

World Food Programme Emergency Report 2005
 Issued Weekly by the United Nations World Food Programme
 Report No. 19 / 2005 - Date 06 May 2005

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(A) Highlights

- (a) WFP will start distributing 53 tons of food to refugees from Togo, sheltering in camps in Benin.
- (b) An additional 690,000 beneficiaries have been identified as in need of emergency food aid for five or six months in Ethiopia.
- (c) WFP is providing supplementary feeding as well as logistics and communication support in Ethiopia's flood affected Somali region.
- (d) Floods in north eastern Kenya caused logistical constraints, affecting WFP support to Dadaab refugee camps.
- (e) Overall in Kenya, some 83,000 tons of food aid is needed to ensure minimum food security for 1.6 million drought-affected people, including 420,000 schoolchildren.
- (f) In Bahr El Ghazal, Sudan, the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) released twenty-four trucks carrying WFP food on 27 April, following detention since 15 April.
- (g) WFP is increasing support for host communities in eastern Chad.
- (h) WFP is assessing the need to assist people affected by severe floodings in Georgia.
- (i) In the light of current unrest in Kyrgyzstan, WFP and other UN agencies will be fielding a mission next week to strengthen integrated needs assessment and preparedness.

- (B) Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe:** (1) Afghanistan (2) Georgia (3) Iraq (4) Kyrgyzstan (5) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (6) Occupied Palestinian Territories (7) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

(1) Afghanistan

- (a) The Afghan National Army and police clashed in the western city of Hirat, resulting in death and injury of several people. On 30 April, one person was killed when people during a violent demonstration protested against the clash. As a result the UN staff movement remained restricted, affecting humanitarian operations in the region. In

addition, a massive explosion ripped through a secret ammunition dump in northern Baghlan province, killing 27 people. The security situation remained relatively calm throughout other areas of the country, except in the south, southeast and west where security incidents threatened the humanitarian work.

- (b) Snow melting has caused closure of the primary road connecting Kishim to Fayz Abad in the northeastern Badakhshan province, affecting food aid delivery to the area.
- (c) During the past week, WFP assisted 623,700 beneficiaries.
- (d) Through several Food-For-Work (FFW) projects recently completed, some 13 km of canals in Tirinkot district of Uruzgan province, five km of roads in Delaram district of Nimroz and another five km in Obe of Hirat were rehabilitated. FFW activities aim to address immediate food needs in food insecure areas while creating or rehabilitating the communal assets including roads, bridges, schools and agricultural infrastructure.

(2) Georgia

- (a) Days of torrential rain and melting snow on 25 April caused the worst floods in Georgia for many years. Basic infrastructure (roads, electric lines, and communications) have been seriously damaged because of the rising water levels, and resulting landslides. Floods and landslides destroyed the staple crops and washed away pastureland and domestic animals and damaged homes, most of them beyond repair.
- (b) According to the Government, the most affected areas were remote villages in Racha-Lechkhumi, Imereti and Adjara. WFP is sending two teams to those areas to assess the situation and estimate the needs of the affected population. If needed, the WFP in-country stocks (4,000 mt of wheat flour, sugar, vegetable oil, pulses and High Energy Biscuits) can be mobilized immediately.
- (c) The UN Disaster Management Team is meeting on a regular basis and is supporting the government to issue an appeal.
- (d) The meteorological services in Georgia expect further rainfall, and increasing water levels in western Georgia that might cause further floods, landslides and mudslides around the Tskhenistskali, Acharistskali and Aragvi river channels.

(3) Iraq

- (a) The April distribution of the Public Distribution System (PDS) ration was reportedly completed in most governorates. Some governorates are, however, still distributing previous months' rations. Country-wide shortfalls in many commodities continue to be reported. The Ministry of Trade has claimed that some shipments of wheat flour were contaminated with small pieces of iron and has thus removed wheat flour from the ration until further notice. This does not involve wheat flour that was procured as part of WFP's support to the PDS in 2003-04.
- (b) A total of 10,780 tons of commodities have thus far been dispatched into Iraq under activities to support vulnerable groups as part of WFP's current emergency operation (EMOP). The present security situation continues to affect the overland transport of food into Iraq through repeated and unexpected border and road closures.
- (c) Approximately 1,920 tons of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) have been distributed under school feeding activities. A new in-kind contribution of 3,300 tons of HEB has been confirmed recently.
- (d) Guidelines in both Arabic and English for a database to monitor the implementation of the current operation were finalized. Pilot testing of the database is expected to begin shortly with Ministry of Education officials. Since November 2004, over 7,605 people have been trained to build capacities at national, governorate and local levels on various aspects of Food-For-Education and Vulnerable Group Feeding.

- (e) At a UNHCR-workshop, held in early April in Amman, WFP delivered a presentation on Food and Nutrition needs in emergencies. The topics covered included WFP/UNHCR collaboration in emergencies, principles to be observed in providing food to population affected by an emergency, how to choose appropriate commodities for distribution, provision of fortified foods and the need for monitoring and follow up after distribution.

(4) Kyrgyzstan

- (a) In light of recent political events in Kyrgyzstan and the consequent potential for conflict and socio-economic deterioration, an UN inter-agency mission will be fielded to conduct a needs assessment and facilitate integrated interagency contingency planning to strengthen the preparedness of UN agencies.
- (b) The inter-agency mission, consisting of WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and OCHA representatives, will be headed by the UN Resident Coordinator. The mission will commence on 10 May.

(5) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- (a) In March this year, WFP started a Special Operation 10417.0 to enable WFP to augment the Libya logistics corridor, thus increasing WFP's capacity to supply food aid to Sudanese refugees in Chad and the war affected populations in Darfur.
- (b) The Libya corridor provides a flexible surface transport and air bridge capability. Commodities are received at the port of Benghazi and trucked on hard-top roads up to WFP's logistics hub in Khufra, an oasis town in the Libya's south-eastern desert. At Khufra, commodities are either transshipped onto desert trucks to make the cross Sahara journey to Chad -supplying refugee camps in eastern Chad and also West Darfur- or they are transferred to an IL76 to be airlifted to North and South Darfur. The corridor enables WFP to diversify access routes to the affected populations in response to peaks in demand and also to decongest established transport routes, should they become blocked during the rainy season. An airlift operation is due to begin on 7 May.
- (c) Current resourcing levels for the Special Operation stand at 5 percent.

(6) Occupied Palestinian Territories

- (a) WFP oPt has recently met twice with members of the new Palestinian Authority Cabinet (Minister of Planning and Minister of Agriculture). The new cabinet is marked by a high degree of professionalism which bodes well with regards to the future implementation of WFP activities.
- (b) WFP operations under EMOP 10190.2, Support to the Palestinian Population Affected by the Conflict, are ongoing with approximately 6,300 tons of food distributed to approximately 391,000 beneficiaries during the month of April. Approximately 2/3rds of the beneficiaries received food under WFP's Food-For-Work and Food-For-Training activities, nearly 1/3 under direct distribution to hardship-social-cases, and the remainder went for institutional feeding.
- (c) Currently there are real security and thus logistical constraints in terms of transporting food into the Gaza Strip via the normal route through Karni. In response, WFP has been relying more on local purchases of wheat flour in an attempt to circumvent the problem.
- (d) WFP oPt's food pipeline situation is presently adequate, with no near-term pipeline breaks expected. WFP's Business Process Review (BPR) mechanism has also helped to ensure an adequate pipeline: a recent BPR request for a working capital loan of USD 16 million was made and is planned to cover the first 6 months of operational costs for the future PRRO (that will begin in September 2005).

(7) Russian Federation (Caucasus)

- (a) During the first half of April no large scale attacks took place in Chechnya or neighbouring republics, although the constant small scale clashes, bombings and kidnappings indicate a very unpredictable environment.
- (b) During the first fortnight of April, under EMOP 10128.1, Emergency Food Assistance to Vulnerable Households in the North Caucasus, WFP together with partners delivered about 360 tons of food commodities to 31,000 IDPs in Ingushetia and some 615 tons to 52,700 beneficiaries in Grozny city, Grozny Rural, Achkhoy-Martan and Sunzha districts of Chechnya under general food distribution.
- (c) The school feeding programme (SF) in Chechnya continued assisting over 115,300 schoolchildren in approximately 400 schools in 10 districts of the republic; the food commodities for the SF implementation in April and May were distributed during March.
- (d) In April, some 3,700 Food-For-Work (FFW) participants (representing 18,500 beneficiaries) are involved in the implementation of the projects aimed at infrastructure rehabilitation in Chechnya, through repairs of schools, kindergartens, hospitals, etc. Other distribution related activities included daily hot meal distributions to the most vulnerable populations of Grozny city, and distributions to TB patients receiving treatments in both Chechnya and Ingushetia clinics.
- (e) Current resourcing levels for EMOP 10128.1 stand at about 66 percent. This EMOP will be extended up until the end of 2005 with a slight budget increase. The outstanding resource needs, if unmet, will lead to pipeline breaks for the period May-September 2005; with a detrimental effect on all programmes.

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

(1) Burundi

- (a) Sporadic attacks on military and civilian targets, allegedly perpetrated by the Front National de liberation (FNL) rebel movement, continues to be reported in Bujumbura Rural province.
- (b) Rwandan asylum seekers continue to arrive in small numbers in the Northern provinces. Following a meeting between the governments of Burundi and Rwanda, the transfer of this population to the transit sites, initially undertaken by UNHCR, is suspended. An OCHA field report indicated that more than 7,800 persons had arrived in Burundi as of 1 May. WFP provided them with emergency food assistance and will monitor and intervene in line with coordinated humanitarian responses.
- (c) During the past week, WFP distributed close to 1,400 tons of food aid to over 160,000 beneficiaries.
- (d) WFP has started to implement school feeding in secondary schools to respond to the government's request of food assistance in these institutions. This programme will reach approximately 40,000 children in boarding schools throughout the country. Some 73 tons were delivered last week.
- (e) Monitors followed the progress of five projects implemented in Muyinga, Kayanza and Ngozi provinces. All the projects included different activities related to production of construction tools, agriculture, road rehabilitation and anti-erosion works were progressing satisfactorily.
- (f) Currently, corn-soya blend (CSB) stocks are very low, however, some CSB is expected by rail from Dar-es-Salaam. Pipeline breaks are expected in July for cereals, oil and salt. Major shortfalls are expected in September.

(2) Congo, DR

- (a) Following the deterioration of the political and security situation in the DRC, the European Union (EU) announced on Monday that EU military and security advisers were assigned in post within the DRC army structure, including the private office of the Minister of Defence. The launch ceremony took place in Kinshasa in the presence of the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign Policy and Security Policy and the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. According to the EU, the advisers will ensure "the promotion of policies that are compatible with human rights and international humanitarian law, democratic standards, principles of good public management, transparency and observance of the rule of law".
- (b) WFP and UNHCR renewed their partnership in relation to the management of refugees from Rwanda and IDPs in areas alongside the border between Rwanda and DRC. UNHCR has arranged for the reinstallation of IDPs in areas far away from the border, while transit centres for Rwandan refugees returning home have been set up. WFP has been providing food to the IDPs and Rwandan refugees.
- (c) In the Ituri district, daily clashes between opposing militiamen and Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) are causing the continual displacement of population towards the southern part of the Ituri district.
- (d) Reports from Goma indicated a volatile security situation in North-Kivu due to harassment of local population by Mai Mai militiamen and Congolese troops. UN peacekeepers and the 8th brigade from the FARDC were patrolling the area to protect local populations. It appeared that some militia groups who had expressed their willingness to join the disarmament process continued to terrorize peasant farmers in the Rutshuru territory (Buzana), some of whom have been killed.
- (e) The number of Congolese spontaneously returning from Tanzania is reportedly increasing in areas bordering Tanzania. Through its office in Uvira, WFP will support the reinstallation of 20,000 Congolese repatriates transiting in UNHCR centres. During this week, 42 families (153 persons) received a three-month food package from WFP. Altas Logistics conducted the food distribution in the Fizi returnee transit centre. Returnees mainly complained about the various administrative harassment they faced when crossing the border back to DRC.
- (f) According to OCHA, aid-workers are facing harassment by the military at Kindu airport.
- (g) The food situation survey undertaken by WFP partner Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) in Kindu, Kasenga, Kibombo and Bilundu (Maniema province) highlighted a deficit of food crops between September and December. Through food supplies from WFP, COOPI fed 462 beneficiaries in nutrition centres and 924 members of malnourished families this week.

(3) Djibouti

- (a) On 3 May, Djibouti's Minister in charge of international cooperation held a high-level meeting with all the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Djibouti, representatives of UN agencies, International and Regional Organizations to launch officially the joint UN Drought Appeal document issued by the OCHA. The appeal included emergency assistance to some 30,000 drought-affected people in Djibouti. The Ministry also wanted to design a plan of the required interventions in the framework of the follow-up of the official appeal from the Government for the emergency assistance launched on 9 April, to assist drought-affected populations.
- (b) The current drought situation is a result from delayed rains, which forced abnormal pastoral migration patterns of both people and livestock and a further depletion of

already exhausted pastures and grazing areas. Drought-affected pastoralists from neighbouring countries of Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea have also overburdened pastures and water sources. The rains have been insufficient to replenish much-needed water sources throughout the country. Since many families have lost their entire herds, household incomes and access to food has been severely constrained.

- (c) WFP is planning an Emergency Operation (EMOP) with the aim of addressing the immediate food needs for some 30,000 pastoralists and displaced drought-affected population, whose traditional coping mechanisms are unable to sustain them and to support the improvement of the nutritional status of children under-five and other most vulnerable people in the worst drought-affected zones.
- (d) On 4 May, WFP organized an official ceremony in the Port of Djibouti to acknowledge the in-kind donation of 300 tons of dates valued at USD 265,000. The dates will contribute towards the needs of some 11,000 schoolchildren assisted by WFP under the School Feeding Programme in 51 rural and semi urban schools where WFP provides two balanced meals per day, 6 times per week, for 200 days per year. The dates will also benefit 17,000 Somali and Ethiopian refugees residing in the three camps of Djibouti.

(4) Eritrea

- (a) Food security concerns in Eritrea continue. Although the short-term food security in the country largely depends on the outcome of the 2005 seasonal rains, so far, production prospects are mixed. According to a FEWS-Net report, the Bahri season rainfall (October 2004 - March 2005) performed poorly. Although the Bahri season is not the main agricultural season, Bahri rains are important for pasture regeneration in the Northern and Southern Red Seas zones and for flash flood irrigation in the foothills of the eastern escarpment.
- (b) Attention is now turning to the Azmera rainfall season (March - May 2005), which is important for long-cycle crops in the southern and central highlands. The initial performance of the Azmera rain during the first fortnight of March was good, but was interrupted by a long dry spell that prevailed from mid-March to mid-April, threatening the agricultural activities of long cycle crops in Debub and Maekel regions in the central and southern part of the country. Food security for most of Eritrea is expected to remain problematic in 2005, with about 2.3 million food insecure people, as informed by FEWS-Net.
- (c) Despite the insufficient rainfall, farmers have started land preparations in the more fertile areas of the country in the south-central region of Debub. Soil and water conservation-works under the voluntary community works scheme continue. As informed by the media, flash floods were reported last weekend in the south-eastern part (Southern Red Sea) of the country, causing serious damage in the affected areas. Two people were killed, animals drowned and crops were destroyed.
- (d) WFP withdrew its general feeding activities from the Adi Quala and Mai Mine sub regions in Debub region. The 53,000 beneficiaries residing in these sub regions will be supported by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Instead, WFP now assists sub-regions of Maekel regions with a total of 55,000 beneficiaries. This swap allows Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to concentrate its activities in the region of Debub under its Development Relief Project activities as well as in Southern Red Sea region. The swap had been requested by USAID and receives the full support of WFP's national counterpart, the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC). It is initially planned for a period of 3 months but is likely to be extended thereafter.
- (e) WFP commitment coverage for EMOP 10261.01 increased through a new contribution of almost USD 2.1 million and now stands at USD 43.7 million or approximately

120,000 tons of food commodities. This amount covers about 74 percent of this operation's total food commodity requirements. Commitment coverage for the PRRO 10192 has remained unchanged, with USD 42.8 million, representing 83 percent of operation requirements.

(5) Ethiopia

- (a) On 4 May, the Ethiopian Government and humanitarian partners issued a Flash Update to the 2005 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia. Through consultations with the regions, an additional 690,000 beneficiaries have been identified as in need of emergency food assistance at this time, most of them requiring food aid for five or six months, and increasing the total emergency beneficiaries from 3.1 million to 3.8 million. A further 66,200 tons of food is required to cover the increased needs, with the total revised emergency food aid needs for 2005 now estimated at 464,400 tons.
- (b) In addition to those assisted with emergency food aid, over 4 million chronically food insecure people are being supported in 2005 by food and cash transfers under the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). WFP supports both the PSNP and the relief operation under its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation.
- (c) The emergency food pipeline has improved considerably in the past month and the coverage of requirements in the updated 2005 Humanitarian Appeal has reached 64 percent. Taking into account the newly-identified requirements, the shortfall in emergency food for 2005 is now 165,000 tons. There are also unmet requirements for targeted supplementary rations for malnourished children and women, essential to reduce the current prevalence of acute malnutrition. Confirmed food aid commitments can now cover requirements until mid-July. However, there are further contributions from major donors that are currently under negotiation, which could extend the food aid pipeline to the end of September.
- (d) Under the Flash Update, requirements for non-food sectors, have also been revised. On the non-food side, only 22 percent of the total revised requirement of USD 135.6 million has been met, leaving a funding shortfall of USD 105 million. Critical gaps remain, especially for the health and nutrition sector and the water and sanitation sector.
- (e) The floods caused by heavy Gu rains in Somali Region and rains in the Oromiya highlands are continuing to cause loss of human and animal lives and severe damage to property and farmland. According to initial estimations, 105,000 people were described as having been affected by the floods. The figure has increased in recent days, but higher numbers are yet to be verified. Numbers are difficult to estimate as access is still not possible to many of the affected areas. An assessment team is being sent by regional authorities to Gode and Afder zones to establish the damage caused by the floods along the Wabe Shebelle river, and to indicate the extent of response required.
- (f) Serious damage has been reported because heavy rains in the camps of drought displaced populations in Hartisheik and Fafen in Jijiga zone, in the eastern part of Somali Region, leaving the population under extremely difficult conditions. WFP is providing supplementary food for UNICEF's therapeutic feeding centre at these locations and in West Imi (in Afder zone, along the Wabe Shebelle river).
- (g) The government, UN agencies, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and NGOs are continuing their efforts to respond to the flood emergency. So far, plastic plates, high energy biscuits, jerry cans, plastic jugs, plastic sheeting and blankets have been sent to affected areas. However, emergency needs are much higher than the current response, and aid deliveries are being held back because of the difficulty in accessing the flood areas. WFP supplementary food stocks (fortified corn soya blend)

are being mobilized in the remote town of Gode for the flood victims and will be distributed as soon as transportation problems ease. Throughout the crisis, WFP has also provided logistical and communications support to government, UN agencies and NGOs working in the flood areas, through the WFP sub-office in Gode.

(6) Kenya

- (a) On 29 April, torrential rains hit Dadaab refugee camps in northeastern Kenya. About 5,000 families (some 25,000 refugees) in Ifo camp, one of three camps in Dadaab complex hosting over 53,000 mostly Somali refugees, had their shelters and property destroyed and had to move to higher grounds. Three WFP rub halls (stores) were flooded with 30cm of water and WFP, together with other agencies, had to take immediately action to raise the level of food off the floor by adding more pallets. Some 8 tons of salt got wet and are being reconstituted. General food distribution started on 1 May with a reduced maize ration in Ifo from 370 to 257gms/person/day, as transfer of food from other camps, which was planned for 30 April, could not take place due to flooded roads.
- (b) Meanwhile, at least nine trucks with 290 tons of WFP food meant for the refugees in Dadaab, are currently stranded in Garissa town and three other trucks with WFP food for the school feeding programme are reportedly stuck in Tharaka and Samburu Districts due to floods. WFP is trying to offload the food into smaller trucks, which can pass through.
- (c) Over the past month, WFP has distributed approximately 14,200 tons of food to nearly 1.3 million drought-affected Kenyans, as part of the planned March/April distributions. Food dispatches to the districts for the May distributions are ongoing, however, the heavy rains are likely to affect the timely delivery to some remote extended delivery points (EDPs) particularly in North Eastern and Eastern Province.
- (d) WFP estimates that between May and August 2005, some 83,000 tons of food aid is needed to ensure minimum food security of 1.6 million drought-affected people including 420,000 school children.
- (e) WFP still faces a shortfall of 52,000 tons of food, worth USD 28 million, mainly cereals, starting June. The EMOP desperately needs new pledges, preferably in cash, to boost the cereals pipeline for the coming months. Cash could either be used to buy maize regionally or pay the associated costs to enable WFP accept additional Government of Kenya pledges to the EMOP.

(7) Rwanda

- (a) The flow of refugees from DRC and Burundi continues unabated. Over 740 new arrivals were registered during the past week. The total number of refugees in Rwanda is now 53,492 (46,556 Congolese and 6,936 Burundians).
- (b) An estimated 800 Rwandans who fled to Burundi due to Gacaca trials returned to their villages. In addition, 100 returnees arrived in Nyagatare Transit Camp from DRC receiving a 10-day ration. More than 660 Rwandan refugees remain in Bukavu, DRC, awaiting their repatriation to Nyagatare.
- (c) During the past week, some 425 new refugees arrived in Nyamure and 61 in Gikonko camps in Butare province. An additional 256 Congolese arrived in Nkamira camp while another 566 refugees were transferred to the new Ngarama camp.
- (d) A total of 2,000 refugees from Nkamira and 1,000 refugees from Cyangugu transit camps will be moved to the new Ngarama camp, which can accommodate 3,000 refugees. Three tours of transfers are planned every week with an average of 400 refugees. This would allow Nkamira Camp to continue hosting a significant number of

asylum seekers from Congo.

- (e) Close to 255 tons of food commodities were distributed to 20,135 refugees in Gihembe in Byumba province, while two-week rations were provided to refugees in Nkamira, Nyamure and Gikonko camps.

(8) Sudan

- (a) DARFUR
- (b) On 27 April, a convoy of 11 WFP-contracted trucks, heading for Kebkabiyah and El Geneina from Khartoum, was stopped at a Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) checkpoint near Khow Tawila, west of Tawila in North Darfur. Several bags of sugar and personal possessions of the drivers were looted. While the convoy was eventually allowed to proceed, one truck was detained and the whereabouts of the truck and driver remain unknown. The UN Department of Security and Safety (UNDSS) declared various locations around Kass, Adilla and East Jebel Marra as “No-Go” for UN movement, following increased tension among the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and general insecurity in the camps.
- (c) Ambushes on commercial trucks between Ed Daein and Nyala have hampered delivery of food to various camps in South Darfur. A total of some 3,910 tons of food was received in Nyala during the past week, some 20 percent less than the previous week.
- (d) WFP, the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) and Save the Children US (SC-US) have mobilized a total of almost 450 humanitarian workers from 15 UN agencies and NGOs to conduct simultaneous registration exercises in eight camps (Abuzar, Ardamata, Krinding I, Krinding II, Dorti, Hujag, Jama and Riyad) in West Darfur. Registration was postponed in these locations after the sheiks from four of the eight camps rejected the headcount methodology in favour of exchanging old rations cards with new ration cards.
- (e) Dispatches from the three Darfur state capitals to Cooperating Partner (CP) in April total about 34,480 tons, reaching some 1.8 million beneficiaries (estimate based on dispatches).
- (f) WFP will not cut non-cereal rations by half from May, following a donor’s decision to redirect approximately 14,000 tons of non-cereals already on the high seas.
- (g) World Vision conducted a nutrition survey in Nyala town area. The preliminary results show high rates of global acute malnutrition (23 percent).
- (h) Preliminary results of an inter-agency assessment mission in Um Kedada indicate a need for food assistance in Al Lait (SLA controlled area) and Um Kedada (GoS area) where it was noted that grains are scarce and market prices are higher than other parts of North Darfur. It is estimated that some 45,000 people in Al Lait and another 55,000 in Um Kedada require food assistance.
- (i) Stiff competition in the primary transportation sector remains a challenge for WFP to meet delivery requirements from Port Sudan to the logistical hubs in El Obeid, Khartoum and Kosti. However, WFP expects that the arrival of more than 90 new long-haul trucks in May from one of its contracted transporters will augment logistics capacity.
- (j) WFP has received official clearance of landing permits from the Government of Sudan (GoS) that will allow WFP to begin airlifting food from Al Khufra in southeast Libya to El Fasher and Nyala.
- (k) As of 25 April, the Darfur EMOP 10339.1 faces a shortfall of USD 186 million, representing 40 percent of total requirements (USD 467.1 million).
- (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 (SETA)
- (o) Twenty-four trucks carrying WFP food were released on 27 April, after having being detained by the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) since 15 April. According to the drivers, the SPLA claimed that the truck documentations were incomplete. The trucks are currently on the way to their original destination, Aweil.
- (p) The security situation in Gubaish and Wad Banda localities southwest of West Kordofan remains tense with repeated attacks by bandits along the main road corridors. During the last week of April, an armed group attacked El Zarnakh, El Siderat and El Magrouir villages in West Kordofan State near Gubaish local council. CARE suspended its surveys in the region following the incident and UNSECOORD has declared the area as "No-Go" to UN movement.
- (q) WFP received reports of inter-clan clashes in Abuyong, Bunagok and Adior Yirou County in Lakes Region. Citchok and Pagoor in Cuibet County remain "No-Go" areas for humanitarian staff following previous inter-clan fighting.
- (r) Fourteen children were injured when a grenade exploded in Juabor in Phou State. Akobo, Kier and Wanding remained "No-Go" areas for humanitarian operations during the week. In Leal, Leech State, inter-clan fighting broke out between the Bul and Leek clans and the WFP team was relocated to Rumbek.
- (s) Humanitarian agencies in Bahr El Ghazal are cooperating to prepare for the expected arrival of approximately 7,000 returnees from the Mabilia camp with both food and non-food items. Local authorities estimate that 1,352 returnees are traveling from Bo valley through Bazia to Wau. The authorities transported some 352 of these returnees to Deim Zubiari. WFP plans to use buffer stock pre-positioned in Raja to meet immediate needs.
- (t) WFP completed the registration process of beneficiaries in the four major distribution centers of Padak, Mabilior, Poktap and Rialbek in Jonglei region. Some 24,940 vulnerable residents and 8,720 returnees were registered and assisted with approximately 390 tons of food.
- (u) Results of WFP's verification and registration exercise in Mayom and Mankien indicates an increase of approximately 13 percent in the total beneficiary caseload, which includes IDPs, host population, returnees and new arrivals. WFP plans to conduct a similar exercise in Pariang, Tor and Biu areas in the coming week.
- (v) WFP delivered approximately 45 tons of assorted food commodities to support three Dyke and Road Construction projects in Duk and Twic East counties. WFP's Cooperating Partner, CARE, is implementing these projects with some 176 participants.
- (w) Two barges were loaded in Kosti, White Nile State with 630 tons of food commodities for cross-line distributions in Tonga corridor in Upper Nile State. The first of the two barges was scheduled to depart to Malaya on 2 May.
- (x) Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has decided to reopen its supplementary feeding centre in the Eastern Bank IDP camp following subsequent surveys and repeated admissions of patients from the camps, including new admissions of 33 patients from the Eastern Bank camp. ACF plans to request additional food from WFP to respond to the current nutritional situation.

- (y) FAO has pre-positioned agricultural inputs (seed and tools) to identified villages in the Nub Mountains. FAO plans to distribute these items simultaneously with WFP's upcoming food distribution in order to prevent beneficiaries from consuming the seeds.
- (z) During the past week, new contributions of USD 1,648,509 were confirmed. Total confirmed contributions received against the Emergency Operation amount to approximately USD 70 million, representing a shortfall of 77 percent against operational requirements. Pipeline breaks starting in April will directly affect food distributions and the nutritional status of more than 2.5 million targeted beneficiaries during the critical hunger period of July and August.

(9) Tanzania

- (a) Close to 400,120 beneficiaries received some 1,650 tons of food, through general distribution, supplementary and therapeutic feeding in refugee camps in western Tanzania. Due to funding shortfalls, refugees continue to receive approximately 1,617 Kcal/day (87 percent of the usual Kcal level).
- (b) A total of 10,107 food insecure and otherwise vulnerable Tanzanians in 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.
- (c) Since the last update on 27 April, USD 1,500,000 has been contributed, which will be used for the purchase of 1,736 tons pulses and 500 tons vegetable oil. The PRRO faces an overall shortfall of over 35,300 tons for the current phase of the operation, which is scheduled to end on 31 January 2006. The refugee operation anticipates pipeline breaks for pulses at the end of May, vegetable oil in the beginning of June and cereals in July, due to delays in expected arrivals, mainly from international shipments.

(10) Uganda

- (a) The Government of Uganda has expressed willingness to extend the ceasefire, at a convenient time to facilitate dialogue with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The chief negotiator between the Government and the LRA, continues to maintain contact with the LRA top leadership. Despite the renewed dialogue between the chief negotiator and the LRA leadership, the security situation in northern Uganda (Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts) remains very fluid, with daily atrocities committed by the LRA.
- (b) Preliminary findings of a GOAL nutrition assessment in Pader district in March 2005 indicate a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 5.5 percent in five camps assessed (Kalongo, Wol, Omiya Pacwa and Paimol) and a Crude Mortality Rate <1/10,000 people per day.
- (c) WFP food distribution continues to reach 1.4 million displaced persons, 192,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons. During the period from 23 to 30 April, WFP distributed 4,025 tons of relief food assistance to 297,630 persons, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts, refugees, children in nutrition centers and other vulnerable persons.
- (d) WFP faces a shortfall of 99,379 tons of food commodities (87,276 tons cereals, 2,792 tons pulses, 7,352 tons fortified blended foods, 1,671 tons vegetable oil, 66 tons salt and 221 tons sugar) with 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) Benin (2) Chad (3) Cote d'Ivoire (4) Ghana (5) Guinea (6) Liberia (7) Togo

(1) Benin

- (a) Border crossing from people coming from Togo into Bénin continues, but at a slower rate. The number of registered refugees now stands at 14,000 (of which 3,900 in camps - 2,800 in Lokossa and 1,100 in Comé). The UN Country Team is to launch a flash appeal for assistance to 20,000 refugees (of which 7,000 in camps). WFP visited the entry point of Hillacondji and the Comé camp. WFP will now distribute 53 tons of commodities (maize, pulses, vegetable oil) in both camps (Lokossa and Comé).
- (b) WFP's Regional Security Officer has been deployed in Bénin since mid-April to assess the situation and help WFP's Country Office be better prepared for the unfolding crisis; a regional ICT officer has been deployed to Bénin since the end of last week and will then proceed to Ghana next week to help Country Offices to upgrade their capacities in order to have the adequate tools to operate throughout the emergency; two regional needs assessment officers have been deployed
- (c) Immediate Response Account Emergency Operations (IRA/EMOPs) for Ghana and Bénin are currently under revision. Further to needs assessments, it will be decided which shape an eventual EMOP will take. Depending on the needs in Ghana and Togo, it would most probably be a regional EMOP managed from Cotonou. This will give WFP the flexibility to quickly shift resources from one country to another as needs arise.

(2) Chad

- (a) The overall security situation remains fairly calm in eastern Chad, with no major incidents to report. A WFP cross border convoy delivered 400 tons of sorghum from Abéché to Geneina with no problems encountered.
- (b) The WFP/UNHCR target caseload figure for the month of May is estimated at 193,300 refugees. The drop in the planned caseload figure is explained by re-verification processes, which indicated registration errors and uncertainties, including duplicated ration cards and forgeries. However, this figure may change again following the ongoing re-verification/census in Iridimi and Touloum camps. In addition, the scheduled transfer of some refugees from border sites near Adre to the new refugee camp of Gaga may also bring the figure up.
- (c) Overall malnutrition rates are relatively stable in the camps. Action Contre la Faim – USA completed a nutritional survey in Am Nabak camp during the past week, and MSF Luxembourg is set to commence a nutritional survey in Touloum and Iridimi camps around 10 May.
- (d) For the month of April, WFP provided a total of 3,490 tons of general food rations to 195,145 beneficiaries. Due to problems faced during the last distributions, as a result of lack of partners' trucks, it was agreed that May distributions would be conducted on the basis of 30-day full rations in northern and central camps, and 15-day full rations in southern camps. This would also ensure that all distributions take place at the same time.
- (e) Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme, WFP distributed some 55 tons of food to a total of 12,510 young children and pregnant/nursing mothers in Djabal, Iridimi and Touloum camps.
- (f) WFP plans to distribute a donation of some 50 tons of dates exclusively to primary school children in the refugee camps. First distributions will be conducted by CARE during the current week in Iridimi, Touloum and Am Nabak.

- (g) WFP, in collaboration with various partners, is providing food support to assist host communities to rehabilitate basic infrastructures and engage in agricultural and income generating activities. WFP's current Food-For-Work (FFW) interventions are progressing in various zones. Among other activities, the Association Feminine pour le Développement Intégré d'Iriba commenced a FFW activity in the four villages of Iriba, ERE, Iridimi and Tandakona. The 2-month activity aims to create wells for rainwater harvesting, before the onset of the rainy season. Partner ADESK is preparing to commence an activity which aims to construct a fence around Iriba's primary school.
- (h) WFP also provided food rations to all ten school canteens in Bahai. In total, about 1,630 school children have been assisted with some 24 tons of food
- (i) WFP field offices have reported sporadic rainfall in southern and central camps, which is raising concerns for pre-positioning plans before the arrival of heavy rains in June. WFP is prioritising pre-positioning in southern camps as they are the first to be cut off. Central camps are also situated near a road with four major Wadis (water beds), which may render the area inaccessible as soon as the heavy rain begins. WFP in Chad is awaiting the first cargoes of the wheat loan from Sudan to continue with pre-positioning.
- (j) WFP is installing six wiikhalls in a new site provided by the Governor of Ouaddai near Abéché. This will facilitate stocking of food destined to Darfur (Geneina – Sudan).
- (k) While the current EMOP 10327.0 (ending on 30 June) is fairly well funded at 84.41 percent with a shortfall of USD 9.6 million, the new phase of the operation - EMOP 10327.1 - has so far received little funding (USD 5.5 million out of a total USD 87 million requirement). WFP's supporting Humanitarian Air Service, Special Operation (SO) 10338, is currently resourced only at 68 percent. If additional contributions are not received shortly, WFP will be obliged to revise the current operation. An additional USD 7.2 million are needed to enable it to function from July 2005 to December 2006. SO 10390, which provides vital logistics enhancement to the operation, is also under-resourced with 32.8 percent so far confirmed, equivalent to a shortfall of USD 4.3 million.

(3) Cote d'Ivoire

- (a) Repatriation of 103 refugees took place in Tabou on April 29 through the UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme. As a consequence of 3 days ethnic clashes around Duekue, about 6000 people have been displaced to the Catholic mission or close to the town hall. Humanitarian organisations are concerned about water and sanitation. Efforts to improve food security may be jeopardized if these displaced people do not return to their villages.
- (b) Preliminary findings of an inter-agency assessment mission to the departments of Danane, Biankouma and Touba from 26 to 29 April point a serious health situation with the absence of functioning health centers, while most water pumps are out of order.
- (c) From 28 April to 4 May, some 650 tons of assorted food commodities were distributed to some 105,640 beneficiaries.
- (d) The first food distribution for 2005 agriculture project has commenced in Man. Seeds, provided by FAO, have been delivered.
- (e) Contributions to WFP's 2005 regional operation for the Cote d'Ivoire crisis currently total USD 12 million or 42 percent of the total planned budget of USD 28.2 million. Pipeline breaks are foreseen for cereals in August 2005. The only way to avoid this situation would be immediate contributions for local purchase of maize meal during May.

(4) Ghana

- (a) The UN Refugee agency (UNHCR) has indicated that arrivals of people fleeing from

Togo, through the Aflao border post, over the past four days have continued at a fairly constant rate, bringing the current number to a total of 10,203 (as of 4 May). People are entering Ghana through three main areas- Aflao, Dzodze and Jasikan. The situation is very unclear as to whether the refugees are going back and forth from Togo to Ghana. Most refugees are living with host populations. Only 100 refugees have sought shelter in a church. In the light of this, no flash appeal is being launched by the UN Country Team for Ghana at this point in time.

- (b) As a contingency measure, WFP Ghana has pre-positioned adequate stocks of high-energy biscuits and dry rations (for 10,000 beneficiaries) to the Jasikan and Akasti districts.
- (c) 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, in order to maintain a low key approach and to minimize any potential for triggering adverse reactions. Memoranda of Understanding with Catholic Relief Services and the three parish partners are being finalized.

(5) Guinea

- (a) During the past two weeks, about 765 Liberian refugees were repatriated from the Kouankan, Kountaya and Laine camps. Since the beginning of the repatriation campaign in November 2004, close to 8,000 Liberians have returned home. Progress has been slower than planned. In April, a total of 2,723 refugees were repatriated, while UNHCR had expected to reach 6,000 voluntary repatriations per month. One of the reasons seems to be the feeling among the refugee population that there is not adequate support to settle back in their country of origin.
- (b) From 18 April to 1 May, some 405 tons of WFP provided assorted food commodities were distributed to 45,170 beneficiaries.
- (c) Under general distribution, over 71,000 refugees are currently being assisted; 4,000 are from Cote d'Ivoire and the remainder from Liberia. A new beneficiary identification system has been put in place. It includes pictures of family members benefiting from food distributions. Its aim is to minimize fraud with distribution cards and to ensure access to food rations to the most vulnerable.
- (d) The last Emergency School Feeding (ESF) distributions of this school year are being carried out in the N'Zerekore region. The distributions have already been completed in the Beyla prefecture. The quantities of food being distributed to each school are being carefully planned in order to avoid residual stocks at year end.
- (e) Food loans from Liberia and Chad have allowed WFP Guinea to pre-position stocks before the start of the rainy season. New contributions have also improved the pipeline situation. Nevertheless, WFP in Guinea continues to face breaks in its pulses and vegetable oil pipelines over the next six months.

(6) Liberia

- (a) From 20 to 26 April, some 2,020 tons of assorted food commodities were distributed to 281,595 beneficiaries. In a move to accelerate the resettlement of IDPs, WFP has, during the week, de-registered, in Totota camps, 5,005 IDPs who were provided with resettlement ration card which will allow them to collect the resettlement package at a way station, close to the localities they have selected for resettlement. The resettlement of IDPs in Nimba County started during the reporting period. In continuation of repatriation from Guinea two convoys arrived from Kissidougou and Nzerekore. Some 895 returnees were issued a total of 30.81Mt of assorted food commodities at the Voinjama Transit Center. In addition, 173 Returnees arrived from Ivory Coast in

Zwedru, Janzon, Zleh/Toe and Tuzon/Zai Towns and were provided with their initial portion of the resettlement package.

- (b) For the first time in years, school children in Grand Bassa county received WFP food under the Emergency school feeding programme. WFP was able to provide hot lunches for 9225 children in 52 schools of the county. WFP is among the very few humanitarian agencies to be operational in all the accessible areas of this very remote County.
- (c) During the week, some 1, 210 beneficiaries of FSLI activities (Local Initiatives) were reached with food assistance. Thirty nine (39) FSLI project proposals in agriculture (mainly vegetable and swamp rice production) from River Cess have been received at the country office. The follow-up field assessments are being arranged so that early approval and implementation could start in coming weeks.
- (d) The WFP pipeline for Liberia is relatively healthy through August, with minor breaks in salt, sugar and CSB. However, major pipeline breaks are anticipated starting from September. An estimated USD 6 million is immediately required to avert anticipated shortfalls taking place in the last 2005 quarter.

(7) Togo

- (a) On 3 May, Togo's constitutional court has confirmed Faure Gnassingbé as the new President of Togo. The opposition has announced that it would not take part in a unity government and called for popular resistance. France and ECOWAS have endorsed the election results, but the United States expressed serious doubts about the outcome of the polls. Government security forces have intensified repression (especially during the night) and blocked off all the main cities.
- (b) An inter-agency mission to assess humanitarian needs in Togo was postponed until the security situation improves.
- (c) About 8,500 tons of WFP food commodities could be used within the region to loan for the Togo crisis operation.

(E) Southern Africa: (1) Regional (2) Angola (3) Lesotho (4) Madagascar (5) Malawi (6) Mozambique (7) Namibia (8) Swaziland (9) Zambia (10) Zimbabwe

(1) Regional

- (a) WFP urgently needs new pledges for the Southern African Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation. In many areas partial rations are being distributed and the number of people receiving food falls short of those who have been assessed as needy. Unless new pledges are received, the situation will be grim in the winter months ahead for thousands of vulnerable households in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- (b) While the joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions and Vulnerability Assessment Committee exercises are underway, the 2004/05 agricultural harvest is expected to be comparable to and in some locations worse than the drought year of 2002.

(2) Angola

- (a) WFP continues to support the Government of Angola and UN efforts to halt the spread of the Marburg Virus in Uige Province. To date, WFP air services have transported 100 tons of food and 136 humanitarian workers, including medical staff, in addition to approximately 12 tons of equipment and supplies. As of 1 May, 302 cases had been registered, of which almost 270 have resulted in death.
- (b) During the month of April, under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO),

10054.2, Support to Return and Resettlement, WFP aimed to distribute 9,000 tons of food to approximately 1 million people throughout the country. General food distributions targeted 78 percent of beneficiaries, mainly internal and external returnees, refugees and vulnerable residents. A further 11 percent were engaged in Food-For-Work and Food-For-Assets (FFW/FFA) activities, while another 11 percent were targeted for school feeding projects. Remaining beneficiaries are reached through nutritional and social programmes.

- (c) The PRRO continues to be severely under funded. There has been a precipitous drop in contributions from donors since January 2004. Even with reduced beneficiary numbers, substantial reductions in FFW/FFA activities, and a much smaller school-feeding programme than had initially been planned, the operation still needs about USD 24 million, or 36,000 tons of additional food in order to reach completion at the end of 2005.

(3) Lesotho

- (a) Intermittent rainfall is a major cause for concern as the country attempts to recover from a multi-year drought. While heavy rains in February and March boosted cumulative precipitation to near normal, in many cases the rainfall came too late to revive affected crops. In addition, planted areas were substantially reduced in the southern part of the country, due to a lack of soil moisture. While much of the cereal deficits can be covered commercially from South Africa, a lack of purchasing power for a large percent of the population is a major problem for vulnerable households. A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission and national vulnerability assessment is currently underway.
- (b) Beneficiary distributions for the second quarter continue throughout the country. From 27 April until 3 May, nearly 119,000 people participating in various projects, including mother and child health care; HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and home-based care; orphans and other vulnerable children; vulnerable group feeding; and Food-For-Work participants received approximately 1,650 tons of food.

(4) Madagascar

- (a) Main season crops such as rice, maize and sorghum received normal to above normal rains at the beginning of the 2004/05 agricultural-season, followed by heavy rainfall in December/January. However in February, the most crucial month for crop development remained relatively dry, adversely affecting potential crop yields. In addition, serious flooding was reported in the eastern Alaotra region in March, causing damage to standing rice paddy crops. The impact of cyclones in 2004, the rising cost of oil imports, high rice prices and depressed prices of main exports, such as vanilla and shrimp, have resulted in serious food security problems for vulnerable groups. Cereal imports, including food aid, are forecast in the 2004/05 marketing year. An independent crop assessment is currently underway.
- (b) During April, WFP in collaboration with implementing partners, distributed approximately 1,600 tons of food to 28,000 vulnerable people, affected by floods and cyclones.

(5) Malawi

- (a) The Ministry of Agriculture's crop estimates indicate a 25 percent decrease in maize production from 1.7 million tons last season (2003/04) to 1.3 million tons this season. According to the Ministry, this may result in a national cereal gap of between 300,000 to 500,000 tons. A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is currently in progress, and the results of the Vulnerability Assessment Committee are expected in

mid-May.

- (b) From 28 April to 4 May, WFP and implementing partners dispatched 1,130 tons of food for vulnerable beneficiaries.

(6) Mozambique

- (a) The Ministry of Agriculture's crop estimates indicate a 25 percent decrease in maize production from 1.7 million tons last season (2003/04) to 1.3 million tons this season. According to the Ministry, this may result in a national cereal gap of between 300,000 to 500,000 tons. A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is currently in progress, and the results of the Vulnerability Assessment Committee are expected in mid-May.
- (b) From 28 April to 4 May, WFP and implementing partners dispatched 1,130 tons of food for vulnerable beneficiaries.

(7) Namibia

- (a) WFP met with the Prime Minister's Secretary to the Cabinet in order to discuss the situation on future food needs. The Government welcomed WFP's support in order to jointly meet the needs of growing numbers of orphans and other vulnerable children.
- (b) Food distributions are currently underway but are being seriously hampered by a lack of transportation beyond extended delivery points.

(8) Swaziland

- (a) The sale of cattle is reported to have increased by 57 percent in the Lowveld. Veterinary and Extension officers attribute the rise in sales to the worsening food security situation as vulnerable households are forced to sell their cattle in order to procure food.
- (b) The joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission is in progress along with the participation of WFP's cooperating partners. This is the first time that non-governmental organizations have been fully involved in these assessments.
- (c) From 26 April to 2 May, WFP in collaboration with implementing partners distributed food to approximately 33,000 beneficiaries.

(9) Zambia

- (a) Poor rainfall has negatively affected major grain producing areas of Central, Southern and Eastern provinces. A rapid Vulnerability Assessment Committee study in mid-March estimated crop failures ranging from 25 to 95 percent in the worst affected areas. The national Vulnerability Assessment Committee is currently in the field assessing both food and non-food needs. Preliminary information is expected by 19 May 2005. While Zambia had a maize surplus in the previous two agricultural seasons, this year's harvest is not likely to meet domestic requirements, and there is a high likelihood that Zambia will require outside food assistance in the coming marketing season.

(10) Zimbabwe

- (a) The Government has increased the producer price of maize by 300 percent. The new price is the equivalent of USD 362 per ton at the official exchange rate, a significant increase from last year's price of USD 120. The Government intends to heavily subsidise sales to commercial millers and for general retail. The sale price to millers will be equal to USD 96 per ton, a heavy subsidy that local economists fear will be inflationary.

- (b) There has been no respite from a month-long crippling fuel shortage. Fuel is currently available only in Harare, and parallel market rates are five times higher than the official price. The rapidly increasing prices reflect a recent and dramatic decline in the parallel market value of the local currency, now almost three times the official auction rate. Shortages of basic commodities such as maize products, sugar and cooking oil continue.
- (c) Preparations for the national Vulnerability Assessment Committee are in progress, with fieldwork scheduled for late May to early June. Reliable estimates from technicians indicate that maize production will not exceed 500,000 tons, a little more than half of the 2003/04 harvest.
- (d) WFP has made provisional plans to distribute 200,000 tons of food over the next twelve months in order to meet the basic needs of an estimated 3 million of the most vulnerable people.

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

(1) Bangladesh

- (a) Precipitation, including a hailstorm, occurred in some parts of the country. Farmers are expecting to start harvesting in full swing shortly, but are looking forward with a deal of apprehension regarding crop damage due to possible hailstorms, which are common in April – May.
- (b) WFP's school-feeding programme under EMOP 10380, Assistance to Flood Affected People in Bangladesh, will continue until July 2005 when food distributions under the EMOP will end. Over 600,000 children in flood-affected areas receive high-energy biscuits under the programme.
- (c) Food-For-Work/Food-For-Asset (FFW/FFA) activities are ongoing in four districts. Furthermore, delivery of vegetable oil to NGO warehouses, from where it will be distributed under the Rural Livelihoods Support programme, is completed.
- (d) Resourcing levels of the EMOP, at present, stand at 47 percent.

(2) Korea (DPR)

- (a) Unless new donations of cereals are urgently made, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to elderly people, primary school children (take-home ration) and the poorest urban households from mid-June. By late July rations to pregnant and nursing women (PNWs), and children in nurseries and kindergartens will also have to be cut. Production in WFP-supported factories producing fortified food for children and PNWs will be maintained until end-August, and assistance to orphanages and hospitals until end-September.
- (b) A training in WFP's Enhanced Commitment to Women (ECW) was conducted in the office. Besides WFP staff, also representatives from partner organizations participated in training.

(3) Nepal

- (a) The deterioration of Nepal's political and security situation since February, with notably a state of emergency being declared for a three months period and civil rights being suspended, has led to civil disturbance and increased insurgency. This situation is hampering current WFP operations and could possibly cause food crises to arise.
- (b) In view of this situation, WFP identified the need to acquire and consolidate priority emergency preparedness capabilities and improve its response capacity to evolving and/or potential new emergencies. For that purpose, WFP this week approved a new

Special Operation, which will increase WFP's "Operational stand-by capacity" in terms of pre-positioning non food items, expanding storage/transport capacity and strengthening ICT assets. The SO will be carried out during the period from May through October 2005 and has a total cost of USD 1,4 million.

- (c) This initiative is especially critical to consolidate WFP's capacity in support to 105,000 Bhutanese refugees relying on WFP's food assistance. The refugee operation was recently extended to the end of 2005, yet the resources committed so far are only enough to support the operation up to July. An additional USD 3,1 million is needed to avoid a pipeline break that may create unrest at a particularly sensitive time given the current security and political situation.

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

(1) Bolivia

- (a) The protests by indigenous people and teacher's federation, announced for this week, have not started yet. However, coca growers are preparing a massive march to La Paz for 10 May, demanding 50 percent of royalties for the oil sector in the new Hydrocarbons Law.
- (b) El Alto neighbors' federation together with the national teachers' federation and diverse indigenous people announced massive street protests starting on 15 May, and the taking of public and military buildings asking for the nationalization of hydrocarbons. In the meantime, the Armed Forces stay on alert, waiting for a presidential order in case forthcoming social conflicts turn uncontrollable. The roadblock in Yacuiba was lifted last weekend, enabling the kidney beans freight to reach the warehouses in Santa Cruz. This product will be delivered to beneficiaries within the next food distribution.
- (c) The freight of maize and oil could not reach warehouses last week in the zone where WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP) is implemented, due to the collapse of a bridge in Yacuiba. The incident caused a delay in the second food distribution; however, the problem was solved and the train was able to reach the EMOP zone on 2 May.
- (d) The delivery of food (some 19,020 rations) to 11 communities, consisting of about 825 families, was scheduled to resume on 5 May.

(2) Colombia

- (a) Colombian troops killed nine members of an illegal armed group in the Province of Antioquia last Saturday 30 April.
- (b) The situation in the province of Choco remains volatile. Displacements, blockades and clashes between illegal armed groups have been reported in the past few days. According to information provided by the Municipality of Carmen de Atrato, some 420 people from the indigenous community of La Puria were forced by members of an illegal armed group to remain captive several days in their own community. As the rebels fled, they left landmines hidden in surrounding areas of the community; therefore, the indigenous people can not access their crops and labor areas.
- (c) The situation in the Bojaya area (province of Choco) has remained calm for the past few days and no new incidents or massive displacements of population have been reported; however, the situation is still volatile as the presence of illegal armed groups in the area could trigger again (and in any moment) more massive displacements.
- (d) At least 167 families (925 people members of 8 different indigenous communities) located on the banks of the Baudó River (province of Choco) were forced to flee due to threats from illegal armed groups. These families are still temporarily settled in the

Municipality of Pizarro and in rural areas of Villa Maria and San Miguel. ICRC reported that they will deliver emergency food aid by the end of the current week and at the same time they will assess the situation of these people in order to provide the required assistance. Some food aid has been provided by the municipality of Pizarro but according to them more food assistance is needed. WFP could intervene in this region as soon as both access and needs are established.

- (e) Intense clashes between illegal armed groups and the Colombian Army have displaced more than 6,000 persons – 57 percent of them children – from the Municipalities of Toribio and Jambalo, in the Province of Cauca, in the southwestern Colombia. In response to the situation, WFP went to the region to evaluate the conditions and needs of the population affected by the conflict in Toribio and nearby areas and will intervene as soon as both access and needs are established.
- (f) Particularly adverse weather conditions in different provinces of the country have caused the death of at least 50 people in Colombia during the first 5 months of 2005. The most affected areas are those that have been hit by landslides, floods and heavy rains in the Provinces of Santander, Caqueta, Boyacá, Antioquia, Risaralda, Huila, Cordoba, Nariño and Bogota. WFP develops several food aid activities in the Provinces of Antioquia, Cordoba and Bogota, but no reports have been issued about beneficiaries, projects or WFP staff affected by these weather conditions.
- (g) A total of 445 tons of food was delivered last week in the context of PRRO 10158, Assistance to People Displaced by Violence. The food was distributed in 10 provinces reaching 71,495 people. The commodities were distributed in Food-For-Crisis, Community kitchens, Food-For-Work/Food-For-Training, Nutritional Recovery, Expectant and Nursing mothers and Preschool – School Feeding activities.

(3) Cuba

- (a) Rains continue to be sporadic and well below average, causing rise of temperatures and evaporation and leading to diminished water resources. No significant changes are forecasted in eastern Cuba, therefore climatic conditions risk to become critical in the coming months.
- (b) Lack of rainfall affected Cuba's five eastern provinces (Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Holguin, Granma and Las Tunas) with significant economic losses. About 700,000 people in the eastern region depend on water cistern trucks. Water is being distributed via tanker trucks and by railroad to more than 1,834,230 people throughout the country. Due to this scarcity, 114 reservoirs, out of the 235 reservoirs operational in Cuba, do not reach 25 percent of their capacity, while 41 are virtually dried up. The Government is encouraging the population to be extremely cautious regarding the use of water. Cuba's authorities are also searching for viable solutions to overcome the crisis, such as building new water pipelines in the eastern region and providing inhabitants with materials and pumps to build reservoirs for collective use and setting up water filling stations for tanker trucks. Officials are working intensively to finish a 32-mile pipeline that will draw water to Holguin city from the Cauto, Cuba's largest river.
- (c) In addition, the dry weather this year has further affected the country's already drought-ravaged sugar crop forcing the traditional sugar exporter to import sugar for domestic consumption.
- (d) 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 food ration consisting of rice and beans, in addition to the one distributed to the general population in the country through the national distribution network.
- (e) WFP is planning to provide assistance to drought affected populations in the six eastern provinces upon approval of an emergency operation, to vulnerable groups, mainly

pregnant and nursing women, elderly people and children under 5 with a complementary food ration of rice, beans and vegetable oil.

(4) Ecuador

- (a) The Ecuadorian Congress voted on 20 April to remove President Lucio Gutierrez from office after a week of escalating street protests demanding his ouster, and swore in Vice President Alfredo Palacio to replace him. Gutierrez flew on Sunday 23rd to Brazil where he had been granted asylum. Alfredo Palacio becomes Ecuador's seventh president in nine years, and the third to be installed following a violent coup. The Organization of American States requested an explanation on how Congress could justify its decision to remove Gutierrez for "abandonment of the post", when he was still in the Government Palace issuing orders. The regional body sent a high-level diplomatic delegation to investigate whether the ouster was constitutional.
- (b) Last week, WFP met with UNAIDS, trained new staff on HIV/AIDS issues and also had meetings in Guayaquil with various NGOs in order to discuss needs assessment on HIV/AIDS, as Guayaquil has high prevalence of HIV/AIDS.
- (c) WFP participated in the 2nd Andean regional Meeting of the Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Nutrición Humana y Desarrollo Sustentable (REDLAYC), and discussed future plans for collaboration. The meeting was held with participants of Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador.

(5) Guatemala

- (a) As part of the National School Feeding Programme, and with a cost of nearly USD 1.3 million, the project "Glass of Fortified Drink" (which is prepared with a maize-soy-vitamine D mix) reached 200,000 schoolchildren at 1,100 schools in 57 municipalities of the highlands. This project was implemented in addition to "The Glass of Milk" distributed at 1,108 schools located in the north-east and south-east regions of the country.
- (b) Glenn Anders, USAID Director, together with President Oscar Berger, launched on 26 April the five-year programme "Strategic Partnership for Social Investment" contributing with USD 8.8 million as initial capital for development activities in the education, health and nutrition sector.
- (c) The Government and transportation service providers met to discuss on the increase of fuel costs and compensatory measures to prevent the increase of public transportation fares. There is high expectation regarding the results of the negotiations, among different population sectors.
- (d) Following the limited stock of medications (i.e. antiretroviral) at the Guatemalan Social Security Institute since January 2005, a group of 39 people living with AIDS has initiated a legal action demanding to receive appropriate services. There are approximately 7,000 AIDS-infected people in the country and 70,000-75,000 HIV infected.
- (e) PRRO 10212 continued replenishing maize stocks with a local purchase of 900 tons, which were locally procured with a cash contribution. Warehouses in the south-west received the second installment of about 195 tons.

(6) Haiti

- (a) The entire country continues in UN security phase III and the security environment remains tense. The increase in violence, witnessed since mid-March following the MINUSTAH operations in Petit-Goave and Terre Rouge, has fuelled further security concerns following incidents targeting both transitional institutions and MINUSTAH. An

increased tension was noted during the past week in the area of Delmas and Route National No 1, Nazon and Bourdon, despite the presence of MINUSTAH, CIVPOL and Haitian National Police. The security situation around the port terminals of Port-au-Prince is continuously tense with shooting incidents reported.

- (b) A number of high profile kidnappings occurred in Port-au-Prince during the past week. Also, on 27 April, at least five people were killed by the PNH under still unclear circumstances. According to members of the Lavalas party and pro-Lavalas human rights organizations, PNH opened fire on peaceful demonstrators. Following the incident, 200 persons gathered in front of UNDP to denounce the killings.
- (c) The ally of ousted leader President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, on hunger strike to demand his unconditional release, has refused to leave Haiti for medical treatment in the Dominican Republic.
- (d) Insecurity remains a hampering factor for WFP's logistical operations. One of WFP's implementing partners trucks, loaded with a consignment of rice, was hijacked during the week in the vicinity of the WFP-warehouse by gangsters.
- (e) During the past week, a total of 755 tons of food were delivered to health centres and schools (EMOP and CP) in the West, North and North-East departments and to Port-au-Prince implementing partners of PRRO activities in the North-West and Central Plateau.
- (f) The Government's National Campaign for De-worming in the North and North East Departments, supported by WFP, continues with the distribution of the de-worming tablets to the selected schools in the area. 630,000 school children are the target of the de-worming campaign.
- (g) From 27 to 29 April, WFP performed a joint mission with the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO. The objectives of this mission were to 1) evaluate the feasibility of fortifying, with iron and B vitamins, locally made cassava bread to be distributed as part of WFP's school feeding program in the North and; 2) evaluate the possibility to set up a project to improve the quantity, the quality and the iodine content of the salt produced in the North-East. This mission is one of the first concrete actions directly resulting from the three food fortification missions performed by the Micronutrient Initiative in the first quarter of 2005.

(7) Nicaragua

- (a) The security phase in the country was brought back to phase I. Services have been restored in the whole country. During the past week, the violent student demonstrations against the illegal increase in bus fares ended with a negotiation between bus drivers and the government.
- (b) The price of basic food commodities, such as beans, continues to be skyrocketing as a result of the increased prices of petroleum. The price of hundred pounds of beans reached COR 800 (USD 48.00) this week in comparison to COR 700 (USD 42.00) last week.
- (c) According to press reports, the forest fires in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region of Nicaragua continue to put water sources and harvest at risk at several locations within the region. WFP is monitoring the situation.
- (d) Approximately 10,365 pregnant and lactating women; 11,160 children under 2 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.
- (e) If no commodities are announced in the coming months or those that are announced arrive late, the PRRO will face serious pipeline breaks during the second semester of the year.

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>

2 [WFP Newsroom] http://www.wfp.org/index.asp?section=2&sub_section=7&page=../subsections/year.asp?section=18