, the government and Napo's authorities agreed to end protests in Napo province oil fields. The government released the emergency decree and agreed to respond to the province's demands.
- (f) According to the National Geophysical Institute, on the 21st of February, a low intensity quake of 4.0 in the Richter scale was registered 205.91 km from Quito in the Amazon province of Pastaza.
- (g) On the 22nd of February, two low intensity quakes of 4.2 in the Richter scale were registered 244.47 km from Quito in the Amazon province of Pastaza.
- (h) On the 24th of February, a low intensity quake of 4.1 in the Richter scale was registered in Quito.
- (i) On the 26th of February, a low intensity quake of 4.2 in the Richter scale was registered 180.87 km north from Quito, in Carchi province.
- (j) According to the National Geophysical Institute, Tungurahua volcanic activity continues to be moderate. However, explosions have been registered with moderate emissions of

ashes, steam and gas. Several communities have been affected with ash fall. The population has been warned of possible changes of the volcanic activity.

- (k) According to the National Geophysical Institute, Reventador volcanic activity continued to be low, with small emissions of steam, gas, and ashes. Due to bad weather conditions, monitoring of the volcano has been difficult.
- (l) Under the Emergency Operation (EMOP) 10381.0, the second phase of monitoring and evaluation of the operation is under process. A monitoring and evaluation report will be presented at the end of March. On the 22nd of February 22, UNETE assessment mission visited affected areas in Guayas and Los Ríos provinces and will meet with EMOP Committees in each province in order to assess their response capacity and preparedness to face emergencies. A needs assessment will also be carried out.
- (m) In April there will be a pipeline break and vulnerable refugee population in Ecuador will not receive any further food assistance. There is a shortfall of significant funds US\$ 756,506 to continue with the operation.

(5) Guatemala

- (a) Under the Emergency Operation EMOP 10497.0, from December to 1st march, WFP distributed 5,582 tons to 64,169 beneficiaries.
- (b) WFP has received the new food release notes (FRN) from the implementing partners for the departments of Sololá, San Marcos and Quetzaltenango. These FRNs correspond to the next round of food distributions that aim to assist 29,809 families
- (c) Results from the preliminary EFSA report reveal that food consumption of the affected population fluctuates between poor and very poor. The EFSA report will be consolidated and presented by mid-march.
- (d) EMOP coordination meetings continue every week.
- (e) The programmed joint monitoring between WFP and counterparts has succeeded in adjusting the beneficiary list. WFP and counterpart monitors continue this week gathering the required information, using a family information questionnaire.
- (f) During the reporting period, a refreshment exercise to all WFP and CPs monitors was carried out on the use of monitoring tools as well as on PI procedures and resources.
- (g) The Corn Soya Blend pipeline for the EMOP has broken-down. Last week, the internationally procured CSB that arrived to the country was distributed to complete the PRRO 10212 requirements and to cover partial need of the EMOP (Sololá).
- (h) The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10212 dispatched 180 tons of food to assist the programmed targeted population in Jutiapa and Santa Rosa. Dispatches for the second round of food distributions started this week in the department of Sololá. The total amount resourced to date is US\$ 6,802,037, 48 percent of the flash appeal.

(6) Nicaragua

- (a) The labor conflict in the health sector continued on its third month without solution. As a result, medical attention at public health centers has been closed since the 18th of January.
- (b) During the reporting period (25 February-03 March), between the 18th and the 22nd of February, four minor earthquakes were registered in the pacific and northern part of Nicaragua. The magnitude of the earthquakes oscillated between 4.2 and 5.2 on the Richter scale. No serious damage was reported.
- (c) The political panorama is being affected by the electoral climate in two aspects. The first derived from the strong tension between the political parties in the electoral

campaign in the Northern and Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN and RAAS). It is expected that the tension will escalate as the election date next Sunday, the 5th of March, moves closer. Some political parties threaten to reject the results. The second aspect that affects the political-electoral panorama is the open internal disputes in the electoral Supreme Council, where magistrates blame one-another of lack of citizen credibility and mutually demands the others resignation.

- (d) Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 10212.0, an estimated 10,363 pregnant and lactating women and 11,159 children continued to benefit from the food distributions. WFP has positioned food for approximately 56,700 school children in the Northern Autonomous Atlantic Region (RAAN), which will benefit under the Food-for-Education programme. For security reasons the distribution has been postponed until after the elections.
- (e) As the PRRO 10212.0 resources have been used to be able to respond to other emergencies, the operation urgently needs resources to avoid pipeline break and continue to provide assistance to families living in areas vulnerable to recurrent shocks. PRRO 10212.0 will experience shortfalls for the next six months, beginning in April 2006.

(7) Peru

- (a) On the 27th of February, heavy rainfall was reported in the region, damaging housing infrastructure, irrigation channels, roads, drainage outlets, telephone and electricity networks. No deaths or persons injured have been reported.
- (b) The Civil Defense Institute programmed the dispatch of humanitarian aid from its General Warehouse in Lima to its Regional Warehouse in Tumbes by air.
- (c) Meteorological forecasts are moderate to intense rains in coastal areas and the northern sierra. This could be accompanied by thunderstorms especially in Piura and Tumbes. Sporadic lightning and rains are expected in Lambayeque and La Libertad.
- (d) El Tigre, the hydrometric station in the Tumbes river basin registered an instant maximum volume of 1,450 m, causing flooding and affecting riverside areas and populations.

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

WFP Weekly Emergency Report

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